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By R.W. APPLE Jr. Special to The New York Times

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Associated Press

## **Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Wed Today in London**

**Prince Charles, 32-year-old heir to the British throne, and his 20-year-old fiancée, Lady Diana Spencer, in a photograph by Lord Snowdon. He wears the full dress uniform of a commander in the Royal Navy. Page A8.**

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# Charles and Lady Diana Wed Today; Beacons Burn Across a Joyful Britain

By R.W. APPLE Jr.  
Special to The New York Times

LONDON, July 28 — Skyrockets spangled the sky over London with gold and silver and red and blue tonight while bonfires blazed on 101 hilltops across the kingdom in a joyous prelude to the wedding tomorrow of the Prince of Wales, the 32-year-old heir to the British throne, and Lady Diana Spencer.

Hundreds of thousands of spectators gathered in and around Hyde Park to watch the spectacular pyrotechnic display, the largest in this country for more than two centuries. It was modeled on the show staged in 1749 to mark the end of the War of the Austrian Succession. Handel's Royal Fireworks Music, written for that occasion, was played tonight by 250 musicians in the massed bands of the regiments that are linked with the monarchy — the Guards and the Household Cavalry.

## Prince Charles Watches Fireworks

Prince Charles was in the park to watch the fireworks and to light the first bonfire. The others, many of them on spots where similar beacons were built to warn the nation of the approach of the Spanish Armada in 1588, were lit in turn until, an hour later, the chain was completed with a fire at St. Kilda in the Western Isles off Scotland.

Lady Diana, the Prince's 20-year-old fiancée, was already in bed when the fireworks began. She spent the night at Clarence House, the residence of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, where she will rise at 6:30 A.M. tomorrow to prepare for the ceremony. But she could hear the booming of cannon and the bursting of aerial bombs, and see from

sketches of the dress based on the document.

Women's Wear said it combined simplicity and history, incorporating material given to the first Duke of Marlborough, one of the bride's ancestors, after a victory over the French in 1706, and a buckle given by George III to another of Lady Diana's illustrious forebears.

But the palace labeled the description "a very elaborate hoax" and "a total fantasy." The document, a spokesman pointed out, was said to have been writ-

## Live TV Coverage Set For Wedding Today

Channels 2, 4, 7, 11 and 13 are providing coverage of the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer.

Live coverage from London begins at 4:30 A.M., New York time, on Channels 4 and 11, and at 5 A.M. on Channels 2 and 7. The procession to and from Buckingham Palace, the beginning and end of the wedding service at St. Paul's Cathedral and the appearance of the Prince and his bride on the palace balcony after the ceremony will be included in morning telecasts.

One-hour special reports providing highlights of the ceremony and other festivities will begin at 8 P.M. on Channels 2 and 11; Channel 7 will telecast a review of its coverage at 9 P.M., and Channel 4 will do the same at 10. The Public Broadcasting Service, in cooperation with the British Broadcasting Company, will provide three hours of highlights and commentary beginning at 11 P.M. on Channel 13.

ten by Sir Eric Penn, Comptroller in the Lord Chamberlain's Office, who had nothing to do with the wedding plans because he retired two weeks before the engagement was announced.

The truth will be known at 10:30 tomorrow when the future Princess of Wales rides into The Mall in the horse-drawn glass coach that has been used for a succession of fairy-tale weddings over the last 70 years. By then, the police believe, the throng along the route to St. Paul's will have swollen to almost a million people, many of whom will have been there since the conclusion of the fireworks tonight.

## 7,000 on Guard Along Route

A vast security operation has been mounted, with more than 4,000 uniformed policemen and about 3,000 troops scheduled to watch the crowds along the two-mile route of the marital procession. A police spokesman said that their biggest fear was a lone man "with a gun and a grudge" — like those who tried to assassinate Pope John Paul II and President Reagan this year.

