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# PRINCESS ELIZABETH COMES OF AGE

ELIZABETH AND HER YOUNGER SISTER, MARGARET ROSE, ACKNOWLED CHEERS FROM BALCONY OF BUCKINGHAM PALACE AT CORONATION CEREMONY IN 1932

## Now head of Britain's Regency Council, she'll rule some day

By ENID A. HAUPT

A few weeks from now one of the most envied girls in the world will observe her 18th birthday. All the way around the globe the anniversary will be noted; it will be celebrated by a nation, though informally, because of the war; traditionally it will bring her many honors. But it will also draw her into the shadow of overwhelming responsibility cast by the scepter of the greatest empire on earth. For she is Princess Elizabeth Alexandra Mary, heiress apparent to the throne of England.

But when Lilibet, as she is still called affectionately, opens her eyes on April 21, when she becomes 18, she will bid childhood farewell. But she will retain her title of Princess. Her father, the King, has decided against breaking precedence and so will not confer on her any of the titles within his power to bestow, such as those of dukedoms now in abeyance. Nor will she be given the title Princess of Wales, as the Welsh Parliamentary Party has proposed.

Abdication of her uncle David, eight years ago, advanced the Princess from third to second in line, and her life since then has been a period of training for the future.

She now becomes head of a five-member Regency Council which takes over the King's duties in his absence from the country. Her coming of age releases her uncle, the Duke of Gloucester, who has acted as understudy to the King, for his post as Governor General of Australia.

At 18, Elizabeth is a tall, blue-eyed girl with light brown hair and a low, well-modulated voice. She is vivacious and enthusiastic, loves outdoor sports, but her greatest enjoyment is dancing. She is expert in all types of ballroom dancing, does a graceful highland fling and despite the disapproval of her grandmother Mary, Queen Dowager, has learned to be a good tap dancer. At the last Christmas festival an audience of 400 cheered her singing and tap dancing to the American song hit, "In My Arms!"

Elizabeth has other talents, too. She has done many water-color and crayon sketches of animals and landscapes for her friends. She plays the piano well and is fond of classical selections as well as numbers popular at the moment in the United States. With her younger sister, Princess Margaret Rose, she shares a love for horses and other animals. They have a number of pet dogs and rabbits as well as a large aviary. Both girls have Victory Gardens which they attend themselves.

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# Princess Elizabeth: 1944

ROYAL FAMILY AT HOME: ELIZABETH IS KNITTING SOCKS FOR SERVICE MEN

Among Princess Elizabeth's interests is her part in a group of Girl Guides who give their time to first aid, home nursing and other war activities. She excels as a swimmer, has earned the Royal Life Saving Award for junior artificial respiration, takes special part in Sea Ranger training.

Her birthday makes the Princess eligible for national service under Ministry of Service regulations. Like all other girls in Britain she has registered for service in the armed forces or war industry. But it is highly improbable that she will be recommended for such work by the cabinet which regards her task of preparing herself for succession to the throne as effort enough.

For in more than 300 years England has had only two ruling queens. The clever, alternately ruthless and tender, always flirtatious Elizabeth, daughter of Henry VIII and Ann Boleyn, was one; Victoria, who made history with a reign which lasted more than half a century, was the other.

From the feminine angle there is one prerogative of attained majority which undoubtedly will appeal to the Princess most of all At 18 she is permitted to wear the magnificent jewels of her great-great-grandmother, Queen Victoria.

### ELIZABETH BECOMES A COLONEL

Princess Elizabeth made her official entry into public life with her coming out on her 16th birthday: and her first public engagement was an inspection of the Grenadier Guards on that day. Two months previously her father had appointed her Colonel-in-Chief of the Grenadiers which is composed of officers and recruits from England's top-ranking families. The first dance she was permitted to attend was one given by Guard officers who number among them heirs and second sons of Britain's 26 dukes. The organization expressed its admiration for the young Princess by presenting to her the regimental badge fashioned of diamonds, a decoration she has worn practically to the exclusion of any other jewels.

In Elizabeth's appointment to the post, some saw a master stroke toward putting the Princess, necessarily restricted in social contacts, in the way of meeting eligible males. Matrimonial prospects for the future Queen of England have been for some months one of the most-discussed subjects throughout the United Kingdom. The girl herself will have only a small voice in the subject; final decision in her selection of a husband will be

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*Princess Elizabeth: 1944*

HER FAVORITE UNIFORM: PATROL LEADER, BUCKINGHAM PALACE GIRL GUIDES

made by the King, Queen, the Prime Minister and the Archbishop of Canterbury. A Royal Marriage Act of 1772 gives Parliament overriding power in royal marriages.

Nevertheless several of the young Grenadiers are the likeliest candidates for the job of Prince Consort.

Chief of those mentioned is Charles Manners, Duke of Rutland, now serving as a second lieutenant in the Guards. His family has already had reason to deny that there is an engagement between him and the Princess. There is also Hugh Dennis Charles Fitzroy, Lord Euston, eldest son of the twice-wed Duke of Grafton.

A third possibility is 20-year-old Walter Francis John Montagu-Douglas-Scott, Lord Dalkeith, heir to the Duke of Buccleuch.

At present Princess Elizabeth and her sister live in a small brick house discreetly secluded in the country and hurriedly fixed up for the duration. There they study with their tutors.

Queen Elizabeth has been an ideal and companionable mother to her daughters. Although the war has disrupted the family group, the Queen has insisted that they have as much home life as their busy days allow.

Even more influential in the life of the Princess is the Dowager Queen who long ago realized that the girl might reign one day. It was Dowager Queen Mary who began to teach her granddaughter as a child that being born to royalty is more responsibility than privilege. At the age of nine Elizabeth was being taught court etiquette by her grandmother; on rainy days Queen Mary would take the youngster to the ballroom, group chairs to represent people, demonstrate the proper method of receiving guests.

## CONFERS WITH MINISTERS

Deep, mutual affection exists between Elizabeth and her sister and the closest friendship despite the difference of four years in their ages. Both are constant companions of their father during his limited leisure. Occasionally they are seen riding together at the King's country home at Windsor Great Park, where they enjoy the serenity of well-bred, serious-minded people.

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# *Princess Elizabeth: 1944*

Elizabeth frequently sits with her father when he holds informal conferences with his ministers. At such times her earnest young face reflects the sober knowledge that someday she will preside—will make decisions influencing an empire's destiny. But no one who has ever met the thoughtful gaze of Princess Elizabeth's blue eyes has any doubt that she will be equal to the task.

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