

20/3/56.

Admiral Earl Mountbatten, the First Sea Lord, and Countess Mountbatten were cheered by a large crowd and ~~enthusiastically~~ welcomed by the Prime Minister, Mr Nehru, ~~when they arrived by air~~ at the start of a week's visit to India. There were greetings also and garlands ~~for~~ from friends who remembered the Admiral, as the last Viceroy of the old India and the first Governor-General of the new.

One of the first duties performed by the visitors was a visit to the Memorial to Mahatma Gandhi; where they laid wreaths in tribute to the man who was revered as a saint in his lifetime, and whose funeral drew crowds of many millions. It will be recalled that Earl Mountbatten had attended that funeral, during his period of office.

For this return visit to the Memorial, Earl Mountbatten had removed his shoes, in accordance with custom.

Whilst in New Delhi, a call was made on the President at what had formerly been the Viceroy's official home, Viceregal Lodge. At night, there were special celebrations in honour of the visitors from Britain --- and many exchanges of gifts, and tokens of friendship.