

THE UNVEILING OF THE STATUE

of

ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET

THE EARL MOUNTBATTEN OF BURMA

KG, PC, GCB, OM, GCSI, GCIE, GCVO, DSO, FRS

on

FOREIGN OFFICE GREEN

by

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

Wednesday 2nd November 1983



THE EARL MOUNTBATTEN OF BURMA STATUE APPEAL

In July 1981 the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, launched a Public Appeal to raise funds for the erection of a statue to Admiral of the Fleet The Earl Mountbatten of Burma. Mrs Thatcher's co-sponsors were the Rt Hon Michael Foot, the Rt Hon David Steel, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Caspar John, Field Marshal the Lord Harding of Petherton, Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Dermot Boyle, the Lord Trevelyan and the Lord Zuckerman.

The cost of the statue and its Portland stone base has been financed largely by individuals, organisations and Associations who knew Lord Mountbatten personally. Over 4,000 donations were received from the United Kingdom, Commonwealth and world-wide contributors. As a large proportion of these donations were in the form of collective contributions from Companies, Clubs, the Services, Associations and many other public and private organisations and groups, the number of individuals who contributed to the Appeal totalled tens of thousands.

The names of contributors have been recorded in a hand-inscribed book which will be presented to The Countess Mountbatten of Burma today and subsequently kept at Broadlands.

The Trustees of the Appeal, from the Ministry of Defence, were the Rt Hon Michael Heseltine (who succeeded Sir John Nott), Sir Arthur Hockaday, Rear Admiral Sir Leslie Townsend and Mr Ewen Broadbent.

In 1982 a limited competition was held to select the sculptor, for which the Assessors were Admiral of the Fleet the Lord Lewin (Chairman); The Countess Mountbatten of Burma; Lady Pamela Hicks; Mr Alan Bowness, Director of the Tate Gallery; Sir Hugh Casson, President of the Royal Academy of Arts; Sir David Piper, Director of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford; Sir Arthur Hockaday, then Second Permanent Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Defence; and Mr John Kaye, Directing Architect, Department of the Environment. Mr Henry Moore was available for consultation. They chose Mr Franta Belsky, whose nine foot statue will be unveiled by Her Majesty The Queen today.

ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET THE EARL MOUNTBATTEN OF BURMA

KG, PC, GCB, OM, GCSI, GCIE, GCVO, DSO, FRS

Lord Mountbatten was born at Windsor on 25th June 1900. He was the younger son of Prince Louis of Battenburg and Princess Victoria of Hesse, a grand-daughter of Queen Victoria.

He joined the Royal Navy in 1913 and served at sea during World War I. As a young officer he specialised in wireless and invented several devices adopted by the Royal Navy. His book on polo, his main sport, is still an international best-seller. In 1939 he assumed command of HMS KELLY, a ship which was to become a legend. Soon after he joined, the ship was mined off the Tyne. In 1940 she was torpedoed in the North Sea, but Lord Mountbatten brought her home after 92 hours under tow during repeated air attacks. A year later, while still under his command, KELLY went down with guns firing during the Battle of Crete while being attacked by 24 Stuka dive bombers. Less than half her crew survived but the spirit of the ship has been perpetuated through the HMS KELLY Reunion Association which was formed by the survivors.

In 1942 Lord Mountbatten was appointed Chief of Combined Operations as an Acting Vice Admiral, Lieutenant General and Air Marshal. By 1943 he had been appointed Supreme Allied Commander of the new South East Asia Command as the youngest Admiral in the history of the Royal Navy.

After the War he was created Viscount Mountbatten of Burma and a Knight of the Garter, but before he could resume his naval career he was appointed to succeed Lord Wavell as the last Viceroy of India. In 1947 independence was given to India and the new Muslim state of Pakistan, but he was held in such high regard that the Indian government invited him to remain as their first Governor General. He was created Earl Mountbatten of Burma in 1947.

