

= Princess Victoria Melita of Saxe @-@ Coburg and Gotha =

Princess Victoria Melita of Saxe @-@ Coburg and Gotha and Edinburgh GCStJ CI VA RRC ( 25 November 1876 ? 2 March 1936 ) was the third child and second daughter of Alfred , Duke of Saxe @-@ Coburg and Gotha and Grand Duchess Maria Alexandrovna of Russia . She was a granddaughter of Queen Victoria as well as of Tsar Alexander II of Russia .

Born a British princess , Victoria spent her early life in England and lived in Malta for three years , where her father was serving in the Royal Navy . In 1889 the family moved to Coburg , where Victoria 's father became the reigning duke in 1893 . In her teens Victoria fell in love with her maternal first cousin Grand Duke Kirill Vladimirovich of Russia , but the disapprobation of marriage between first cousins of his faith , Orthodox Christianity , discouraged their romance . Instead , bowing to family pressure , Victoria married in 1894 a paternal first cousin , Ernest Louis , Grand Duke of Hesse , following the wishes of their shared grandmother , Queen Victoria . Their marriage was a failure . Victoria scandalized the royal families of Europe when she divorced her husband in 1901 . The couple 's only child , Princess Elisabeth , died of typhoid fever in 1903 .

Victoria married Grand Duke Kirill Vladimirovich in 1905 . They wed without the formal approval of Britain 's King Edward VII , required by the Royal Marriages Act 1772 , and in defiance of Tsar Nicholas II . In retaliation , the Tsar stripped Kirill of his offices and honours , also initially banishing the couple from Russia . They had two daughters and settled in Paris before being allowed to visit Russia in 1909 . In 1910 they moved to Russia , where Nicholas recognized her as Grand Duchess Victoria Feodorovna . After the fall of the Russian monarchy in 1917 , they escaped to Finland where she gave birth to her only son . In exile they lived for some years among her relatives in Germany , and from the late 1920s on an estate they bought in Saint @-@ Briac . In 1926 , Kirill proclaimed himself emperor in exile and Victoria supported her husband 's claims . Victoria died after suffering a stroke while visiting her daughter Maria in Amorbach .

= = Early life = =

Victoria was born on 25 November 1876 in San Anton Palace in Attard , Malta , hence her second name , Melita . Her father , who was stationed on the island as an officer in the Royal Navy , was Prince Alfred , Duke of Edinburgh , the second son of Queen Victoria . Her mother was Grand Duchess Marie Alexandrovna , the only surviving daughter of Alexander II of Russia and Marie of Hesse .

As a grandchild of the British monarch , she was styled Her Royal Highness Princess Victoria of Edinburgh . Within her family , she was always known as " Ducky " . At the time of her birth , she was 10th in the line of succession to the British throne . The princess was christened on 1 January 1877 at San Antonio Palace by a Royal Navy chaplain . Her godparents included her paternal grandmother Queen Victoria , who was represented by a proxy .

After the Duke 's service in Malta was over they returned to England where the family lived for the next few years . They divided their time between Eastwell Park , their country home in Kent , and Clarence House , their residence in London facing Buckingham Palace . Eastwell , a large estate of 2 @, @ 500 acres near Ashford , with its forest and park was the children 's favorite residence . In January 1886 , shortly after Princess Victoria turned nine , the family left England when her father was appointed commander @-@ in @-@ chief of the Mediterranean naval squadron , based on Malta . For the next three years , the family lived at the San Anton Palace in Malta , Victoria 's birthplace .

The marriage of her parents was unhappy . The Duke was taciturn , unfaithful , prone to drinking and emotionally detached from his family . Victoria 's mother was independent @-@ minded and cultured . Although she was unsentimental and strict , the Duchess was a devoted mother and the most important person in her children 's lives . As a child , Victoria had a difficult temperament . She was shy , serious and sensitive . In the judgment of her sister Marie : " This passionate child was often misunderstood . " Princess Victoria Melita was talented at drawing and painting and learned to play the piano . She was particularly close to Marie . The two sisters would remain very close

throughout their lives . They contrasted in appearance and personality . Victoria was dark and moody while Marie was blond and easy @-@ going . Although she was one year younger , Victoria was taller and seemed to be the older of the two .

