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## A message from the President

The Main speaker meeting of the term was the annual Mountbatten Commemorative Lecture given by Mr Jack Darrah of Bletchley Park. This was a highly informative retelling of the events surrounding the state funeral of Sir Winston Churchill. Next Dr John Dawson's talk provided us with an interesting preview of the planned online database of Cambridge alumni. Mr Roy Tricker's infectious enthusiasm for old churches was evident to all at his talk on 'Churches and Monuments'. We concluded a busy term with a scholarly discussion on the 'Heraldry of the Bohun family' given by Mr Nicholas Rogers, a former President of the Society and the present Hon Archivist and Librarian

This term we also had one of our social events. This was a trip to Gray's Inn kindly arranged by Barbara Megson. After an excellent dinner in the Inn's Great Hall (which features the famous Armada Screen). We were treated to a short talk on the Inn's Heraldry by Master Sparrow and then a tour of the Inn's fascinating Collection of Silver. Not the best of the four Inns of Court we were told, but still very interesting. The day was rounded off with tea at the Old Bailey with the Lay Sheriff of London Mr Martin Clarke, a former Master of the Merchant Taylor's Company.

Finally I feel some remarks on the society's future are necessary. Midway through the term we were told that it was a requirement that societies registered under the University's name should have a majority of members in statu pupillari on the Executive Committee. At this time we did not fulfill those requirements but fortunately on learning what might happen to the society a number of junior members offered their assistance. As our new Secretary we have Mr Tristan Feunteun of Emmanuel College and as our new Junior Treasurer Mr Thomas West of Trinity College. Mr Daniel Coughlan also of Trinity and Mr Stuart Basten of Selwyn College now both serve on the executive committee. I personally would like to extend my thanks both to all of them and also to the long serving committee members who kindly agreed to step down.

It only remains for me to wish you all a very happy Easter.

*Simon J. G. Burton*

## THE STATE FUNERAL OF SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL

By Jack Darrah  
Volunteer at Bletchley Park

*The following article is based on the author's Mountbatten Lecture  
delivered to the Society on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2003.*

### Introduction

Churchill once said "*Keep the words simple they are best, but the old words are best of all*" - I'll try to take his advice. Like many I feel Churchill's place in history is secure and I hope our Darrah/Harwood (Harwood being my daughter's family name) Collection, displayed at Bletchley Park over the past decade, may also contribute to his memory — even in a comparatively small way.

I don't wish to stray from Churchill's Funeral — but simply to focus on aspects as seen through the eyes of some whom I have met and who participated in this historical event. We have been privileged to have had visits from a number of the Churchill Family (5 generations no less!)

In a tribute to Sir Winston Leonard Spencer, Carolyn Patterson wrote in the August 1965 issue of the *National Geographic Society Magazine* under the heading "The Final Tribute":-

**"They called it a Funeral —**  
but it was also in truth a triumph:  
a spectacle of a nation not in grief  
but standing in proud salute to the memory of a man.

**They called it a Funeral —**  
And Kings, and Queens, Princes,  
Prime Ministers and Presidents came to pay their respects beneath the  
Dome of a noble Cathedral.

**They called it a Funeral —**  
But few dramas have ever unfolded with such perfection.  
Men marched with dignity,  
Bands played majestic themes,  
guns boomed 90 times for 90 years of his life,  
flags bowed and Big Ben was silent.

He lived at Chartwell (which he bought in 1922) and some time before his death he opened a File which contained his own proposals for his Funeral and which in his own inimitable way he titled "OPERATION HOPE NOT". The proposals made it clear that he wanted a "Soldier's Funeral". Plenty of military bands, lots of colour — particularly in uniforms — the sound of cannon — nothing drab or colourless here — it was to be anything but a dull affair.

He subsequently invited a young Cavalry Officer (I believe he may have been on duty at Sandhurst [R.M.A.]) over to Chartwell to talk over his proposals. But the young Officer brought with him a file of official proposals (which unknown to Churchill were already drawn up). This surprised Winston very much, particularly when he noted the file was in fact "The War Book" a procedure laid down by officialdom. Having heard these 'official' proposals, he went silent for a moment or two, then said he wanted to alter one thing.

