

Weymouth

Waveson

HOSPITALITY AT BEST

From the time the Lord Mayor of Weymouth boarded the Kearsarge Wednesday, July 9, to present the key of the city to Capt. W. T. RasiEUR, until the men waved farewell to the last boat load of passers-by the ship sailed out of the breakwaters nine days later, the entire group of officers, midshipmen, and enlisted men were greatly impressed by the abundant hospitality of the Weymouth citizens.

Many English commodities, the visitors were surprised to see how well this resort town of 25,000 people handled the requirements of such a large number. The famous coastal vacation spot was ideal for a pleasant break from ship routine.

For some of those who wanted to see some of the nearby Dorset countryside, there was plenty of chance to rent bicycles and ride over the chalk hills surrounding the town and harbor. On the side of one hill is the legendary image of King George III riding

LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

Two official letters of appreciation, highlighting the cordial relations between the American Navy and the British people, were received the USS KEARSARGE on the day of its departure from southern England.

A letter from Weymouth's Mayor and town Clerk cited the Midshipmen's Practice Squadron's "unfailing kindness and lavish hospitality" and expressed "admiration for the Officers and Men under you who have made such a strong favorable impression upon our Townspeople." A second letter sent by Portland's chief clerk at the direction of that city's council, quoted an official resolution expressing appreciation for the courteous and friendly way in which the Portland representatives were received and "for the hospitality so graciously extended to them."

MIDDIES TO DARTMOUTH

As an added part of the Weymouth stop, approximately 200 midshipmen made a three-hour trip aboard the destroyers PURVIS and BEATTY to Dartmouth and the Royal Naval College. As the English counterpart of Annapolis, Dartmouth was indeed worth seeing and comparing, even if it meant turning out before 0500 in order to get underway on schedule. Each visitor from the KEARSARGE was individually shown about the school by one of the older cadets. At present boys enter the four-year



The Lord Mayor, Mr. C.H.J. Kaile, in All His Finery. Addresses the Crew of the Kearsarge. Captain RasiEUR on the right.

Arrangements had been completed well in advance for numerous dances and athletic events to which large groups from the Kearsarge were invited. Recognizing the shortages of

on horseback away from the port and reminding one of the time when the Hanover King made Weymouth his favorite resort, then abandoned it for some undetermined cause.

course at thirteen and become thoroughly acquainted

hangar deck forward. Undoubtedly what impressed

the visitors the most was the array of ham, turkey, cake, and ice cream. - F.P.S.

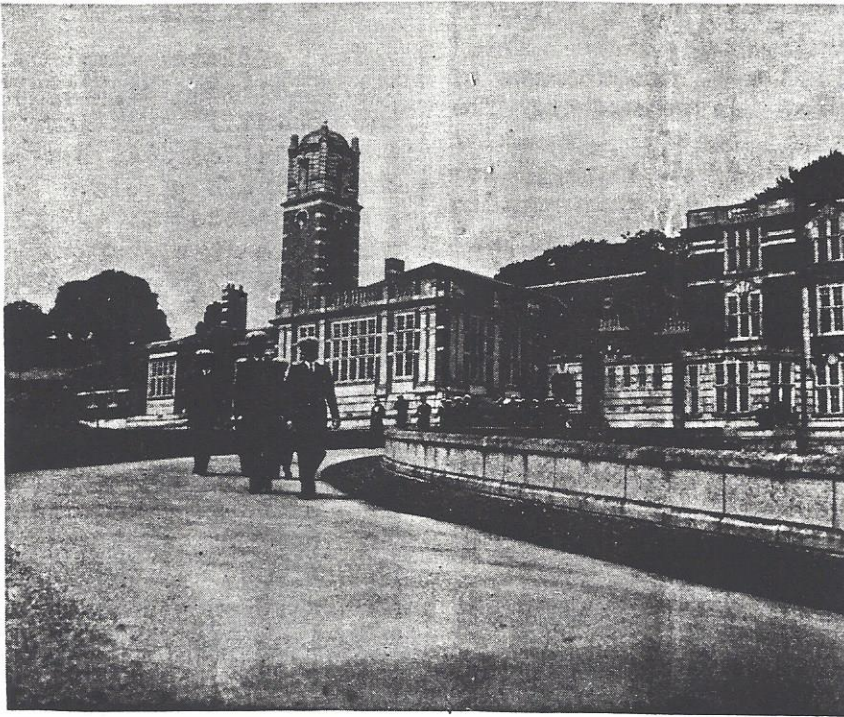
CHILDREN VISIT

A group of 500 school children from the Weymouth area visited the USS KEARSARGE with their teachers on Friday, July 11. The youngsters streamed aboard in eager but well organized queues, and their two and a half hours of closely conducted tour were packed with new experiences. Never before has a class been so responsive to their instructors.

The kids seemed to get the greatest thrill in riding up and down on the elevators.

They were extremely appreciative of everything we did for them, and our cakes, cookies and ice cream were a particular relish to the English children.

