

He Took Throne In Perilous Times King George VI—He Was The Common Man's King

(By The Associated Press)

George VI, more perhaps than any British Sovereign before him, was the common man's King. The people at home and in the distant commonwealths esteemed him for his personification of that ideal as well as for his reign in extremely difficult times. The public esteem reached new heights in World War II.

The times were perilous when he ascended the throne. The dictator nations were in the ascendancy. There were grave forebodings of threats to the British way of life, even to the nation's very survival.

At the time his reign began, George said: "It will be my constant endeavor, with God's help, supported as I shall be by my dear wife, to uphold the honor of the Realm, and to promote the happiness of my people."

Albert, Duke of York, had been an unassuming Prince. For years he had insisted he was not palace-minded. He detested sycophancy. He rejoiced in simple, quiet, everyday things. He had never minded playing second fiddle to his dashing brother, Edward VIII, 18 months older than he.

Situation Changed
Then on Dec. 11, 1936, Edward abdicated the throne in order to wed "the woman I love" and the vast weight of the British crown, with many of the problems of a troubled world, was transferred to him.

To him fell the task of being the nominal ruler of an Empire with a total population in excess of 500,000,000, approximately a quarter of the people of the globe. He lacked three days of being 41 years old at the time.

At his side was Elizabeth, his wife, of an ancient line of noble Scottish thanes, her cheeks flushed with health and her smile broad and unfeeling, winning everybody. There were also two young children, Elizabeth the elder, and Margaret Rose. These seemed more like ordinary children than Princesses. It became the vogue to compare their traits with those of one's own small daughters.

Plans for the coronation, with Edward as chief actor, had been under way for a year. George was like the understudy of a stage star suddenly called to enact a chief role. Of a natural retiring nature, he found the pomp and pageantry strenuous and wearing.

The exacting days culminated on May 12, 1937, with the traditionally brilliant enthrone in Westminster Abbey. That night the newly crowned monarch, in a radio address to the Empire, said:

"To the ministry of kingship I have, in your hearing, dedicated myself, with the Queen at my side, in words of the deepest solemnity. We will, God helping us, faithfully discharge our trust."

"I follow a father who won for himself an abiding place in the hearts of the people, and a brother whose brilliant qualities gave promise of another historic reign—a reign cut short in circumstances upon which, for their very sadness, none of us would wish to dwell."

A few hours after Edward's abdication, King George had created him the Duke of Windsor.

"Royal Highness." When Edward married Mrs. Wallis Warfield Simpson, twice-divorced American, on May 28, the King decreed that the Duke of Windsor's intended wife would not be entitled to the designation or rank of

on June 3, no member of the royal family or official British representative was among the 15 witnesses of the ceremony.

A Contrast to Edward
After Edward, the bold, the unpredictable, the prime favorite, who had taken his leave historically in moving syllables and in an atmosphere charged with high drama, George seemed rather tame, almost commonplace.

"This one will never set the Thames on fire," people were wont to say in effect, affectionately enough, but not without a tinge of regret at the glamor that had been lost by the idolized Edward's renunciation. The reign, it was generally agreed, would not be brilliant or adventuresome.

Doubtless the new King was anything but audacious; maybe he appeared frail and unregal as some said, the understudy rather than the star. But at least he was level-headed. He lacked superficial social gifts, but his dry humor and freedom from affectation were refreshing. Old comrades in World War I recalled that he was "good company."

In that conflict he saw action in the Navy and was cited for courage under fire. He also served in the Royal Flying Corps.

A veteran naval officer who helped train Prince Albert Frederick Arthur George in his cadet days at Dartmouth (British equivalent of Annapolis) said "one knew instinctively that he would never let you down." Another, who was a shipmate of the Prince, remarked in something like a flash of intuition that "the younger son will outstrip the elder."

Reached Heights in War
Edward, as Prince of Wales, once said that his brother "would make a better King than I would." The then Duke of York modestly said of himself: "My chief claim to fame seems to be that I am the father of Princess Elizabeth."

Less than three years after George VI ascended the throne Britain was engulfed by war. In the crucible of that struggle he reached full maturity in statecraft and the heights in the public's loyalty and affection. He enthusiastically acclaimed the previous year he and the Queen had paid a brief visit to France. Shortly thereafter came the war.

