

When the R.A.F. celebrated its 40th anniversary, the Queen
 (escorted ~~by the Secretary of State for Air~~ ^{by the General Ward the Air Minister - headed} ~~by the Secretary of State for Air~~ ^{eight members}
~~of the~~ ^{of the} Royal guests ~~family~~ ^{family},
~~Following~~ ^{With} Prince Philip ~~was~~ ^{was} Sir Dermot Boyle, ~~with the~~ ^{with the} Queen Mother
 and Sir John Salmond.

Another Marshal of the R.A.F. - Lord Newall - escorted Princess Margaret.

~~Lord Tedder;~~ ^{Here's the} Duke of Gloucester with ~~Marshal~~ ^{AND THE DUCHESS OF GLOUCESTER WITH LORD AUGUSTUS} Marshal of the R.A.F. ~~and the Duchess of Gloucester with Lord Augustus~~
~~OR KINTERS~~

~~With the Duke of Kent~~ ^{with the} Duke of Kent and Sir John Slessor.
 The Princess Royal and Lord Harris - famous wartime Chief of Bomber Command.

The dinner was held in the Battle of Britain Headquarters at Stanmore -
 - a reminder of ^{the free world's} debt to the R.A.F. ~~the free world's~~
 AND THE QUEEN HERSELF AROUSED THE birthday toast. (Sound)

Now here's to-day's flashback.

Rome, 1933. Italy was celebrating the tenth anniversary of the foundation of her Air Force. Bestowing decorations at this parade of ~~xxxx~~ four thousand pilots, was the late unlamented Benito Mussolini.

Four thousand ~~xxxx~~ pilots in what the Fascist Dictator boasted was the world's most efficient Air Force.

~~Then~~ Two years later, Mussolini launched his bombers on Abyssinia - raining poison gas and incendiary bombs on the tribesmen, in a bid to capture an overseas Empire. An act which resulted instead in the condemnation of the world.