In 1955 he realised his ambition by becoming First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff, an appointment held by his father from 1912 to 1914. This was the first time a father and son had both become professional Head of the Navy: remarkably both were appointed by Winston Churchill. In 1959 he was promoted Admiral of the Fleet and became Chief of the Defence Staff. He ceased active duty in 1965. His many appointments included Colonel of The Life Guards, Colonel Commandant of the Royal Marines, and Governor and Lord Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight. In 1968 he became the first International President of the United World Colleges whose aim is to promote international understanding through education.

In May 1979 he opened his home, Broadlands in Hampshire, to the public just three months before his assassination at Mullaghmore in Ireland on 27th August 1979.

- 10.00 The Band of The Life Guards will play while guests are assembling.
- 10.25 The Guard of Honour provided by HMS EXCELLENT accompanied by the Band of HM Royal Marines, takes up position in the Horse Guards Approach Road.
(Guests are asked to stand and pay the appropriate compliments as The Queen's Colour passes the Green)
- 10.25 All guests to be in position.

Lining Party provided by The Royal Air Force Queen's Colour Squadron marches on. State Trumpeters of The Life Guards and Standard Bearers of Service and Ex-Service Associations take up position.
- 10.35 Members of Foreign Royal Families arrive.
(Guests should stand while members of Foreign Royal Families and The Royal Family are conducted to their seats)
- 10.40 Members of The Royal Family arrive.
- 10.50 His Majesty The King of Norway arrives.
- 10.55 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother arrives. The National Anthem will be played.
(Guests should stand while the National Anthem is played)
- 11.00 Her Majesty The Queen accompanied by His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh arrives. The National Anthem will be played. Her Majesty will be received by the Prime Minister and will inspect The Guard of Honour.
(Guests may be seated while The Queen inspects the Guard of Honour)

Her Majesty will then be received at the entrance to the Ground by Lady Mountbatten, and escorted to the Royal Dais.
- 11.05 The Prime Minister speaks and invites The Queen to unveil the Statue.
- 11.10 The Queen speaks.
- 11.15 The Queen, accompanied by the Prime Minister and Lady Mountbatten, will walk forward to unveil the Statue. A fanfare will be sounded before and after the Unveiling.
(Guests are asked to stand as The Queen approaches the Statue, and remain standing until The Queen has returned to the Dais)

- 11.20 A Book containing the names of donors to the Statue Appeal Fund will be presented to Lady Mountbatten by Mr R Wilkins, Secretary of the HMS KELLY Reunion Association.

Lady Mountbatten will speak.

The Lord Bishop of London will dedicate the Statue.

(Guests are asked to stand for the dedication.)

MOUNTBATTEN PRAYER

In the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we hallow and dedicate this Statue as a memorial to Louis, Earl Mountbatten of Burma. Accept, we beseech thee, this memorial of thy servant, Louis, who by thy grace rendered unto thee true and laudable service; and grant that it may encourage those who come after to honour thee, their Sovereign and Country in like manner to the benefit of thy Church and people; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

- 11.25 The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh, accompanied by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Lady Mountbatten and Lady Pamela Hicks, will leave the Royal Dais. The Prime Minister will take leave of Her Majesty and go to the Banqueting House.

The Secretary of State for Defence, The Rt Hon Michael Heseltine MP will present to The Queen the Trustees of the Statue Appeal and others closely associated with the Statue.

After the presentations The Queen will meet members of the Services and Ex-Service Associations during which incidental music will be played by the Band of HM Royal Marines.

(Guests are asked to stand when the Queen leaves the Dais and remain standing until Her Majesty has reached the standing spectators. Guests may then be seated.)

- 11.35 The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh, accompanied by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Lady Mountbatten and Lady Pamela Hicks will leave from the south-west corner of the Green. Members of The Royal Family, Foreign Royal Families and the Mountbatten Family will view the Statue before leaving by car and coach from Horse Guards Approach Road.

