

On succeeding to the Throne I desire that the Royal Navy and all my other Naval Forces throughout the Empire should know with what gratitude I recall the distinguished service rendered by them during the reign of the King my beloved father and how much I cherish the recollection of the intimate personal association so long subsisting between my family and that profession to which my father devoted his youth and early manhood and in which I and two of my brothers received our early training.

My visits to many parts of the Empire have enabled me to note with pride that loyalty and devotion to duty remain the watch-words of the Royal Navy whenever it is called upon to serve and that the same great traditions are guiding the development of the Naval Services of the Dominions and of India, and of all other Forces sharing in the naval defence of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

Conscious as I am of the great trust reposed in you and confident of your determination never to disappoint that trust I shall always regard your efficiency and well-being as matters of the highest importance and shall take a deep interest in everything which concerns them.

EDWARD, *R.I.*

No. 100.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT.

The following message dated 22nd January, 1936, addressed by His Majesty King Edward VIII to the Army has been received by telegram from the Secretary of State for the Colonies and is published for general information.

W. T. SOUTHORN,
Colonial Secretary.

27th January, 1936.

I desire on my accession to the Throne to express my thanks to the Army for its devoted service to my beloved father. I recall with gratitude the noble response which the Army made during the Great War to his proud confidence in its loyalty, valour and steadfastness. Its welfare was ever in his thoughts.

My own association with the Army is now of long standing. I look back to my service as a young officer in the Great War as one of the most valuable experiences of my life. It gave me the opportunity and privilege of comradeship with soldiers drawn from the United Kingdom, from the Dominions, from India and from the Colonies. I learned

to understand and to appreciate those essential characteristics which united them in the sternest crisis of our history; the same fervent attachment to the Crown, the same good humour and endurance in adversity and the same determination to uphold tradition, chivalry and courage which are our common inheritance, in happier days of peace I have been able to see by personal visits to the military forces of the Crown both at home and abroad and have everywhere noted with pride the same gallant bearing which distinguished those forces in the Field. I shall be strengthened in the discharge of the great responsibilities which lie before me by the confidence with which I know I can rely on the unswerving allegiance of all ranks of the military forces of the Crown throughout the Empire.

EDWARD, R. I.

No. 101.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT.

The following message dated 22nd January, 1936, addressed by His Majesty King Edward VIII to the Royal Air Force has been received by telegram from the Secretary of State for the Colonies and is published for general information.

W. T. SOUTHORN,
Colonial Secretary.

27th January, 1936.

On my accession to the Throne I desire at once to address a message to the Air Forces at Home and overseas. Flying Services were first created during the reign of my beloved father and it was with close personal interest that he watched their rapid growth from small beginnings; their unification under the stresses of war; and their subsequent development into a powerful instrument of defence which shares with the older Services the honourable duty of safeguarding these shores and the Empire. I have ever valued my close association with the Royal Air Force, marked of recent years by a special connection with the Auxiliary Air Force as its honorary Air Commodore-in-Chief. I have also witnessed with deep satisfaction the creation of Air Forces in the Dominions and in India. The Air Forces in the Empire are young, they have all the vigour of youth; and in the space of a few years they have already achieved a high tradition. I shall watch their further progress with a keen personal solicitude for their welfare and with entire confidence that they will ever show that pride of service and unswerving loyalty to the Crown which they have displayed since their first inception.

EDWARD, R. I.