

## Radio, Television, Press To Report Every Phase

Event to Become One of Century's Greatest News Event for Coverage

By Brett Oliver

One person, a woman, Queen Elizabeth the Second, is soon to become the centre of one of the century's great news events. For just over five hours, the world will pause as a British monarch is crowned Queen of a quarter of the globe.

From the moment she appears for her drive to the Abbey till her last handshake on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, those minutes will belong to the millions. It will be an unforgettable moment in history, not likely to come again for many years.

It is right then that the most will be made of this historic moment of colourful pageantry. For, wherever they are, English-speaking people will want to have part in it—by seeing, hearing or by reading. The task on that day is clear for those who will bring a Commonwealth of Nations to the side of a Queen as she accepts her crown.

It will be done on a scale never yet attempted. Out from the streets of London will flow a torrent of words, written and spoken, taking the news to the four corners of the earth. Within the United Kingdom itself, Britons will be able to see and hear the ceremony, as the minutes pass. For with television and radio at their disposal, there will not be a home in the land unable to come to London that morning.

And in time, there will be few who have not seen a filmed record of the majestic scene.

How is it being done? How will 700 million people be informed of what happens in London on June 2?

The answer lies in the planning, the organisation and the hard work which is being poured into the job of "Covering the coronation."

Radio is still the greatest medium for informing the greatest number of people in the shortest time. Thus, the prime task falls to the British Broadcasting Corporation. Its job is to describe each moment of the Queen's drive to the Abbey, her Coronation there and her triumphant tour along the processional route back to Buckingham Palace.

To do this, the BBC, working in co-operation with nearly all the world's main radio organisations, will have 250 commentators and observers flooding the wavelengths of the globe with an on-the-spot description relayed over 1500 stations.

A small, highly-trained team, including men from the Commonwealth will cover the occasion for listeners within the British Isles. And simultaneously, their voices will be heard in all parts of the Commonwealth through a worldwide link-up.

### 49 Languages

Simultaneously, too, accounts of the ceremony will be broadcast in every language used by the BBC in its external services—49 altogether, including such unfamiliar tongues as Kuoyu, Vietnamese and Marathi.

Staid in many respects, but unequalled in handling big occasions, the BBC is determined that the news will be spread further and wider than ever before. The time factor will not in any case allow for overseas transmissions to be broadcast direct. Some will therefore be recorded for use later in the day. For 12 hours after the ceremony, the BBC will transmit edited programmes in English containing recordings of the day's most graphic moments.

Night broadcasts overseas will include descriptions of the celebrations in London, interviews with well-known visitors from many countries, as well as recordings of the morning ceremony.

To achieve world broadcasting on this scale, the BBC is briefing 250 engineers to man the 500 cameras pointing at the Abbey, to be established inside the Abbey and along the processional route. The majority of this team will spend Coronation eve in a building adjoining Broadcasting House, sleeping on camp beds so they can be on the job first thing in the morning without having to converge through a jam-packed London.

Out on the streets they will be responsible for controlling scores of microphones and hundreds of miles of wire so that the commentaries will pass smoothly through to the waiting world. A temporary studio room, just round the corner from the Abbey will ensure the words are clear, and a second control position in the brazier's room inside the Abbey will help channel the word-picture of the ceremony correctly into overseas wavebands.

The British Post Office has a big part in the arrangements. It is providing nearly 400 sound circuits besides 800 wire extensions for microphones and head-phones.

For the BBC, Coronation Day will climax a week-long rush of special programs costing perhaps £200,000.

But sound broadcasting is not the end of the corporation's assignment. The wonder of television, in its infancy when King George VI was crowned in 1937, should ensure that an estimated 20,000,000 people will have a better view than the millions lining the streets.

The television coverage is to be handled on almost the same scale as the radio broadcast. Fourteen cameras spaced along the route, and three inside the Abbey, will pick up nearly every moment of the three hours. The finest cameras in the world will be used to compete against the impressions which will be captured for the television screen.

The greatest triumph for TV arises from the Abbey ceremony itself. After careful deliberation inspired by public opinion, the Coronation Commission in Devon has approved the corporation's television plan. The Crowning and the Homage, cardinal parts of the whole Abbey ceremony. But, to maintain the dignity of the occasion, TV screens everywhere will be blank during the Anointing, the Communion Prayers and the Administration of the Sacrament.

