

MOUNTBATTEN—GOOD CHOICE FOR SHORT-TERM VICEROY

Queen Victoria's Great-Grandson Will Wind Up British Raj

LONDON, Mar. 22.—"Dickie" Mountbatten has turned a family misfortune to glorious gain: His father, Prince Louis of Battenberg was English in everything save birth and title, and he gave a peerless devotion to the British Navy. In 1911 Winston Churchill, as First Lord of the Admiralty, made him First Sea Lord, writes J. R. Glorney Bolton, in the News Chronicle in the mail week. From the service point of view it was a fine choice. "If you are against Battenberg in the manoeuvres," it used to be said, "you can count on being beaten." But when war began the outcry against a First Sea Lord with a German origin was too strong. With a heavy heart Churchill told him that he would have to go.

He should have been allowed to exchange his German for a British title years beforehand. None of his Naval colleagues was really happy until he had been made an Admiral of the Fleet.

To his second son he transmitted his good looks, quick brain, capacity for intensive hard work and brilliant imagination. To all these gifts was added the determination to vindicate his father.

That determination has made Mountbatten the man he is. It could have been fatally easy to remain the clever and playful amateur, who had edited the Ships' magazine, managed the Ships' cinema, explained the marvels of radio to the lower deck and spoken with gusto at the Cambridge Union.

CHARMING PLAY BOY

Some who watched him playing polo many years ago as he toured through India and Burma with the Prince of Wales looked on him as a charming playboy. But the rugged seriousness within him demanded an outlet. If Mountbatten played polo, he also wrote a little classic on the game.

So the playboy of one decade returned to Burma as the fighting chief of another. He brought with him a great reputation as a naval commander and as the bold commando-leader. The man who had made his father First Sea Lord was never to regret the confidence he had shown in the cold courage and daring of a very much younger friend.

Mountbatten has just those gifts of fact, temperament and drive which may resolve the Indian impasse. He delighted Jawaharlal Nehru with his boyishness

and informality when they met in Singapore. He may be mercurial enough to thaw even the icy relations between Nehru and Jinnah.

The tragic Wavell is a deeper man but Mountbatten is a good choice for a short-term Viceroy.

Just seventy years ago Queen Victoria was acclaimed in Delhi as Empress of India. Now, it seems, the most versatile of her great-grandsons is going back to India to wind up the raj. The spirit of irony seldom leaves Anglo-Indian relations alone.

MOUNTBATTEN ARRIVES IN NEW DELHI

RECEPTION AT PALAM AIRFIELD

NEW DELHI, Saturday—Viscount Mountbatten, Viceroy-designate of India, accompanied by Lady Mountbatten and their daughter Pamela, arrived at the Palam airfield, at 3-20 p.m. by the R.A.F. Transport Command York plane.

Also in the party were Captain Arthur Robert Brockman (Royal Navy), Personal Secretary to Lord Mountbatten, and Lieut-Commander P. N. Howes, Naval A.D.C. and three members of his personal staff.

The Viceroy-designate and Lady Mountbatten were received at the airfield by representatives of Lord Wavell and by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, Field-Marshal Auchinleck, the Political Adviser to the Crown Representative, the High Commissioner for the U.K., the President of the Council of State, the President of the Legislative Assembly, the Commander-in-Chief, Royal Indian Navy, the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, the Chief Commissioner of Delhi, and others.

Earlier in the day Lord Louis Mountbatten landed at the Mauripur airport, Karachi at 10-30 a.m. (IST).

staged a "Kelly" reunion in miniature when he made it a point of seeing the only Maltese survivor, Micallef, aboard his famous destroyer "Kelly" which was sunk off Crete in May 1941.

Micallef, wounded and burnt in the battle was with Lord Mountbatten in the sea 11 hours before rescue.—Reuter.



MOUNTBATTEN ARRIVES IN NEW DELHI

The Viceroy-designate, Viscount Mountbatten, and Viscountess Mountbatten landed at Palam Aerodrome, New Delhi, at 3-20 p.m. on Saturday. They were received by Pandit Nehru, Mr Liaquat Ali Khan and the Commander-in-Chief, Sir Claude Auchinleck.

Lord Louis Mountbatten and party landed at Mauripur aerodrome, Karachi, at 10-30 a.m. on Saturday.

General Lord Ismay and Sir Eric Mieville, senior members of the staff of the Viceroy-designate Lord Mountbatten, also arrived in Karachi in the morning.

They travelled in a special York and had a pleasant journey. Nine other members of the advance party of Lord Mountbatten also travelled with them.

The party, which also included Hon. Pamela Mountbatten, Capt. R. E. Brockman, Lieut. Commander P. N. Howes and Miss Ward, Secretary to Viscountess Mountbatten, had a very pleasant and comfortable journey and they looked cheerful.

After some rest, the party took off at 12-10 p.m. for New Delhi. "I like the warm weather," remarked Lady Mountbatten in an interview. She continued: "We have affection and continued: "We have affection and admiration for India, and have happy recollections of our association with the country. We have already valuable contacts with India. Our task is an onerous one but, as you know, there are difficult conditions all over the world and we hope that we will overcome the difficulties in India and succeed in our task."—A.P.I.