

1.12PM. THE DUKE FLIES TO GUARDS DEPOT

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH WENT BY HELICOPTER TO THE GUARDS DEPOT AT CATERHAM TODAY TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL ST DAVID'S DAY PARADE OF THE WELSH GUARDS OF WHICH HE IS COLONEL.

THE HELICOPTER LANDED ON THE PARADE GROUND AND BEFORE THE MARCH PAST THE DUKE ATTENDED A CHURCH SERVICE AT WHICH HE READ THE LESSON.

REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR D. GRIFFITHS PINNED THE TRADITIONAL LEEK IN THE DUKE'S HAT AND AFTERWARDS THE OFFICERS OF THE REGIMENT LINED UP TO RECEIVE THEIR LEEKS FROM THE DUKE.

HE ALSO PRESENTED LEEKS TO THE EX-OFFICERS WHO WERE ON PARADE WITH THE WELSH GUARDS OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION LED BY MAJOR GENERAL W.A.F.L. FOX-RIIT, THE REGIMENT'S FORMER COMMANDING OFFICER WHO TOOK THE PARADE LAST YEAR.

AMONG THE OFFICER-CADETS TO WHOM THE DUKE SPOKE AFTER THE MARCH PAST WAS GENERAL FOX-RIIT'S 21 YEAR OLD SON, WHO HAS RECENTLY PASSED OUT OF SANDHURST BUT AS HE HAS NOT YET JOINED THE REGIMENT, HE, LIKE HIS FATHER, WAS ON PARADE WITH A BOWLER HAT AND UMBRELLA.

AT THE END OF THE MARCH PAST OF 350 MEN AT WHICH THE DUKE TOOK THE SALUTE WERE FIVE YOUTHS IN MURTI WHO HAD BEEN IN THE REGIMENT ONLY TWO DAYS.

THE DUKE ALSO PRESENTED MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDALS BO BAND WARRANT OFFICER S. WHITEHEAD, SGT J. KING, AND SGT J. WINDSOR.

HE LUNCHEDED IN THE OFFICERS' MESS BEFORE RETURNING TO LONDON BY HELICOPTER.