

MOUNTBATTEN TAKES OVER (First pictures)

There was a salute of thirty one guns when Viscount Mountbatten arrived at Palam Airport. It was the beginning of the final chapter of British rule in India. Eighty nine years have passed since the exalted office of Viceroy was instituted. Lord Mountbatten will be the last holder of the title. To Pandit Nehru and his colleagues in the Government of India the new Viceroy will hand over fourteen months from now. Men of the Fourteenth Punjab Regiment and of the British and Indian Air Forces formed the guard mounted in honour of the Viceroy. Among them were men who fought under him in the South East Asia Command -

~~from the ceremony in the museum~~

To Viceroy House Lord and Lady Mountbatten proceeded from ~~the airport to report to the Viceroy, now paying down the seals of office,~~ the airport.

Here the Viceroy Designate entered the state carriage ^{7 drive} ~~to be driven~~ to Durbar Hall, to be officially received by the retiring office holder, Lord Wavell. Viscount Mountbatten is twentieth in the line of the illustrious men who in India have represented the Crown. ~~His task may prove to be hardest of all.~~ He goes to ^{Delhi} ~~India~~ to reconcile, if it is humanly possible, the acute differences between Hindu and Muslim, which stand in the way of the ~~peaceful government of India.~~

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peaceful government of India. Lord Wavell retires because ^{it is believed} he ~~can~~ not see eye to eye with the home government over the early transfer of power to the Indians. He and Lady Wavell stood at the entrance of Durbar Hall to receive their successors. Upon the still youthful shoulders of the new Viceroy now rests one of the greatest responsibilities of the whole political world, the pacific transfer of authority into the hands of India. If he succeeds, future generations will bless the name of Viscount Mountbatten.