

## ROYAL VISIT - PRINCE PHILIP - 1954



Photo courtesy of Mrs. Smuland, widow of late A.W. (Al) Smuland (1928-2005). Al was a Pacific Western Airlines pilot on Fulton Field (Kamloops Airport ) from 1955 to the early 1960's.

Photo - Photographer, reception committee, location and year all unknown. Image not located in Vancouver Sun, nor Victoria Daily Colonist during period of Royal tour.

### The Tour

An RCMP detail and an Inspector, from Scotland Yard, were ready for the departure of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh and his "stag" party, on a flight from Tangmere, Sussex, England. The flight, which departed Wednesday night, July 28, 1954, was in a Royal Canadian Air Force luxurious 4-engine C-5 transport aircraft and first touched down at Goose Bay, Labrador, at 4:33 a.m. EDT, the next morning. Next stop was at Ottawa's Uplands air force station, at 09:30 a.m. EDT, where the Duke was greeted by Governor-General Vincent Massey and Prime Minister St. Laurent. Prince Philip took the royal salute and was presented many cabinet members, diplomats and chiefs of staff, before moving off to Government House where he was guest of Governor-General Massey and Mrs. Massey. As the temperature was nearing 80 F. (26.7 C.),

the Duke and Mr. Massey swam in an outdoor pool and sunned at the Country Club, on the Quebec side of the river. Later, the Duke took in a portion of a cricket match, at Government House, between a Canadian Naval headquarters team and a Royal Naval team off HMS Sheffield, which was visiting Montreal.

(Note: Arrival of the C-5 aircraft, at Ottawa, can be found at [www.britishpathe.com/video/prince-philip/arrives-in-canada/query/agnew](http://www.britishpathe.com/video/prince-philip/arrives-in-canada/query/agnew).)

This Royal tour was designed to show off Canada's post-war development of science and natural resources, but also to take in the British Empire Games, at Empire Stadium, and in the area of Vancouver.

On July 30th, Prince Philip flew to the Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. facility, at Chalk River, 120 miles (193 km) northwest of Ottawa, possibly in a Grumman Goose seaplane, to be guided through the installation by its president, W.J. Bennett. On the return flight to Ottawa, the Duke was permitted to take the controls of an Otter seaplane for about 30 minutes. Back in the capital, Prince Philip had tea in the officers' mess of the RCAF station, at Rockcliffe, before attending the House of Commons. In the evening, he was given a dinner by Governor-General Vincent Massey, with 40 invited guests, including Prime Minister St. Laurent and Trade Minister C.D. Howe.

(Prince Philip's activities for July 31st, and departure from Ottawa and travel to Rivers, Manitoba could not be located.)

The Duke of Edinburgh arrived at Victoria's Patricia Bay airport, at 6:15 p.m., Sunday, August 1st, after a 4 3/4 hour flight from Rivers, Manitoba, where a fuel stop had been made. Greeting him on Vancouver Island was Lieutenant-Governor Clarence Wallace, who presented Premier W.A.C. Bennett, Rear Admiral J.C. Hibbard, RCMP Assistant Commissioner A.C. Rivett-Carnac, Mayor Claude Harrison, other local dignitaries and Police Chiefs. A crowd of about 1,500 were on hand to witness his arrival. Prince Philip spent the night at Government House.

Monday morning, the Duke reviewed the ship's company of HMCS Naden and also visited HMC Dockyard. At a Colville Road playing Field, Prince Philip was greeted by about 6,500 spectators. In the afternoon he traveled to Patricia Bay airport to fly to Port Hardy, in the C-5 RCAF transport. At Port Hardy, he boarded HMCS Ontario for a trip to Kemano, arriving approximately 10:00 a.m., Tuesday morning, August 3rd, to be met by the Rt. Hon. C.D. Howe, minister of trade & commerce, and officials of the Aluminum Company of Canada.

Two dozen newspaper reporters, to cover this Kemano/Kitimat Royal visit, were flown, Monday, from Vancouver, by RCAF Canso.

Originally, it was the plan that His Royal Highness, after inspecting the Alcan powerhouse facility at Kemano, be transported in an Okanagan Bell helicopter to see Kildara Pass, the pass which the power line passes through to Kitimat. Weather conditions of low cloud caused a change. He arrived at Kitimat harbor, with a light rain falling, aboard a Pacific Western Airlines' Grumman Mallard, piloted by Captain Ian Fraser, of Vancouver, with Jack Crosby, as co-pilot, at 1:42 p.m. The Hon. C.D. Howe was also on this flight. A couple of circles were made over the aluminum plant and new town before landing. Prince Philip rode in a company bus to the plant waving to the townsfolk on the way.

It appears that Crosby removed himself from the 2nd seat and Prince Philip was permitted to handle the controls before Fraser took back the controls for landing. The newspaper article noted: "It was the Duke's first Canadian ride in a civilian plane." Prince Philip had a British pilot's license.

Alcan was having problems with its process, but at the Duke's request he was able to see a "first" pouring of an aluminum 50 pound (22.68 kg.) ingot mould.

Another federal cabinet minister at Kitimat, attending the plant opening, was Lester B. Pearson, minister of external affairs.

After refreshments at an Alcan guest house, Prince Philip, was said to be taken to Sandspit to join his RCAF C-5 transport for a flight to Vancouver's International Airport, on Sea Island, Tuesday evening, August 3rd, arriving at 8:21 p.m. A crowd of about 2,000 welcomers greeted His Royal Highness. He was whisked away to the Hotel Vancouver for his stay during the British Empire Games and other functions.