- 11.40 Guests may disperse after The Queen has received the Royal Salute from the Guard of Honour.

- 11.45 The Guard of Honour marches off.

Service units fall out.

End of Ceremony.

PROGRAMME OF MUSIC

DURING THE ASSEMBLY

The Band of The Life Guards under the direction of Major A J Richards, FTCL, LRAM, ARCM, LGSM

The Middy	<i>Alford</i>
Royal Standard	<i>Brigham</i>
The Queensman	<i>Pryce</i>
Silver Trumpets	<i>Vivian</i>
Royal Review	<i>Stuck</i>
Imperial Life Guards	<i>Hall</i>
Knights of The Queen	<i>Ketelby</i>
Royal Windsor	<i>Yessing</i>
The Nelson Touch	<i>Hoed</i>
Milanollo	<i>Hamm</i>

DURING THE CEREMONY

The Band of HM Royal Marines, Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, under the direction of Captain P M Herring, LRAM, ARCM, Royal Marines.

The State Trumpeters of The Life Guards.

MARCH ON THE GUARD OF HONOUR

The Mountbatten March	<i>Dixon</i>
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THE UNVEILING

Fanfare — Slow March	<i>Calaghan</i>
Fanfare — Emblazoned	<i>Richards</i>

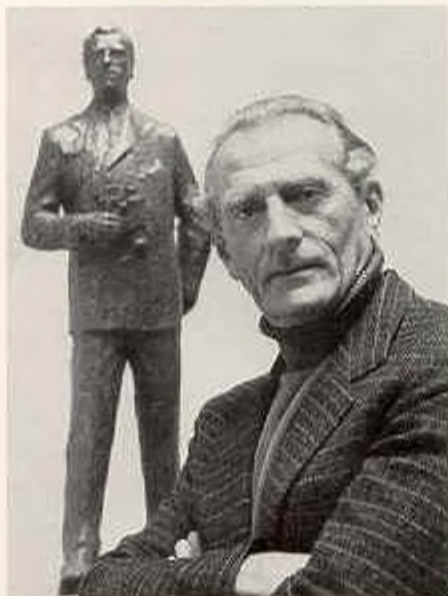
AFTER THE DEDICATION

Preobrajensky	<i>Dowajowsky</i>
Greensleeves	<i>Traditional</i>
Where E'er You Walk	<i>Handel</i>

MARCH OFF THE GUARD

Heart of Oak	<i>Boyer</i>
Life on the Ocean Wave	<i>Russell</i>
Under the White Ensign	<i>Dunn</i>

FRANTA BELSKY, the Sculptor



Born in Czechoslovakia in 1921, Franta Belsky came to England shortly before the Second World War. He served in France in 1940 and was a gunner with various Allied Forces until 1945.

His art education began in the Prague Academy and the Royal College of Art, but he claims 'it is nowhere near completed yet'. He has produced a variety of sculptures, one of the largest being the fountain in the Shell Centre on the South Bank. One of his smallest was the crown coin minted to commemorate Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother's 80th birthday. His portrait sculptures include one of The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh, and another of Admiral Cunningham. Both these are in the National Portrait Gallery, London. According to Franta Belsky, the sculpture which took the most effort to conceive was that of Sir Winston Churchill for the memorial in Fulton, USA. The idea stemmed from a meeting with Sir Winston in 1940 and the sculpture was finished some 30 years later.

Work on the nine foot Statue of Lord Mountbatten began two years ago in Franta Belsky's London studio. He never met Lord Mountbatten, so worked entirely from photographs. He received, however, great help and co-operation from Lord Mountbatten's family and associates. The idea for the design of the base was developed at the same time.

The Statue was cast this summer in the Meridian Bronze Foundry in Peckham by Jack Crofton and his team who have cast all Franta Belsky's bronzes. The stepped stone pyramid which forms the base of the statue was designed by Charles Pollard, and the Contractors were Sir Robert McAlpine and Sons Ltd.