The King mingled freely with the people and won their hearts by his friendliness, informality and sympathy in their troubles. No other British Monarch in history talked with so many of his people. He visited them in their work and in their bomb-blasted towns. He was constantly meeting England's housewives and factory girls, the soldiers, sailors and airmen.

He and the Queen steadfastly rejected all suggestions that their daughters be evacuated to some safer region as the danger of German invasion heightened. They said in effect:

Shared Dangers With Others
"We all face a common peril. Thousands of parents in this country are compelled to keep their children at home. We would prefer to share whatever family perils there may be with parents of this country."

The King "bucked up" his harassed people who for five years endured the most sustained bombardment of civilians in history. Once a bomb crashed through the apartment of the Queen, but failed to explode. Buckingham Palace was hit several times.

Even under aerial fire the King, many times accompanied by the Queen, hastened to scenes of blitz tragedy. He visited people as they stood defiantly in the rubble of their shattered towns, moved quietly and helpfully among them at their work, made sure that the bombed out received all possible help.

Touring London's bomb-scarred east end on one occasion, the King and Queen were told by a woman with a shawl over her head: "I have been bombed out twice and I am waiting to be bombed out again, but I shall stick it."

"That's the spirit," said the King, shaking her hand warmly.

Duke of Kent Killed
War cost the life of the King's youngest brother, the Duke of Kent. He was killed in the crash of a flying boat in Northern Scotland in the summer of 1942 while en route to Iceland on active service as an air commodore. The

entire crew on the mission died with him.

The grandeur and misery of Dunkerque appalled the King, caused him untold suffering, yet at the same time thrilled him with its qualities of epic heroism. And his emotions were one with those of his people during the anxious months of the Battle of Britain, the perils of which he shared as a natural course.

He went to sea with Britain's home fleet that he might have a first hand view of naval defense, and kept in constant touch with all the armed services. He visited Allied troops in North Africa, Italy, Malta, island citadel which

Mediterranean fortress the George Cross—civilian version of the Victoria Cross—for gallantry and valor in the face of the Axis onslaught. It was the first time that such a distinction had been bestowed on a part of the Empire.

Took Risks as Duty
Only a few days after the Allied invasion of Normandy in June, 1944, the King visited the littered beachhead, crossing the channel aboard a cruiser and landing from an amphibious craft.

There were many who thought the King ran too many personal risks, that he should not so expose himself to a multitude of hazards, that he taxed the ingenuity of the security authorities too heavily.

"It is my duty," he replied simply.

King George did much to strengthen Anglo-American friendship. Wounded soldiers, including many Americans, were entertained at Buckingham Palace. GI's were invited to royal dances and parties. He praised the battle brotherhood of the cousin countries, and behind the scenes the King strove to knit the transatlantic ties ever closer.

He profoundly admired President Franklin D. Roosevelt and disclosed after the war that he and the government had tried very hard to have him visit Britain.

The friendship between the King and Queen and President Roosevelt dated back to 1939 when George and Elizabeth made a historic trip to Canada and the United States. The King's handshake with the President at their cordial meeting in Washington symbolized the growing fellowship between the two English-speaking peoples who had parted politically in 1776.

He and the government had stood up to years of furious aerial assault. He collectively awarded this

George VI was born at York Cottage, Sandringham, December 14, 1895. His childhood was spent chiefly there or at Marlborough House in London.

The difficulties of his own early days, which included frequent illnesses, helped to move him into closer sympathy with struggling youth and indeed with the little people generally.

Two serious handicaps plagued him at the outset. Never rugged in constitution, he suffered from boyhood into early manhood from a weakness which cut short his naval career in World War I. After an operation for a duodenal ulcer, his general health improved.

Obstinate Stammer
Much more obstinate was a stammer. He largely overcame it by will power, perseverance, the services of speech defect specialists and the constant help and encouragement of his wife.

One who knew the King virtually all his life asserted: "It is a tribute alone to his resolution and fortitude that in the early days he so successfully masked the anguish he felt when speaking publicly. It was only his vigorous sense of public duty which impelled him to accept speaking engagements at all."

