

DUKE VISITS NEPTUNE'S COURT.

The Royal Yacht anchored off Giso, Solomon Islands, the Archipelago in the Pacific, just south of the Equator. The people manned war canoes, a survival of more warlike times, to bring the Duke of Edinburgh ashore. On his round the world tour His Royal Highness paid a brief call at the Solomons, coming to land in a style reserved for very honoured visitors.

When the time came for Britannia to Cross the Line, King Neptune came aboard with members of his court, looking for innocents crossing the equator for the first time. As the Duke didn't come into that category he was spared the full treatment and received from His Oceanic Majesty the Order of the Penguin.

The award was accompanied by a glass of sea claret, a potent brew. The royal response was the traditional one. Then it was clear the decks for the initiation of the first-timers, while experienced sailors enjoyed the fun at a safe distance. No entertainment tax, of course, for this light relief on the royal tour.