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THE KING AND QUEEN MEET AUSTRALIANS

Several Australian members of bomber crews were introduced to the King and Queen when Their Majesties recently visited aerodromes of Bomber Command. The crews were drawn up outside their hangars, or grouped around their aircraft.

The Queen held a long conversation with a sergeant from Woodstock, Maryborough, Queensland, who worked for the Commercial Union Insurance Company before joining the R.A.A.F., and is now captain of a Whitley bomber. The Queen noticed the "Australia" flash on his shoulder, and asked him from what part of the Dominion he came. He explained that Maryborough was about 200 miles north of Brisbane. "I remember your visit to our part of Australia" said the sergeant.

The Queen smiled and answered, "You must have been a small boy then. I feel so much for your people now that your shores are attacked," she went on, and said that she felt sure that the tide would turn for Australia. As she turned away, she added, "Please remember that my sympathies are always with you".

At another aerodrome the Queen spoke to a sergeant from Wood Street, Mills Wood, Adelaide, who also referred to the Royal visit to Australia when the Queen was Duchess of York. The sergeant, a navigator in one of the four-engined Halifax bombers, told the Queen that he had been in England nearly two years and that he was feeling that he would like to get back to his home country. "I can quite understand such a natural feeling," said the Queen, who also commented on the great work the Australians were doing in the aerial war.

At another aerodrome, a wing commander of Brisbane, commander of a Whitley squadron, was introduced. It was he who carried out experimental work with the Mayo composite aircraft, piloting the seaplane Mercury when it was carried into the air by a larger aircraft and launched at a high altitude. In the same aircraft he gained the world's long-distance seaplane record by flying from Scotland to Egypt. Soon after outbreak of war he joined the Atlantic ferry organisation flying aircraft from America to England.