Besides the camera focussing on the High Altar, two others in the way of the Abbey will give a per-

### German-made Flags to Hang

GERMAN-made flags will decorate some London buildings during the Coronation. They were found in Germany in crates marked "Germany for the Germans." Some of the flags are naval signals.

"A theatre can put up a 'paying-off' signal when a show is a hit," today said Mr. Alec Godwin, head of a Wapping wholesale firm that bought the flags. "But most purchasers simply want them for decorations."

The flags sell by the pound. Usual price for the all-wool flags is 10s. a pound. That is about 3s. 6d. a square yard.

Some Union Jacks are 30ft. by 20ft.

fact view of the congregation in the Nave and the processions to and from the Altar.

As the crowned Queen and her entourage pass through the building, other TV crews will take up the picture and carry it through till Her Majesty turns for the last time from the famous balcony of her home and disappears from sight.

Continental Europe is to view the Coronation also. Television transmitters leap-frogging the Channel will send the living picture into homes in France, Belgium, Holland and Western Germany.

Proximity makes this possible. The United States, in spite of its tremendous resources, is not to see the actual coronation of the Queen more than 15 hours later. At first it was ambitiously hoped to have aircraft acting as relay stations spaced across the Atlantic so the image could be fed into the colossal American network. In this way, Americans up to 5000 miles away might have viewed the Coronation as if they were sitting in the Abbey themselves.

Though feasible, the project has been ruled out costly—about £56 million would be needed—and the United States has now decided to receive a film taken from the TV cameras. It will be rushed across the Atlantic by air and transmitted over both Canadian and American networks. Most countries overseas, however, have no television services and, till newsreel and color films reach them, the people will have to rely on radio and their new-papers.

Nowadays, newspapers are unable to compete against radio in the coverage of an event like the Coronation—just as radio is in its turn unable to compete against television. But it is a fact that most people, although they have watched or heard an event, still like to read about it in their papers. And that is where the descriptive writer comes into his own.

So an army of writers is gathering to cover the Coronation. They are coming from every part of the world and, in the 24 hours after Queen Elizabeth's crowning, more words will be cabled from London than ever before in history. Most big overseas newspapers will have their own correspondents working from the spot, providing an individual description to foreign readers. Feature writers, with more time available, will follow up with neatly-rounded articles for push magazines at home and abroad.

