

From ADMIRAL SIR HENRY LEACH, GCB, ADC

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*Dear David*

Over the past week I have received from the most wide-ranging sources a stream of praise and congratulations for the part played by the Royal Navy, and in particular the Bearers, at Lord Mountbatten's funeral. They carried out their most difficult and demanding task in the full glare of publicity with never a falter and never a foot wrong; they made all who saw them (and not least myself) very proud.

Tragic though the circumstances of Lord Mountbatten's death were, I am certain that he too would have been proud of the way in which his own Service carried out the ceremony of a funeral he had planned himself and that the Navy's performance last Wednesday made a real impression upon the Nation.

I should be grateful if you would pass my personal congratulations and thanks on a difficult job extremely well done to those concerned.

*Yours sincerely,*

*Henry Leach*

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Captain S.D.S. Bailey, Royal Navy

From: Captain S.D.S. Bailey, Royal Navy



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PCRS G DYKES  
HMS MERCURY

24 January 1980

*Dear Mr. Dykes.*

I have much pleasure in enclosing a number of photographs of the Ceremonial funeral of Admiral Mountbatten, in which you played so prominent a part. I'm sorry that it has taken so long to get these for you but I hope that they will be a permanent reminder of that great occasion.

As I have told you, I received many congratulations on your own bearing and that of your party, and even now this is still a subject of comment by visitors to HMS MERCURY. You may be very proud of your performance that day, which must have met in full the Admiral's own wishes.

*Z. Lewis.*

*David Fair.*

## MR DYKES MAKES HISTORY

When the ceremonial funeral of the late Lord Mountbatten of Burma took place in London seven months ago, it was the first time ever that a blue-coat bearer party had carried the coffin of a 'royal' into Westminster Abbey. Not only was it an honour for the Royal Navy, but particularly for HMS Mercury, for it was from here that all the ratings were drawn.

Among them was FCPO Godfrey Dykes who, having helped make history, has now written himself into history by writing a book describing the funeral, the preparations for it, and his own feelings and emotions during the events he records. He is probably the first person ever to compile such a valuable account as a participant - and a leading one at that - in a royal funeral.

Hopefully, Mr Dykes' book will be published on the not too distant future and placed on sale at Broadlands, home of the late Earl. All proceeds from the sale of the book will be given to a fund to raise a permanent memorial to Lord Mountbatten, and Mr Dykes will receive nothing - a noble gesture by our author.

Those of us who know Mr Dykes will have heard much from his own lips already, but his written narrative will be a permanent reminder of a magnificent - albeit sad - occasion. Mr Dykes reveals just how much time and effort went into the ceremonial: how frequently early attempts to get sorted out were frustrated, with kitting-up interfering with drill time and again; how he himself had to master-mind every tiny detail of the bearer-party's drill and work out his own orders of command and their exact sequence and timing; how he had three baths in an hour on the morning of the funeral; how the excitement of being in the public eye evaporated instantly when the tv cameras switched off once the Earl's coffin had been placed in the specially-prepared railway carriage, and the keen sense of anti-climax which followed.

When published, Mr Dykes' book will contain some magnificent colour photographs of the funeral procession through London and the service in Westminster Abbey. It will be a unique record of a nation's homage to one of the truly great men of our time - a sailor who was a hero in the Nelson tradition and a legend in his own lifetime. Mr Dykes has produced a book which should have a place on the shelves of all who are connected with HMS Mercury, which Lord Mountbatten knew so well and visited so frequently.

# Following in Lord Louis' footsteps

By DAVID THURLOW

LORD ROMSEY followed in his grandfather's footsteps yesterday by opening Broadlands, the Mountbatten family home at Romsey Hampshire.

And the 32-year-old filmmaker showed he is just as thoughtful as his grandfather, Lord Louis Mountbatten.

Of course there were changes. Lord Romsey had no VIP for the opening of the second season.

Instead he invited the men from HMS Mercury who were the pallbearers at Lord Louis' funeral last September after his murder by the IRA.

"I thought he would have liked to give them the opportunity to come here," said Lord Romsey.

He conducted the first tour round the 15 rooms that are open to the public until the end of September.

Showing just as much flair



LORD ROMSEY  
*thoughtful*

for showmanship as Lord Louis, he posed with 92-year-old grandmother Jane Walsh so her family could photograph them together.

After the tour Lord Romsey said: "Like my grandfather I loved conducting the people around."

Last year nearly 200,000 people visited Broadlands.