

## Liberated by Force 135

# Royal visitors arrive to

On 7 June 1945, less than a month after Jersey's Liberation, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth visited the Island to be formally welcomed in the States by the Bailiff, Alexander Coutanche. In the fourth extract from his new book, *Liberated by Force 135*, **Mark Lamerton** recounts the excitement

THERE was a slight haze at sea when, shortly after 10.30am, the cruiser Jamaica, in which the King and Queen had embarked at Portsmouth the night before, was seen rounding Noirmont Point with her escort of four destroyers; the fresh breeze had whipped up a slight 'chop' on the blue sea and the sight of the warships – dark grey shapes against the haze – was a fine one as they steamed across the bay and came to anchor off the breakwater.

In command of the cruiser was Captain John Hughes Hallett, DSO, RN. Captain Hallett was one of the Mulberry Harbour makers and the first naval officer to suggest that artificial harbours could be made by sinking blockships. To a Jerseyman,

Lieutenant-Commander H. F. Breuille, RNR, fell the honour of piloting the cruiser Jamaica, in which the King and Queen travelled from Portsmouth to Jersey. Commander Breuille is a former Southern Railway Captain, who is well known in the island and who was released by the company for war service. He was also one of the pilots for the Channel Islands Liberation Force convoys that arrived on 12 May 1945.

Gathering on the Albert Pier were the officials who were to welcome the Royal visitors, while on the promenade were gathering a host of plain, ordinary citizens, come to do their share in the welcome by giving cheer after cheer as Their Majesties landed...



■ King George VI inspecting a guard of honour, accompanied by the Officer in Command of the Guard, Major H F Pumfrey, RA, commander C battery, 620 Regiment, Royal Artillery

A few minutes after 11am the sound of the Royal Salute fired by the Jamaica heralded the approach of the motor launch bringing Their Majesties ashore, and sharp at 11.07am the Royal motor launch flying the Royal Standard and the White Ensign passed through the pierheads with the King standing on the Bridge. Five minutes later Their Majesties stepped ashore from the launch to the shrill of the Bo'sun's pipes and were greeted on the lower landing stage by Lieutenant-General Kirkman, Brigadier Snow, Rear Admiral Stuart, Commander Fremantle and the Bailiff...

[After a tour of the east of the Island] it was nearly 12.30pm when, slowly from Hill Street, past the entrance to the new States Offices, came the Royal car. The cheering was now louder than ever, but would have been louder had it not been for the obvious determination of everybody to see their King and Queen...

The States Members had assembled at 11.25am. The chair was taken by Jurat Philip Ernest Bree (Lieutenant Bailiff), when the roll was called by Mr. H. Le Riche Edwards (States Greffier), the Lieutenant Bailiff announcing in the official language that the States, being duly constituted, would await the arrival of Their Majesties.

In the Square the crowd waited and listened. They didn't have to wait long, for soon the sound of long and sustained clapping from the loudspeakers told of the entrance of Their Majesties into the States Chamber. The King occupied the presidential chair and Her Majesty that usually occupied by the Lieutenant Governor of the island.

The Lady-in-Waiting, officers in attendance and the King's Private Secretary, stood near the entrance to the Chamber. The Bailiff took up a position in the well of the House, on his right being His Majesty's Attorney General, Mr. Duret Aubin, and on his left His Majesty's Solicitor General, Mr. Harrison...

Then, after the clapping had subsided, Jersey's Bailiff, as President of the States, having been informed that the Assembly was duly constituted, read the Loyal Address of the States and People of Jersey in a clear voice, with all those present standing.

To the King's most Excellent Majesty. The loyal and dutiful Address of the Assembly of the States of the Island of Jersey. May it please your Majesty. On 14 May 1945 this Assembly of Your Majesty's faithful States of the Island of Jersey, meeting for the first time in nearly five years unfettered by the domination of Your Majesty's enemies, had the honour to adopt, for submission to Your Majesty, an Address in reply to Your Majesty's gracious message of greeting brought to the People of the Channel Islands by the Officer Commanding Your Majesty's Armed Forces in those islands.

"Today it is the proud privilege and inestimable honour of the Assembly to welcome Your Majesty and Your Majesty's most Gracious Consort within this small but ancient appanage of the Crown so recently freed from the hands of Your Majesty's enemies, here to renew to Your Majesties in person the assurance of the unshaken loyalty and devotion of the People of Jersey.

"The People of Jersey have, on previous occasions, had the joy and honour of welcoming some of Your Majesty's Royal Predecessors in their midst, but the Assembly would beg leave to assure Your Majesty that never have the people rejoiced as they do today in the renewal by Your Majesty's presence amongst them of the access to Your Majesty which has so long been denied them.

