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THE LAST PARADE

To Rochester Cathedral come the relatives of 20 of the 24 Royal Marine cadets killed on the march. Royal Marine and other service officers, too; and comrades who marched with them, as the Corporations of Chatham, Rochester and Gillingham pay tribute in a civic funeral.

In Gillingham cemetery there is a great mass of wreaths - some from as far as Canada and Gibraltar - and from someone unknown, a small bunch of violets for each of the cadets who were in step until the end.

Now at the Cathedral the service is over and the cadets go to their last parade. No tragedy has so touched the hearts of our people, though each day two homes mourn sudden death on our roads. If by the fate of these young boys we are moved to make our roads safe for those who use them, then in death they have well and truly served their country as was their aim in life.

A mourning heart knows no comfort today. But time with its healing touch will ease this present anguish.