(It should be noted too that F.R. "Russ" Baker, vice-president and general manager of Pacific Western Airlines Ltd. was on hand at Vancouver's airport to greet the Rt. Hon. C.D. Howe, federal trade minister, and George Vincent, public relations officer of Alcan, when they deplaned from a PWA aircraft returning from the tour of the Kitimat smelter.)

In Vancouver, the Duke had 2 Cadillacs, 2 Lincolns and 2 Chryslers at his disposal.

Wednesday morning, August 4th, Prince Philip drove a hardtop Cadillac, while under police escort, out to the Sardis camp of the Royal Canadian School of Military Engineering observing and inspecting nearly 300 teen-age Joint Services cadets. After a lunch at the Camp's officers' mess, he attended the British Empire rowing events on the Vedder Canal, near Chilliwack, for 2 hours. As he arrived, air force jets performed a fly-past. The Duke saw a UBC - Vancouver 8-oared crew beat a British Thames Rowing Club team to victory by three-lengths. It appears the Duke returned by way of the north side of the Fraser River to Vancouver.

The RCAF was to use 5 Cansos on the Prince's northern tour. Two aircraft carried spare parts. Articles named 7 RCAF airmen and 2 parachutists for this tour. The parachutists were to be involved in setting up a temporary campsite, for crews, on Great Slave Lake.

Prince Philip attended many of the competitive events at Empire Stadium and at other locations, had a dinner with athletes, attended receptions, spoke to a Canadian Club luncheon, and also the Children's Health Centre.

Sunday, August 8th, after attending Christ Church Cathedral, where he read the lesson, the Duke headed north, in the RCAF C-5, to Whitehorse, Y.T. Dr. Hugh S. Bostock, a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, with the federal department of mines, accompanied the Prince to answer any questions the Prince might have of this area of our country.

At Whitehorse, after a 1 1/2 hour journey on Canadian Pacific Airline's reincarnated S.S. Klondike and meeting with school children, His Royal Highness is said to have had a game meal of roast moose, Teslin Lake trout and wild sheep meat.

The C-5 VIP aircraft, with its sofas and mahogany furnishings carried him, on Monday, to Fort Nelson, B.C. where he transferred to an amphibious Canso and next made a stop at Fort Simpson, N.W.T. for a 1/2 hour visit. The Canso then carried Prince Philip to Port Radium, on Great Bear Lake. After dinner, he went on an underground tour (1 1/2 hours) of the uranium project - Eldorado Mining and Refining Limited - (crown incorporated). The mine produced uranium for the atomic plant at Chalk River, Ontario.

Tuesday, on a flight of 140 miles (225 km.) from the Eldorado project to Coppermine, for a 2-hour stay, Prince Philip was said to be the 1st British royalty to travel inside the Arctic Circle. On landing, the tour participants were taken ashore by whale boat. From Coppermine, travel was 370 miles (595 km.) south to Yellowknife, where His Royal Highness went down a mine shaft, saw a \$28,000 gold brick being poured and then attended a barbecue of buffalo burgers.

Fort Churchill, Manitoba, on Hudson Bay, came next, Wednesday, where the Duke visited two museums, viewed the grain port facilities, boarded a ship (possibly the grain carrier "Thistlemuir"), took in tea with the Navy and visited a military hospital. He was given rides, of over 3-miles, in Arctic troop carriers, a Canadian Penguin and a \$58,000 U.S. experimental Otter tracked carrier and took the controls of both, travelling through water and over spongy, muddy tundra. This activity took place on a joint Canada/U.S. armed forces Arctic test and training site.

The 33-year-old Prince Philip, on Thursday, arrived at Ancienne Lorette airport (renamed Jean Lesage International Airport, in 1993), Quebec City, travelling about 1,225 miles (1,971 km.)

where he was met by Governor-General Vincent Massey, Quebec's Lieutenant-Governor Gaspard Fauteux and Premier Duplessis. The Duke stayed at the Quebec Citadel.

Friday, August 13th, His Royal Highness was off to Valcartier Camp, 15 miles north of Quebec City, to view paratroop training, lunch at its headquarters and take a 3-hour inspection tour of Canada's Armament Research and Development Establishment. He saw the power of Canada's new Heller anti-tank weaponry and the firing of a 17-pound anti-tank gun.

Might the Duke have stayed at the Quebec Citadel or on the royal yacht Britannia at Quebec City? The Prince had lunch with Mr. Massey on board, prior to his tour moving on to Sept-Iles, Quebec on Saturday. The Britannia then sailed for Goose Bay, Labrador, to await His Royal Highness.

At Sept-Iles, Quebec, His Royal Highness was greeted by Iron Ore Company of Canada officials. There, he viewed the ore loading facilities and travelled to Knob Lake 360 miles (579 km.) viewing the rail system and the recently opened Ungava iron ore mine.

Monday, August 16th, Prince Philip and party were out tenting and fishing in the area of Eagle River, 115 miles (185 km.) east of Goose Bay, Labrador. During the night of Monday, the campsite had the visit of a bear, which was scared off.. The Duke landed both Atlantic salmon and trout on this visit.

Prince Philip arrived back at the Goose Bay RCAF base in a single-engine Otter seaplane, met with the press group of the tour, and attended a gathering at the RCAF officer's mess.

The Prince then boarded the Britannia to sail for the United Kingdom, at first light, Wednesday, August 18th, after a tour that covered about 9,000 miles (14,484 km).

This tour would set the pattern for future visits by members of the Royal family and Queen Elizabeth II.

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Researched using - Vancouver Sun and Victoria Daily Colonist

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