= = Youth in Coburg = =

As a son of Queen Victoria 's deceased prince consort , Albert of Saxe @-@ Coburg and Gotha , Victoria Melita 's father , Prince Alfred , was in the line of succession to Saxe @-@ Coburg and Gotha , the sovereign German duchy ruled by Albert 's elder brother , Ernest II , until his death in 1893 . Alfred became heir presumptive to the duchy when his older brother , the Prince of Wales ( later Edward VII ) , deferred his Saxon succession rights in favour of his younger brothers . Alfred and his family therefore moved to Coburg in 1889 . Their mother immediately began attempting to " Germanise " her daughters by installing a new governess , buying them plain clothing , and having them confirmed in the German Lutheran church , even though they had previously been raised as Anglicans . The children rebelled and some of the new restrictions were eased . Victoria 's ties to the British royal family were nonetheless emphasised when she served as a bridesmaid at the 1893 wedding of Prince George , Duke of York , and Princess Mary of Teck .

The teenage Victoria was a " tall , dark girl , with violet eyes ... with the assuredness of an Empress and the high spirits of a tomboy , " according to one observer . Victoria had " too little chin to be conventionally beautiful , " in the opinion of one of her biographers , but " she had a good figure , deep blue eyes , and dark complexion . " In 1891 , Victoria travelled with her mother to the funeral of Grand Duchess Alexandra Georgievna of Russia , the wife of her mother 's brother Grand Duke Paul Alexandrovich . There Victoria met her first cousin Grand Duke Kirill Vladimirovich . Although the two were deeply attracted to each other , Victoria 's mother was reluctant to allow her to marry him because the Russian Orthodox faith forbids the marriage of first cousins . She was also suspicious of the morality of the Romanov men . When her teenage daughters were impressed by their handsome cousins , their mother warned them against the Russian grand dukes who did not make good husbands .

Soon after her sister Marie was married to Crown Prince Ferdinand of Romania , a search was made for a suitable husband for Victoria . Her visit to her grandmother Queen Victoria at Balmoral Castle in the autumn of 1891 coincided with a visit by her cousin Prince Ernest Louis of Hesse , heir to the grand ducal throne of Hesse . Both were artistic and fun loving , got along well and even shared a birthday . The Queen , observing this , was very keen for her two grandchildren to marry .

= = Grand Duchess of Hesse = =

Eventually , Victoria and Ernst bowed to their families ' pressure and married on 9 April 1894 at Schloss Ehrenburg in Coburg . The wedding was a large affair , with most of the royal families of Europe attending , including Queen Victoria , the Empress Frederick , Kaiser Wilhelm II and the Prince of Wales . Victoria was now titled The Grand Duchess of Hesse and by Rhine . Her wedding is also significant since at the same time the official engagement of the future Tsar Nicholas II of Russia to Ernst 's younger sister , Alix , was proclaimed . Together Victoria and Ernst had two children , a daughter , Princess Elisabeth of Hesse and by Rhine , whom they nicknamed Ella , born on 11 March 1895 , and a stillborn son , born on 25 May 1900 .

Victoria and Ernst proved incompatible . Victoria despaired of her husband 's lack of affection towards her , while Ernst devoted much of his attention to their daughter , whom he adored . Elisabeth , who physically resembled her mother , preferred the company of her father to Victoria . Ernst and Victoria both enjoyed entertaining and frequently held house parties for young friends . Their unwritten rule was that anyone over thirty " was old and out . " Formality was dispensed with and royal house guests were referred to by their nicknames and encouraged to do as they wished . Victoria and Ernst cultivated friends who were progressive artists and intellectuals as well as those who enjoyed fun and frolic . Victoria 's cousin Prince Nicholas of Greece and Denmark remembered one stay there as " the jolliest , merriest house party to which I have ever been in my life . "

Victoria was , however , less enthusiastic about fulfilling her public role . She avoided answering letters , put off visits to elderly relations whose company she did not enjoy , and talked to people who amused her at official functions while ignoring people of higher standing whom she found boring . Victoria 's inattention to her duties provoked quarrels with Ernst . The young couple had loud , physical fights . The volatile Victoria shouted , threw tea trays , smashed china against the wall , and tossed anything that was handy at Ernst during their arguments . Victoria sought relief in her love for horses and long gallops over the countryside on a hard @-@ to @-@ control stallion named Bogdan . While she was in Russia for the coronation of Tsar Nicholas II , Victoria 's affection for Kirill was also rekindled . She enjoyed flirting with him at the balls and celebrations that marked the coronation .

