

On Her Majesty's Service

WASC 1535

WASC 1530

Top-secret tour for Duke

A BRIGHT red Wessex helicopter of the Queen's Flight hovered over Waltham Abbey yesterday (Thursday) morning and landed in the grounds of PERME, the top-secret Ministry of Defence establishment in the town.

And out of the helicopter stepped Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester, who was arriving to make a goodwill tour of the factory.

He was greeted by the new Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Admiral Sir Andrew Lewis, who presented Mr. R. P. Laurie, High Sheriff of Essex, to the Royal visitor.

The director of PERME, Dr. F. H. Panton, then presented staff at the establishment to Prince Richard before taking him on a tour of the premises.

The Duke also met the chairman of Epping Forest District Council, Cr. Bob O'Malley.

During the tour Prince Richard was given a potted history of the establishment by Mr. M. McLaren, head of its library information service. The Duke unveiled a plaque commemorating his visit.

BARGE

He then toured the various workshops and exhibition halls and was presented with a model of a gunpowder barge as a memento of his visit.

He then met the establishment's fire and ambulance men, visited the nearby Quinton Hill establishment site in Sewardstone Road, Waltham Abbey, and then returned to the Highbridge Street establishment and left by helicopter to travel to the other PERME site at Westcott in Buckinghamshire.