

Travel Tales

The True Origin of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

by

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If you look up Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, in Wikipedia, you will learn the following accepted facts. He was born in 1921 on Corfu in Greece as a member of the House of Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Glückburg and a Prince of Greece and Denmark. When his life was threatened at the age of one by the Greco-Turkish war, he was evacuated from Greece in 1922 aboard HMS *Calypso* in a cradle made from a fruit box. He became a naturalized British citizen, gave up his princely titles, and served in the Royal Navy in World War II. He saved his



The Chief of the Prince Philip tribe with his god

ship HMS *Wallace* during the invasion of Sicily by devising a plan to launch a raft with smoke grenades and flares, thus distracting a vicious night bomber attack. He was mentioned in dispatches and awarded the Greek War Cross of Valor.

Wikipedia is wrong.

According to Chief Linlin Jack Naiua, 27 years old, of Yaohnanen village on the island of Tanna in the South Pacific country of Vanuatu, Prince Philip's past is quite different, and his future is more bizarre than even a tabloid could imagine. I interviewed the Chief at length in his village in November 2013. Here are the true facts, never before fully revealed.

Prince Philip was actually born on the west side of Tanna in about 1921, and was raised in a dangerous society of cannibalism, white-men's colonialism, and the destruction of "kastom" (customary tribal) practices. Philip only

wanted to live in peace, but he realized he could not do so on Tanna. He heard that Princess Elizabeth was an eligible young woman. So during World War II he got into a canoe, and, using his mystical powers, he paddled all the way to England -- about 16,000 nautical miles. His powers did not keep his naturally dark Melanesian skin from being burned white by the sun while he was paddling, however.

Arriving in England, Philip was jailed as an illegal immigrant, but used his magical powers in 1947 to escape and marry Elizabeth, who, like him, was a virgin.

After marriage Philip lived the life that we have always heard about – being given the titles of Duke of Edinburgh, Earl of Merioneth, and Baron Greenwich of Greenwich on his wedding day, commanding the frigate HMS *Magpie*, becoming the father of four children, being made a Prince (again) by Elizabeth in 1957, and becoming the hardworking patron of over 800 charities. At 93, he is now the longest-lived male member of the British royal family, and is the oldest spouse ever of a British monarch.

Prince Philip is the Captain General of the Royal Marines, Marshall of the Royal Air Force, Field Marshall of the Royal Army, and Lord High Admiral of the Royal Navy. He has been awarded over 90 honors, titles, decorations and medals, including Royal Knight of the Garter, Knight of the Thistle, Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire, Member of the Order of Merit, Companion of the Order of Canada, the Arctic Star, and the Royal Victorian Chain.

Some of his more exotic awards include Member of the Most Distinguished Order of Izzuddin (Maldives), Honorary Member of the Order of Darjah Utama Temasek (Singapore), Knight of the Order of the Elephant (Denmark), Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Condor of the Andes (Bolivia), Member Special Class of the Order of Muhammad (Morocco), and Knight Grand Cross with Chain of the Order of the Queen of Sheba (Ethiopia).

No doubt Philip is most proud of his only American award – the truly grand Grand Commander of the Order of Maritime Merit of the San Francisco Port Authority.

Oddly, Philip has no awards from Vanuatu/New Hebrides.

While Philip was amassing honors in Britain, events were mixed back on his home island of Tanna, according to the Chief.

During the joint French-English administration of the New Hebrides, called the “Condominium” or less affectionately the “Pandemonium,” the two world powers could agree on nothing except their desire to eliminate custom practices. Kava drinking was banned, although this natural product of a local root had been used for millennia, to give a relaxing, quiet high.

According to the Chief, in 1980, at independence, when the New Hebrides became Vanuatu, kava was permitted again. Chief Naiua’s grandfather sent Prince Philip a pig killing club around that time, which was accepted as a gift, and the Prince posed with this club in a photo he sent to

the tribe. The Chief stated that this was proof that the Prince was really from Tanna, and understood the significance of the club, which is used in the pig-killing cult that dominates the country.

(Some news reports have stated that this club was a “hunting club,” but this is erroneous. As the Chief points out, this type of heavy club is usually used during the pig-killing ceremony to smash the foreheads of sacred pigs with circular tusks. One other possibility was mentioned in a 1978 letter by British Resident Commissioner J.S. Champion that the Chief showed me, which states that the club sent to Philip was a “fine Toka stick or mace with a figure of Philip carved on it” – meaning it was a dance stick used in the famous Toka dance and orgy that occurs on Tanna every few years. To me it looks like a dance stick and a killing club.)



Prince Philip holding the pig-killing club/Toka dance stick

According to the Chief, in 2000 Prince Philip sent another picture of himself to the village, along with a British flag, said that his



A youth of the Prince Philip tribe hopes the Prince will come home to Tanna. Note the wearing apparel.

birthday was June 10, and suggested that the villagers could celebrate that date. Said the Chief, “All 1669 adult members of our church feel that Philip is like Jesus – he is a god, and so every year on June 10 we have a big festival, with kava drinking, lots of island food, and a pig-killing ceremony.” The Chief invited all tourists, especially Britons, to visit the village on that date, raise the British flag, and celebrate their new God.

Next month we will find out about Prince Philip’s future, explore his after-life, and learn who the next King of England will be.

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Lew Toulmin is working in the Prime Minister’ Office in Vanuatu. He and his wife Susan normally live in Silver Spring.

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