

# Progressive School Shaped Future Consort

## Scotland's Moray Firth Was Scene Of Edinburgh's Youth

By Bert Oliver

Life in the rugged little ports along Scotland's Moray Firth does not change much through the years. The fishing boats crowd about the harbors when the season is on, through the hard winter, lie idle in the sheltered bays and inlets. In the summer, city folk come down to the sea and scramble about the rocky coastline and go walking along the stretches of golden sand and under the northern sun. It is a pleasant life and it has been like that for very long.

From time to time, one or other of the gnarled, weather-beaten old fishermen of the coast dies. But there are always others to take their place. Lads who have grown up there and taken to the sea to become, in time, as salty as their forebears. Some have sought a more ambitious career in the big ocean-going vessels.

There was one such lad who spent his schooldays in those parts in the mid-thirties. He was at Gordonstoun School, where the boys were encouraged to taste the life of the sea and the little harbors.

Ever since those carefree days at school on the Moray Firth, the young Prince has borne the unmistakable stamp of the sea. He has made himself a fine naval career the hard way, and reluctantly, he has given up the sea for his Royal duties. But if ever he is able to return to the sea, he will. For the Duke of Edinburgh is a born sailor.

His early life was not easy for him. He bore the title of a foreign prince, but the Navy saw to it that he was treated no better than the next man. He knew he would have to work hard. He had been told by many, including his schoolmaster in Scotland — Kurt Hahn, an anti-Nazi of remarkable character who "refugeed" his school from Germany — that at his best he was outstanding, but his second best was not good enough. So he tried, and the results speak for themselves.

### Joined the Navy

At 18, Philip joined the Royal Navy as a cadet, and trained at the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth. He was awarded the King's Dirk as finest all-round cadet of his term and also the Eardley Howard-Chocquet prize for the best cadet. In January, 1940, he went to sea as a midshipman in the battleship Ramillies, a far cry from the cutters and sailing boats he helped build and sail on the Moray Firth. He was with the Ramillies four months and saw New Zealand for the first time when the ship called at Wellington during the Centennial Exhibition.

After just one year at sea, with transfers to the cruisers Kent and Shropshire, the young midshipman was back on a battleship, this time H.M.S. Valiant. And it was with her at the Battle of Cape Matapan that he first saw action. He was in charge of searchlight control, and for his work in illuminating the Italian battleship during the night action, was mentioned in despatches and received the Greek War Cross.

During this time, Philip took a sub-lieutenant's course, winning four firsts and one second to gain three months' seniority out of a possible 10. After a gunnery course, he was appointed a sub-lieutenant on the old destroyer Wallace in 1942 and soon after was promoted First Lieutenant to become, at 21, the youngest officer second-in-command of a big destroyer. There was more action along the North African coast and in July 1943 he took part in the Sicily invasion.

At this time, Philip learned some of the harder, hotter facts of war. He was travelling in a troopship from Suez and had to do a stint in the stockhold after the Chinese gang of stokers had "jumped" ship. It was probably the hottest job he had ever done and he still keeps a certificate saying he is qualified as a "trimmer" — a stoker's job.

He grew a beard, a full, golden affair, and took it with him into the Japanese theatre of war when he was transferred to the destroyer Whelp, serving with the Eastern Fleet, and later the British Pacific Fleet. He was there till the end of the war, the surrender in Tokyo Bay in 1945.

Back in England the Duke took command of Whelp for the last two months before she was paid off into reserve. There he joined the Royal Navy Training Establishment, HMS Glendower, in North Wales, a base where only officers with the best leadership records were appointed. He took over training work and, when the school eventually closed was given a similar post at HMS Port Arthur at Corsham, near Bath. Here, Philip developed his own powers with the same ability with which he lectured petty officers on sea warfare, morale, current affairs and the self-expression of which the experienced petty officer is so picky a master.

