

CLASS C

Subject-

DESCRIBE THE CELEBRATION OF CORONATION DAY  
IN YOUR COUNTRY. WHAT WERE WE ALL CELEBRATING?

Name- Gandalar S. Patel  
Date of Birth- [REDACTED]  
Address- The Govt. Indian School,  
P.O.Box 82,  
Mbale, Uganda.

*C. S. Patel*  
*Subject*

*Very good*  
*despite language*  
*difficulties*  
*E221/1/1*

*Special*  
*Prize*

DESCRIBE THE CELEBRATION OF CORONATION DAY IN YOUR COUNTRY .  
WHAT WERE WE ALL CELEBRATING ?

The 2nd June, 1953, is now a red-letter day in the history of the British Empire. The Coronation of our Most Gracious Queen Elizabeth II was a great moment in our lives, and will ever remain so in our memory. Great occasions have great significance attached to them and there can hardly be an occasion weighted with more significance than the Coronation of our Queen.

On the Coronation day all our thoughts were directed towards Her Majesty the Queen and we prayed that God might bestow on her strength and courage to bear the heavy burden and responsibility befallen her, and that she might discharge her duty faithfully.

Like other parts of the British Empire, Uganda also celebrated the Coronation of Her Majesty the Queen. In small towns of Uganda the Coronation was celebrated on a small scale, but the Coronation was celebrated in the three biggest towns of Uganda with great pomp and grandeur. People of every caste, creed and race worked marvellously in decorating their houses and shops.

Here follow the general celebrations programmes of some of the towns of Uganda.

In Kampala, public buildings were floodlit by the Uganda Electricity Board. Floral decorations had been planted and an avenue of trees from the Municipal boundary to Fourth Street were planted as a permanent commemoration. This strip of the Jinja Road is renamed Coronation Avenue. The centre of the town was gaily lit and coloured fairy lights were festooned among the trees along Circular Drive.

A joint religious service appropriately started the celebrations. Representatives of the Christian churches and leaders of the Hindu, Muslim and Sikh communities took part in the service.



The Governor of Uganda, Sir Andrew Cohen, had a Royal Naval escort. This consisted of men from H.M.S., Newfoundland and men of the Royal East African Navy.

Following the Coronation football match on June 6, there was a display by a full squadron of the Royal New Zealand Air Force.

On Tuesday, the 2nd June, there was a special meeting of Kampala Municipal Council, when a resolution of loyalty was passed. Councillors and the members of the public then drank the Queen's health.

On the same day there was the police ceremonial parade at Kampala Sports Club. A hundred and twenty British Legion members and a hundred Special Police also took part. At the time the Queen entered the Abbey, that is, 1 p.m. in East Africa, a salute of twenty - one guns was fired.

The street decorations in Jinja were based on colourful arches with striped poles lining the streets. The Nile bridge was outlined in lights which was reflected in the water of the river, whilst on the west bank above the Ripon Falls stood out a huge illuminated E I I R.

The celebrations in Jinja took place during the week following the Coronation and included the final of the inter-racial Soccer and Hockey tournaments.

On the 8th June, the Coronation medals were presented by the Provincial Commissioner on the Bombarverandah. In the afternoon, several school children took part in Sports which were attended by His Excellency the Governor and Lady Cohen. The Uganda Band of K.A.R. played during the afternoon and led the march-past, and afterwards every child was given a tin of sweets and a bottle of Pepsi-colla.

After dusk a fireworks display took place on the East Bank of the Nile culminating in a set-piece of a portrait of the Queen.

I happen to live in the third biggest town in Uganda and as such I am much more competent to describe the coronation celebrations in my town than in any other town in Uganda.

The way that the buildings of my town, Mbale, were decorated and illuminated revealed a great deal of ingenuity on the part of those who were entrusted with that job. Festoons, bunting and coloured bulbs combined to create a gala atmosphere.

On the 2nd June a free film show, " The Royal Heritage" , was shown to the school children.

On the 9th June, R.F.J. Lindsell, Esqr., the District Commissioner, came to open an Art and Craft Exhibition which was organised at the Govt. Indian School by the District Coronation Celebrations Committee. The entries to the seven sections- Art, Needlework, Handicraft, Amateur Photography, Woodwork and Useful Collections- were open to persons of all races. Apart from these sections there was a beautiful bower built in the middle of the school rose garden in which the life of Queen Elizabeth II was represented through lifelike photographs.

In the evening, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides met around a campfire. As darkness descended upon the gathering crowds, a magnificent fireworks display took place. As the last man-made stars tumbled down from the heavens, the tired but contented people wended their ways home.

On the 10th June, there was a parade of all the school children of Mbale district with the K.A.R. Band. In the evening, after the school Sports were played, the Provincial Commissioner came to school to distribute prizes to the winners of sports, exhibitions and ~~the~~ decoration competitions.

The rest of the ~~small~~ towns of Uganda also had enjoyed the Coronation of Her Majesty the Queen, as much as the three biggest towns of Uganda as described above. Although these towns were not provided with electricity, the people could manage to celebrate the great day of Coronation with utmost enthusiasm and zeal.

This is how the Coronation day was celebrated in our country.

We were all celebrating a solemn occasion — the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The ceremony was in essence religious though it was no less important politically, and was full of deep spiritual values.



In it we acclaimed Queen Elizabeth II as our Queen publicly and pledged our homage, loyalty and service to her, and she was anointed, crowned and enthroned, and dedicated herself to the service of God and to our service, abdicating all her personal rights so that she could assume a great responsibility on her shoulders. Thus, in effect, there was dedication from both the parties - from the Queen and from us - and both the parties became promise-bound. Hence our complete happiness and joy at having one who would guide us in weal and woe till the last day of her existence on earth. Can such an occasion be anything but one for universal rejoicing? -- And we gave expression to our happy and joyous feelings by celebrating it with pomp and pageantry.

*(About 1000 words)*

*Gandadal S. Patel.*

The following local newspapers have been consulted:

The East African Standard  
The Uganda Herald  
The Kenya Daily Mail  
The Colonial Times  
The Official Gazette