

These were the happy scenes of welcome as the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh drove through the streets at the start of their visit to Ceylon.

On their journey into the uplands, the Queen and the Duke stayed in the ~~xxxxxx~~ place which had been the ~~xxxxxxx~~ capital of the Kings of Ceylon in the Ninth Century..... where they saw the great rock-carvings of a monarch whose fame has endured for eight hundred years. Next, at Polonnaruwa, they examined the carved Buddhas, the largest of which is forty-four feet long.

And as dusk fell upon this legendary place, Her Majesty toured the ruins while Kandyan dancers performed their rites, according to the ceremonial tradition.

On the following day, the royal travellers climbed up to the Sigiriya Rock, built into a fortress by those kings of the enduring past.

Then --- to Kandy ; where the first of many ceremonies concerned defence of the modern kind --- inspection of a guard of honour of the Ceylon Light Infantry.

And later --- more than fifty chiefs of Kandy, in apparel of unrivalled magnificence, came to pay homage to the Queen who greeted them in the audience hall; an act of tribute, that mirrored the custom of a forgotten civilisation.

Seated upon the carved throne, Her Majesty received the Chief's address. And then, amid scenes of fairy-book splendour, with more than a hundred elephants, ~~ix~~ came the procession to the Temple of the Sacred Tooth.

~~According to the religious custom,~~ <sup>Then</sup> the Queen and the Duke ~~had~~ <sup>entered</sup> ~~removed their shoes before entering~~ the temple --- through doorways of inlaid ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ivory and silver.

And the procession and the dancing pursued its rhythmic way

The last function before the Queen left Ceylon for Aden was on the occasion of Her Majesty's birthday. <sup>and</sup> the presentation of colours and the military parade mingled strangely with the informal strains of musical birthday greetings.