

Air Ministry News Service

A.M.B. No.35181

H.M. THE QUEEN MOTHER'S VISIT TO THE

CITY OF LONDON

HONOUR FOR THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

When H.M. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother visits the City of London on 28th October to receive the Freedom she will be the first parent of a reigning Sovereign ever so to do.

The occasion will also be unique in that for the first time a Royal Air Force guard of honour will be mounted at Guildhall for a member of the Royal Family. This much coveted duty will fall upon the two City of London Squadrons of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force of which Her Majesty is the Honorary Air Commodore.

The Guard of Honour will be under the command of Squadron Leader J. M. Cormack, Commanding Officer of No.600 Squadron, Royal Auxiliary Air Force, and will be accompanied by the Central Band of the Royal Air Force.

The Standard of No.600 (City of London) Squadron recently presented to it by Her Majesty at Buckingham Palace will be paraded with the Guard of Honour, and will be carried through the City's streets, the Lord Mayor having given special permission for this to be done.

No.600 Fighter Squadron was one of the first units of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force to be formed. No.2600 Squadron is a Light Anti-Aircraft unit of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force Regiment.

Both squadrons have their Town Headquarters at Finsbury Barracks, City Road, London, E.C.1.

The Guard of Honour will parade at the Barracks on the morning of 28th October and march to Guildhall at 11.40 arriving at 11.50.

Information Division,
Air Ministry,
Whitehall Gardens,
S. W. 1.



Arrangements for the Ceremony of the Presentation
OF THE
FREEDOM OF THE CITY OF LONDON
TO
**HER MAJESTY
QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER**

In GUILDHALL, on WEDNESDAY, 28th OCTOBER, 1953.

On the 9th July, 1953, the Court of Common Council resolved unanimously :

THAT the Freedom of the City be presented to HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER,

and it was referred to the City Lands Committee to make the necessary arrangements.

The Lord Mayor, the Lady Mayoress, the Sheriffs and their ladies will arrive at 11.40 o'clock and will be met at Guildhall Porch by the City Lands Committee who will conduct them to the Dais in Guildhall.

The Lady Mayoress, upon her arrival, will be presented with a Bouquet by Mrs. S. R. Walker, wife of the Chairman of the City Lands Committee.

The Lord Mayor, the Sheriffs and the Aldermen, in their Scarlet Robes, will be seated on the Dais, together with the Principal Guests and the Chamberlain. The Members of the Court of Common Council, wearing their Mazarine Gowns, will be seated on the floor of the Hall.

At 12.10 p.m. a Deputation of the City Lands Committee will escort the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs from the Dais in Guildhall to the Porch.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother will arrive at Guildhall at 12.15 p.m. and will be received by the Lord Mayor.

A Guard of Honour composed from 600 and 2,600 (City of London) Squadrons, Royal Auxiliary Air Force, with the Standard of 600 Squadron and the Central Band, Royal Air Force, will be mounted in Guildhall Yard.

Her Majesty will inspect the Guard of Honour.

The Lady Mayoress will present Her Majesty with a Bouquet.

A Procession will then be formed and will move in the following order to the Dais in Guildhall :—

The City Marshal

The Prime Warden and Wardens of the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights

The Under-Sheriffs

A Deputation of the City Lands Committee

The Chairman of the City Lands Committee

The Town Clerk

The Sheriffs

Committee Aldermen below the Chair

Committee Aldermen above the Chair

The Suite in attendance upon Her Majesty

The Sword

The Mace

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and The Lord Mayor

H.R.H. The Princess Margaret and The Lady Mayoress

✓ The business of the Court of Common Council will then commence.

✓ The Town Clerk will read the Resolution of the Court directing the presentation of the Freedom.

The Principal Clerk to the Chamberlain will advance and in accordance with ancient custom will read the declaration of the Compurgators testifying that Her Majesty is "of good name and fame, that she does not desire the Freedom of this City whereby to defraud the Queen or this City of any of their rights, customs, or advantages, but that she will pay her scot and bear her lot; and so they all say".

✓ The Chamberlain will advance and enquire who presents Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen

Mother.

READS

✓ The Prime Warden and Wardens of the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights will present Her Majesty.

✓ The Chamberlain will then administer the Freeman's Declaration to Her Majesty, which she will sign.

✓ Her Majesty will also add her signature to the Roll of Fame.

✓ The Chamberlain will deliver an Address and present to Her Majesty in the name of the Corporation, a copy of the Freedom.

✓ The Lord Mayor will ask Her Majesty's acceptance of a memento of the occasion.

Her Majesty will reply.

The following Presentations will be made by the Lord Mayor :

Samuel Richard Walker, Esq., Deputy, Chairman of the City Lands Committee and Mover of the Resolution for the Presentation.

Sir Percy Walter Greenaway, Bt., Alderman, Seconder of the Resolution for the Presentation.

The next two Senior Aldermen present.

Edmund Villiers Minshull Stockdale, Esq., Alderman and Sheriff.

Norman Cleverton Tremellen, Esq., Sheriff.

