

HEIRESS TO THE THRONE

It was at Glamis Castle that, as a baby, the girl who has now reached the age of twenty-one was first filmed; the girl who will one day be Queen in her own right. She was first seen by the public on the balcony of the Palace, at the rejoicing over the recovery from serious illness of the late King George the Fifth. When Princess Elizabeth was five she was among the royal party at the wedding of Lady May Cambridge. Public interest in her in those early

~~years was far less than if there had been any reason to suppose that she would one day be heiress to the Throne.~~
Her Royal Highness was seven when she was first taken to the Aldershot Tattoo.

At the Braemar Gathering, near the ancestral home of her mother, the little Princess and her sister ^{Margaret} were becoming great favourites.

When the nation celebrated the Silver Jubilee in honour of the well beloved George the Fifth the royal drama surrounding the King's eldest son was moving swiftly, as yet unsuspected by the people. The Princess's parents were still Duke and Duchess of York. Dramatic events in a short time translated the Duke to the Throne of Britain, and in the grounds of Buckingham Palace intimate family pictures showed the future Queen as a girl of eleven. The days of childhood were being left behind.

A few weeks later she saw her royal father crowned King.

Next year Princess Elizabeth took part in a girl guides' parade at Windsor.

In the summer of 1939 there was the last visit before the war to the King's Camp.

The war was in its third year and the Princess now sixteen when she was made Colonel of the Grenadier Guards. Intervals of leisure were often spent at that favourite of royal homes, Sandringham House.

(pat head) In the war holidays were rare. Her Royal Highness joined the A.T.S. and qualified as a driver. Already her bearing was that of a young woman of character. who had inherited the sense of duty to which her grandfather, George the Fifth, attached great importance. Last year the National Eisteddfod made her a Bard. ^{The} Wales Principality had made no secret of its wish that when she was twenty-one His Majesty would confer upon her the title, Princess of Wales.

At the wedding of Viscount Mountbatten's daughter the Princess made one of her last appearances before sailing for South Africa. Prince Philip of Greece, rumoured as her fiance-to-be, was there too.

In South Africa Princess Elizabeth has now celebrated her twentieth-first birthday. It will eventually fall to her to be Queen in her own right, perhaps during a great age ^{worthy} ^{those} ~~were-they~~ to be compared with/Elizabeth and Victoria.