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QUEEN VISITS N. IRELAND.

Carrickfergus Castle looked out on a very wet scene, as the royal barge brought the Queen to the jetty. The Governor of Northern Ireland, Lord Wakehurst, headed the party waiting to greet Her Majesty. The step was too high for her to manage alone. She asked for a pull up - an informal touch that brought smiles to the faces of all.

Nowadays you'd think twice before taking the risk of firing the old guns, but the castle was often besieged in the past 600 years. Fighters in a more recent war were busy at the Lord Roberts Workshop (Belfast Branch) when the Queen came to see it. About 50 disabled ex-servicemen are happily employed there.

On her way back to the Royal Yacht the Queen paused at Bangor Townhall, where she and Prince Philip were received by the Mayor, who presented members of the Borough Council.

After lunch, there was a visit to the Royal Ulster Yacht Club, which was holding its regatta - an opportunity not to be missed by Prince Philip. He was soon at the helm of Coweslip, sailing with Uffa Fox. Two days isn't a long time to spend anywhere, but during the brief visit Her Majesty renewed many friendships. And she saw many sides of life in Northern Ireland before having to rejoin the Royal Yacht.