At the close of the Ceremony a Deputation of the Committee will conduct Her Majesty and the Lord Mayor to their carriages.

The Central Band of the Royal Air Force (Orchestra) (by permission of the Air Council) under the direction of Wing Commander A. E. Sims, O.B.E., L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., Organising Director of Music, Royal Air Force, will play in Guildhall.

The general Company are requested to retain their seats in Guildhall until the departure of the Lord Mayor, Her Majesty, and the Principal Guests.

THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY OF LONDON

For centuries the privileges of the Freedom were sought eagerly by all who wished to prosper in the City of London. The Freedom was essential to every man who desired to exercise a trade or handicraft within the City. Among the privileges were immunity from Toll at all Markets and Fairs throughout England, freedom from impressment into the Armed Forces, exclusive right to trade both by wholesale and retail within the City, and the right to vote at Ward and Parliamentary Elections.

Most of the practical privileges of the Freedom disappeared in the 18th and 19th centuries but it is still necessary for the Liveryman, who elect the Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs, to be Freemen of the City. The Freedom continues to possess a strong sentimental appeal, confers some status within the City and provides certain safeguards in case of distress.

It has been the custom of the Corporation for over two centuries to confer the Freedom by Presentation as an Honour and a mark of high distinction for exceptional services to the City, the Nation, the Empire, or to the world at large. It is the highest honour the City has within its power to bestow. Decisions to confer the Freedom, *honoris causa*, are taken by the Court of Common Council. All admissions to the Freedom of the City are made by the Chamberlain, who, on occasions when the admission is by way of, or accompanied by, a Presentation, performs the ceremony in the Great Hall in the presence of the Court of Common Council.

King Charles II accepted the Freedom of the City in the year 1674, since which date the Roll of Freemen has contained the names of many members of the Royal Family, the last two being those of Her Majesty The Queen and H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh, K.G.

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE,
55/61, MOORGATE, E.C. 2.
October, 1953.

Talk

THE Queen Mother's own fighter squadron, No. 600 (City of London) "week-end" fliers of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force, has a new commanding officer. He is 28-year-old Squadron-Leader John McRae Cormack.

For the last 18 months he has commanded the squadron's "A" Flight at Biggin Hill. He takes over from Squadron-Leader Jack Meadows who, after building up the squadron to its present high standard of efficiency since the war, has retired to "make room for younger men."

Executive Job

When told of his retirement the Queen Mother, Hon. Air Commodore of the squadron, invited Squadron-Leader Meadows to Clarence House, where she discussed with him the squadron's activities for three-quarters of an hour. He is now on the Reserve. He holds an executive appointment in "civvy street" with a big firm at its Park Royal depot.

Next Wednesday the Queen Mother will see her new commanding officer when, with his squadron, he mounts guard at the Guildhall, when she receives the honorary freedom of the City. This is believed to be the first time the R.A.F. Auxiliary Air Force has mounted a ceremonial guard in the City.

E. News.

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QUEEN MOTHER FOR CITY DRIVE

FREEDOM NEXT WEEK

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will drive in state from Clarence House to Guildhall on Wednesday, to be presented with the Freedom of the City at a meeting of the Court of Common Council. She will be accompanied by Princess Margaret.

Attended by a Captain's Escort of the Household Cavalry, she will leave Clarence House at noon. The route will be: The Mall, Trafalgar Square, Strand, Fleet Street, Ludgate Hill, St. Paul's Churchyard, Cheapside, and King Street.

The Queen Mother will arrive at Guildhall at 12.15 p.m. and will be received by the Lord Mayor, Sir Rupert De la Bère. She will inspect in Guildhall Yard a guard of honour from the Royal Air Force before being conducted to the dais in Guildhall.

Later, she will drive to the Mansion House, by way of King Street, Cheapside, and Poultry, for luncheon with the Lord Mayor.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1953

Queen Mother Will Drive In State —TO FREEDOM CEREMONY

"Star" Reporter

THE Queen Mother will drive in State from Buckingham Palace to the Guildhall on Wednesday of next week to receive the Freedom of the City of London.

She will be the fourth woman to receive the honour. The others were the Queen, Florence Nightingale and Baroness Burdett-Coutts. The ceremony will be Televised.

More than 1,000 guests will be in the Guildhall, and after the ceremony the Queen Mother and 200 of them will be entertained to lunch by the Lord Mayor, Sir Rupert de la Bere, at the Mansion House.

"History will tell of her inestimable value to our country and Empire," said the Chief Commoner, Mr S. R. Walker, when he moved that the Freedom should be presented to the Queen Mother.

The State drive will necessitate the closing of a number of streets in addition to those along which the Queen Mother will pass and the diversion of buses and other traffic.

The Queen Mother's route to the Guildhall will be along the Strand, Fleet-street, Ludgate-hill, St Paul's Churchyard, Cheapside and King-street.

Streets leading off the route will be closed.

Ceremonial drive

THE drive of the Queen Mother to Guildhall on October 28 to receive the Freedom of the City will be the occasion of a ceremonial procession from Clarence House to the City.

