Farewell to Sunshine Isles

2460

30th July 1957

TOWARDS THE END OF

[redacted] their Channel Islands tour, the Queen and Prince Philip visited Sark - a day that made Royal history.

The first Reigning Monarch ever to visit the Island was welcomed by la Dame de Sercq - whose family has governed for over one hundred years. Sark, of course, is the holiday island that is a real holiday in itself - an escape from this modern age of speed. Motor traffic is not allowed - so the Royal Visitors toured the island in leisurely style...

But the crowded Royal programme mostly demands speedy travel, and the Duke (After leaving the Queen at Portsmouth) flew by Naval helicopter to Lasham Aerodrome - to open the National Gliding championships.

The Duke, (as Patron of the British Gliding Association) was welcomed by leading officials - AND [redacted]

[redacted] wished good luck to Mrs Rika Harwood - one of the only two women entrants.

For an air-minded Royal enthusist, the opportunity of a glider flight was eagerly accepted. And soon the Duke was experiencing the thrill of his first glider launch by aircraft - though this was his second actual flight.

Accompanied by an experienced instructor, the Duke took over the controls and was soon soaring over the Hampshire hills - into the silent world of powerless flight.

In future years, sailplane enthusists will carry on the memory of the Glider Pilot Regiment - which has been grounded by the Army cuts...

It was in 1944 that the Regiment x (fourteen hundred men in plywood aeroplanes) flew into Holland - to share with the Red Devils - the battle honours at Arnhem...

[redacted] Now, at Middle Wallop, the Regimental Depot, light aircraft and helicopters salute the passing of this brave force - at a farewell parade.