

# BELOVED BRITISH SOVEREIGN LED DEDICATED LIFE

## Embodied Highest Ideals In Service To His People

The quiet family man who put Royal duty above personal pleasure quickly endeared himself to his millions of subjects around the world.

King George VI led Britain through her worst ordeal when the island kingdom faced the victory-flushed German armies alone. His words of comfort, his prayers, his encouragement, helped Britons meet and turn back the foe's blitzkrieg. With his Prime Minister Winston Churchill, the King will be long remembered for his part in "Britain's finest hour."

The monarch was better known both to his own subjects and to foreigners than any other modern king. His radio addresses were heard around the world. He travelled extensively despite poor health which plagued him from the time he ascended the throne.

To the modest, young brother—who wanted nothing more than to live a quiet life with his family—fell the task of being the nominal ruler of an empire with a total population in excess of 500,000,000 approximately a quarter of the people of the globe. He lacked three days of being 41 years old at the time.

Though the days of his reign saw the Empire shrink greatly, the King and his family vastly increased the love and respect in which the royal institution was held.

### HELPED MAINTAIN PRESTIGE

The two had to face a new democratic spirit in a shattered world. Colonies gave way to dominions and dominions to republics during the 15-year reign, but despite transformations and loss of territory George VI helped maintain much of Britain's prestige and powers of leadership.

The frail King was called on, time after time, to meet crises facing the Empire and Commonwealth.

He came to the throne at a time when the monarchy was reeling under the severest blow it had received in popular esteem for generations.

The first voluntary abdication in English history—Edward's dramatic decision to throw up his position as king-emperor in order to wed the alluring Mrs. Wallis Simpson—had shaken to the core the average Briton's implicit faith in the men who rule him.

He ascended the throne in a wave of indifference and unfavorable comparison with his elder brother.

He overcame it and became a symbol of national character, a devoted and typical family man—"ordinary bloke" the English called him. He was unpretentious and in every way the product of the British tradition of constitutional monarchy.

He came to the throne during a family crisis in a critical year of war and rumors of war—yet he left the popularity of his house greater than ever.

### Beloved Monarch

During a reign which saw the worst crisis Britain and the Commonwealth had ever weathered—the Second World War—culminating in two years of illness, he endeared himself to his country and the world.

He added lustre to the British tradition of constitutional monarchy.

In the grueling war years and the aftermath of austerity this unwavering devotion to duty inspired the confidence and trust of his people.

He and the Queen started slowly—they were themselves.

The visit of the King and Queen to France in 1938 proved to be the great turning point.

The French people took the royal couple to their hearts and his triumph was contagious. On their return home there were scenes of mass loyalty reminiscent of the

jubilee days of George V. The nation suddenly awoke to the fact that it had a friendly King, who, with his smiling wife and two little daughters, had a sincere and simple humanity and a desire to lead a normal, domestic happy life.

Since then the people have shared in every family celebration. Princess Elizabeth's wedding and the birth of her children were the latest occasions.

### History-Making Tour

During their six-week tour of Canada and the United States in early 1939 the royal couple were acclaimed not only as worthy sovereigns but as people of personality and charm.

History was made because never before had a reigning British monarch visited the United States.

### The King in War

The threat of war had come unmistakably closer when the royal party returned. In the royal program, inspection of defence workers in Hyde Park, a visit to the newly-mobilized reserve fleet at Weymouth, took the place of the courts and garden parties of more peaceful years. By Aug. 24 the situation was so grave that the King travelled south from Balmoral to hold a privy council at the Palace. Ten days later Britain was at war.

In his broadcast that night, the King asked his people, marshalled



THE LATE KING GEORGE VI

led against Germany in fulfillment of their promise to invade Poland, to "stand firm and united," adding the prophetic warning "there might be dark days ahead, and war can no longer be confined to the battlefield."

### Visited Battlefields

From then on the King wore uniform until peace came six years later. More than any monarch since his ancestor, George III, who fought on the battlefield at Dettingen, the King visited distant battlefields. To a greater extent than any King before him, he shared intimately the perils of his subjects at home.

