

The Final Freedom-of-Weston Parade



The sun shone on the crowds along Weston seafront as they waited to say their goodbyes to the RAF. Obliging, the tide was in and the sea calm to add a marine backdrop to a special occasion. Unusually, the whole of the area from the pier to Knightstone was completely clear of vehicles along which the parade would make its way. Just before 11am the three Flights from Locking marched off from Knightstone Pier led by the Western Band of the RAF. Awaiting their arrival was a second Squadron of ex-servicemen already formed up opposite the Winter Gardens.





HRH the Duke of Gloucester took the Royal Salute as a Spitfire came in from over the sea and made two passes over the parade. During the inspection the Duke chatted to many in the ranks of both Squadrons.

The warmth of the affection felt for the station was demonstrated as the assembled crowds applauded and cheered as the parade made its way back along the front. The most popular member of the parade was undoubtedly Sparky, the Station Mascot, who received much attention on his last official engagement for RAF Locking.