In George's reign the monarchy—chiefly ceremonial, but exercising no small degree of influence nevertheless—became democratic

and provided Elizabeth an income of 20,000 pounds. Her funds included household money as well as a personal allowance. While Philip had royal blood, he lacked the personal funds to live in the style required of a British Prince.

Elizabeth exhibited something of a sense of new freedom after marriage. She found expression for it in homemaking, and in her first trip to a foreign land.

Until she was 22, Elizabeth had never traveled outside the British Commonwealth. In the spring of 1948 she made her first trip to a non-British country—a long week-end visit to Paris with her husband. The French people acclaimed.

Married Prince Philip
At 18 she delivered her first public speech, accepting the presidency of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children. Her words, spoken to a small group of directors, physicians and officials, were simple and lasted for only about a minute.

But she spoke of the King as "my father" and of the Queen as "my mother"—a homely touch, departing from the traditional stiff formality of "His Majesty the King."

On Nov. 20, 1947, seven months after her 21st birthday, Princess Elizabeth was married to Lieut. Philip Mountbatten, her distant cousin. Both were great grand-children of Queen Victoria.

Mountbatten, a blond, handsome, six foot navy officer, five years older than Elizabeth, was a prince of the Greek ruling family. He assumed British citizenship a few months before the wedding and renounced all his claims to Greek throne.

On the eve of the wedding King George created him Duke of Edinburgh, Earl of Merioneth and Baron Greenwich. The King also granted him royal styling as "His Royal Highness."

The wedding of the dashing Philip and the blue-eyed, brown-haired Princess brought a bright splash of color to the fabric of a nation rent by bombs and economic troubles.

Called True Love Match
Elizabeths ivory satin wedding gown, trimmed with thousands of pearls, made her somewhat full figure seem quite slim and its flowing skirt made the most of her 5 feet 4 inches of height.

Escorted by plumed, bright garbed guardsmen, she drove in a carriage with her father between lanes of packed and cheering humanity to gray, historic Westminster Abbey.

She was shy and nervous. Her



King George VI

Elizabeth Declared Her Life to People's Service

By ASSOCIATED PRESS
Princess Elizabeth grew to maturity in times of economic adversity that challenged her efforts to restore the glory that had been Britain's. She asked all her people to help toward that goal. Many confidently predicted that her future reign would bring prosperity such as the Empire had known under two great ruling Queens—Elizabeth Tudor and Victoria.

On her 21st birthday the Heiress Presumptive dedicated her life to the globe-girdling Empire. Speaking by radio from Capetown, South Africa, she told a world-wide audience of millions of her father's subjects:

Declares Service
"I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong."

After recalling the hardships and anxieties left by the war "for every nation of our Commonwealth," the Princess said:

"I am sure that you will see our difficulties in the light that I see them, as the great opportunity for you and me."

She was in Capetown, with other members of the Royal Fam-

ily, on her first tour of the Empire.

The privacy and shielding from public gaze that had surrounded her early upbringing as the child of the shy Duke of York and the Duchess continued for about five years after the Duke, in 1936, became King. Emphasis, throughout adolescence, on her future responsibilities refined a dignity inherited from both sides of her family.

Elizabeth began to appear as a public figure in her own right in her late teens, taking up her first arduous duties as a representative of the Crown in the middle of World War II.

The day marked her complete transition into a public figure of full stature. She set up her own royal household and planned her own public appearances.

The government granted Philip an annual allowance of 10,000

pounds and provided Elizabeth an income of 20,000 pounds. Her funds included household money as well as a personal allowance. While Philip had royal blood, he lacked the personal funds to live in the style required of a British Prince.

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Queen Elizabeth II

by cunning and held together by force," the Princess declared that was "far from the truth." Instead, she said, it was "a band of brothers."

Two fateful events early destined her to be Britain's first reigning Queen since Victoria, who ascended the throne nearly a century before Elizabeth's birth.

One was the abdication of Edward VIII. Edward quit his throne to wed Mrs. Wallis Warfield Simpson, an American woman who had been married twice previously. Edward's brother, the Duke of York, succeeded as George VI and the new King's elder daughter became the Heiress Presumptive.