Off-duty, Lieutenant Mountbatten went to local dances and played skittles in his shirt-sleeves with brother officers at the local pub and against the local team. They all know him, as Philip there, and on the cricket and hockey fields as well. He ran a small sports car, did his own repairs and built up local fame for his driving.

### Became Engaged

It was while he was at Corsham that he became engaged to Princess Elizabeth. And he was at Corsham right up till the wedding. His last night as a bachelor was with his

naval friends. After the wedding in November, 1947, the Duke of Edinburgh, as he then became, was appointed to temporary duty in the Admiralty with the Director of Operations — something of a back-room boy. But still clinging to hopes for an active naval career, he was posted to the next staff course at Greenwich from April to mid-September, 1948. At the end of this, he was put on half-pay at his own request.

Prince Charles was born and the Duke had less and less chance to follow the sea. But he was still determined to resume his career, as soon as possible. Soon after moving into Clarence House in July, 1949, he flew to Malta and joined the



DUKE OF EDINBURGH and QUEEN ELIZABETH taken before marriage in Palace drawing room.

destroyer as First Lieutenant, or "Jimmy the One," as the ratings call this officer. He went back to living in a cabin 7 ft. by 9 ft. with one port-hole and a ceiling draped with waterpipes — a real contrast to the home he had left.

Towards the end of 1950, he was promoted Lieutenant-Commander and took command of the frigate Magpie, a wartime U-boat killer. Life at the Malta station was good. As the Duke says, it was "the best year of my life." There were long cruises and exercises with the Home and Mediterranean Fleets, and all the interest of a first command. Princess Elizabeth, like so many other Navy wives, joined him at Malta when she could, and helped to make the round of engagements ashore attractive to him.

But it had to end. On July 16, 1951, he relinquished his command and returned to London to share with his wife the burden of Royal engagements, made heavier by the



DUKE (Centre) AS SCHOOLBOY is busy giving school boat a coat of paint at Gordonstoun.

first illness of King George VI. He went on half pay again and now has indefinite leave from the Navy. What is Lieutenant Commander the Duke of Edinburgh like as a sailor, as a man? Well, ashore and afloat, they say: "A jolly good chap."

At sea, he was, above all else, a naval officer. In the eyes of the crew he was "Jimmy the One," not a Duke, when he was a first Lieutenant. And, as a commander, he was always "the Skipper" or "the Old Man." Ratings did not brag about him ashore. But they were quietly proud. Many stories were heard about Philip before he joined Magpie. There was one about the time he tried to board a companion destroyer early in the morning with the idea of borrowing her cat. The petty officer of the watch saw him, and the Duke collected the full force of a powerful hose. White uniform moulded to his body and blond hair plastered over his face, he had to retreat before another facefull and eventually disappeared into the night in a water-logged boat.

### Scrupulously Fair

Other reports said he was tough and tyrannical but these were really misconceptions of an efficient captain and disciplinarian. He was scrupulously fair.

He was the most junior in rank and command in the flotilla but by the time he left Magpie, she was at the peak of her peacetime reputation.

When the traditional regatta day came at Valetta Harbour, Malta, he saw to it that Magpie men won six of ten events and made their ship Cock Ship of the flotilla. He made the crews practise beforehand till their hands were blistered. He

# Duke's Line Is Ancient

## Mountbattens Trace Link To Battenbergs

One family in our time can claim a history that ranks beside the romantic tales of princely houses of past ages that have risen to Royal favour and position. It is the family once called the Battenbergs — now the Mountbattens.

Now they are so closely associated with loyalty that their family name is a household word in five continents. But 99 years ago there was born to the younger son of the Grand Duke of a small — though quite rich — German Principality a boy from whom all the great Battenbergs and Mountbattens of today are descended. How did this quite obscure family — in a Europe of younger sons — achieve in three generations so many positions of eminence? Their tale shows that energy and talent can elevate even the family of an obscure aristocrat. This is an adaptable family. Unadapted to the modern world, Prince Philip, who has travelled the world as a naval officer, and gained his promotions on merit, is an example in this generation. But before him it is instructive to read the family's achievements.

