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MOUNTBATTEN LEAVES MALTA.

2548  
14/12/54.

As he prepared to leave Malta at the end of a term of service, Admiral Earl Mountbatten --- with Lady Mountbatten --- ~~left~~ said good-bye to officials and friends; ~~in Malta as he prepared to leave at the end of a term of service;~~ <sup>It was</sup> the completion of his duties as Commander-in-Chief of the NATO Naval forces in the Mediterranean.

And --- good-bye to Major General Sir Robert Laycock, Malta's Governor. Admiral Mountbatten was coming back to London for a period of leave, before taking up his new appointment at the Admiralty, as First Sea Lord. According to custom, the ~~Sixth~~ C.-in-C. Mediterranean Fleet is rowed away from the island-headquarters in a galley; and as this was a command under NATO --- the rowing crew was composed of Admirals of the navies of Great Britain, the United ~~Sixth~~ States, France, Greece, Turkey and Italy. They rowed their departing C.-in-C. out to the waiting frigate --- which was escorted on the first part of its voyage by little ships ~~--- the~~.

On the way home to Britain, Admiral Mountbatten went to the "Shape" headquarters in Paris --- to receive from General Gruenther a scroll commemorating his services. It was an informal and lighthearted ceremony --- at which good wishes were also offered by Deputy Supreme Commander Lord Montgomery.

And so --- home to London Airport..... where Earl and Countess Mountbatten --- and their daughter --- were greeted by a formidable army of representatives of Newsreels and the Press. Chief topic of discussion was that picturesque departure from George Cross Island; of which the Admiral gave a most modest account.