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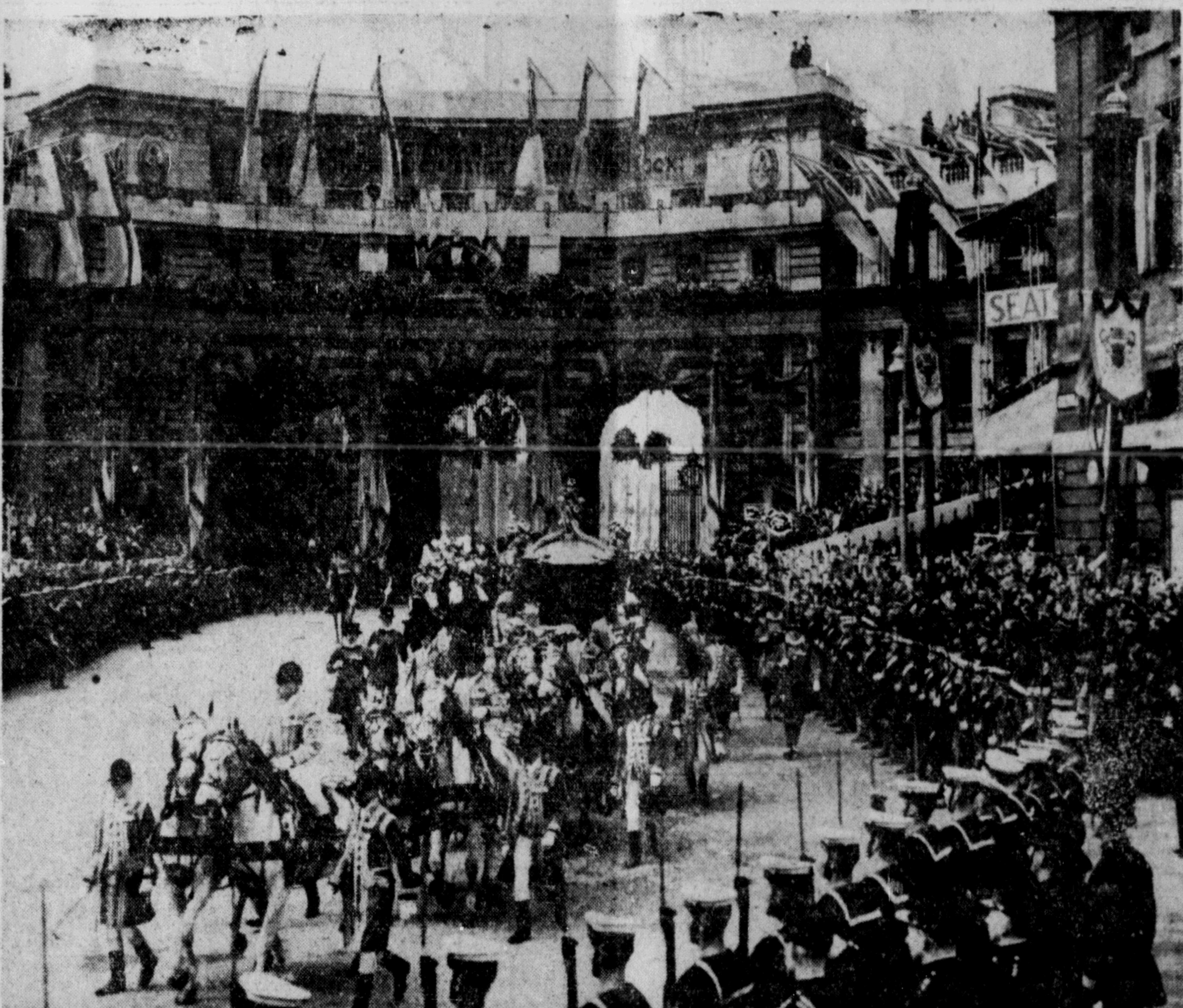
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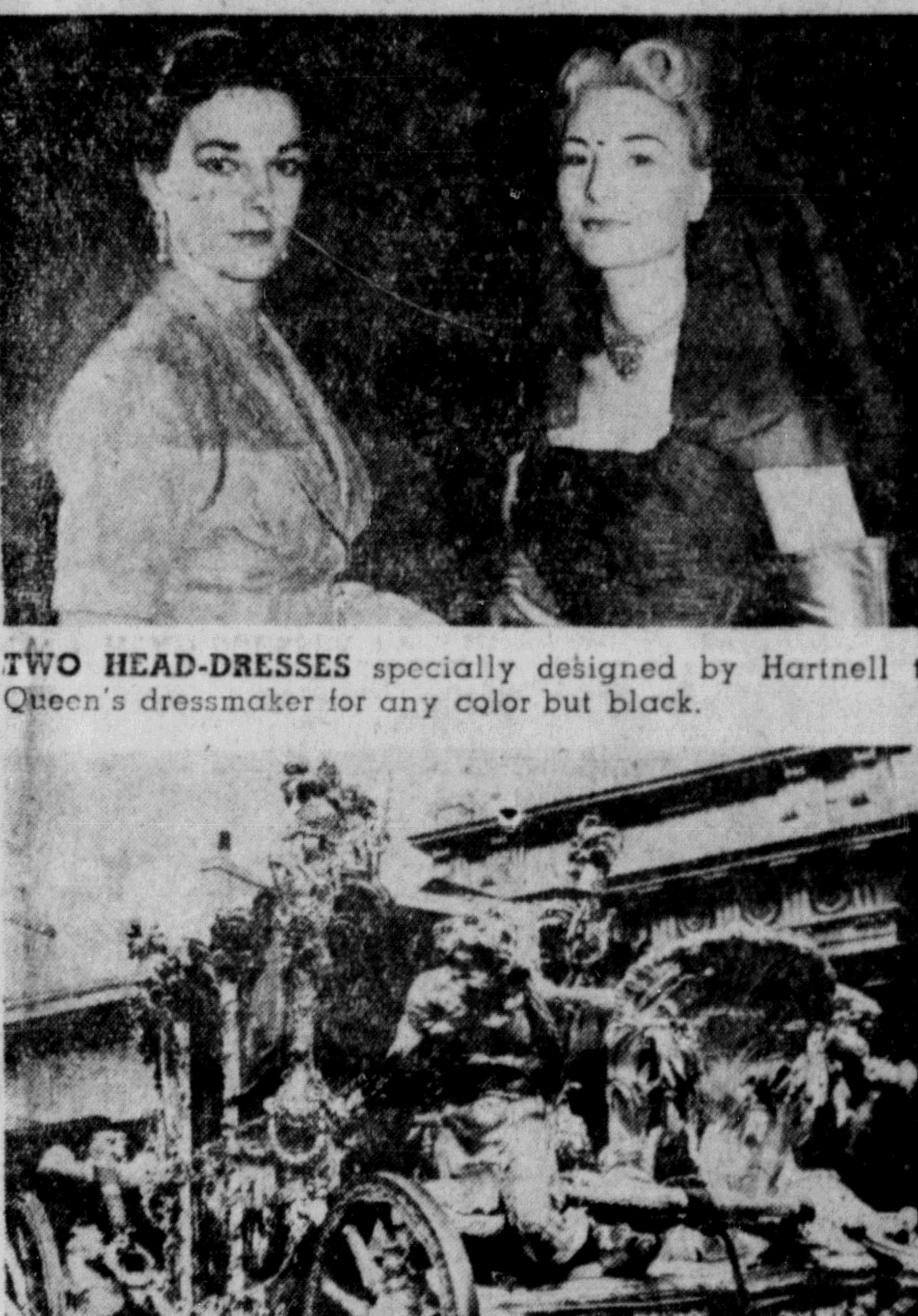
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CORONATION PROCESSION of King George VI in the Royal State Coach passing through Admiralty Arch.