Buckingham Palace was bombed nine times. Once, during a morning raid, the King and Queen looked through a window and saw bombs falling from a German plane. These wrecked the Royal Chapel and blasted part of the Palace buildings.

Presence of the King and Queen in London throughout the worst of the blitz enhanced the esteem in which they were held. This was expressed in a popular wartime song "The King is Still in London." There was a plan for the King and Queen to leave Britain for Canada at short notice had it become necessary. But the King made no secret of his firm intention not to leave Britain except under the direst necessity. There was talk, too, of the princesses leaving to seek refuge in Canada. But the King did not approve, and the two young girls who were next in succession to the throne remained at rural Windsor through the worst years.

### Palace Bomb Shelters

Below Buckingham Palace were dug extensive bomb shelters were equipped with telephone lines and air conditioning. At Windsor Castle where the King spent some nights during the intensive air war on London, comfortable accommodation as near bomb proof as possible, was installed in underground dungeons constructed centuries before.

The King continued his daily round of state business. He made tours of military areas in an armoured car with bullet and splinter-proof windows and sides of thick steel which would resist all but a direct hit. At the front of the car was a Sten gun which the King had learned to use.

With the Queen he toured Britain, visiting war production centres, military encampments, R.A.F. stations and naval establishments. The royal train in which they travelled was furnished with armoured carriages and, wherever the royal couple stayed overnight, a special bomb-proof shelter was provided.

### Inspected Troops

In the quiet period before the German onslaught of May, 1940, the King went to France, visited the British Expeditionary Force in their lines and inspected the French defences of the Maginot Line.

A few months later he saw officers and men of the expeditionary force back on British soil, almost weaponless, fewer in numbers, but unbroken in spirit after escaping from German clutches at Dunkerque. He walked miles along dusty country roads, through Savernake Forest and other centres of southern command, to see his men, talk to them and encourage them.

In all the King made five visits to his troops overseas. In June, 1948, he flew to North Africa and spent several days inspecting his forces, returning home via Malta, the heroic island fortress which he himself honored with the George Cross—his own creation.

The King was kept closely informed of all preparations for the Allied invasion of enemy-held

France in 1944. Ten days after D-Day he crossed the Channel in a cruiser, landed on the Normandy beachhead and lunched with Gen. Sir Bernard Montgomery at his advanced headquarters within range of the German guns.

### Other War Activities

A month after he was again in the battlefields, this time in Italy, where he visited British, Dominion, American and Allied troops. In October of 1944 he flew to the Eindhoven corridor and slept in a caravan at "Monty's" headquarters five miles from the enemy lines. At home the King and Queen made many visits to areas where V-Is and V-2s had fallen. This was a continuation of the series of visits to bombed areas which occupied so large a place in the King's wartime life.

After the first devastating German raid on Coventry the King visited the ruined city while workers cleared bomb debris. When the raids intensified, the King and Queen made it their practice to travel in the wake of the bombers, bringing comfort and inspiration to the survivors. Sheffield, Birmingham, Bristol, Portsmouth, Liverpool, Southampton, Plymouth, Bath and Exeter were some of the centres they visited, often within a few hours of the bombing.

### Toured South Africa

On Feb. 1, 1947, the King and Queen with the two princesses sailed in the battleship Vanguard from Portsmouth bound for Cape Town. On a tour that covered many thousands of miles and

## Island Tributes Paid To Late King George VI

The following local tributes to His Late Majesty King George VI have been received for publication:

### His Honour Lieutenant Governor T. W. L. Frowse:

"The sad tidings of the death of our most gracious and beloved King have been heard with heartfelt sorrow by all his people throughout the Province of Prince Edward Island.

His Majesty's reign for sixteen years over our British Commonwealth of Nations was one marked by his great desire for the well-being and advancement of his people. In troublesome times, including a second World War, the inspiration which guided his rule and directed his personal behaviour has won for him a place in history with our truly great monarchs."

### Hon. J. Walter Jones, Premier of Prince Edward Island:

The people of Prince Edward Island join with all his other loyal subjects in the great British Commonwealth of Nations in mourning the death of their gracious and well-beloved King.

The ties which bind us to the Crown, so firmly strengthened by the recent visit of the Heir to the Throne, will be the more securely held as we consider the unselfish and untiring interest in the well-being of his subjects, of this great and good monarch.

