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THE QUEEN DINES WITH THE ARMY.

The Queen's Piper leads a royal procession between ranks of scarlet-coated Chelsea Pensioners, towards the Great Hall of the Royal Hospital where the Queen and members of her family are to dine with the Army. Her Majesty is escorted by Mr. John Hare, Secretary of State for war, and the Queen Mother by Field-Marshal Sir Gerald Templer. Field-Marshal Lord Ironside escorts Princess Margaret.

With the Duke of Gloucester is Field-Marshal Lord Alsbrooke, while Field-Marshal Earl Alexander accompanies the Duchess, and Field-Marshal Earl Montgomery the Princess Royal. Field-Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck is with the Duchess of Kent, followed by Field-Marshal Sir John Harding, with Lady Mountbatten.

In all, there are eight Field-Mmarshals, twice as many Generals, and 94 Colonels - representing every regiment and corps in Her Majesty's Army. For this is an occasion of the whole army, which, in the Queen's words, "has always been a family affair - a family centring on the regiment - and it has lived by its quality more than by it's size".

The Queen rises to propose the toast of the evening, and takes the opportunity to refer to a promotion which is only a few hours old.

"Before I ask you to rise and to drink with me, the toast of the Army, I am sure that you will wish to join with me in offering warm congratulations to the Chief of the Imperial Staff on his promotion to the Rank of Field-Marshal. I now ask you to rise and drink the toast of the Army".....