

PRINCESS ELIZABETH'S BIRTHDAY.

Princess Elizabeth celebrates her 16th birthday by inspecting, as their new Colonel, the Grenadier Guards, at a special parade at Windsor Castle. The occasion also marks her entry into the official life of the nation. Her Royal Highness the Colonel walks to the long ranks of Guardsmen followed by the King and Queen and Princess Margaret. Wearing the gold grenade badge of the Grenadiers, in her hat, Princess Elizabeth makes her first military inspection.

The first part of the parade over, Her Royal Highness goes to the dais where, with the King at her side, she takes the salute as the regiment marches past.

This colourful ceremony in the Castle Quadrangle is one of the first functions to be held on the busy day when the Princess celebrates her "coming out". And the final posed picture, taken at the end of the review, may be regarded as a record of the first official occasion in the life of England's future Queen.