ECONOMY ROBES designed for peers and peeresses for the 1953 Coronation because of high costs.



ROYAL STATE COACH in which the Queen will ride is made in the style of an ancient Roman chariot.



CORPORAL of the Horse of Royal Horse Guards is fitted for his part as the sovereign's escort.



GUARDS BEARSKINS being made in London mounted and sown on specially constructed wire frames.



CEREMONIAL SWORDS order totalling 2,000 are put together by firm of noted specialists.

## Coaches, Uniforms and Robes Are Being Prepared

By Dorothy Barkley

OUT of their glass cases and storage places where they have been preserved from dust and moth since the last Coronation have come the coaches, uniforms and robes of the Royal Coachmen.

The ceremonial coaches required the most renovation after the ravages of time. The Royal State Coach, completely regilded in 1937, had lost its panel paintings cleaned and transferred to new wood, specially proofed against woodworm and weather. And the Lord Mayor's coach, in which dry rot and moth were suspected, has been completely repainted.

Of the three state coaches in the procession—the Royal State Coach, the Lord Mayor's Coach and the Speaker's Coach—the Royal Coach, although almost 200 years old, is the youngest. It was completed in 1762, the Lord Mayor's several years previous to that, and the Speaker's dates from the time of Queen Anne.

The Royal Coach, now used only at coronations, this year makes its seventh appearance in a coronation procession. George III suffered for his coronation in 1761, but it was not completed until a year later when he drove in it to the State opening of Parliament. After this event, the Royal Stables Clerk wrote in his journal: "His Majesty went to the House of Peers to open the session in the new State Coach. The mob was exceeding great yet no other accident happened but one of the door glasses and the handle of the door being broken."

Only king and queen of England may ride in the coach. It has never left London—and is hardly likely to be unlucky for to do so described as the "curse of the coach." It makes a supreme artistic extravaganza of an age renowned for its luxury. Money was lavished on it—it cost over £7,000. This is hardly surprising, since it is gilded with 18-carat gold, and has oil painted dummies at the royal stables.

Elaborate precautions are being taken to ensure that the dignity of the Coronation ceremony is maintained in every film made. The reels will be taken from the cameras by executives of the film companies and put into sealed canisters. Then, they will be taken by car from Westminster Abbey to Buckingham Palace, where, in a private room, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Fisher, the Lord Chamberlain, the Earl of Scarborough, and the Earl Marshal, the Duke of Norfolk, acting for the Royal Family, will see the films developed and screened.

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positions' livery is in the royal colors of crimson black and gold. And they wear powdered wigs, velvet jockey caps, embroidered jackets and white buckskin breeches. Their riding boots have gilt spurs, and they carry gold-mounted whale-bone riding whips.

Four walking Men, chosen from the staff of the Crown Equerry in the Royal Mews, stand on each side of the team. Their livery is similar to that of the positions except that they wear knee-length coats. Four Royal footmen walk in pairs on each side of the coach itself.

They wear frock coats, knee breeches and buckled shoes. The Sovereign's Escort, which precedes the coach, is made up of three elite corps—the Life Guards, the Blues, and the Yeomen of the Guard.

