

The Duke of Edinburgh's Visit Speech Day June 29th 1956



Arriving by Naval helicopter at the Army College, Welbeck, yesterday, to present awards at the annual speech day ceremony, the Duke of Edinburgh is welcomed by the War Minister, Mr. Anthony Head, chairman of the governors of the college, while the Duke of Portland (in the light suit) greets a member of the Duke's party.

Speech Day

The foul weather of 1956 lifted for a few hours on 29th June to greet H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh, our Patron, who arrived piloting his helicopter at 2.20 p.m. He was met by The Duke of Portland, Mr. Anthony Head, General Sir Cameron Nicholson, and the Headmaster.

In the library, which was lined with flowers, Mr. Head welcomed the Royal Visitor, and called upon Mr. Rickards to give his review of the year's activities. The Headmaster announced the gift of two new prizes for College work, that of the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, for the top boy in each entry; and a prize presented by our own Governors to be awarded at the Headmaster's discretion. The books went to senior mathematicians and physicists.

After presenting the prizes, an operation neither unattended with its difficulties nor ignored by the press, the Duke said:

"Prizes are rather unfortunate things. Every great man seems to boast at some stage of his life that he has never won a prize. And yet prizes are supposed to reward and encourage those people who, according to authority, are doing the right things and going the right way.

"The fact that those successful people have not won prizes rather implies that authority is no judge or that prizes mean something else.

"Those of you who have not won prizes probably think authority is no judge. On the other hand, those who have won may think everything is set fair. I think you are both wrong. Prizes do nothing else but reward past achievements; they are never an indication of future success. Now, let me congratulate the prizewinners! I don't want to be unkind, but I hope for your sakes this is not just a flash in the pan.

"Those of you who have not won prizes need have nothing to worry about, because there are plenty more to be won as you work your way up, I hope, through the Army.

"I have been following the progress of this college from the start with quite a lot of interest," His Royal Highness continued, "and I am delighted I have this opportunity to see at least some of it for myself and see how it is getting on. It is not easy to start a college like this from scratch and make a go of it. I think you have made a go, and I should like to congratulate the Headmaster, masters and staff, and, in their absence, the original boys who got the place going. Even now, a very great deal depends on the present population. Their spirit and behaviour will have a lasting effect on the atmosphere of this place.

"All three of the services at the moment are facing great difficulties as a result of the very rapidly changing thoughts about war and the equally rapidly changing world situation.

"You will all be going, or most of you, into the technical services of the Army. Some of them have sometimes been called the 'tail of the Army.' If that is so, the tail is wagging the dog with a vengeance. The Army of the present and future is predominantly a technical service and will become more and more technical. I think you are lucky because you are getting in on the ground floor and have a great future ahead of you. There are bound to be more cuts and crises, more panics and alarms, but I am prepared to take a small bet that they will not materially affect the technical services of the Army.

"You will be responsible for a whole new generation of weapons and techniques; you will be involved in their development and in all the arguments as to how they shall be used. When that happens, you will find it is very easy to be carried away by catch phrases like 'The seven days' war,' or 'The great deterrent,' and I strongly advise you to treat all of them with the gravest suspicion, and only use them when you know what they mean, and then only if they are relevant to the situation. If you start thinking for yourselves now you won't have any trouble later on.

"You will be joining a service with a great history and a splendid tradition of courage, as well as of technical achievement. It is a service of men and not only machines, and whatever branch of the services you join, you cannot escape the fact that its success depends on the human element. As officers you will be expected to lead, control and inspire, not nuts and bolts, but the men under your command. You may get great satisfaction from your mastery of your technical branch, but you will be no use in the higher ranks of the Army unless you can develop your power of leadership.

"May I wish all of you who are leaving this term the very best of luck when you go to Sandhurst, and, to those who are staying, a very pleasant time until it is your turn to go on."

Tea was taken in the Great Hall, and Governors and Masters together with their wives were presented to the Duke.

Duke tells Welbeck head 'It's great here - I'll come again'

RIGID formality was forgotten when the Duke of Edinburgh made yesterday the most important day in the life of the Army College at Welbeck by arriving by helicopter to present the prizes at the annual speech day.

As he was leaving the Duke told the head master: "You've a great place here. I'll come and look at it again."

With hands pushed firmly into his jacket pockets of his grey suit, the Duke sauntered around the grounds with the head master, laughing and chatting. He grinned at the earnest activities of the many young amateur photographers.

The Duke is the patron of the college, which, just three years old, is the Army's pre-Sandhurst "sixth form public school." All the 150 boys of the school, aged between 16 and 18, crammed with their parents and friends into the library for the prize-giving.

Piloted aircraft

The Duke was met, as he clambered out of the pilot's seat of his Royal Naval helicopter, by the Duke of Portland, Mr. Antony Head (Secretary of State for War and chairman of the College Governors), General Sir Cameron Nicholson (vice-chairman of the Governors), and the head master, Mr. D. A. Rickards.

In his annual report the head master said the past year would be remembered as the year in which Welbeck started to send young men to Sandhurst.

After reviewing the successes of Welbeck students in examinations, Mr. Rickards said: "But let me think that these results are achieved by concentrated cramming in maths and physics; in a 35-week period boys spend only 16 of them on maths and physics."

Humanities and P.T.

Boys at Welbeck did 12 periods a week on the humanities, three periods in the workshops and one on physical training.

