

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY COUNCIL

CELEBRATION

TO MARK THE APPOINTMENT of

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR
OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT**

**Admiral of the Fleet
The Earl Mountbatten of Burma**

K.G. P.C.

AS

**LORD LIEUTENANT
OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT**

Carisbrooke Castle
Wednesday 12 June 1974

SOUVENIR PROGRAMME

Price IOP

THE OFFICE OF GOVERNOR OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT

This office is of great antiquity and its evolution may be said to reflect the passing history not only of the Island but of the nation as a whole. The origins of the office go back to feudal hereditary Lordships created after the Conquest, which by the late 15th century had become a Lordship of the Island in the gift of the Crown. Edward, Earl of Chester, afterwards King Edward III (1327-1377) was one such holder and the office has continued in the appointment of the Crown to this day. For some 160 years from the early 16th century until the time of Charles II, the office was styled "Captain of the Island" and this Tudor and Stuart period contained some of the most turbulent times known to our predecessors, notably the events of the Civil War and the imprisonment of King Charles I in the very castle which provides the backcloth to today's events.

In 1669 the Patent marking the appointment was for the first time entitled "Governor and Captain" and so it has remained.

Within living memory, the office has returned to the Royal Family, for in 1889 HRH Prince Henry of Battenberg was appointed Governor, and after his untimely death in the Ashanti Expedition in 1896, his widow, HRH Princess Beatrice, youngest daughter of Queen Victoria, succeeded him until her own death in 1944.

The Royal Family connection was then broken while the Duke of Wellington held the office until 26 July, 1965, when HM The Queen came to Carisbrooke Castle and installed Admiral of the Fleet the Earl Mountbatten of Burma in an historic ceremony as Governor, an office, which to the Island's great pleasure, he continues to hold. His Excellency's connection with the Island and his contribution to the history of our time need no elaboration in this short note.

THE OFFICE OF LORD LIEUTENANT

This office, although of more recent origin than the Governorship, has none the less been part of the English constitution for some hundreds of years and stems from the need for the nation to raise troops in times of peril.

Before World Wars accustomed us to general conscription it had long been the practice of the Crown to raise militia county by county and by the 16th century "Commissions of Array" had given way to "Commissions of Lieutenancy" requiring experienced persons to put those capable of service into military order. The Lord Lieutenant therefore remains essentially a military officer, although modern usage has made us accustomed to recognition of the Lieutenancy as the direct and personal representative of the Crown within a County in all matters touching the life of the community.

The significance in our programme today of a Guard of Honour and Band of the Royal Marines, Trumpeters and Non-Commissioned Officers of the Life Guards, reflects not only the military side of the Lieutenancy but the fact that His Excellency the Governor is the Life Colonel Commandant of the Royal Marines and the Colonel of the Life Guards. He will be wearing Royal Marines full dress uniform for this occasion.

Some explanation must follow as to why the Isle of Wight has had to wait until 1974 for a direct appointment to an office of such antiquity. The fact is that, although the Island has been an Administrative County since the local government reforms of the late 19th century, it has not hitherto had full County status. This full status stems from the Domesday Book compiled after the Conquest wherein the Island is included in the County of Hampshire and accordingly the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire has in the past included the Island within his Lieutenancy.

This has been changed by the Local Government Act 1972 by which, from 1 April 1974, the old distinction has been abolished and the Isle of Wight has become in law a County entitled to the office of Lord Lieutenant (and indeed of High Sheriff) hitherto denied to it.

Thus, by Her Majesty's pleasure, His Excellency is enabled to add to his ancient office of Governor the appointment of Lord Lieutenant and so in these dual posts the Island's historical and legal roles are recognized for the future.

Our celebration today commemorates this appointment and the successful fight for independent status which has made it possible.

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

From 1.15 p.m. Music will be provided by the Bembridge Young Community Concert Band.

By 2.00 p.m. All Guests should please be in their places.

2.05 p.m. A Guard of Honour provided by 40 Commando, the Royal Marines, with the Queen's Colour of the Commando, under the command of Captain J. C. R. B. Lee, RM, enters the arena accompanied by the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines, Flag Officer Naval Air Command.

2.15 p.m. A helicopter may be seen and heard bearing Admiral of the Fleet The Earl Mountbatten of Burma, KG, PC and his party. In attendance will be His Excellency's Private Secretary, Mr. John Barratt, and the ADCs, Major Alastair Donald, the Royal Marines, and Captain Anthony Goodhew, the Life Guards. Accompanying Lord Mountbatten will be his younger daughter, the Lady Pamela Hicks, her husband, Mr David Hicks, and their son, Ashley Hicks.