"...you have the gun carriage leaving St Paul's, pulled by men of the Royal Navy, and taking it to Paddington Station."

The Officer replied "... Yes Sir — because your wish is that eventually you'll be buried with your parents and brother at Bladon. The railway station to get you to Bladon is Paddington."

..... "I want to go from Waterloo."

"...BUT that is very difficult Sir."

Here Churchill quietly pointed out that to the best of his knowledge there was a small Junction at Reading which would do the job. He reasoned "*that if he pre-deceased Charles de Gaulle he wished de Gaulle to go to Waterloo, but - if de Gaulle pre-deceased him then officialdom could revert to the original route.*"

Incidentally in putting "OPERATION HOPE NOT" together, he was in fact simply dictating his request for, inter alia, the Hymns etc he wished to be sung e.g. The Battle Hymn of the Republic which I feel acknowledged his Mother's American nationality.

May I add that whilst he had prepared a file — he did not plan the actual ceremony of the Funeral in detail. The overall responsibility for this was placed in the hands of the Earl Marshal of England, The Duke of Norfolk

By earlier accounts Churchill had no fear of death. He died in his 91st year. On his 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday (30<sup>th</sup> November 1949) he was quoted as saying — "... *I'm ready to meet my Maker. Whether my Maker is prepared for the great ordeal of meeting me is another matter.*"

[When writing of her father's twilight years, Mary Soames recalled lines by Walter S Landor which she felt were appropriate to him:-

*"I warmed both hands before the fire of life --  
It sinks and I am ready to depart." ]*

In another context his Secretary once commented: "Sir Winston's religious views are not a great deal of help. He always said that he was a *buttress* of the Church rather than a *pillar* as he supported the Church from the outside."

Knowing her Father was now a very old man, but nevertheless could still respond, Mary his youngest daughter wrote him a letter which is reproduced here.

*I wish I could express more adequately my love and gratitude -- but please believe me they are real and deep; and in addition to all the feelings a daughter has for a loving generous father, I owe you what every Englishman, woman and child does -- Liberty itself.*

*With love and gratitude from your*

*Mary*

Churchill had suffered a number of strokes and, in her Book "Clementine", Mary Soames states that the last words he spoke were "I'm bored with it all." His mind largely became dormant, he became unable to read or talk.

His remarks about meeting his Maker were put to the test after he had his final stroke early in 1965. For days he lay in a coma without moving. Advised by his physician, Lord Moran, that the end was near the family had gathered round his bed at his London home, 28, Hyde Park Gate. Then shortly after 8.00 a.m. on the morning of 24 January 1965, he died. After giving his last gasp — his cat "Jock" of whom Churchill was very fond reputedly jumped on to the bed, walked up to his Master's face, turned away — and left the room.

[Turning back the clock to 1947, 18 years prior to his death, — a rather intriguing little item (which is on record) he had said to his Private Secretary, Jock Colville, "... I shall die on the same day of the same month as my Father." Lord Randolph died on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 1895; Sir Winston died on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 1965. Exactly 70 years between - one is tempted to think that the coincidence was almost predestined.]

#### The news of his passing

At 8.55 am on 24<sup>th</sup> January 1965, Mr Harold Wilson, Prime Minister, (and with the Lady Mary Soames, Sarah Churchill looking on (and accompanied by their

niece and nephew Celia Sandys and young Winston Churchill) announced to the House that he had received an instruction from H.M. the Queen, signed by Her own hand, and which he handed to the Speaker of the House. The text from Hansard is reproduced here.

I know that it will be the wish of all my people that the loss, which we have sustained by the death of the Right Honourable Sir Winston Churchill, K.G., should be met in the most fitting manner and that they should have an opportunity of expressing their sorrow at the loss and their veneration of the memory of that outstanding man who in war and peace served his country unfailingly for more than fifty years and in the hours of our greatest danger was the inspiring leader who strengthened and supported us all. Confident that I can rely upon the support of my faithful Commons and upon their liberality in making suitable provision for the proper discharge of our debt of gratitude and tribute of national sorrow, I have directed that Sir Winston's body shall lie in state in Westminster Hall and that thereafter the Funeral Service shall be held in the Cathedral Church of St. Paul.

