

Life Guards Closely Linked With Royalty



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Extending a Cordial Welcome to

Their Royal Highness

The Princess Elizabeth

Duchess of Edinburgh

AND

The Duke of Edinburgh

Sparkling and picturesque is the scene on a bright sunny morning when the King's Household Cavalry rides out at the head of a Royal procession, the clatter of hooves mingling with the notes of the silver kettle drums and the cavalry band.

The cavalry makes a lovely sight with its colourful uniforms, the prancing horses, the sparkling metal of the accoutrements and the shining silver of the ancient kettledrums.

The King's Cavalry has ridden through London on many state occasions since that first day in the summer of 1660 when Charles II entered London with his troops of Life Guards, preceded by their own kettle-drummers and trumpeters. That summer day was probably the beginning of the drummers and trumpeters, the beginning of the "Makers of the King's Music".

No Hitches

Back of it all, the playing of the trumpets that precedes the appearance of the King, or at the Lord Mayor's Show, is no more than a job of work to the men who perform. They have numerous rehearsals and practices for everything must proceed as smoothly as possible; there must be no hitches.

The proper name of the King's Cavalry is, of course, the Life Guards, and they wear very picturesque uniforms on parade; but none equals in glory of colour or decoration that of the King's kettledrummer. His Arab steed, dark brown and white, is gaily caparisoned with silver reins and royal decorations worked in gold and silver thread on royal blue the royal coat of arms prominent above all else.

The drummer himself—at the moment the post is held by Ernest Madden—has a cap like that worn by a foxhunter, a cap of dark velvet; his coat ribbed with gold thread and very ornate, with, in front, the Royal crown over the letters "GR VI."

The kettledrummer always leads the procession, trotting out between the great gateposts of the palace, the cynosure of public eyes. Behind him clatter the trumpeters and musicians. There are 60 members of the Life Guards every one of them a model soldier; they have to be as near perfect as they can be in dress and appearance.

The present silver kettledrums



An Accomplished Horsewoman

were presented to the Life Guards in 1831 by King William IV. The tenor drum is 22 inches across, the bass drum 24 inches. They are both very ornately decorated, of solid silver, with raised figure work with the Royal coat of arms, swords and trumpets crossed, and a heavy cavalry helmet.

The heavily decorated "apron" covers part of the drums, as the corporal in his gay uniform rides forth; both his hands are busy with the drumsticks and onlookers are often puzzled as to how, with his hands engaged all the time, the drummer can guide his horse. Actually the "aprons" act as a sort of shield to his legs, and under these connected to the stirrups run two reins so that the movements of the horse can be controlled by foot, although, of course, there is a hand control as well for emergencies.

The Guards are present at every

occasion of state that requires a mounted escort—and there are many throughout the year. There is the Royal Tournament, the Royal Show, sometimes a special tattoo at the Festival of Edinburgh and the Trooping the Colour, probably the most picturesque of all the pageantry connected with the Royal court.

Saw Micmac Wigwams On Market Square

Probably the most spectacular affair that ever took place on the Market Square (writes the late Mr. Benjamin Bremner in his "Memories of Long Ago"), was during the visit in 1860 of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales (afterwards King Edward VII) the present Sovereign's grandfather, when the place was gaily decorated for the occasion, and a large number of Micmac Indians were allowed to pitch their wigwams about the square fronting the old Market House; and there they paraded their loyalty to the Crown before the Her Apparent.

Appropos of the royal visit are the following lines selected from an address in rhyme which was presented to the Prince by Mr. John LePage and to be found in the second volume of "The Island Minstrel":

"Let acclamations loud and long
Ring o'er our hills and dales!
God save the Queen, our loyal
son,
And bless the Prince of Wales.
Where thousands press to see his
face,
The foremost place we claim,
This beauteous Isle, our dwelling
place,
Records his Grand sire's name.
Then let us our homage pay,
As rightfully we claim—
We had the brightest star today
In Edward's arch of fame.
But still a finer cord we wake
To sound the praise we mean,
We love him for his Mother's
sake,
Because we love our Queen—
Our gracious Queen, may she re-
ceive
And long in health and splendor
The best that Heaven bestows:
Live,
The envy of her foes!"

