

On a calm and sunny day of summer, a fleet of little ships set out from Ramsgate to cross the Channel; and one of the great moments of destiny in the history of ~~the~~ Britain was being lived again. For it was ^{on} just such another day as this in 1940, that a fleet of little ships sailed for Dunkirk --- this Ramsgate lifeboat was one that actually took part --- to take the British Army off the bombed and shell-torn beaches when Hitler's Nazis overran all Europe. These were the newsreel pictures, taken at the time; when Britain prepared to stand alone in defence of the world's freedom.

Many of those little ships never came back; but those that did --- aided by the Royal Navy --- brought back hundreds of thousands of men of the British Expeditionary Force --- the nucleus of an army that lived to fight another day.

And now --- seventeen years after the miracle of Dunkirk --- the destroyer Chieftain came into harbour for a pilgrimage and a commemoration. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother came ashore --- ~~in xxx~~ to be welcomed by General Ganeval, representing the President of France. Her Majesty came --- with thousands of veterans and relatives of the men who had fought and endured on those beaches --- for the unveiling of a memorial to those who died. Lined up on parade were men of the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force....and detachments of the fighting services of France.

The Memorial was unveiled to four thousand seven hundred men of the British Expeditionary Force --- who died ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~ix~~ and have no known grave.

After inspecting the Memorial with its record of honoured names, the Queen Mother walked among the relatives --- recalling what Her Majesty had called "one of the great moments of our age."