ELIZABETH REGINA

The Queen also sent a message to Lady Churchill, as did the Queen Mother and other members of the Royal family.

Whilst the Leaders of various Parliamentary Parties paid individual tributes to Sir Winston — one back-bencher referred to him as: " the man who loved democratic freedom, who revered our Parliamentary procedure and, who, in the judgement of all, was the greatest Member Parliament had ever known in all its 600 years." The House adjourned at 17 minutes past 3 o'clock

The news of Sir Winston Churchill's Death went out across the World. For the Commonwealth, Sir Robert Menzies, Prime Minister of Australia, spoke with great regard to Lady Churchill and sent heartfelt condolences - "... Could I today send her your love and mine - we share her sorrow - but I know she would wish us to share those rich remembrances."

The Duke of Norfolk's mighty task of carrying out the Queen's instruction had begun. Six days later, on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 1965, Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill's body would be carried through the streets of London — all arrangements lay on the shoulders of the Earl Marshal — The Duke of Norfolk

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One of the first people to become involved in the arrangements was a young Ensign of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Grenadier Guards - Lt Anthony Mather. I have

known Anthony for some time — [he finished his service as Lt Colonel A.C. McC. Mather, C.V.O., O.B.E., attached to the staff at Kensington Palace].

Some 2 years ago at my invitation, he and his wife visited the Churchill Room at Bletchley. Over lunch we had a lengthy discussion about his involvement. It would take too long this evening to do justice to the detail he gave me. However, for the purpose of the Lecture I wrote him requesting more information which he kindly provided. I am most grateful to him for his written recollections which appear in Appendix I of this article.

On Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> January, things began to fall into place. At 9.00 am the undertaker (Kenyon ?) called at 28, Hyde Park Gate, (Churchill's London Home) and took his coffin to Westminster Hall. It was then ceremoniously carried by a Bearer Party from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Grenadier Guards into Westminster Hall and placed gently on the prepared catafalque. In the Hall awaiting the coffin were members of the Churchill Family, the Duke of Norfolk and the Archbishop of Canterbury who conducted a short private Family Service of Prayer:

*"Almighty Father, we thank Thee for the gift to the World of Winston Churchill and for all that he did for our Country and many others."*

This short duty at Westminster Hall gave the Bearer party a foretaste of what was ahead of them at the weekend.

The Bearer party was made up of 10 Grenadiers, 8 Guardsmen who actually carried the coffin, 1 senior non commissioned officer who led the party (C.S.M. Williams) all under the command of a commissioned officer (Licut Mather). Each man was over 6'2" in height and had been hand picked by the R.S.M. There were four "extras" — two to help support the coffin when being carried up — and down — the steps at St Paul's, and two whose task was to collect and re-distribute the Bearskins when removed by the men. [The Grenadiers have, by tradition, the right and privilege of providing the Bearer party on the death of the sovereign.]

One of the Bearer party whose name escapes me but I remember him from press photographs (his name must be in our Visitor's Book) called in to the Churchill Room. I recall he told me how proud his Father and Mother had been (I think they had every reason to be) and had been "glued to the Telly". He said he was concentrating so hard at all times that he didn't notice the crowds on the street. He also said his hands were frozen, and on going up and down those steep steps at St Paul's he kept repeating to himself "Oh God — don't let the coffin slip — please don't let it happen." This I think, to a limited extent, reflects the strain (balanced by pride) that these men were under. The physical toll of carrying a lead lined coffin weighing some 8 cwt was not inconsiderable to say the least.

Rehearsals for the Funeral ceremony, for all involved in the actual procession,



were many — some paraded in the early hours of the morning when things were quieter in the City and greater privacy was afforded. For the Grenadiers rehearsals, a coffin was (according to Anthony) loaded with scrap metal to an equivalent weight. Some accounts say sand was used: I think I'll take Anthony's first hand account!

#### **Westminster Hall: Lying-in-State**

The 27<sup>th</sup> January was a cold winter's day and when the Hall was opened to members of the public, the first to enter were the Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, and his wife. At each corner of the catafalque stood on Watch — an Officer of the armed forces — head bowed, hands resting on the pommel of the sword. On duty during an early Watch was the Admiral of the Fleet — Earl Mountbatten, a former Patron of this Society.

