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LEN HUTTON RETIRES.

Len Hutton, the man who has done more for English cricket than anyone since Jack Hobbs, is retiring. At Pudsey, his Yorkshire birthplace, with his wife, Len tells us how he feels:

You have earned that kindness, Len Hutton. Of all the great achievements of your career, we remember most vividly that golden day in 1953 at the Oval, when England under your leadership won back the Ashes for the first time in 20 years.

When Denis Compton made the winning hit, it was your steady work, your brilliant captaincy, that had brought us where we were. As the crowd went mad with delight, they all knew that on this day English cricket has been reborn - and that they had Len Hutton to thank.

You were England's first professional captain since the early days of cricket; you captained 23 Tests, more than any other Englishman; your wartime injuries would have ended a lesser man's career, but you battled on. Good luck to you, Len Hutton - a happy retirement - and all our thanks.