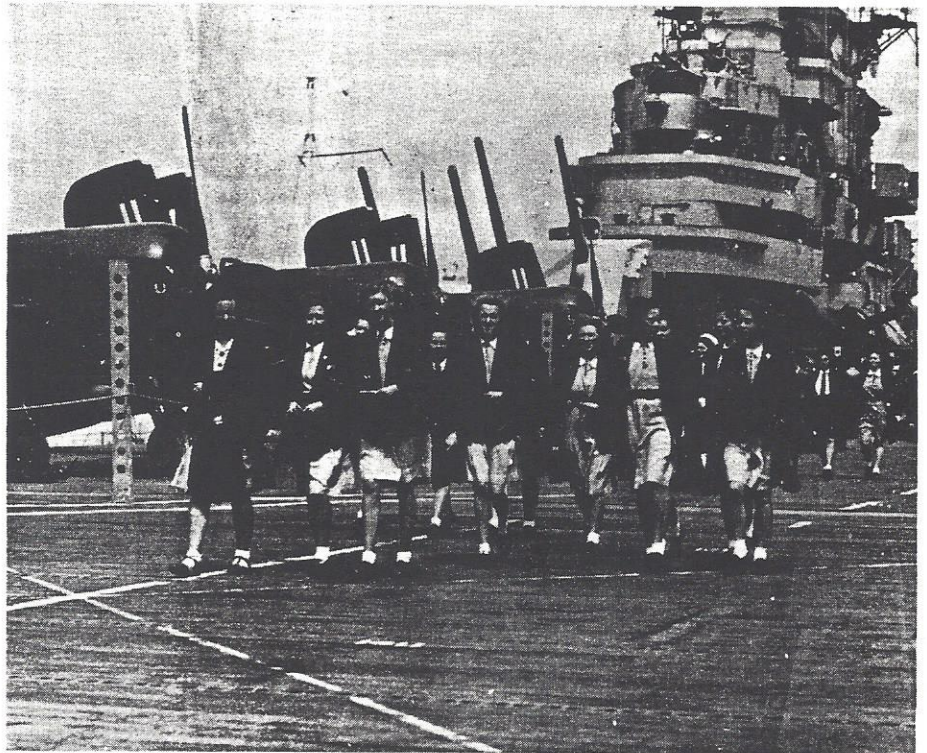
The expression of wonder and delight was written all



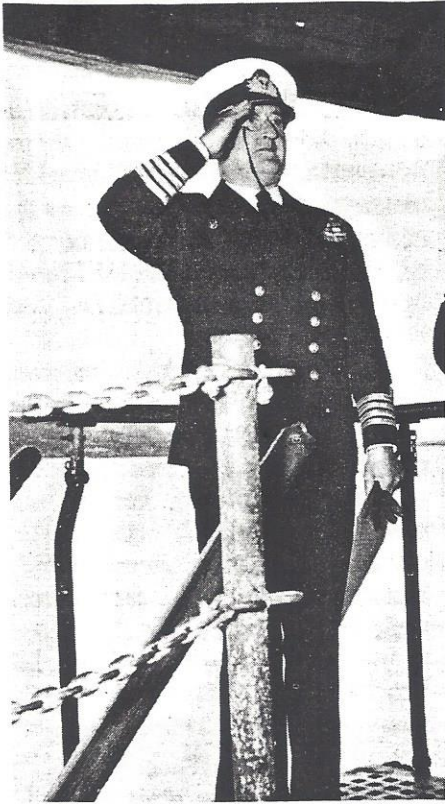
Midshipmen Leaving Royal Naval College at Dartmouth After Their One Day Visit With R. N. Cadets.

with naval discipline early in life. Some of the Annapolis guests were invited to try their hand at cricket but found it hard to drop their baseball tactics and habits. Most of the cadet hosts will soon be at sea on the post-Dartmouth training cruise aboard the H.M.S. DEVONSHIRE with hopes of returning the visit at Annapolis next spring.

Wishing to express appreciation for the many kindnesses extended to the men of the KEARSARGE, the ship held a reception for some 600 invited civilians and naval officers Tuesday afternoon July 15, Captain Rassieur met each guest in the receiving line, midshipmen and officers acted as guides and hosts, and the ship's band played for afternoon dancing on the



English Schoolgirls Tour U.S.S. Kearsarge.



Captain E.B.K. Stevens, D.S.O.; D.S.C.; R.N.; commanding Officer of HMS Nelson.

over their faces every minute of the time they were on board. The escorting bluejackets, who thought the task was going to be a tedious one, gave the kids their full attention, and enjoyed it.

SOCIAL HIGHLIGHT

A highlight in the social entertainment of the U.S.S. KEARSARGE, BEATTY and PURVIS personnel was the Bingle's Hall Dance at Weymouth on Saturday night, July 12. It was a well attended affair, honored by the presence of C.H.J. Kaile, Lord Mayor of Weymouth, and his party.

The dance was complete with good music by the KEARSARGE band, good beer by Ruppert, and well rounded evening of entertainment by a swell bunch of English

girls. The entire night was a success from beginning to end and everything seemed to be on a proper scale, with about an equal number of boys and girls... more or less. There was sweet music for the moonlight moods and hot music for the jitterbugs. Hospitality was at its usual peak and everybody had a wonderful time.

The only complaint seemed to be that it all ended too soon, and with the English nights beginning at about 2300, most of the boys were telling their girls good-night under the midnight sun.

LORD MAYOR PRESENTS CITY KEY TO CAPTAIN

The feeling of good will manifested itself from the first day of the visit of the KEARSARGE to Weymouth, when C.H.J. Kaile, the Lord Mayor of the City, presented Captain Rassieur a gold-

en key to the city of Weymouth upon which was inscribed the names of 10 Weymouth Wards, symbolic of the people's hospitality and desire to make the visitors' stay as pleasant as possible.

The colorful presentation ceremony, conducted on the quarterdeck of the USS KEARSARGE, opened a nine day visit which was featured by continuous evidences of mutual friendliness. KEARSARGE personnel were invited to a steady round of dances, swimming galas, and other social events. In return the KEARSARGE held daily "open house" for visitors, conducted British school children on special tours of the ship, conducted a band concert for the benefit of the Weymouth and District Hospital, and held a reception on the ship's hangar deck. Swimming, golf, and tennis matches, and dozens of unofficial events, rounded out the program.



Pastiming at Bencleaves Hall Dance.