

2221

Morecambe: The flags were out when the Earl of Derby, the Lord Lieutenant and the Mayor, led Lancashire's welcome to the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, at the start of their two-day visit.

In Lancaster, the county town, the 5th Battalion, The King's Own Royal Regiment, T.A. mounted the Royal guard of honour. (2)

AND AT the Town Hall, the Queen held a reception for the tenants of the Duchy of Lancaster, the Royal Estates.

At Lancaster Castle, the three historic keys (which in turn have been presented to John o' Gaunt, Elizabeth the First and Queen Victoria) were offered to Her Majesty in symbolic allegiance.

During a tour of the 14th century castle, the Royal Visitors examined heraldic shields - some of them over eight hundred years old.

That same evening, Blackpool's famous autumn illuminations burst forth into Springtime glory - to light the way to the Opera House. For the Queen and the Duke were attending the first Royal Variety performance to be staged in the Provinces.

In the foyer, the Mayor and Mayoress of Blackpool extended civic greetings to their Royal guests.

The Queen looked radiant in her lovely evening gown, as she made her way to the Royal Box, escorted by the Duke.

A moment of ~~of tense expectancy~~ <sup>to be a moment of</sup> variety, as ~~stars~~ stars of stage, screen and radio (not forgetting ~~personal appearances by~~ <sup>the</sup> famous ~~footballers~~ <sup>Northern sportsmen who also appeared</sup> - pay tribute to their Royal Patron.

After the final curtain, Her Majesty personally thanked the many artistes - including ballet star Beryl Grey. And that irrepressible "little man" Arthur Askey. (2)

A gracious moment at the end of a star-spangled night in Blackpool.