

Special:

5/8/40

ROYAL TOUR OF LANCASHIRE.

Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh leave Bolton Town Hall during their two-day tour of Lancashire. Alderman Peter Flanagan, the Mayor escorts the Queen who wears a turquoise coloured princess-style coat. The rain, which has been pelting down most of the morning, keeps away during the royal visit to Bolton but as Her Majesty begins her drive to Bury, down it comes again. But crowds line the route just the same. Many have waited more than four hours for a glimpse of the Queen. The fine new Town Hall at Bury is opened by Her Majesty who then acknowledges the crowds' greeting from the balcony.

The Royal couple sign the visitor's book, watched by Alderman and Mrs. Blakmore, Mayor and Mayoress of Bury.. Then, on to Manchester where it's still umbrella weather. In Albert Square, Her Majesty inspects a guard of honour mounted by the 8th Ardwick Battalion, the Manchester Regiment.

It is at Manchester, within the Town Hall, that the Queen takes lunch. About 370 leading citizens are present. Then follows a short visit to Oldham, and next a tour of Lilac Mill at Shaw. This is at the Queen's personal request, and she and the Duke make it the longest stop of the Lancashire Tour. Every part of the mill operations, from the raw cotton to the finished thread, is seen by the royal visitors, who meet many of the mill's long-service employees.

And so to Rochdale as dusk falls. In this world-famous mill-town, the royal tour comes to an end. In town and village, at every stage of their two-day journey, the Queen and Prince Philip, have received heart-warming and loyal acclaim from the people of Lancashire.