

Malta: Lord Louis' Farewell

14th Dec. 54

Malta: After nearly three years as C-in-C, Mediterranean Fleet, Admiral Earl Mountbatten takes leave of George Cross Island and the many friends and officials who had come to see him off. And Lady Mountbatten joins shares this day of parting.

On the quayside - a final farewell, as the Admiral says good-bye to the Governor of Malta - Major General Sir Robert Laycock. Then, into the galley - for the traditional Naval ceremony of "Rowing Out!"

~~in the galley~~ ^{the oars were manned by} Six Admirals of the N.A.T.O. Allied Command (representing ~~BRITAIN - AMERICA - FRANCE - GREECE - ITALY AND TURKEY~~) ^{BRITAIN - AMERICA - FRANCE - GREECE - ITALY AND TURKEY} ~~six different countries~~ are manning the oars - rowing the C.-in-C out to the frigate - H.M.S. Surprise.

Alongside ~~the~~ Surprise, Lord ~~Mountbatten~~ ^{MOUNTBATTEN} goes aboard his flagship for the journey to Catania: then to fly overland to SHAPE Headquarters, in Paris, for further ceremony. ESCORTED BY A FLOTILLA OF LITTLE SHIPS -

~~then~~ - with the C-in-C taking the Salute on the Bridge - ~~the~~ Surprise sails out to sea - ~~escorted by a flotilla of little ships~~

And from shore establishments around the harbour - the cheers of men of the Mediterranean Command ring out....in farewell.

Outside the Grand Harbour - units of the Mediterranean Fleet take up the Salute, ~~Surprise, Conquest, and Independence~~ all sailing past the Surprise - in farewell tribute to a much-loved "CHIEF!" "CHIEF!"

Over now to SHAPE Headquarters - where General Gruenther, Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, presents a Certificate of Honour to Lord Mountbatten - the reward for outstanding service to Western Defence.

After the ceremony, Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery showed his colleagues at SHAPE, the "rowing-out" picture at Malta - when Lord ~~Mountbatten~~ ^{Mountbatten} started the journey home - to become Britain's First Sea Lord.

Finally, the arrival at London Airport. After long years of brilliant service overseas, that began during World War Two, the C.-in-C.

(accompanied by his wife and daughter) are welcomed home.

And it is typical of the man that, when questioned about his great work, and the "rowing-out" ceremony - he should reply: SOUND.