Our people will share with the members of the Royal Family their

took them to every part of the Union of South Africa the King and his family received an enthusiastic welcome. It was regarded as a great personal triumph and a mark of the new status of South Africa as a nation.

The royal party visited Zululand, Bechuanaland and Swaziland and flew to the Rhodesias before returning to Capetown where Princess Elizabeth celebrated her 21st birthday just before they left for England. The tour was fully as strenuous as the visit to Canada in 1939 and on the journey home in the Vanguard the King showed signs of strain and fatigue.

Soon after his return the King announced that he had given his consent to the betrothal of Princess Elizabeth and Lieut. Philip Mountbatten, son of Prince and Princess Andrew of Greece. That winter the King, a proud and happy father, drove his daughter to Westminster Abbey to be married to the young naval lieutenant whom he had created Duke of Edinburgh on the eve of the marriage.

His Majesty died on the same estate where he was born in the smaller York cottage near the big Sandringham House. His father King George V also died at Sandringham 16 years ago, on Jan. 21, 1936.

The King's survivors include his mother, 84-year-old Queen Mary.

Albert Frederick Arthur George, Duke of York, the second son of George V and Queen Mary, was shy, nervous and lacking in self-confidence until his marriage in 1923 to Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon. His wife's quiet companionship and the happy home she created for him did much to banish his shyness and even helped to cure his stammering.

personal grief on this sorrowful occasion.

### Most Rev. James Boyle, Bishop of Charlottetown:

"With deep sorrow we learn of the death of His Majesty, King George VI, our beloved sovereign. The whole free world will mourn the passing of this good man and good King. His Majesty was a champion of Christian ideals, and maintained high standards of conduct in public and private life. In union with the people of the Mother Country and the Overseas Dominions we offer our prayers for the King, and our sympathy for the Royal Family in its hour of sorrow."

### Rev. H. Barber, President Charlottetown Ministerial Association:

"The members of the Charlottetown Ministerial Association heard with deep sorrow this morning of the passing of His Majesty King George VI.

"We offer our tribute of appreciation and gratitude for the exemplary life and reign that has so suddenly come to an end.

"We extend our sympathy to all the members of the Royal Family and especially to the widowed Queen, to Princess Elizabeth who now becomes our Sovereign, to Princess Margaret, and to Mary, the late King's mother.

"We pledge our allegiance and loyalty to Queen Elizabeth. We pray that God's richest blessings may descend upon her and that her reign may be both great and glorious."

### Mr. R. R. Bell, Leader of the Opposition:

"The people of this Province join in deepest mourning with all peoples of the British Empire, for one, never to be forgotten, our King, George the Sixth.

"May his exalted example of unselfishness and courageousness and his efforts and sacrifices in the cause of peace in the world be long remembered and followed."

### Major Arthur Peake, President, Provincial Command, Canadian Legion:

"The war veterans of Prince Edward Island join with our former comrades - in - arms in the other Provinces of Canada and the British Commonwealth of Nations in reverent and sincere tribute to the memory of our late King and commander-in-chief who has passed on to the other side. Our respectful sympathy is extended to the Queen, the Queen Mother, and members of the Royal Family. Our loyalty and allegiance is now pledged to our Queen to whose call her loyal subjects stand ready to respond."

### Rev. Canon F. M. Malone, St. Peter's Cathedral:

"On December 11, 1936, because of the abdication of his brother Edward VIII, King George VI succeeded to the throne of England and of the British Commonwealth and of the Nations. He was one of those who had greatness thrust upon him for from his own choice he would have preferred the simple life of an English country gentleman, who loved his home, his family life and his accustomed quiet pleasure. This was not to be.

"At the call of duty he undertook the heavy responsibilities of Kingship at a critical time in the history of the British nation.



