

London: Closing an illustrious chapter in R.A.F. history, the Duke of Edinburgh (as Honorary Air Commodore) paid farewell tribute to a famous fighter squadron.

This was the final parade of the 601 (County of London) Squadron. ~~R.A.F.~~ Royal Auxiliary Air Force - disbanded under the defence economy drive. All volunteers - the Squadron's proud war record began in 1939 - flying ~~in~~ Blenheims...

Later, as a fighter defence unit, "601" lived its "finest hour" - claiming over 100 enemy planes destroyed - in the Battle of Britain.

Another great achievement was the successful raid on the heavily-defended German seaplane base - at Berkum.

So - 601 pays its last Royal salute - one of twenty squadrons which, ~~despite their outstanding record~~

(despite their wonderful record), cannot be fitted into the swiftly-moving pattern of nuclear war-fare.

In recognition of our great debt to those "week-end flyers" - we say farewell - and thank you!

Meanwhile, the aircraft carrier H.M.S. Albion was the mid-channel rendezvous for ~~the Duke~~ Duke of Gloucester - when he dropped in by helicopter - for an overnight visit.

Making a detailed tour of the vessel (bound for Portsmouth) the Duke was paying tribute to the carrier's ~~valuable role~~ role in the Suez operation.

Arriving by lift on the flight deck, His Royal Highness (accompanied by Vice-Admiral Power and other senior officers) watched "Operation Hockey" a thrilling off-duty past-time.

Another exciting moment came in the Control Tower - watching the well-ordered routine to get a helicopter squadron airborne.

And off they go - bound for Lee-on-Solent - with a formation salute for the Royal Visitor...