

Oslo was a city of excited anticipation, when the Royal Yacht Britannia brought Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh to Norway, for their three-day state visit. Waiting to greet them on the pier of honour, were King Haakon and other members of the royal family, including grandchildren Prince Harald and Princess Astrid. And there were cheers from the crowd of many thousands, as the Queen walked among them with her host --- still upright and active, despite his more than eighty years.

On the quayside, a guard of honour was mounted by the King's Guard.

Her Majesty and the Duke took part in a ceremony ~~at the~~ <sup>at</sup> ~~Marskell~~ at Akershus --- at the graves of men of the Norwegian Resistance; ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> at the ~~British Cemetery~~ burial ground of men of the British and Canadian Air Forces; where the Queen shook hands with Mrs Christoffersen, who had tended the graves for many years. Later, Prince Philip had a gay chat with some of the children who had turned out to greet them.

On the following day the royal visitors went to the Folk Museum --- where they were shown some of the ancient Viking ships, in which the ancestors of their hosts, had crossed the North Sea to bother the ~~Britons~~ Britons, hundreds of years ago. M

And it was also at the Folk Museum, that Norwegian children, in their picturesque native costume, gave a display of traditional dancing.

Another event in a busy programme, was a garden party at the Embassy for members of the British Commonwealth who live in Norway.

And the day ended brilliantly when the Queen, wearing the sash of the Order of the Garter, attended a gala performance at Oslo's National Theatre.

Then --- once again at the pier of honour --- the Queen was escorted by King Haakon, as she said farewell to the people of Norway who had given her such a friendly welcome. M

The Royal Barge was waiting to take them out to Britannia. ~~with an escort of planes & little ships~~  
And so the Royal Yacht sailed out of Oslo fjord --- ~~with~~  
~~escort of planes in the sky and little ships on the darkening sea~~