THE QUEEN MOTHER

## MEMORABLE DATES IN THE LIFE OF KING GEORGE VI

- 1895 (Dec. 14)—Born Prince Albert at Sandringham.
- 1913—Visited Eastern Canada as naval cadet.
- 1916—Fought at Jutland; mentioned in dispatches.
- 1917—Joined Royal Air Force.
- 1919—Entered Cambridge.
- 1920—Created Duke of York.
- 1923 (April 26)—Married Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon.
- 1924—Visited Africa and Egypt.
- 1926 (April 21)—Daughter Elizabeth born.
- 1927—Toured world on H. M. S. Renown.
- 1930 (Aug. 21)—Daughter Margaret born.
- 1936 (Jan. 20)—Father, King George V, died.
- 1936 (Dec. 10)—Succeeded to throne on abdication of Edward VIII.
- 1939—Toured Canada and the United States.
- 1940-45—Visited troops in war theatres.
- 1947—Visited South Africa.
- 1948 (Nov. 23)—Ordered to rest owing to blood clot in leg.
- 1949 (March 12)—Underwent operation to remove clot.
- 1951 (June 1)—Doctors reported small area of inflammation in lung.
- 1951 (Sept. 23)—Underwent major operation for lung resection.
- 1951 (Oct. 4)—Left sick bed for first time.
- 1952 (Feb. 6)—Died in his sleep at Sandringham.

Through the anxious days of the war and the times of uncertain peace which followed them, His Majesty always endeavoured to live up to the solemn charge which was given him by the Archbishop of Canterbury at his Coronation: "Stand firm and hold fast the seat and state delivered unto you this day in the Name and by the authority of Almighty God and by the authority of Almighty God and by the hands of us Bishops and Servants of God, though unworthy."

"We in Canada know our King. He visited us with his gracious Queen. In this Island province we saw them, welcomed them, and in our hearts pledged to them the loyalty and affection of subjects for a beloved sovereign. As an ordinary man of the people said at that time: 'I looked at him and he looked as a king should look, serious and dignified, like a man who felt the responsibility of being the Ruler of a great Empire.'

"We all felt: 'Here is a man that is reliable, who will not let us down.'

"And now the King has laid down his burden of responsibility; death, from which he was wonderfully rescued, has called him with a suddenness which shocked us; but as we look back over his life we can say with sincerity: 'Servant of God, well done! The King is dead! May God rest his soul!'

"Today the cares of sovereignty rest on new shoulders, and while not unprepared for the great task, yet the call of duty came to our young Queen with startling unexpectedness. From every heart will go up to the throne of heaven fervent prayers that she may be strengthened with God's grace and heavenly benediction.

"Queen Elizabeth and her consort Prince Philip are no strangers to us. To them too we have given a hearty welcome to our shores. They seemed to say to us then: 'We are really your friends and are deeply interested in your true welfare. May God give us the opportunity to prove it to you.'

"To her now we pledge, as we did to her Royal father, our affectionate homage and devotion. To speak of her as her 'sacred Majesty' is not merely to use a flattering title, for later on the service by which she will be halloved to her high office will tell of her consecration to the solemn position to which she has been called. The reverence we pay to the Crown is truly a reverence we pay to Him 'By Whom Kings Reign.'"

### HISTORIC MARKET

Fine buildings dating from the 13th century onward surround the three-acre open market at King's Lynn in Norfolk, England.

## Elizabeth Becomes 7th Queen Of England

The accession of Princess Elizabeth marks the seventh time in history that a queen has ruled England. The following is a list of her predecessors:

- Jane 1553 (14 days' reign)
- Mary II 1689-1694
- Elizabeth I 1558-1603
- Mary II 1689-194
- Anne 1702-1714
- Victoria 1837-1901

Scotland has been ruled by two queens, Margaret (1286-1290) and Mary (1542-1567).

### AT WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6—(AP)—British officials in the United States awoke with a shock today to the news that their King was dead.

The death of King George VI was announced early today in London.

The word had not yet reached Washington when British offices were called immediately after the announcement.

Charles Campbell, press officer at the British Embassy, was stunned. He said he was notifying British Ambassador Sir Oliver Franks immediately.

At the White House, a spokesman said President Truman would have a statement later.

### ANCIENT PORT

Mombasa in East Africa was a famous port for centuries before the Portuguese Navigator Vasco Da Gama landed in 1498.



PRINCESS MARGARET



DOWAGER QUEEN MARY



The Royal Family, Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Consort, H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Charles, Princess Anne.