Four Battenbergs and Mountbattens have married members of the British Royal family. Prince Louis of Battenberg married Victoria Alberta a granddaughter of Queen Victoria. Another Battenberg married Alice, a daughter of Queen Victoria. Henry Maurice of Battenberg married the Princess Beatrice. And now the Duke of Edinburgh is the consort of Queen Elizabeth the Second.

The family entered the strange post-war world after the First World War — with a new name and high reputation. For the following 15 years the closest connection between the Royal Family and the Mountbattens was the firm friendship of Edward, Prince of Wales, (whom "everybody" called David) with Lord Louis Mountbatten, (whom "everybody" called Dickie), the son of the great Admiral of the Fleet. The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune spared the Mountbatten family. Lady Alice, the sister of Lord Louis, married Prince Andrew of Greece, and her fortune was linked with that of the Greek Royal family. They had four daughters before their son was born on June 10, 1921. He was christened Philip. He grew up as Prince Philip of Greece, and thought of his career as a serving officer in the Royal Navy. Before his engagement to Princess Elizabeth was announced he took a special oath of allegiance and renounced his Greek titles and claims. For a short while he was Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten, and then the King ennobled him as Duke of Edinburgh — a title several times before held by members of the Royal family.

### Married Heiress

One of the greatest and most surprising marriages of the immediate "back-to-normal" period after the First World War was between Lord Louis Mountbatten, the uncle of Prince Philip, and the Hon. Edwina Cassells, the daughter of Lord Mount Temple. Lord Louis had married one of the greatest heiresses in Britain. Her grandfather was Sir Ernest Cassells, who is always described as "the banker." But he was something more than that. The Rothschilds are always spoken of as the Bankers and financial advisers of governments. Sir Ernest Cassells was the personal banker and adviser to kings. In particular he was close to Edward VII — and that King did much, despite many tales of his extravagance — to put in good order the personal fortunes of the kings of England. Sir Ernest Cassells shared, to some extent, the same family history as the Battenberg family. He was also a foreigner; he also had charm. He could not equal the aristocratic gifts of Prince Louis or Prince Henry of Battenberg. (The latter's portrait shows a reshaven likeness to the clean-shaven present Earl Mountbatten. He was one of the few Edwardian great who ever wore a beard.) But Sir Ernest Cassells' fortune is still with us today. The millions he invested in railways and industries in Sweden and Turkey, in Egypt and Iran — and throughout the world, are still bearing fruit. The fate of his fortune was the subject of one of the most remarkable bills ever passed by a Socialist Government. The Bill exempted Edwina — now known as the Countess Mountbatten of Burma — from provisions of a will so that she could spend some of the capital of her fortune — the fortune left by her grandfather, Lord Louis and his wife Edwina built for herself one of the most remarkable flats in London — what Americans would call a "duplex penthouse" overlooking Hyde Park from Park Lane. There "Dickie" and his charming wife.

Lord Louis, like his father, was a brilliant serving naval officer — perhaps a little bit unorthodox for some of his commanders. With the abdication his family fortunes looked less secure than formerly. But war, which ended the career of his father Prince Louis of Battenberg, was the opportunity for Lord Louis Mountbatten. With Winston Churchill in charge, a man like that could not fail to advance. When a "Combined Ops" was formed, "Dickie" took over. When the toughest command of the war came along — and all the traditional commanders had disdained it — he became head of South East Asia Command.

Long live the Royal Family!



## A Great And Historic Occasion

The TOWN OF SUMMERSIDE extends congratulations and felicitations to Queen Elizabeth II on the occasion of her Coronation, and wishes her long life and happiness in service to her people.



## A Symbol Of Unity, Justice, Peace

The THRONE, in Peace and War, in joy and sorrow, has stood as a rock — firmly established — an example and guide for each and all of us to follow.



# GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

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