"The island is profoundly grateful for the aid and succour so promptly and in such generous measure brought by Your Majesty's Armed Forces, with whom there have been established during the short interval since their arrival relations of the utmost harmony and good will, and the Assembly is confident that, with the further support of Your Majesty's Government so graciously promised by Your Majesty, the island will soon be restored to its former prosperity.

"The Assembly would beg leave humbly to express their admiration of the manner in which Your Majesty and your Majesty's Most Gracious consort have borne the arduous burden and responsibilities of these bitter years of struggle in Europe now so happily ended. It is their earnest prayer that Your Majesties Royal House may be spared in health and happiness to see the victorious conclusion of the war against the remaining enemy with Your Majesty's loyal subjects throughout the Empire the benefits of lasting peace."

Every word was distinctly heard and the



TC Productions presents

## Glorious!

a comedy by Peter Quilter

**\*\*POSTPONED\*\***



To protect the health of the public, staff, cast and crew, we have decided to postpone this event until later in 2020. Thank you for your understanding and support. See you later!

KAROS  
ARTS



# join the celebrations



■ Lt-Col W P A Robinson, Colonel H R Power, MC, Chief Civil Affairs Officer (both saluting), and the Bailiff's wife, Mrs Coutanche, wait at the quay to be presented to the King and Queen Picture: DAMIEN HORN COLLECTION

■ When the brief ceremony inside the States Building was over, Their Majesties appeared on the steps of the entrance facing the Town Church. The Bailiff, Alexander Coutanche, signalled to the five Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry buglers on top of the old Norman Church to sound the fanfare

substance was such that everyone present felt proud as in their hearts they endorsed every word. At the conclusion of the reading the Bailiff advanced and handed the Address to His Majesty.

An interval, only a moment or so, and the King's voice was heard. Slowly, and very distinctly, His Majesty replied.

'It is a great pleasure to the Queen and myself to visit the island of Jersey on its

liberation from the enemy and to receive in person the touching expressions of your loyalty and devotion.

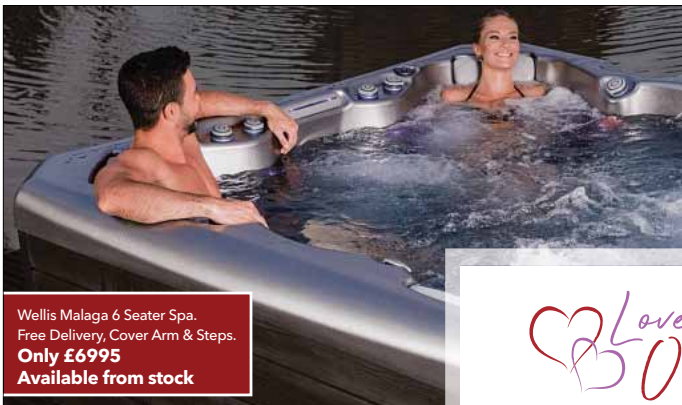
It gives me great joy that you are again restored to freedom and to your ancestral relationship with the Crown after a long period of suffering under enemy occupation.

'There is much to be done before your island can regain its former prosperity,

but I am confident that by your endeavours, which will have the fullest support of my Government, the destruction wrought by the enemy will soon be repaired and your fields restored to that abundance for which they have so long been famous.

'Our thoughts have often been with you

in your years of trial and the Queen and I are deeply moved by your heartfelt expression of welcome. We join with you in the hope that the war against the remaining enemy may soon be brought to a victorious close and that under God's Good Providence the nations of the world may enjoy lasting peace.'



Wellis Malaga 6 Seater Spa.  
Free Delivery, Cover Arm & Steps.  
**Only £6995**  
Available from stock



Oceans Valencia Coffee Set.  
Available in Charcoal or White.  
**SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER**  
**£695**

Love  
BBQ  
Outdoors

THIS SPRING

BBQS / FIRE PITS / HEATERS / ALL WEATHER FURNITURE  
DECKING / BEANBAGS / SAFETY SURFACING / SPAS & SWIM SPAS  
GARDEN ACCESSORIES / PLAY EQUIPMENT



Landmann Miton 3.1 Stainless Steel 3 Burner Gas BBQ.  
**NOW £395**  
~~WAS £495~~



Holly Hanging Chair.  
**NOW £349**  
~~WAS £449~~

With a range of products from the world's leading outdoor living suppliers you'll find everything to create your own unique outdoor space.

T: 738806 | enquiry@romerils.co.je | www.romerils.com  
St Helier | Mon - Sat 8.00am - 5.30pm



ROMERILS  
outdoor living