For 3 days during the Lying-in-State the public filed orderly into the Hall to pay tribute to this great statesman. Some 230,000 people passed through. Many queued for long hours in rain, sleet and cold wind and so to the day of the Funeral — Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> January 1965 and another bitterly cold and wet day. Well wrapped-up great crowds had assembled — 20 deep at some vantage points along the processional route. From Westminster Hall, the coffin carried by the Bearer party was placed on a gun-carriage to be drawn by 100 sailors of the Royal Navy.

The men of the Churchill Family walked behind on foot, the ladies of the Churchill Family followed in 3 Town coaches. In the front one (loaned by H.M. the Queen) was Lady Churchill, heavily veiled, with her two daughters Sarah and Mary.

Big Ben struck 9.45 am and the Parade Marshall gave the order "Slow March" and the procession moved off en route to St Paul's Cathedral to the strain of Handel's "Dead March", played by one of the 9 Military Bands on parade.

[Incidentally, the day before the Funeral — 29<sup>th</sup> January a Memorial Service had been held in the WASHINGTON National Cathedral. A newspaper suggested: "no one would have been more touched than he by the strong Anglo American flavour of the service."]

Overall there were some 7,000 officers and men of all arms of the services on parade, dressed in a great variety of uniforms; this figure included around 3,000 men on street lining duty — all bearing arms. In addition there were contingents from the Civil Defence, Fire Service, Red Cross, St John's and others, in static locations. The attention to detail was unique.

The full resources of the B.B.C and Independent T.V. were employed, covering not only the processional route but the Service in the Cathedral Church of St Paul. Watched by 300 million people worldwide, it was said that American T.V. lost

thousands of dollars in advertising revenue.

Arriving at St Paul's, Heraldic form was conspicuous. There were the Heralds, dressed in their gold, scarlet and blue tabards with black mourning pressed over their shoulders. Windsor Herald carried the sword, Somerset Herald, the targe bearing Sir Winston's arms in full colour. Lancaster Herald held the crest taken from Sir Winston's stall of the Garter Knights at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle whilst York Herald carried the Spurs. Two Heraldic banners, one of Sir Winston's arms, and the other of the Cinque Ports were carried by two Officers of the Queens Royal Irish Hussars (the descendants of the IV Hussars into which 2nd Lt Churchill was commissioned in 1895). The steps of St Paul's were flanked by The Royal horse Guards with swords at ease. The Lord Mayor of London carried the mourning sword.

As the full procession moved along the route the Kings Troop Royal Horse Artillery fired minute guns from St James' Park — 90 rounds — one for each year of Sir Winston's life. On the flag-draped coffin the insignia of the Most Noble Order of the Garter gleamed in lone splendour on a velvet cushion. The remaining insignia to which Sir Winston was entitled were mounted on cushions carried by 4 Officers (Majors) of the Queens Royal Irish Hussars, of which he was their Colonel. In the procession they preceded the gun carriage. A Guard of Honour was mounted by the Royal Air Force opposite the Cathedral.

The 11 o'clock service was attended by H.M. the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, The Queen Mother, members of the Royal Family and Heads of State from 112 different countries. The coffin carried by the Bearer Party up the steps and into the Cathedral, was flanked by twelve Pall Bearers, all one time colleagues of Sir Winston, and included Field Marshall Templer, Lord Ismay, Mr Harold Macmillan, etc. but the youngest member was Lord Mountbatten, in the uniform of Admiral of the Fleet. Having placed the coffin on the catafalque, the Bearer party withdrew.

The address was given by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The hymns, chosen by Sir Winston, which included the Battle Hymn of the Republic, were sung by the world leaders. At the end of the service, the coffin was removed from the catafalque, borne out of the Cathedral and down the steps of St Paul's (somewhat precariously) to the gun carriage. As it moved off General Eisenhower, the Supreme Allied Commander, standing on the steps, said "Here was a Champion of Freedom — and now to you, Sir Winston, my old Friend — Farewell." The Royal Family waited and watched the coffin leave — as did President de Gaul.

#### **St Pauls Cathedral to Tower Pier**

While the Procession moved from St Paul's Cathedral to Tower Hill, minute guns were fired from the Saluting Battery H.M. Tower of London, by the Honourable Artillery Company, Royal Horse Artillery.

