

TO BE CHECKED AGAINST DELIVERY

UNVEILING OF THE STATUE OF

LORD TRENCHARD

JULY 19TH 1961

THE PRIME MINISTER'S ADDRESS

*200M* [ It was my privilege to move the resolution in the House of Commons praying that The Queen would direct that a monument be erected to the memory of Marshal of the Royal Air Force the Viscount Trenchard.

Her Majesty gladly gave Her assent to this proposal to do honour (to use Her own words) "to the memory of that great man to whom the Royal Air Force and the country owe so much". ] -

It is only right to pay tribute to the work which has been done by the Memorial Committee, first under the chairmanship of Lord Templewood and then under the guidance of Lord de L'Isle.

The Committee was small; Lord Trenchard would have liked that. He would also have liked that the Committee should include Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Dermot Boyle, one of Lord Trenchard's great successors in the office of the Chief of the Air Staff. The other member of the Committee was Sir Albert Richardson. Sir Albert not only generously provided the expert advice. He also gave his services as the architect of the Memorial.

*12* [ The sculptor is a most distinguished artist. He has given us a worthy monument to a great man. For Lord Trenchard was a great man; great in stature; great in spirit; great in courage; and great in achievement. His was indeed an extraordinary and remarkable career. ]

In the last decade of the 19th century he joined the Royal Scots Fusiliers, and served in India. The South African War brought him into action. He fought in all kinds of irregular forces; the Imperial Yeomanry; the Australian Bushmen Corps;

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and the Candian Scouts. He was severely wounded but in a few months was back again - this time with the Mounted Infantry.

He went on to serve in the West African Frontier Force. He led a series of expeditions in Southern Nigeria with great distinction. He was twice mentioned in despatches and was given the D.S.O. He rose to the command of the Southern Nigeria Regiment.

For many a lesser man this might have been the end of an honourable Service career. But then came the formation of the Royal Flying Corps. The story of how Trenchard drove his way through the Central Flying School and into the air is well known. By 1915 he was in command of the Royal Flying Corps in France.

The race for superiority in the air was just beginning. Both sides were producing faster and better aircraft one after another. Trenchard knew that success depended on the continuing high morale of the pilots. He fostered an aggressive spirit in his pilots - a spirit which was the strength of the Royal Air Force in the last war and which is alive today. It was one of his greatest services to the Air Force.

In 1918 he was recalled from the Western Front to be the first chief of the newly created Air Staff.

To no one man are we so indebted for all that the Royal Air Force has done for this country in the past and for all that it does today as we are to him.

He established the standards which those who came after him have maintained. He inspired the new Air Force with faith in its own future as a great Service. He moulded it on lines which have stood the test of time and technical advance.

In his Memorandum of 1919 he set out his proposals for a permanent organisation for the Force. It was presented to the House of Commons by Sir Winston Churchill who then, happily, was the Secretary of State for Air. To a large extent it determined the structure of the Royal Air Force to the present day.

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In everything Trenchard's concern was with quality. This characteristic of the man was reflected in the Royal Air Force College at Cranwell and the Apprentice School at Halton.

Later his astonishing career took yet another turn; he became Commissioner of Police; and the same motive brought into being the famous Police College at Hendon. He went on from the Police to take an honourable place in the industry of the country for which he had already done so much. And through it all, right up to the time of his death, he took an active interest in such a vast body of voluntary associations that I could not attempt to mention them.

There are many here today who knew Boom Trenchard. They will all have their own memories of him which they will treasure. Most of all, perhaps, will they like to remember his simplicity, his piety, his goodness - as well as his greatness. For all the British people, now and in the future, the monument which I am about to unveil will provide a lasting memorial to one of the outstanding men of our time.

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