= = Divorce = =

Her marriage to Ernst suffered a further blow in 1897 , when Victoria returned home from a visit to her sister Queen Marie of Romania and reportedly caught Ernst in bed with a male servant . She did not make her accusation public , but told a niece that " no boy was safe , from the stable hands to the kitchen help . He slept quite openly with them all . " Queen Victoria was saddened when she heard of trouble in the marriage from Sir George Buchanan , her chargé d 'affaires , but refused to consider permitting her grandchildren to divorce because of their daughter , Elisabeth . Efforts to rekindle the marriage failed and , when Queen Victoria died in January 1901 , significant opposition to the end of the marriage was removed . The Supreme Court of Hesse dissolved the marriage on 21 December 1901 . Ernst , who had at first resisted the divorce , came to believe it was the only possible step . " Now that I am calmer I see the absolute impossibility of going on leading a life which was killing her and driving me nearly mad , " Ernst wrote to his elder sister Princess Louis of Battenberg . " For to keep up your spirits and a laughing face while ruin is staring you in the eyes and misery is tearing your heart to pieces is a struggle which is fruitless . I only tried for her sake . If I had not loved her so , I would have given it up long ago . " Princess Louis later wrote that she was less surprised by the divorce than Ernst was . " Though both had done their best to make a success of their marriage , it had been a failure ... [ T ] heir characters and temperaments were quite unsuited to each other and I had noticed how they were gradually drifting apart . " The divorce of the reigning Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Hesse caused scandal in the royal circles of Europe . Tsar Nicholas wrote to his mother that even death would have been better than " the general disgrace of a divorce . "

After her divorce , Victoria went to live with her mother at Coburg and at her house in the French Riviera . She and Ernst shared custody of Elisabeth , who spent six months of each year with each parent . Elisabeth blamed Victoria for the divorce and Victoria had a difficult time reconnecting with her daughter . Ernst wrote in his memoirs that Elisabeth hid under a sofa , crying , before one visit to her mother . Ernst assured the child that her mother loved her too . Elisabeth responded , " Mama says she loves me , but you do love me . " Ernst remained silent and didn 't correct the child 's impression . Elisabeth died at age eight and a half of typhoid fever during a November 1903 visit to Tsar Nicholas II and his family at their Polish hunting lodge . The doctor advised the Tsar 's family to notify the child 's mother of her illness , but the Tsarina delayed in sending a telegram . Victoria received the final telegram notifying her of the child 's death just as she was preparing to travel to Poland to be at her bedside . At Elisabeth 's funeral , Victoria removed her Hessian Order , a medallion , and placed it on her daughter 's coffin as a final gesture " that she had made a final break with her old home . "

= = Remarriage = =

After Victoria 's divorce from Ernst , Grand Duke Kirill , whom Victoria had seen on all her subsequent visits to Russia , was discouraged by his parents from trying to keep a close relationship with her . Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna told Kirill to keep Victoria as his mistress and marry someone else . A few months later , war broke out between Russia and Japan . As a senior member

of the navy , Kirill was sent on active service to the front in the Russo @-@ Japanese War . His ship was blown up by a Japanese mine while entering Port Arthur and he was one of the few survivors . Sent home to recover , the Tsar finally allowed him permission to leave Russia and he left for Coburg to be with Victoria . The narrow escape from death had hardened Kirill 's determination to marry Victoria . " To those over whom the shadow of death has passed , life has a new meaning , " Kirill wrote in his memoirs . " It is like daylight . And I was now within visible reach of fulfillment of the dream of my life . Nothing would cheat me of it now . I had gone through much . Now , at last , the future lay radiant before me . "

The couple married on 8 October 1905 in Tegernsee . It was a simple ceremony , with Victoria 's mother , her sister Beatrice , and a friend , Count Adlerburg , in attendance , along with servants . The couple 's uncle Grand Duke Alexei Alexandrovich of Russia was invited , without being told the reason , but did not arrive until after the ceremony . Tsar Nicholas II responded to the marriage by stripping Kirill of his imperial allowance and expelling him from the Russian navy . The Tsarina was outraged at her former sister @-@ in @-@ law and said she would never receive Victoria , " a woman who had behaved so disgracefully " , or Kirill . The couple retired to Paris , where they purchased a house off the Champs @-@ Élysées and lived off the income provided by their parents .