The Blues were part of the Royal Coach's guard in 1761, and the Yeomen of the Guard—formed originally from the Cavalry who went into exile with Prince Charles Stuart, later Charles II, and returned with him. Today, they wear white-plumed silver helmets, steel breastplates, white tunics, gold lace epaulettes, white buckskin pantaloons, knee boots, and white buckskin gauntlets.

The Queen should have the best royal robes—crimson black and gold. And they wear powdered wigs, evening dress with trousers in place of knee breeches, and white buckskin breeches. Their riding boots have gilt spurs, and they carry gold-mounted whale-bone riding whips.

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They wear either mantles of any order of knighthood to which they may belong or Parliament robes over evening dress with trousers in place of knee breeches. If below the rank of earl, they may wear a cap of state instead of a coronet. The number of rows of buttons varies according to the rank—two for a baron, and four for a duke. Their coronets, too, have subtle variations. A duke has eight gold strawberry leaves on his. An earl has eight silver balls raised on points with gold strawberry leaves between the points; a viscount 16 silver balls and a baron six—with gold strawberry leaves. They are not allowed to adorn their coronets with jewels or precious stones instead of silver balls.

Peersiss at the Abbey are likewise wearing robes of state and coronets according to their respective ranks. The coronet of a peeress is similar to that of a peer, except it is smaller. In their robes, peeresses show their difference in degree by a nice distinction between the number of rows of ermine's tails and the length of the train. A Duchess, for instance, has a two-yard train and four rows of ermine's tails, and a Baroness only a three-yard train and two rows of ermine's tails.

But for viscountesses and baronesses, who do not possess these robes, the Queen's dressmaker Norman Hartnell has designed, with the Queen's approval, special "economy" robes costing about a tenth of the price of a traditional robe. The new robe, of crimson velvet instead of silk velvet, is edged with white coney in place of the customary ermine. And only six yards compared with 20 for the old style. The white coney collar is powdered with the same color as the Queen's tails to match the train.

Peers who are in the processions and ceremonies in the Abbey wear robes of state with coronets. But there have been relaxations in traditional attire for peers not taking an active part at the Abbey. In

their uniform, which is always the same as the Queen's, they are allowed to sit in the coaches but in the uniforms and robes worn by those taking part, presents a cameo of English history over past centuries.

And so the procession, not only in the coaches but in the uniforms and robes worn by those taking part, presents a cameo of English history over past centuries.

### Invitations to Royalty Cut Down

Many Kings Who Saw 1937 Crowning Unable To Attend This One

By York Henderson

On a spring day in 1937 the heirs to more than a dozen monarchies watched George VI of Great Britain crowned in Westminster Abbey. They made much of the solemnity, 11-year-old heir apparent to the British Throne; a fairy-tale child-princess in state robes and tiny coronet. But few of them were to see her ascend the throne herself, for the royal invitations to this year's coronation have mirrored the changed face of Europe.

Many of the heirs who saw the 1937 crowning are now kings themselves and as such are barred from attending. According to Court etiquette they would, if they were present, enjoy as crowned heads precedence over the British sovereign. That, of course, could not be allowed to happen, so tradition has seen to it that they are not invited.

Other monarchies have been topped by the westward surge of Communism. And now some of the royal guests who were so proudly invited to the Abbey are not officially recognised by Britain's Royal Household.

Three royal princes only will return in their own right to witness the glittering Abbey ceremony. Two are from Western Europe—Crown Prince Olav of Norway and Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands. The other is Prince Afonso de Alfonso, eldest son of the Emperor of Abyssinia.

Prince Bernhard will represent the Netherlands, again because a Consort is not the head of state. With his wife, now Queen Juliana, he brought a romantic note into the pageantry of the 1937 celebrations. They had cut short their honeymoon to be in London and grateful Britons showed they appreciated the gesture.

Crown Prince Olav of Norway with his Swedish-born wife, Princess Marta, can come again because his father, King Haakon, died in an air crash.

Sweden's King Gustav Adolf, as Crown Prince Gustaf, represented his country last year. Now he will send his second son, Prince Bertil. His eldest son, Prince Gustav Adolf, was lost in 1947 in an air crash.

Greece's King Paul, who became King in 1936, was to be a bridesmaid in 1937. Now, as King, he may decide to send his 12-year-old son, Paul. But if he does, Queen Frederica will probably accompany him as a daughter of the Duke of Athens