

MR. HAWKINS.

20/4/53 - No. 13

ROYAL MARINES COLOUR TO BE TROOPED AT EASTNEY

For the first time for 21 years, the ceremony of trooping the Colour will take place at the Royal Marines Barracks, Eastney, Portsmouth, on Thursday next, St. George's Day.

The Regimental Colour was last trooped in June, 1932 when the late Admiral of the Fleet, Sir Roger Keyes, Honorary Colonel Commandant of the Portsmouth Division and the only Naval Officer ever to have held the appointment, took the salute. It was presented by the late Duke of Kent in 1931.

On Thursday, the salute will be taken by the present Honorary Colonel Commandant, Major General G.E. Wildman-Lushington, C.B., C.B.E., a former Chief of Combined Operations. The Parade will be commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel G.W. Wilson, R.M., Second-in-Command, Royal Marines Barracks, Eastney.

St. George's Day has been chosen for this ceremony as it commemorates the historic raid on the Mole at Zeebrugge by the 4th Battalion, Royal Marines, which took place on St. George's Day, 1918.

Roughly sixty per cent. of the Marines taking part in this parade will be National Servicemen. They are the same men who provided the Royal Marine contingents at the Funeral of Her Late Majesty Queen Mary.

The Portsmouth Group Band, which is the Royal Yacht band, will be under the direction of Captain K.A. McLean, L.R.A.M., R.M., who has recently been appointed Director of Music.

Two Victoria Crosses were won by the Royal Marines on the occasion of the Zeebrugge Raid. The surviving holder of this award, Lieutenant N.A. Finch, R.M. (Retd) will be present at the ceremony on Thursday.

NOTE TO EDITORS: The ceremony at Eastney Barracks commences at 10.45 a.m. and applications for passes for reporters and photographers should be made to the Department of the Chief of Naval Information, Admiralty, Whitehall, S.W.1. (Telephone: Whitehall 9000, Ext. 1125).

Admiralty, S.W.1.
20th April, 1953.

Report by 9.30am in order to film s.u. of colours being handed over etc. Colours party available from 9.50am.

Handwritten notes and signatures, including "C. H. L. V. x", "G. B. A. L. I. I. 6", "A. G. I. 6 L. x", and "C. H. L. V. x".