2.25 p.m. As His Excellency drives into the Castle, Trumpeters of the Life Guards will sound a fanfare from the Keep and the Governor's and Lord Lieutenant's Standard will be broken above the Keep of the Castle. His Excellency will be greeted at the Castle by the Vice- Lieutenant, Sir John Nicholson, Bt, KBE, CIE, the High Sheriff, Lt Colonel C. R. H. Kindersley, DSO, MC, DL, the Chairman of the County Council, Mr Walter G. Gray, and the Mayor of Medina, Councillor G. H. King. Representatives of the Department of the Environment and Custodial Staff responsible for the Castle will be presented to His Excellency.

2.30 p.m. As His Excellency and party, preceded by Non-Commissioned Officers of the Life Guards, enter the arena Trumpeters of the Life Guards will sound a fanfare from the battlements. His Excellency will be received by a Royal Salute from the Guard of Honour.

Spectators are requested to stand for the National Anthem

His Excellency will inspect the Guard of Honour and Band and on completion will take his place on the dais for the march past.

2.40 p.m. The Deputy Lieutenants for the Island will be presented and the Chairman of the County Council will make further presentations to His Excellency.

2.45 p.m. The Letters Patent appointing His Excellency to the office of Lord Lieutenant will be read by the Clerk to the Lieutenancy. The Chairman of the County Council will address His Excellency in welcome, to which His Excellency The Governor and Lord Lieutenant will respond.

2.50 p.m. The following programme of activities will be presented in the arena—

- (a) Demonstration of Tchouk ball and Volley ball by Island High School Children.
- (b) Island Dancers.
- (c) A demonstration by the Hampshire Constabulary dog section.
- (d) A performance by the 1st Newport (Old Guard) Scout Band.
- (e) Tent erecting competition by Isle of Wight Youth Service.
- (f) Gymnastics by Island High School girls.

3.50 p.m. A display by the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines, Flag Officer, Naval Air Command, under the direction of Lieutenant C. J. Taylor, LRAM, ARCM, LGSM, RM.

Music for Band Display—

March On - Imperial Echoes - Safroni

Slow March – Preobrajensky - Donajowsky

Quick March - Semper Fidelis - Sousa

Drum Beatings

Quick March - Mountbatten March - Dunn

Finale - Trumpets Wild - Walters

March Off - Regimental March of HM Royal Marines - Russell

A Life on the Ocean Wave

4.10 p.m. The Guard of Honour re-enters the arena and forms up with the Band for the Royal Salute and the departure of His Excellency the Governor and Lord Lieutenant and party.

4.15 p.m. Guard of Honour and Band leave the arena.

Guests are requested to remain in their places until the conclusion of the proceedings.

40 Commando Royal Marines

The first Royal Marines Commando was formed in February, 1942 and later that year, after training in Scotland, moved to the Isle of Wight, where they were billeted at Sandown, Shanklin and Ventnor. In August they saw their first action in the raid on Dieppe and in the following year, designated 40 RM Commando, they moved to the Mediterranean and fought in Sicily, Italy and Yugoslavia.

After the war 40 Commando RM joined the 3rd Commando Brigade in Hong Kong and since then have seen active service in Palestine, Malaya, Cyprus, Port Said, Borneo and more recently in Northern Ireland. The Commando is at present stationed at Plymouth.

The Queen's Colour, paraded by today's Guard of Honour, was presented to the unit by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, the Captain General Royal Marines, in Malta in 1952.

The Band of HM Royal Marines

Flag Officer Naval Air Command

The Royal Marines band at today's ceremony is based at HMS Daedalus, Lee-on-Solent, from where they carry out musical duties for the Fleet Air Arm all over the country.

All members of the band have been trained at the Royal Marines School of Music at Deal and are capable of performing, not only as a ceremonial band, but also as a concert military band, orchestra, dance orchestra or smaller musical ensembles.

Acknowledgments

The Isle of Wight County Council wish to thank very many people, departments and organisations for unstinting voluntary effort in making today's celebration possible, but particularly wishes to place on record its indebtedness to the Ministry of Defence for making available the Guard of Honour, Band and Trumpeters, and to the Department of the Environment (Ancient Monuments Division) for making available Carisbrooke Castle and its grounds for the ceremony.

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