Many of the troops lining the route will be drawn from the units of which the Prince is colonel in chief. Their emblems formed one of the centerpieces of the fireworks display, depicted in glowing set pieces in the windows of a fireworks "palace," a frame structure 300 feet long and 40 feet high.

Even that was outdone by the finale, which consumed two and a half tons of explosives in 18 minutes. Included was a gigantic Catherine wheel, which rose 170 feet above the park, spurring multi-colored fire from its rim. Catherine wheels, an old English tradition, are so called after an early Christian martyr, St. Catherine of Alexandria, who was broken on a spiked wheel.

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Associated Press  
Queen Elizabeth II joined celebrants last night in Hyde Park, London, for fireworks display.

her window the tens of thousands of people gathering on The Mall to watch the carriage procession from Buckingham Palace to St. Paul's Cathedral.

London was in an exuberantly festive mood long before the evening celebrations, with hundreds of people staking out places along the parade route, some equipped with sleeping bags covered with the Union Jack, and thousands strolling, talking, picnicking, marveling at the omnipresent bunting and taking photographs of the cathedral and the palace. The city center was a carnival of red, white and blue.

This ancient capital is accustomed to royal spectacle. But the wedding of a Prince of Wales is something special; it has happened only nine times since the Black Prince, a son of Edward III who was the first to hold the title, married Joan of Kent in 1360. Not since 1660, when Anne Hyde married the man who became King James II, has an English woman married an heir apparent. And romantics found an extra sweetness in the obvious fact that Prince Charles, a highly popular figure, is marrying for love and not for dynastic convenience.

## Stand-Ins Rehearse Wedding

Dozens of television cameras were swung into position today. The police struggled to keep traffic moving. Stand-ins took the part of the bride and bridegroom in a final, full-dress rehearsal. A team of a dozen women, including Lady Diana's godmother, Lady Mary Coleman, finished arranging thousands of flowers in the echoing cathedral.

In a country with 2.8 million people unemployed, a country whose great urban centers have been torn this summer by rioting, looting and arson, the wedding and its archaic ceremonial trappings might seem inappropriate, even irrelevant. But to most Britons, it does not. Brian Balmer, a 19-year-old student from Atherton, a town outside Manchester, spoke for the overwhelming majority when he said outside St. Paul's this morning: "The Royal Family is good for the country. It gives the country a focal point, a bit of stability."

The wedding has also drawn the attention of millions of people in other countries who have never visited Britain and for whom the royal family is only a dim symbol of glamour. Tomorrow's ceremony, which is to last for an hour and 10 minutes, will be watched on television by as many as 750 million people, making it by all odds the least private wedding in history.

What Walter Bagehot, the eminent British economist and journalist, wrote almost 100 years ago is apparently still true: "A princely marriage is the brilliant edition of a universal fact, and as such it rivets mankind."

## Prince Chooses the Music

In an interview recorded several days ago and broadcast tonight by the British television networks, Prince Charles said he had chosen most of the music for the ceremony himself and that one of the reasons the couple had selected St. Paul's was because of its "spectacular" acoustics. He said he had opted for "stirring, dramatic and noisy music" for the recessional because "if you have something rather quiet you start hearing your ankles cricking, you know what I mean?"

"I shall, I think, spend half the time in tears," he said.

Like many another young bride, Lady Diana said that she had taken a cooking course but that she had so far not worked up the nerve to test her skill on her fiancé. She also spoke of the pressure of being followed everywhere by cameramen. Prince Charles commented that "if you don't try to work out in your own mind some kind of method for existing and surviving this kind of thing, you would go mad."

The Prince said that the volume of mail reaching Buckingham Palace was "incredible." Since their engagement was announced, he said, the couple have received about 100,000 letters and 3,000 presents.

One of the most carefully guarded secrets surrounding the wedding, the design of the dress, became the subject of controversy on the eve of the ceremony. Women's Wear Daily, the American fashion newspaper, published what it described as an official palace document describing the dress, as well as