QUEEN'S BROTHERS SERVED IN FORCES

The girlhood of Queen Elizabeth was ended by the advent of World War One in August 1914. Two days before war was declared she looked down from the box of a London theatre on a singing, cheering audience and within a few days, four of her brothers had joined the Army.

A week later she went to Glamis Castle which was already a hospital and remained so till after the Great War. In the hospital she worked with her parents to make relays of soldiers feel that they were not hospital patients, but guests.

The Strathmore family was spared neither the anxieties nor the sorrows of the great conflict. Four sons served, one was killed.

Elizabeth — Enjoyed A Happy Home Life

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air raids (for though thousands of the King's young subjects were to be taken from the dangers, his daughters had to set an example, however much his heart was tried), and to fall in love.

One thing Elizabeth and Margaret liked doing in the early months of the war when they were in Scotland was to ride on their ponies to a Canadian lumber camp which had been set up in the Highlands to fell the pinewoods. There, husky lumberjacks from the Canadian northland would give the Princesses a friendly grin when they saw them ride up to the camp.

Wartime Severities

During the war, new clothes were rare. The King insisted on Elizabeth getting along on her clothing ration coupon and old clothes had to be altered to new styles.

The young Princesses remained at Windsor Castle for almost five years, until the war ended. When bombs started to fall they had beds made up in the dungeons of the old castle and after a while Elizabeth and her sister got sleek suits so that when the air raid sirens wailed and the red light gleamed, shewing bombers were in close proximity it was the matter of moments to reach safety.

Elizabeth was, by this time, 14 years of age, and delighted in playing hostess. There was a company of the Grenadier Guards at the Castle and parties were arranged at which Elizabeth presided with a grace and poise greatly beyond her years.

It was early in the war—1940—that Elizabeth broke new ground when she made her first radio broadcast in Children's Hour and for weeks beforehand she practised with seemingly endless rehearsals. And the broadcast over, Elizabeth with that big-sisterly touch so typical of her, brought Margaret forward to the mike and said "Come Margaret, say 'Good night'", and Margaret spoke "Good night, children." Letters poured in to the little Princesses from all parts of the country, many of them from grown-ups saying they had enjoyed and been greatly impressed by the broadcast.

Elizabeth had learned to drive a motor car when she was in the A.T.S. and was immensely pleased when the King gave her a car of her own for her twenty-first birthday. The car has a special number, H.R.H. 1, and people in London soon got into the habit of looking for it and recognizing the smiling Princess who drove it.

After she herself had become accustomed to driving around London she had the car taken up to Balmoral the next summer. Here on the lonely Highland roads and the silent lanes of the Scottish Highlands she taught her sister Margaret how to drive.

Joined A. T. S.

Elizabeth registered for national service when her age group came up. She joined the A.T.S. as a junior officer and took a vehicle maintenance course. On one of his tours, the King was delighted when he found her sprawling under a vehicle, a spanner in her hand, doing repair work.

When she passed her course, she celebrated by driving an Army truck twice around Piccadilly Circus through all the traffic, sweeping through the front gates of Buckingham Palace and pulling up at the front door. Her desire to drive had been fulfilled.

The King has never grown accustomed to the talent, vivacity and freshness of outlook of his two daughters. The ease and efficiency with which they do most things is in direct contrast with his own experience. Naturally shy and diffident, he was a long time developing the easy manner now so well known.

Meets Prince Philip

Elizabeth had met Prince Philip in the July before the war when he was a cadet at Dartmouth Royal Naval College. She was scarcely 16, and was certainly very much attracted to the blond-haired, blue-eyed boy who delighted in showing off before her.

The attraction was mutual and during the war, while Philip was on active service, they corresponded regularly. Elizabeth felt that she had some one she cared for personally facing the enemy. He sent her his photograph, which she proudly hung on the wall in her room in Buckingham Palace. Like any other girl in love, she eagerly awaited the coming of the mail man with a letter for her from Philip.

With the end of the war, Philip made no secret of the fact that he was smitten. He arrived at Buck-

ingham Palace in informal attire (often a Navy sweater and slacks), his hair awry, and driving an open sports car. The King and Queen watched the courtship with interest, but made no comments.