Victoria , who had matured as she entered her 30s , decided to convert to the Russian Orthodox Church in 1907 , a decision that thrilled both her mother and her husband . That same year the first of their three children , Maria Kirillovna , was born . She was named after her grandmother and nicknamed " Masha . " Their second daughter , Kira Kirillovna , was born in Paris in 1909 . Victoria and Kirill , who had hoped for a son , were disappointed to have a girl , but named their daughter after her father .

= = Grand Duchess of Russia = =

Nicholas II reinstated Kirill after deaths in the Russian imperial family promoted Kirill to third in the line of succession to the Russian throne . Kirill and Victoria were allowed in Russia , Victoria was granted the title of Grand Duchess Viktoria Feodorovna and in May 1910 , the couple arrived in St Petersburg . The new grand duchess enjoyed entertaining at evening dinners and lavish balls attended by the cream of Saint Petersburg society . Victoria had an artistic talent that she applied to home decoration in her several elaborate residences which she arranged attractively . She decorated , gardened , and rode and also enjoyed painting , particularly watercolors .

Victoria fit in within the Russian aristocracy and the circle of her mother @-@ in @-@ law Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna . As French was frequently spoken in high circles , Victoria never completely mastered the Russian language . Although she was a first cousin of both Nicholas II , on her mother 's side , and to Empress Alexandra , on her father 's side , the relationship with them was neither close nor warm . As Kirill became a keen auto racer , the couple often took trips by car : a favorite pastime was traveling through the Baltic provinces . Victoria dreaded the long Russian winter with its short days , and she traveled abroad frequently visiting her sister Marie in Romania and her mother in the south of France or in Coburg . Victoria and her husband had a close relationship with their daughters , Maria and Kira . The family was spending the summer of 1914 on their yacht in the Gulf of Finland and were in Riga when the war broke out .

= = War = =

During World War I , Victoria worked as a Red Cross nurse and organized a motorized ambulance unit that was known for its efficiency . Victoria frequently visited the front near Warsaw and she occasionally carried out her duties under enemy fire . Kirill , for his part , was also in Poland , assigned to the naval department of Admiral Russin , member of the staff of Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolaevich , commander in chief of the Russian army . Kirill and Victoria had always shared their relatives ' distaste for the Tsar and Tsarina 's friendship with the starets Grigori Rasputin . The Tsarina believed Rasputin healed her son of his hemophiliac attacks with his prayers . Victoria told

her sister , Queen Marie of Romania , that the Tsar 's court was " looked upon as a sick man refusing every doctor and every help . "

When Rasputin was murdered in December 1916 , Victoria and Kirill signed a letter along with other relatives asking the Tsar to show leniency to Grand Duke Dmitri Pavlovich of Russia , one of those implicated in the murder . The Tsar denied their request . Twice during the war Victoria visited Romania , where her sister Marie was now queen , volunteering aid for war victims . Victoria returned to Saint Petersburg in February 1917 . Kirill had been appointed commander of the Naval Guards , quartered in Saint Petersburg , so he could be with his family for some time . Although publicly loyal to the Tsar , Victoria and Kirill began to meet in private with other relatives to discuss the best way to save the monarchy .

= = Revolution = =

At the end of the " February Revolution " of 1917 , Tsar Nicholas II was forced to abdicate and political turmoil followed . Victoria wrote to Queen Marie of Romania in February 1917 that their home was surrounded by a mob , " yet heart and soul we are with this movement of freedom which at the time probably signs our own death warrant ... We personally are losing all , our lives changed at one blow and yet we are almost leading the movement . " By March 1917 , the revolution had spread all over Petrograd ( Saint Petersburg ) . During this period Victoria , almost 41 years old , discovered she was again pregnant , which worried her because of her previous miscarriages and difficult pregnancies .

Kirill led his naval unit to the Provisional Government on 14 March 1917 , which was obliged to share headquarters with the new Petrograd Soviet , and swore loyalty to its leadership , hoping to restore order and preserve the monarchy . It was an action which later provoked criticism from some members of the family , who viewed it as treason . Victoria supported her husband and felt he was doing the right thing . She also sympathized with the people who wanted to reform the government . Kirill was forced to resign his command of the Naval Guards , but nevertheless his men remained faithful and they continued to guard Kirill and Victoria 's palace on Glinka Street . Close to despair Victoria wrote to her sister Marie of Romania that they had " neither pride nor hope , nor money , nor future , and the dear past blotted out by the frightful present ; nothing is left , nothing . "

Anxious for their safety Kirill and Victoria decided that the best thing to do was to leave Russia . They chose Finland as the best possible place to go . Although a territory of the Russian Empire , Finland possessed its own government and constitution , so in a way it would be like being in Russia and not being at the same time . They had already been once invited to Haikko , a beautiful estate , near Borgå , a small town on the south coast of Finland , not far away from Helsinki . The Provisional Government permitted them to leave , though they were not allowed to take anything of value with them . They sewed jewels into the family 's clothing , hoping it would not be discovered by the authorities . They were permitted to board a train without incident in the first week of June 1917 .

