

Duke of Windsor's long exile to end in burial at Windsor castle

June, 1972.

LONDON (CP) — The long exile of the Duke of Windsor ends Wednesday when his body is flown home for burial on the grounds of Windsor Castle.

The former King Edward VIII, who gave up the throne on Dec. 11, 1936, to marry a twice-divorced American, died an hour before dawn Sunday at his home in Paris. He was 77, and his wife was at his side.

The duke and duchess had no children.

The duke had been in failing health for months, and there were reports he had cancer of the throat. When his niece, the Queen, visited him at his home 10 days before he died, he was unable to rise from his chair.

The duke long ago arranged with his brother and successor, the late King George VI, that he

would be buried at Frogmore, the effigy-encrusted mausoleum half a mile from Windsor Castle. Queen Victoria and her consort, Prince Albert, are buried there, and so is one of the duke's brothers, the Duke of Kent, who was killed in the Second World War.

The Queen ordered a week of national mourning until June 5, the day of the funeral. She arranged for the body to be flown back to Britain in an RAF transport.

The duke will lie in state in St. George's Chapel, at Windsor Castle, on Friday and Saturday. Thousands are expected to file past to pay their last respects.

The duke, sensitive to royal protocol and the scandal his marriage caused in his homeland, asked for a private fu-

neral. So only about 100 persons, including the Royal Family, cabinet ministers and members of other royal families, are expected to attend the simple funeral next Monday.

The Brigade of Guards will mount guard of honor around the coffin. The duke was the brigade's colonel-in-chief when he was king.

The duchess, now 75, will accompany the duke's body on his last journey home. The Queen invited the duchess to stay at Buckingham Palace for the first time.

These arrangements were not enough for some Britons who felt the former king should be honored by lying in state in Westminster Hall, where England's monarchs are traditionally laid out for public mourning.

A Labor member of Parliament, Geoffrey Rhodes, said in a protest to the Queen and the Lord Chamberlain, the head of the Queen's household, over the simple arrangements:

"This decision surely reflects that the hypocrisy of the establishment which caused his abdication in the first place still pervades those who make up the royal circle."

Buckingham Palace replied to criticism by Rhodes, saying the duke requested the St. George's Chapel site.

A palace spokesman said: "All the funeral arrangements are at the request of the Duke of Windsor himself. He planned the entire service at some time in the 1960s."

"He selected the form of service, where it should be held and the spot where he should be buried."

But the British press welcomed the Queen's gesture of reconciliation and mourned the dead duke in black-bordered editorials and multi-page spreads on his colorful and dramatic life.

The Daily Express, a staunch supporter of royalty, summed up the wave of emotion that swept the country, saying: "Many of his countrymen . . . bitterly regretted the political pressures that forced him to ab-

diccate. . . . The duchess should know that the king who was never crowned has a firm, enduring place in British hearts."

In a message of condolence to the duchess the Queen expressed grief at the death of her uncle and said: "I know that my people will always remember him with gratitude and great affection and that his services to them in peace and war will never be forgotten."

The duke became a favorite of the public in Canada and the U.S. as the affable, hard-hitting, pleasure-loving Prince of Wales and globe-trotting salesman of the British Empire.

As Prince of Wales, Edward paid widely-publicized visits to Canada after the First World War.

In 1919, the year he bought a 4,000-acre ranch in the foothills of the Rockies, southwest of Calgary, he was so popular with Canadian crowds that the press of people wishing to shake his hand became a hazard. He learned Canadian slang and Canadian dancing, shot game in Saskatchewan and played poker in Alberta. When he sailed home from Halifax he spoke of "so many pleasant things to remember."

In 1927, accompanied by the Duke of Kent and Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin, he returned to Canada to open the Peace Bridge linking Canada and the United States at Fort Erie, Ont.

The EP Ranch in Alberta became a mecca for tourists, and a large picnic ground was built there. For 31 years the ranch was a purebred stock farm, producing Shorthorn cattle, Shropshire and Hampshire sheep, Clydesdale horses and thoroughbred horses.

After the duke visited the ranch in 1950 with the duchess, the property reverted to its original role of commercial cattle-raising.

As Edward VIII, he succeeded his father on Jan. 21, 1936, reigned for 327 days and never was crowned. His abdication was unprecedented in the 1,000-year-old history of the British monarchy.



CP PHOTO

DUKE RELAXES — The Duke of Windsor puffs casually on his pipe while watching a golf tournament at Germain En Laye, France in 1964. The Duke died in Paris Sunday at 77.

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

June 17, 1897

Young men and dogs carry downcast looks these days. The constable is after both classes, with the same object in view in each case, namely collection of taxes—poll tax and dog tax.