

Dope for Mr. Stagg.

21.3.53

No. 7.

No. 78/53

DUKE OF EDINBURGH VISITS ROYAL NAVY IN GERMANY

During a visit to the Royal Navy's Rhine Flotilla base at Krefeld to-day, H.R.H. Admiral of the Fleet the Duke of Edinburgh visited ratings' married quarters this morning and talked informally for some time with the wives and families of Petty Officers and junior ratings.

He arrived at Krefeld last night and met the Flag Officer Germany (Rear-Admiral R. St.V. Sherbrooke, V.C., D.S.O.) at the home of Captain R. Casement, O.B.E., R.N., Captain of the Rhine Squadron, with whom he spent the night. After dinner he attended a small reception at the wardroom at the base and met officers and their wives.

On his arrival at the Krefeld base this morning, the Duke of Edinburgh was received by a guard of honour provided by the Royal Marines and afterwards inspected Divisions. The band of the Queen's Royal Regiment was paraded.

After visiting ratings' married quarters, he walked round the base and went on board several of the craft of the establishment before leaving. A 21-gun Royal Salute was fired by H.M.S. ROYAL PRINCE, the name ship of the Headquarters, as he departed.

The Royal Navy's Rhine Squadron was formed in the autumn of 1949 for the purpose of co-operating with the Army on the River Rhine in the British zone of Germany. It carries out cross-river exercises with military forces using various types of landing craft and also co-operates with the River Police in directing civilian traffic. The vessels used include a number of ex-German naval air/sea rescue and torpedo recovery craft.

The Squadron has a strength of some 200 officers and men, including the Royal Marines, while some 55 officers and men of the Royal Belgian Navy work with the unit.

Admiralty, S.W.1.
21st March, 1953