



Fox Photos

TELEVISION'S

WE SAW the Coronation of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. We saw her take her solemn vows to her people in Westminster Abbey. We joined in the declarations of loyalty to her.

For a thousand years, Kings and Queens have dedicated their lives to this nation in the ceremony of Coronation. But surely there was never so much joy nor so great a demonstration of loyalty as on this Coronation Day.

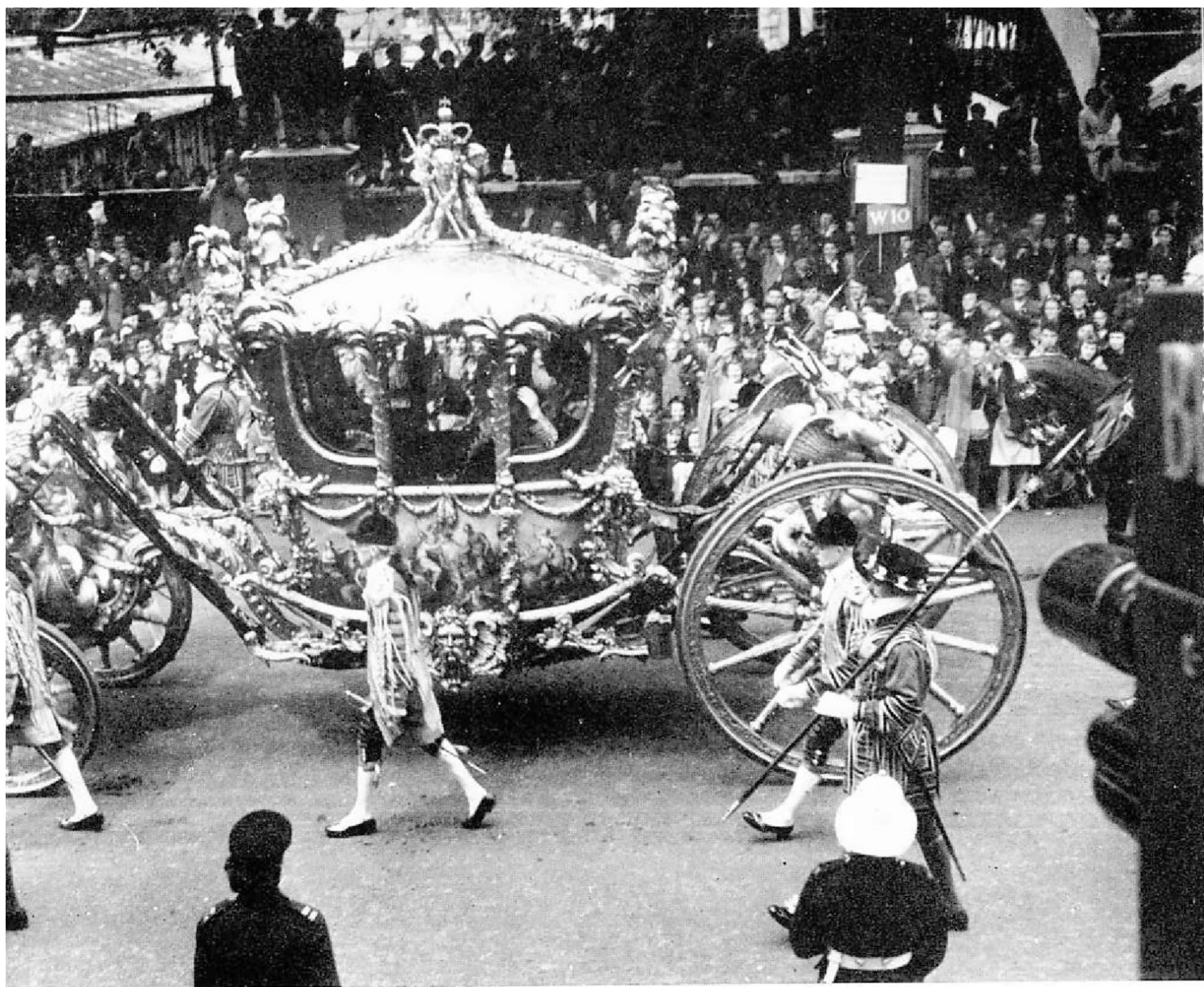
It was unique. We were with her in the Abbey as witnesses of the historic rites. Millions of the Queen's subjects, at

home and in overseas lands, shared this great occasion with her.

Our eyes were the television cameras of the B.B.C., the retinas were the screens of television receivers in our homes. Between came an intricate nervous system of control points, links, cables and transmitters.

Tributes to the B.B.C. for the great art with which this magnificent broadcast was produced have come from all quarters and we too should like to add our thanks for this memorable occasion.

We can take pride in sharing in the B.B.C.'s success, for cameras and other



By courtesy of the B.B.C.

GREATEST DAY

equipment from these Works were vital parts of the network.

On Victoria Embankment, on the site of the Colonial Office, in Westminster Abbey and in the Annexe our cameras recorded stages of the day. In the Abbey the cameras were in the Triforium, the Transept, the Choir and at the West Door. They brought us the wide, splendid view of the great scene, the unobtrusive close-up which was so intimate.

For long hours the cameramen were at their viewfinders, cramped into minute spaces in which there was barely room to sit.

When the long procession which preceded Her Majesty in the great Coronation coach moved slowly along the embankment between lines of wildly cheering schoolchildren, our cameras, perched on a special stand on the bank of the river opposite Scotland Yard, transmitted it. One of them had a forty-inch lens which we had fitted. It has been claimed that this lens could see a fly on a man's nose half a mile off.

As the carriages arrived in Parliament Square before the ceremony and as the colourful procession left afterwards, our cameras were there to see it all.

For each camera point on the route there was a control room with monitors, from which the selected picture was passed to a central control room. There the final choice was made of the picture to go out on the air. The pictures from the cameras in the Abbey were grouped in a control room equipped with our monitors and the selection of the picture transmitted was made from there.

The Abbey was lit in the best possible way to suit television, film and still cameras. The lighting compromise had been difficult, but our engineers designed and supervised the installation of remotely controlled iris mechanisms to the television camera lenses so that the operators could produce pictures of stable quality by varying the light received by the cameras.

From London the programme went across Europe where it was witnessed by the people of France, Belgium, Holland, Denmark and Germany, a stupendous feat on the part of many engineers.

And within a few hours viewers on the North American continent were also able to see the whole of the London programme in their own homes. The three Canadian transmitters, at Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa, carried it, and because of an unexpected break in the American arrangements United States listeners were also linked to this network.

So ended a glorious day in history, one in which television was put to the greatest test and proved of inestimable value.

The Control Room in Westminster Abbey. The producer at his desk has before him monitors showing the pictures from each of the six cameras, marked Symbolic, West Door, Triforium (two), Choir Screen, and Transept. The two monitors above show the selected picture leaving the control room and the picture received from Alexandra Palace

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