They went together to social functions. Elizabeth does not smoke, and will only take a drink on extremely important occasions, even then, it is in the nature of a "social drink", generally champagne, and nothing more. She dances beautifully and pictures of her and Philip together were common in the world's newspapers.

How anxious her father and mother were that she should be happy in her married life and sure that she had chosen the only man, was demonstrated by their taking Elizabeth with them to South Africa in 1947.

It was her first journey outside the British Isles, and her first intimate contact with the Commonwealth with whose destiny her future was to be linked.

Makes Pledge of Faith

Her twenty-first birthday came when she was in Capetown. It was then that she made this pledge of faith to the Commonwealth.

Speaking to the Commonwealth's youth in her clear, ringing voice she said: "Will you, the youth of the British family of nations, let me speak on my birthday as your representative?"

"Now that we are coming to manhood and womanhood, it is surely a great joy to all to think that we shall be able to take some of the burden off the shoulders of our elders who have fought and worked and suffered to protect our childhood.

"We must not be daunted by the anxieties and hardships that the war has left behind for every nation of our Commonwealth.

"There is a motto which has been borne by many of my ancestors—a noble motto—'I serve.' Those words were an inspiration to many bygone heirs to the throne when they made their knightly dedication as they came to manhood.

"I cannot do quite as they did, but through the invention of science I can do what was not possible for any of them. I can make my solemn act of dedication with a whole Empire listening.

"I declare... all my life... shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great Imperial family to which we all belong, but I shall not have the strength to carry out this resolution alone, unless you join in it with me... God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share it!"

A New Elizabeth

This speech, Elizabeth wrote herself. It was a new Elizabeth speaking. One who realized the great destiny which lay ahead of her, with all its burdens and responsibilities, and in the full knowledge of them and the sacrifices they would demand was dedicating herself to a lifetime of service.

On her return from South Africa, her first thought was for Philip. Within a few weeks, he had proposed and Elizabeth was proudly showing her engagement ring.

She made no secret of her happiness. When friends came to the palace—and Cabinet ministers, too—she flashed her diamond ring for them to see. Her wedding dress, designed by Norman Hartnell, her mother's dressmaker, was the admired object of thousands of women, and when it was displayed for public view at a nominal charge for admission, a big sum was raised for charities.

The wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip brought a blaze of pageantry after the drab war years. Millions of people throughout the Commonwealth were able to hear the ceremony on the radio, and to hear the royal couple make their vows.

Elizabeth is domestically minded. It is said that Philip may have been influenced in his devotion by his discovery that Elizabeth showed commendable skill with a skilful and batter bowl. There, too, Elizabeth's - born Queen Elizabeth's guiding hand is seen. Like any sensible mother, she insisted that her elder daughter should know how to keep house, change bed linen and, above all, cook.

Garden Chores

The Queen does not believe in dainty, theoretical knowledge, her own upbringing was too practical for that. The same is true of the King, though he does not owe the feeling to early training. Many times before her marriage, Elizabeth knew what it was to put on old shoes and clothes and go into the garden for a real session of digging, weeding and planting with her father and other members of the Royal family. Led by a big King, the family cleared an overgrown part of the neglected, overgrown gardens of the Royal Lodge at Windsor, when the King took over the tenancy.

So Elizabeth knows the practical side of running a house. She can also be a perfect hostess on social occasions, bearing herself with charm and regal dignity. Her manners are impeccable; Royal trainers emphasize courtesy, but she has no patience with people who are guilty of ill-bred behaviour, when they should know better.

Some day, Princess Elizabeth will be Queen and will carry a lonely burden of responsibility. That she will fulfil the duties of that high office in a spirit of selfless dedication none who have watched her grow up from childhood into the charming Princess of today, have any doubt. Many predict that her reign will see the Commonwealth rise to greater heights, and that there will be another "Elizabethan Age" matching that of her great ancestress and namesake, the Tudor Elizabeth.



Salute To Royalty

We join in the nation's Heartfelt Welcome to
Their Royal Highnesses—

THE PRINCESS ELIZABETH

and

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

May every joy be theirs during their stay and all humbly
desire that their sojourn among us be a source of pleasure
and national pride.

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