The Ceremonial at Tower Hill Pier and Wharf was under the responsibility of the C.O. of the Scots Guards and included

A Guard of Honour mounted by the Royal Marines  
Yeomen Warders of Her Majesty's Tower of London  
60 massed pipers drawn, from the Scots and Irish Guards, The Camerconians, The King's Own Scottish Borderers and the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers  
Royal Military Police were on duty  
The Royal Air Force kept the remainder of the ground of Tower Hill  
Royal Navy Piping Party  
A guard of Honour mounted by the Royal Navy accompanied by a Band of the Royal Marines  
Saluting Battery of H.M. Tower of London.

Halting opposite the Royal Marines, the Bearer Party removed the coffin from the gun carriage. The massed bands of kilted pipers, playing "Flowers of the Forest" close-by, added another musical dimension to the Ceremonial. The coffin, preceded by the Earl Marshal, was carried on to the *Havengore*, piped on board by the Royal Navy in the traditional manner.

For the Grenadiers it had been a very early start to a very long day. By the time they reached "Havengore" there was relief on realising their role was nearly fulfilled. On arrival at Festival Pier their next task would be to take the coffin off the launch. During the short trip on the river, on board, were Lady Churchill, Randolph (son), Lady Audley (Sarah), Mrs Christopher Soames (Mary) and the younger members of the Family. A second launch (The Thame) carried other relatives including the Duke of Marlborough, Both vessels quietly slipped their moorings and pulled slowly away to the strains of "Rule Britannia". When *Havengore* left Tower Pier the State procession was concluded, the remainder of the proceedings were private.

One very touching scene on the way to Festival Pier was vividly captured on the print — it was when the cranes on Hayes Wharf on the opposite bank dipped their jibs in Salute, like great dinosaurs bowing — quite unrehearsed — as the launches passed along the river, Twelve "Lightening" aircraft of the RAF flew over head in tribute to their Hon. Air Commodore, who uniquely was authorised by the R.A.F to wear the pilot's brevet on his uniform. Mr Robert Ambrose was master of the *Havengore* in 1965 and he skippered her during the Funeral. He received the B.E.M. for this service. I have met with Robert once or twice and as I did with Anthony Mather I asked him for his impressions of the day. I have since been on board the *Havengore* at the kind invitation of Sally and Owen Palmer, owners of this beautifully restored craft now moored in St Katherine's Dock and I would encourage members of your distinguished Society to arrange a visit.

### At Festival Pier

On arrival at Festival Pier the massive oak coffin was taken by Motor Hearse to Waterloo Station. Here the Bearer Party put the coffin on board the funeral train of Pullman coaches drawn by "Battle of Britain" class locomotive No.34051, "Winston Churchill", (of which I have a model in Bletchley) from Waterloo to Long Handborough near Bladon, Oxfordshire. Along the line people were seen standing in the gardens saluting in their own way as this distinguished train passed by. One man was seen standing on the flat roof of a building, at attention, saluting, and dressed in his old R.A.F. uniform.

There was an amusing little incident on the train en route to Long Handborough. Standing out in the corridor of their coach, Randolph and his son Winston caught sight of a man standing with his back to them, - no jacket — sleeves rolled up — and braces dangling. They quickly went off to challenge this disrespectful unknown — only to find, when he turned to meet their somewhat brusque approach, that it was the Duke of Norfolk. He, somewhat bemused, hurriedly explained that since there was no official uniform for the Earl Marshall; he had designed his own especially for the occasion and — he said — the first prerequisite of any uniform is to ensure that it's comfortable! The Churchills had no option but to agree.

It was still bitterly cold but dry when they arrived at Handborough Station after the two hour train journey. It was two miles to St Martin's Church, Bladon, where the local Police force was on duty. The village had been closed to traffic from noon. Boxes of wreaths and flowers had been sent to Oxford station where Lorries collected them. After opening them, the contents were carried in to the churchyard. Among many wreaths from the Family there was one from the Queen and one from Lady Violet Bonham Carter (Churchill on occasions had called her ultra violet!) who sent a beautiful wreath of violets.