Had No Brothers
The other event was the birth of Margaret Rose. The fact that this only other child of King George and his Queen was a girl secured Elizabeth's position—a little brother would have taken her place in line for the Crown.

In childhood and youth she was the darling of the Empire, whose people called her "Lilibet" in imitation of the Princess's own first efforts to say her name.

Elizabeth was only 10 when her father's unexpected elevation to the throne laid before her the

prospect of filling the sovereign's difficult job.

Elizabeth once described the British Empire as "a noble brotherhood" owing its existence to "God's guidance and the work of our forefathers all over the world."

She gave that description in her first talk with political implications, made on Empire Day in 1946.

Saying that "our enemies in the past have often depicted the Empire as a great world power built

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BUT THAT'S INSANE! IT'S COOL IN HERE!
WE'D BETTER CALL A DOCTOR!
IT'S AMAZING!—THERE ISN'T A PARTICLE OF HEAT NEAR HIM—YET HIS SKULL HAS A TEMPERATURE OF 212! AND IT'S GETTING AWFULLY SOFT!
THIS, GENTLEMEN—IS BEYOND THE SPHERE OF CIVILIZED MEDICINE! IT'S VOOODOO!—WE'LL HAVE TO FEEL IN A CONSULTANT—DOCTOR BABA-LOOY—HIS OFFICE IS IN A BANANA TREE, IN CENTRAL HAITI!

POGO
By Walt Kelly
SH! DOCTOR OWLS IS EXAMININ' OUR NEW MECHANWOCKLE MAN...
WHAT YOU SHOOSHIN ME FOR— I GOTTS MUCH RIGHT IN THIS STRIP AS
IN MY CONSIDER OPINIONS I FEEL
RRING RING RING RING
HELLO? DOC OWL'S OFFICE... DOC IS TEMPORARY UN- DISPOSE.
HELLO? WHAT? HE IS?

The Battalion

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions
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The Battalion, official newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, is published by students five times a week during the regular school year. During the summer terms, The Battalion is published four times a week, and during examination and vacation periods, twice a week. Days of publication are Monday through Friday for the regular school year, Tuesday through Friday during the summer terms, and Tuesday and Thursday during vacation and examination periods. Subscription rates \$5.00 per year or \$1.50 per month. Advertising rates furnished on request.

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'Brann
By FRANK N. M
Battalion Staff
"Brannon's Brats" scrambling last night. Downing the Aggie 41 in jam-packed I House, the Texas Ch won their first game "since gosh knows. That's what TCU George McLeod says, satory which place Frogs into a first p the Texas Longhorn ped into fourth plac Southern Methodist.

Victims F
Duquesne
Of Colleg
Pittsburgh, Fe Take it from the que s ne Univer straight basketba the Dukes haven' diary team. They collegiate five in the That's LaSalle's singing the praises one of the two un quintets in the R Dukes pasted LaSal day. If Loeffler is rig he'll get no argum other 14 coaches who been steam-rolled by Here's Loeffler's the fast improving D ly ranked fifth in Press poll: "My boys played think we have as as there is around ception of Duquesne it this way—we can but the Dukes. "There's no questio that Coach Duddy M best collegiate team try. They could be anybody I can think say its the best of I've ever seen.

El Pas
142 G
El Paso, Feb. 7— nesa, Briardlife, N.Y. a par-smashing agg more than 200 pl through a pro-am tuneup for the \$10 open. Turnesa, who has ning much later, d 66, five under par o yard course and too as the low scorer. He was almost tied by a weird happen of a round in total everybody thought e been decided and ev scorer had departed. Bill Ogden of Chi in finishing his rou the playing with hi son had quit. Charlie Butler, Ed however, stayed wi guide over the rem course and made a tie Turnesa. He finis Ogden won \$58.33 Robison of San An Hebert of Verona, Pa gol of Lemont, Ill.;

2,000 W
Night G
Based on AF Lloyd Mangrum richer Tuesday f his victory over f Amateur Joe Lou on and annual "Star Stars" night golf t

The sponsor of t day night at the In try Club had promi winner \$1,000 for o bettered the par fi Mangrum shot a

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