Her Majesty will drive in an open landau — weather permitting — drawn by a team of greys, and will be attended by a cavalry escort of Household Cavalry and a Guard of Honour, probably of the H.A.C., will be mounted at Guildhall.

It is understood that Princess Margaret will accompany her mother on this occasion.

For Sir Rupert De La Bere it will mark the most important event of his last days in office as Lord Mayor. He will install his successor a week later.

W. M. N.

2/10/53.

QUEEN MOTHER AT GUILDHALL

LORD MAYOR?

Order, order.

...? common council holden in the Guildhall of the City of Ldn on the .. of the 9th day of July 53 resolved unanimously that the Freedom of the City of Ldn be presented to H.M. Queen Elizabeth the Q.M.

That the presentation take place in the Guildhall and that it be referred to the City... committee to make the necessary arrangements, including the production of a suitable memento of the occasion.

CITY CHAMBERLAIN

Who presents H.M. Q.E. the Q.M.?

SHIPWRIGHTS' REPS.

The prime warden and wardens of the Worshipful Coy of Shipwrights.

May it pse Y.M. to rise and make the declaration of the Freedom.

QM

I, Eliz the Q.M. do solemnly declare that I will be good and true to our Sov. Lady Q. E. 2nd, that I will be obedient to the Mayor of this city, that I will maintain the franchise and customs thereof, while keeping this city harmless... keep the Queen's peace in my own person, that I will in no gathering and conspiracies meet.... hinder it to my power. And that all these points and articles I will well and truly keep according to the laws and customs of this city to my power.

Would Your Majesty please sign the declaration?"

.... In presenting you in the name of the Corporation of Ldn with a copy of your Freedom, the great honour falls to me as Chamberlain of this city to offer Your Majesty the right hand of fellowship, and greet you as a citizen and shipwright of Ldn. (applause)

QM My Lord Mayor, Ladies and Gen: I would like to thank you with all my heart for the great ~~honour~~ welcome which I have received from you today.

I have been most deeply touched by your desire to confer upon me the Freedom of this great city. Many years of my life ~~have~~ have been spent in your ~~midst~~ midst, and it makes me particularly conscious of the high honour which you have now bestowed upon me, and it is with pride and gratitude that I accept as a citizen of the shipwrights the Freedom of the City of Ldn. May I say how greatly I shall prize the beautiful ... tea caddies in ... enamel. London for centuries has been famed for her craftsmen, and I feel it is most appropriate that so lovely a gift should have been fashioned within her boundaries.

Many have spoken here before me of the great history of this City of Ldn which has contributed so much both of power and of colour to the advancement of civilization throughout the world. I would not follow their example but content myself with saying that I am confident that the years to come will bring new achievements worthy of your great traditions. It is however, to the -- and the craftsmen of the immediate past that my thoughts turn today.

In our lifetime this capital city has suffered grievous destruction to an extent undreamed of since the Great Fire of 1666. These scars will be forgotten, but what can never be forgotten are the heroism, the endurance and the stubborn cheerfulness of the people of London, and the determination never to give in in their terrible ordeal. To all of us to whom London means home, - ... my Lord Mayor... in the process of reconstruction which we see around us. Slowly but

surely the wounds and scars inflicted in the war are being healed, and London is assuming again her fair mantel of dignity and grace.

I am delighted that during the next year this building in which we stand, which holds us with the spell of living history, will itself be restored once more to the fulness of its ancient glory. (applause)

But it is not in bricks and mortar alone that the work of rebuilding has fallen. I hear on all sides of new projects and new endeavours which are being devised by those who work in the 'square mile' of the City. I am convinced that this generation will bring to the world of Commerce and of Trade the same vision and spirit of ~~adventure~~ adventure which has inspired our merchants for almost a thousand years; the same forthright honesty which has made an Englishman's word accepted as his bond; and the same loyalty and courage which have contributed in so large a measure to create and enoble our commonwealth and Empire.

I have been greatly moved by your reference to the jurnies I made to the realms and colonies beyond the seas. They have been immensely heartening and inspiring experiences. They have brought a rich diversity of new friendships, and a profound sense of the strength of those loyalties which unite the British people throughout the world. The tour of Southern Rhodesia which Princess Margaret and I made during the summer was the latest but, I/hope, ^{very much} not the last of such visits. (applause) It was deeply impressive to see the huge developments which have taken place since our last visit their in '47, and which were reflected in the wonderful exhibition which I opened in Bulawayo. At our participation in this venture all the powers interested in Africa showed most clearly their confidence in the important role which Central Africa is destined to play in the future of the whole continent. I join with you in the good wishes which you have voiced to the new Central African Federation and to all its inhabitants. I think nothing could have given greater happiness to Cecil Rhodes than to know

this dream of a new nation dedicated to the freedom and generous tolerance of the British way of life is now to come true in the lands which bear his name, nearly 200 years ago. In accepting the Freedom of the City of Ldn I pledge myself anew as long as I shall live to the service of our people, our country and our Commonwealth. (applause)