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BIOGRAPHY OF H.R.H. PRINCE HENRY, DUKE OF GLOUCESTER,
K.G., P.C., K.T., K.P., G.M.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O.

(H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester, together with the Duchess and their son Prince William, is due to arrive in Kuala Lumpur for the Merdeka Celebrations on August 29, 1957. We give below a biography of the Duke.)

His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, third son of his late Majesty King George V, was born on 31st March, 1900 at Sandringham. Destined for the Army, he went from his preparatory school at Broadstairs to Eton, where he entered the "Army Class", and passed through the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, to be gazetted 2nd Lieutenant in the King's Royal Corps in 1919. The next nine months he spent at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took special courses in civics and economics.

Prince Henry took his Army duties seriously and was a diligent student of the technical side of soldiering. He transferred to the Royal Hussars, first to the 13th and then at the age of 21 to the 10th, and when the latter were overseas was attached for a time to the 11th, one of the earliest regiments to be mechanized. He became a Captain in 1927, a Brevet Major in 1934 and a substantive Major in 1935. In that year he went up to the Staff College at Camberley, took his first year's Staff course there and began his second year's course at Aldershot.

It was his great ambition to command his regiment, the 10th Royal Hussars, and he would in the ordinary course of events have reached Lieutenant-Colonel's rank in 1938. But two years earlier came the abdication of King Edward VIII, and it was necessary for the Duke of Gloucester (it was on his twenty-eighth birthday that Prince Henry was created Duke of Gloucester, Earl of Ulster, and Baron Culloden) to sacrifice his career in order to take a share in the many public duties which fell to the Royal Family. He had already represented King George V on important occasions: in 1929 he headed the Mission to Japan to invest the Emperor with the Order of the Garter; he represented the King in 1930 at the coronation of the Emperor of Abyssinia, and in 1934 in Australia at the Centenary Celebrations of the State of Victoria.

On giving up active service with the Army the Duke of Gloucester was promoted Major-General (supernumerary) and at the same time made Air Vice-Marshal in the R.A.F. (he is a qualified pilot and entitled to wear wings). He now holds the ranks of Field-Marshal and Air Chief Marshal.

During the second world war the Duke returned to the Army; he was appointed in 1939 Chief Liaison Officer to the British Expeditionary Force, was wounded slightly during a bombing attack in France, and received a mention in dispatches for service in

France between March and June 1940. Later in that year he became Chief Liaison Officer G.H.Q., Home Forces, and toured military posts all over Britain. He went on military missions to Gibraltar in 1941 and 1942, and in the latter year made an extended tour of the Middle East, going on to Ceylon and India, where he broadcast to the Indian people from New Delhi. On his way home he returned to the Middle East and visited the Alamein battlefield in July 1942.

Then once more he had to give up active military duties; after the tragic death of the Duke of Kent he was obliged to take a greater share of responsibility in assisting his late Majesty King George VI in the carrying out of royal functions. In 1944 he was appointed Governor-General of Australia, and served there for two years (1945-47). He returned home to be a member of the Council of State while the Royal Family toured South Africa; he had several times previously served on the Council of State during the Sovereign's absence, as on the occasion of King George VI's visit to North Africa in 1943. He was again a Counsellor of State during his late Majesty's illness in the autumn of 1951, and during Queen Elizabeth II's absence on tours overseas.

In recent years the Duke of Gloucester has represented the Sovereign on important constitutional Commonwealth occasions; in November 1947 he opened the Malta legislature under the new constitution, and early the next year revisited Ceylon to open the first session of parliament to be held after Ceylon became a fully self-governing Member of the Commonwealth. In March 1950 H.R.H. went to Kenya to raise Nairobi, on behalf of the King, to the status and dignity of a city. In May 1953 H.R.H. represented the Queen at the coronation of the King of Iraq in Bagdad, and subsequently visited Amman to congratulate the King of Jordan, in Her Majesty's name, on his accession. From 1949-50 the Duke was Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. He has been personal A.D.C. to four sovereigns, his father and two brothers, and his niece Queen Elizabeth II.

Besides being a keen professional soldier, the Duke of Gloucester has always been a farming enthusiast; he has presided at agricultural shows in Britain and overseas and has his own farm on his Barnwell Manor estate. As a young man he was a keen sportsman, a rider to hounds and in point-to-point races, and a polo player who represented his university and regiment.

Among his many activities one of His Royal Highness's interests is hospital work; he is President of many hospitals and medical organisations, his oldest association being since 1920 with the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital as President and then Patron. (He is President also of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London and the British Empire Cancer Campaign, and is Grand Prior of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.) For nearly as long as he has been President of the National Association of Boys' Clubs, and is also today President of the Boy Scouts' Association.

H.R.H. is President of the Imperial War Graves Commission and Master of Trinity House. He is Colonel of the Scots Guards, and Colonel-in-Chief of several regiments, including the Gloucestershire Regiment and his own old regiment, the 10th Royal Hussars, and units in various overseas Commonwealth countries.

The Duke of Gloucester married in 1935 Lady Alice Montagu-Douglas-Scott, daughter of the 7th Duke of Buccleuch. Their two sons, Prince William and Prince Richard, were born in 1941 and 1944 respectively.