

# REFLECTIONS

**Having left the Brush Works in the early afternoon we arrived alongside Tower Bridge shortly after 5.00 p.m., thanks to the safe and skilful driving of Ian Moore our driver for the trip.**

Having reported to Tower Pier and formal checks completed, we boarded a launch to be taken alongside H.M. Yacht Britannia, which was moored in the middle of the River Thames.

On boarding the Royal Yacht we were welcomed by the senior officers and directed along the deck to the receiving room where we collected our identification labels and details of all who were to be present that night. Then, having been told to have our presentation cards ready we continued along a short corridor, turning right and left we quite suddenly came to the reception area, to see Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, standing side by side only a matter of a few yards away.

On handing over our presentation cards to the Master of the Household, Rear Admiral Sir Paul Greening, we were announced in turn, and stepped forward to shake hands with Her Majesty the Queen followed by the Duke of Edinburgh.

After the presentations, we made our way into the main reception rooms where various drinks and snacks were served by naval ratings. The atmosphere by this time was *very relaxed* and this gave us the chance to look around the walls to examine the various gifts presented during overseas visits. We got into several interesting conversations, the first one being with the Queen's Equerry, Lieutenant-Colonel Gilbert-Denham, who knew the Loughborough area quite well.

The Navigating Officer also had tales to tell of the Royal Yacht's visit to Australia last year. He went on to tell us that the Yacht last came up to the Pool of London in 1984 and prior to that 1977, so this event was quite a rare experience for the crew.

It was just after this conversation that we suddenly found The Duke of Edinburgh amongst us. He was interested to know about our Company and its products. He compared the wide differences in the products represented and made quite a joke about this. In fact, he came back to us later in the evening, "To direct us," as he put it, "to a group which had more in common with our type of product."

During this time The Queen had moved quite informally around the room, chatting with the guests. The Prime Minister, R.H. Margaret Thatcher was also present.

Time moved on all too quickly and it was time for The Queen to leave. A small Royal Marine Band took position on either side of the main stairway and the National Anthem was played. The Queen along with the Duke of Edinburgh then left the Royal Yacht. It was a very moving moment and difficult to put into words.

And so, it was all over, time to go.

As we prepared to leave the Royal Yacht, we had the good fortune to have a few words with the Commander of the Yacht, Vice Admiral John Garnier. He also was interested in the products made by Brush Electrical Machines, especially when told that some of our motors would most likely be in use on the yacht.

By this time most of the guests had left, and so we made our way back to the gang plank to find we were the last party to leave.

We left at 8.30 p.m. and boarded the launch at the bottom of the gang plank, and as we came back across the Pool of London with Tower Bridge, The Tower of London and HMS Belfast all floodlit in the night sky, it really was a sight that would be difficult to equal anywhere in the world.

We rejoined Ian Moore alongside Tower Bridge for the journey back up the M1 and home, with time to reflect on the events of the day.

Finally we would like to say what a great privilege it was for us to represent all the people of Brush Electrical Machines on this never to be forgotten day.

Dean Attenborough

Bill Petrie

Peter Wortley