= = Exile = =

After two weeks in Haiko , the family moved to a rented house in Porvoo where , in August 1917 , Victoria gave birth to Grand Duke Vladimir Kirillovich of Russia , her only son and the heir to the dynasty . The family remained in Finland , a former Grand Duchy under Russian rule , which had declared its independence in December 1917 . They hoped that the White Russians would prevail . They gradually ran out of supplies and had to beg for help from family . In July 1918 , Victoria wrote to her first cousin , Crown Princess Margaret of Sweden , begging her to send baby food so she could feed Vladimir . She was alienated from England because she felt her English relatives had not done enough to help the Romanovs .

She pleaded with her cousin , George V , to help the White Russians retake the country . In a letter to the King , Lord Acton , the British Minister in Helsinki , noted the toll the revolution had taken on Victoria . She " looked aged and battered and has lost much of her beauty , which is not astonishing

considering all that she has gone through . "

After more than two years living under strained conditions in the autumn of 1919 Victoria and Kirill left Finland and went to Germany . In Munich they were reunited with Victoria 's mother and the family group moved to Zurich in September 1919 . With the death of Victoria 's mother , she inherited her villa , Chateau Fabron in Nice and her residence in Coburg , the Edinburg Palais . In the following years the exiled family divided their time between these two places .

While in Germany , Victoria showed an interest in the Nazi Party , which appealed to her because of its anti @-@ Bolshevik stance and her hope that the movement might help restore the Russian monarchy . She and Kirill attended a Nazi rally in Coburg in 1922 and Victoria donated money to the party . She was likely unaware of the most sinister aspects of the Nazi Party .

= = Claims to the Russian throne = =

Kirill suffered a nervous breakdown in 1923 and Victoria nursed him back to health . She encouraged his dreams of restoring the monarchy in Russia and becoming Tsar . At Saint @-@ Briac Kirill , aware of the murders of Tsar Nicholas II and his only son , officially declared himself the Guardian of the Throne in 1924 . Victoria went on a trip to the United States in 1924 , hoping to raise American support for restoration of the monarchy . Her efforts evoked little response , due to the isolationism prevalent in the United States during the 1920s . She continued in her efforts to help Kirill restore the monarchy and also sold her artwork to raise money for the household .

By the mid @-@ 1920s , Victoria worried over the prospects of her children . Maria , her eldest daughter married the head of one of Germany 's mediatized families , Karl , Hereditary Prince of Leiningen on 25 November 1925 , Victoria 's 49th birthday . Victoria was at her daughter 's bedside when she gave birth to her first child , Emich Kirill , in 1926 ( father of claimant to the Russian throne , Prince Karl Emich of Leiningen ) . She also attended the subsequent births of Maria 's children .

In the mid @-@ 1920s the German government established relations with Moscow and the presence of Kirill and his wife , pretenders to the Russian throne , became an embarrassment . Although the Bavarian government rejected pressures to expel the Russian claimant , Kirill and Victoria decided to establish their permanent residence in France . In the summer of 1926 they moved to Saint @-@ Briac on the Breton coast , where they had spent their summer vacations before . The remoteness of Brittany provided both privacy and security . They bought a large house on the outskirts of the town and gave it a Breton name , Ker Argonid , Villa Victoria . The resort town of Saint @-@ Briac was a favorite spot for retired British citizens who wanted to live well on a limited income . Victoria made friends among the Britons as well as the French and other foreign residents of the town . Though at first her manner could seem haughty , residents soon discovered that Victoria was more approachable than her husband . Their friends treated them with deference , curtsying or calling them by their imperial titles . They lived a secluded country life , finding it more agreeable than at Coburg .

