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DIGGEST CROWD SINCE CORONATION GREET'S NAVAL TRAWLER

Extra police had to be called out to control the crowds when H.M.S. HAZEL, (Lieut. J.J. Good, R.N.R.) an anti-submarine trawler went to Berwick-on-Tweed last week to receive her "adoption plaque" from the Mayor.

"It is the largest turn out I've seen since the Coronation celebrations," said one of the policemen.

After the ceremony, the ship was opened to the public, and immediately she was besieged by scores of children. It was their dream come true. They ignored the gangways and jumped the space between the quay and the trawler's side. Soon they were all over the ship, in the engineroom ringing the telegraph on the bridge, in the mess decks, the galley and on the gun platforms playing make-believe.

The sailors took it in good part and showed them everything to be seen and answered hundreds of questions. But the youngsters showed no desire to leave and they were holding up the grown-ups who, by this time, had formed a long queue to see the ship they had adopted.

Extra police were sent for. They shooed the youngsters away and regulated the visitors to the ship so that there were only sufficient on board at one time to make a comfortable inspection. In the three hours the ship was open, it is estimated that more than two thousand people saw her.

Although visitors asked innumerable questions, the ratings and officers who answered them found, unexpectedly, that they were very well-informed.

"Several men who came down to the engineroom were shipyard workers," said Stoker Thomas Robson of Newcastle. "They all agree she was a fine job."

Before the ceremony of exchanging plaques, Lieutenant Good who has been at sea for thirty years and served part of his time in sail, showed the Mayor and Mayoress, Mr. and Mrs. J. Fleming, over the ship.

An Army band was playing on the quayside surrounded by the largest crowd Berwick-on-Tweed has seen for many a day.

As the Mayor and the Commanding Officer walked to the platform, decorated with flags, the crowd began clapping and cheering. The sailors, peace-time fishermen mostly, lined the sides of the trawler not fifty yards away and beamed broad smiles.

In presenting H.M.S. HAZEL with the town's plaque, the Mayor said that Berwick-on-Tweed had been told they could adopt a trawler if they reached the total of £62,000 in their Warship Week. They saved £88,414.

The Commanding Officer promised the townsfolk that "if the test comes, the HAZEL - Berwick's ship - will not be found wanting." The crowd cheered and cheered again.

Commander V.A.F. Hanning-Lee, D.S.O., O.B.E., R.N., the Resident Naval Officer, presented the Mayor with a replica of the ship's crest. It will be kept at the Town Hall.

Except for the few men detailed to show the visitors round the ship, the ship's company had dinner at St. Cuthbert's Hall. They had rabbit pie, blancmange, and beer for the asking. The Mayor was doing them well. They had toasts to the King, to the HAZEL, to the Services. They had a good time.

The townsfolk of Berwick-on-Tweed had seen their ship. The Officers and men of H.M.S. HAZEL had met the citizens of Berwick-on-Tweed. The bond will remain until the enemy is vanquished - and longer.