

THE TIMES

25-2

Mr. Staff

DUKE'S INSPECTION OF AIRCRAFT CARRIER

HELICOPTER LANDING

The Duke of Edinburgh wore his uniform of Admiral of the Fleet of the Royal Australian Navy for the first time yesterday when he visited the 30,000-ton Australian aircraft carrier Melbourne in Portsmouth dockyard. He piloted a naval Whirlwind helicopter from the grounds of Buckingham Palace and landed on the Melbourne's flight deck. In the co-pilot's seat was Lieutenant-Commander R. Turpin.

The Duke was received on the flight deck by the Melbourne's commander, Captain G. G. O. Gatacre. He then went down by lift to the hangar, where he inspected the 1,200 members of the ship's company. The Duke spent more than an hour touring the ship. He visited the main galley and the messrooms and also saw the operations room and the flying control. Later he had luncheon in the wardroom. The Melbourne is due to leave Portsmouth on Monday week for the Clyde, where she will pick up her aircraft, which are being "cocooned" for the voyage to Australia.

The Duke left by helicopter from the carrier's flight deck to fly direct to Uckfield, Sussex, where the Queen and the Duke are the weekend guests of Lord Rupert Nevill.

ADMIRALS' CALL

The Eric Lundman

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