Victoria was exceedingly protective of her son Vladimir , upon whom her hopes for the future rested . She would not let him attend school because she was worried about his safety , and because she wanted him to be brought up as Romanov grand dukes were prior to the revolution . Instead , she hired a tutor for him . She also refused to let him be educated for a future career . In return for her devotion , Vladimir loved and respected his mother . " We adored our parents and their love for us was infinite , " Vladimir wrote after their deaths . " All the hardships and bitterness we had to endure in the years were fully covered by our mutual love . We were proud of ( them . ) "

= = Last years = =

In Saint @-@ Briac , during the summer , Kirill played golf and he and Victoria joined in picnics and excursions . They were part of the social life of the community , going out to play bridge and organizing theatricals . During the winter Victoria and her husband enjoyed visiting nearby Dinard and invited friends home for parties and games . However , it was rumored in town that Kirill went to Paris " for the occasional fling " . Victoria , who had devoted her life to Kirill , was devastated when

she discovered in 1933 that her husband had been unfaithful to her , according to correspondence of her sister Marie of Romania . She kept up a façade for the sake of her children , including her teenage son Vladimir , but was unable to forgive Kirill 's betrayal . Victoria suffered a stroke soon after attending the christening of her fifth grandchild , Mechtilde of Leiningen , in February 1936 . Family and friends arrived , but nothing could be done . When her closest sister reached her bedside Victoria was asked if she was glad Marie had come , to which Victoria haltingly replied , " It makes all the difference . " However , she " shuddered away from Kirill 's touch , " wrote Marie . She died on 1 March 1936 . Queen Marie eulogized her sister in a letter after her death : " The whole thing was tragic beyond imagination , a tragic end to a tragic life . She carried tragedy within her ? she had tragic eyes ? always ? even as a little girl ? but we loved her enormously , there was something mighty about her ? she was our Conscience . "

Victoria was buried in the ducal family mausoleum at Friedhof am Glockenberg in Coburg , until her remains were transferred to the Grand Ducal Mausoleum of the Peter and Paul Fortress in Saint Petersburg on 7 March 1995 . Her husband was intensely lonely after her death . The marriage of their daughter , Kira , to Louis Ferdinand , Prince of Prussia , in 1938 was a bright spot for Kirill , who saw it as the joining of two dynasties . However , Kirill died just two years after his wife . Kirill , though he had been unfaithful , still loved and missed the wife he had depended so much upon and passed his remaining years writing memoirs of their life together . " There are few who in one person combine all that is best in soul , mind , and body , " he wrote . " She had it all , and more . Few there are who are fortunate in having such a woman as the partner of their lives -- I was one of those privileged . "

= = Titles , styles , honours and arms = =

#### Titles and Styles

25 November 1876 ? 9 April 1894 : Her Royal Highness Princess Victoria Melita of Edinburgh , Princess of Saxe @-@ Coburg and Gotha

9 April 1894 ? 21 December 1901 : Her Royal Highness The Grand Duchess of Hesse and by Rhine

21 December 1901 ? 8 October 1905 : Her Royal Highness Princess Victoria Melita of Saxe @-@ Coburg and Gotha

8 October 1905 ? 2 March 1936 : Her Imperial and Royal Highness Grand Duchess Viktoria Feodorovna of Russia

#### Honours

##### National honours

United Kingdom : Companion of the Order of the Imperial Crown of India ( CI )

United Kingdom : Dame of the Royal Order of Victoria and Albert , 1st class ( VA )

United Kingdom : Dame Grand Cross of the Venerable Order of Saint John ( GCStJ )

United Kingdom : Royal Red Cross ( RRC )

Russian Imperial Family : Grand Mistress Dame Grand Cross of the Order of Saint Catherine

##### Foreign honours

##### German Empire

Germany / Prussia : Dame of the Order of Louise

Grand Duchy of Hesse : Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Golden Lion

Grand Duchy of Hesse : Medal of the Order of Philip the Magnanimous

Romania : Dame Grand Cross of the Order of the Crown of Romania

Spain : 1,042nd Dame Grand Cross of the Order of Queen Maria Luisa

= = = British arms = = =

As a male @-@ line grandchild of the British monarch , Victoria Melita bore the royal arms , with an inescutcheon for Saxony , the whole differenced by a label of five points argent , the outer pair bearing hearts gules , the inner pair anchors azure , and the central point a cross gules . In 1917 ,

the inescutcheon was dropped by royal warrant . Her arms from that point on are duplicated in the arms of Princess Alexandra , The Honourable Lady Ogilvy .

= = Ancestry = =