"But if a boy goes to school first and foremost to have his mind trained, he also does so to learn to become a good citizen, with particular emphasis, here at Welbeck, on those rather intangible officer-like requirements of leadership, initiative, loyalty and so on," the head master said.

Much of this "preparation for citizenship" went on outside the classroom, in the Combined Cadet Force, on the playing fields, in the

'ONE PRIZE TOO MANY SIR,' HE SAID

THE Duke of Edinburgh gave a boy one prize too many at the annual speech day at Welbeck College, yesterday.

About half-way through the prize-giving the Duke and the master who was helping him looked closely at one of the names in a book. Then the Duke, looking down into the body of the hall in the direction of the last boy, who had received a number of prizes, asked, "Have you got the right one?"

The boy looked at the books in his hand and said: "You have given me one too many, Sir."

Amid laughter the boy returned one of the books, which the Duke then handed to the right prizewinner.

Service of nuts, bolts and men, says Duke

A THOUGHTFUL and inspiring address was delivered by the Duke of Edinburgh to the pupils of the Army College at Welbeck yesterday. He said they would be going into the technical branches of the Army, would be responsible for the development of a whole generation of new weapons.

Force, on the playing fields, in the various clubs and societies, in the Chapel and in day-to-day contact with each other and the staff.

Masters presented

The prizegiving over, tea was taken in the underground Great Hall. Here governors and their wives were presented to the Duke. Later masters and their wives were presented.

Well ahead of his time schedule, the Duke led the way out of the hall and into the college's sunken gardens. Here there were displays of country dancing, fencing, tennis, swimming, P.T. and ludo. At each master questions, showing a keen interest in everything he saw.

Watched boys sailing

Knowing the Duke's great love of sailing, the programme included a trip to the Great Lake to see a number of boys sailing. Casting an expert's eye over rigging and trim, the Duke had plenty of questions for the head master at the waterside.

Back to the college the party walked with the Duke beseged by the crowd with its cameras. No effort was made to keep the people at a distance and there must be many a close-up of the royal visitor on a lot of box camera films.

The time came for the visit to end, and everybody gathered to give the Duke a royal send-off.

The three cheers raised by the boys mingled with those of the crowd as, with the Duke at the controls, the helicopter rose and snared off to Worksoop aerodrome. There the Duke transferred to his Hecan aircraft to fly to Glasgow.

(Pictures on Back Page).

They would, he said, be involved in the arguments as to how they should be used.

The Duke had something to say about prizes. Every successful man at sometimes in his life boasted that he had never won any, yet prizes were supposed to reward and encourage people who were doing the right things and going the right way.

"Boys who had not won prizes might think that those in authority were wrong. On the other hand those who had won them might think that everything was now 'set fair.'"

Reward for past

"I think both of you are wrong. Prizes do nothing else but reward past achievement, and are no indication of future success."

Those who had not won them had nothing to worry about. There were plenty more to be won as they worked their way up through the Army.

"I have been following the progress of this college from the start with a lot of interest, and I am delighted to have had this opportunity to come and see some of it for myself," said the Duke.

"It is not easy to start a college like this from scratch and make a go of it. I think you have made a go of it and I would like to congratulate the headmaster, masters and staff, and in their absence the original boys who got the place going."

"Even now a very great deal depends upon the present population. Your spirit and behaviour will have a lasting effect upon the atmosphere of this place."

'Tail wagging dog'

Referring to the rapidly changing world situation, the Duke said: "You will be going into the technical services of the Army. Some of them have been called the 'tail in the Army.' If that is so the tail is wagging the dog with a vengeance."

The Army was predominantly a technical service and would become more so. There was a great future before the students.

"You will be joining a Service with a very great history and tradition of courage as well as technical achievement."

"It is a service of men and not only machines, and whatever branch of the service you join you cannot escape the fact that success depends upon the human element. As officers you will be expected to lead, control and inspire not merely nuts and bolts but the men under your command."

"You may get great satisfaction from the mastery of your technical branch, but you will be no use in the higher ranks of the Army unless you can develop the power of leadership," he concluded.



LEAVING THE LAKE, after landing the college probably seeing the Duke is accompanied by the headmaster, Mr. David Roberts, and Mr. Anthony Head.

CLOSING THE DOOR, the Duke takes over the controls of the helicopter as he prepares to leave Welbeck.



SPEECH DAY

H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh, the Headmaster, and Mr. Anthony Head inspect the Sailing Club's new hard

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'Bring it back,' said the Duke as he gave out the wrong prize

THE Duke of Edinburgh gave an extra prize to a pupil at Welbeck College, near Worksop, yesterday. John Herbert Train had just collected his prize—his

parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Train, of Newport (Mgm.), were proudly examining them. Then Peter Russell went up to claim his prize. "This last

year's" muttered the Duke, pointing over the main on the fly-leaf. John was quick with the explanation: "You've given me one too many, sir," he said.

"Come on then, bring it back," beckoned the smiling Duke. Here Russell stands to one side and top table guests laugh as John returns his "extra" prize.



SPEECH DAY
H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh, Mr. Anthony Head, His Grace the Duke of Portland and the Headmaster on their way to the R.N. Helicopter
Photographic Society



WALKING THROUGH THE COLLEGE GROUNDS just before leaving, the Duke is with the head master, the Duke of Portland (in the light suit) and, at the rear of the party, Mr. Anthony Head, War Minister and chairman of the governors of the college.



