

ROYAL TOUR --- NELSON AND CHRISTCHURCH.

26/1/54.

The Cathedral City of Nelson by Tasman Bay was one of the first to give greeting to the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, after their flight across Cook Strait from the North Island. Nelson isn't a big city --- but it seemed that everybody had turned out to welcome them. Although one of the local dogs did its best to ~~attempt~~ steal the show.

From Nelson the Royal Tourists went by train south and east --- towards Christchurch. On this journey, the only scheduled stop was at a little place called Darfield --- to which many people had travelled long distances for a glimpse of their Queen. And they were not disappointed.

In Christchurch Her Majesty and the Duke visited the hospital. They toured the wards; --- and in the grounds outside, little conversations made this a memorable day indeed, for many elderly patients. And --- in a day packed with engagements --- they found time also to visit the children.

Later, a ~~ceremonial~~ drive through the city brought Her Majesty to the Vocational Training Centre for disabled ex-servicemen; a full day that concluded with Evensong in the Cathedral and a civic dinner.