

The late Duke of Norfolk

SOME MEMORIES RECALLED BY ONE WHO KNEW HIM WELL



The sixteenth Duke of Norfolk and the Territorial Force were both born in 1908. In that year his father called together Lord Lieutenants to discuss the voluntary organisation needed to support the Force which led to the formation of the T.A. Council.

His father continued to take a great interest in the Territorial Army, as the Force became, and there is a delightful photograph of him visiting a TA Camp with his very small son trotting along beside him in a Little Lord Fauntleroy suit.

So our Duke started his connections with the TA at an early age and as soon as he was old enough, on leaving school, he joined his local unit, The 4th Royal Sussex. After a short time in the Royal Horse Guards and a very busy period of official and family business it was to that Battalion he returned and with which he went to France in 1939.

He was disgusted when the Prime Minister decided that the risk of him being captured and used as a hostage was unacceptable and brought him home in 1940 to spend the rest of the war as Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture. Nevertheless he had fully earned his majority in the TA and his Territorial Decoration, in both of which he took great pride.

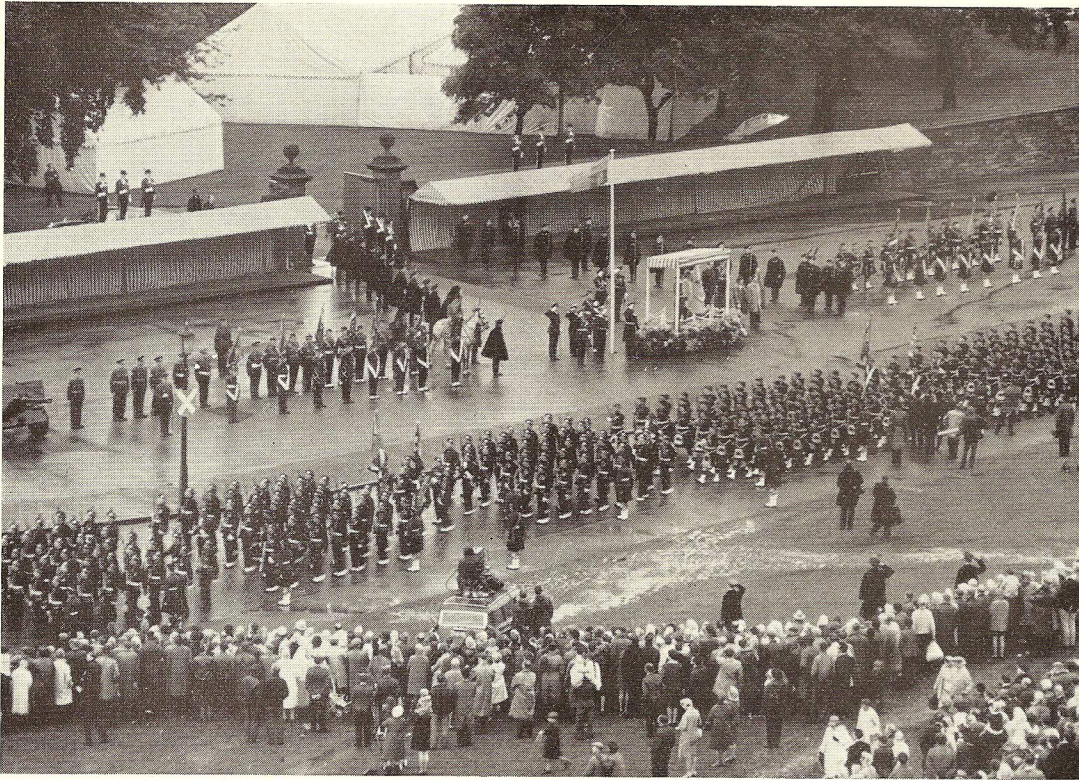
It says much for his genuine feeling for the TA that he set such store by them, because most people might not have regarded them so highly if they were already Premier Duke and Earl, Earl Marshal, KG, PC, GCVO, etc., etc! He was a true Territorial.

THE DUKE JOINS THE COUNCIL

It was extremely fortunate for the TA that the Duke of Norfolk was persuaded in 1955 to accept the Vice-Chairmanship of the TA Council and that he became Chairman in 1956. As a result, when the TA and the Associations came under serious Government



Maj.-Gen. James F. Cantwell, U.S. National Guard (right), handing to the Duke of Norfolk the citation for his Gold Medal Award of the Distinguished Service Medal. On the left is Maj.-Gen. Winston P. Wilson, USNG.



One of those scenes of pageantry for which the Duke of Norfolk was known all over the world.

attack in 1965, the Council had a Chairman who was immediately able to take a forceful lead and to salvage a great deal in the ensuing negotiations. He was no blimp and he was quite ready to accept that changes in the organisation might be necessary, but he was never willing to concede anything which he thought damaging to the spirit of the TA. In that cause he used every possible device honestly available to him and it was his influence and determination which turned the scales.

At the same time as he was leading the struggle with the Government, both in and outside Parliament, he was deeply concerned to prevent the disintegration of morale in the TA which was under the severest pressure. This he achieved not only by his leadership in the Council, but by going straight to the grass roots and his "Dear Territorial" letter was a most successful exercise in man-management.

Other obituaries have described his many responsibilities and activities over an unusually wide field. Most of them did not directly affect the TA and therefore this notice, but they all indirectly helped the TA because they extended his exceptional influence and popularity. They also helped to endear him to his Territorials who sympathised with him on the few occasions when the outright expression of his feelings got him into difficulties and who rejoiced with him in his successes.

Many Territorials shared something of his triumph when Ragstone, bred and owned by him, won the

Ascot Gold Cup last year; and what a happy occasion for a man who had given so much to racing in general and to Ascot in particular. His great interest in cricket and his well-known support of the game, whether on his own beautiful ground at Arundel or on the other side of the world, also helped to bring him closer to a wide circle of admirers who were

The silver rose bowl in the shape of a kettledrum, presented by the TAVR Council in gratitude to the Duke for his services to the TAVR.





Above. The Duke pictured with the England team in the West Indies in 1970

nothing to do with his public life. Whatever the sport he was a real sportsman who enjoyed the contest, win or lose. The sport was the thing.

The Duke was held in high esteem on the other side of the Atlantic and in 1969 the United States National Guard presented him with their Distinguished Service Medal. This award had previously been made only to one man outside the National Guard: General MacArthur. The Duke was immensely pleased with this, not from any false pride, but because it was yet another recognition of the TA and of his work for it.

In the following year he made a point of accompanying a group of Territorials on a visit to the USNG in Washington, although he was far from well at the time. He was a splendid ambassador.

The Duke was impeccably loyal to his Sovereign and his Country. It was no casual loyalty, but something deeply felt and his affection for the Territorials was in no small measure connected with his faith in their dedication to their Queen and Country. He was a man in a million; proud of his heritage, but without conceit; no academic, but full of commonsense and remembered experience; capable of being decidedly abrasive when he felt it justified, but normally ruled by courtesy, kindness and thought for others; poker-faced, but with the most delightful sense of humour.

He will be sadly missed, but happily remembered. How fortunate the TA is to have as the present Chairman of the Council his cousin and very good friend; another Fitzalan Howard to carry on a wonderful tradition.

A.G.T.

Below. An informal picture of the Duke in his robes as a peer



THE FUNERAL

The Duke, organiser of so many national spectacles, including those impressive funerals of Royalty and and Sir Winston Churchill, was buried privately at Arundel. He kept the pomp and circumstance for others; for himself, in death as in life, his modesty prevailed.