### Interment at Bladon

The short private burial service was arranged for 4 o'clock and lasted for approximately 15 minutes. On a much earlier occasion when visiting his parent's graves, Churchill had pointed with his stick to a plot nearby and said ".... That's for me" — he got his wish. The men of the Queens Royal Irish Hussars lowered his coffin into his grave.

The funeral undertakers were a local firm "Jerrams" and a surviving daughter Pauline had also come up to Bletchley and she wrote me as follows: - "This part of the funeral was to be private and for members of the family only. Despite this the streets were lined with people waiting to pay their last respects. Evening was drawing in by the time the cortege arrived from London. The lead lined coffin had to be carried from the Lych gate to the graveside. During the lowering of the

coffin into the grave one of the medals from a soldier's tunic fell onto the coffin. When the mourners had left the churchyard the medal was retrieved with the aid of a small ladder by my father and returned to the owner. The grave was filled in and the thousands of flowers were placed on the grave and all over the churchyard. With this part over the hoards of visitors started their vigil/paying their respects from that day and has continued and will continue to visit to eternity.

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## Appendix I

### Lieut Colonel Anthony Mather's Recollections of *OPERATION HOPE NOT*

Sneaking out of Victoria Barracks, Windsor on Friday 22nd January 1965 / directly after lunch, I was stopped at the Main Gate Guardroom by the Police Sergeant who told me that the Commanding Officer wished to see me in the Orderly Room immediately. I had been caught trying to get away early!

I was told that Sir Winston Churchill was dying [that had been in the newspapers] and that this weekend was critical. When the time came, I was to command the Bearer Party found by 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Grenadier Guards. I was to ensure that my movements over the weekend were recorded in the leave book. The telephone rang at 4-00 a.m. Sunday morning beside my mother's bed at our home near Salisbury. I was not popular. The Duty Officer told me to report to Headquarters London District in Horse Guards at 8-00 a.m. that morning, incognito for an Earl Marshal's recce of the funeral route.

I sat at the back of the conference room and listened. We were then told to make our way onto Horse Guards where cars were awaiting to take the incognito group to New Palace Yard. They stretched from the building to the Guards' Memorial with police outriders fore and aft! In New Palace Yard the Earl Marshal briefed us. Just after 9.30 a.m. a man in black clothes and a bowler hat appeared from Westminster Hall. Sweeping off his hat, he informed the Earl Marshal that Sir Winston had passed away. Off came the hunting mackintoshes and on went the bowler hats; we were no longer incognito. The recce lasted all morning and at lunchtime I returned to Windsor to report to the Adjutant.

The Bearer Party assembled at Chelsea Barracks on Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> January for rehearsals to begin in earnest. The Party had been drawn from all ranks of the Battalion and the Warrant Officer was Wally Williams. We rehearsed every night on the steps of St. Paul's Cathedral as they were long and steep. Towards the end of the week, we held combined rehearsals with other participants including the Royal Navy Gun Crew usually in the middle of the night to avoid disrupting the traffic. One night in Fleet Street as we marched by with the State Gun Carriage and Coffin draped in the Union Flag, an old man on the pavement swept of his hat saying '...there he goes at last, the great old man.' He did not realise that the

Coffin was empty less weights!

The final rehearsal started at 2-00 a.m. of Friday 29th January. It was bitterly cold with frequent snow flumes. We eventually reached Tower Hill. The tide was /out and the angle of the walkway to the pier was all but 45° F downward and slippery. We stood around the Coffin on the mv *Havengore* and travelled upstream to the Festival Hall Pier. We had a sheet of ice down our fronts on arrival from the snow. This was the only time that the administrative arrangements broke down; there was no vehicle to take away the Coffin. The Earl Marshal directed that we should place it back on the launch and travel back to Tower Pier; a sheet of ice on the other side of our blue-grey greatcoats.

The Day of the Funeral, Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January 1965 was dry but cold. There was no early morning rehearsal that day but no lie-in either. We assemble in Wellington Barracks with the Gun Carriage and marched to the Palace of Westminster. Having lifted the Coffin from the Catafalque, we place it on the Gun Carriage and, on the word of the Major General, we stepped off. At St.Paul's Cathedral, we tackled the 'up-steps' for the last time. Down the Aisle and onto the Catafalque. Downstairs during the Service watched on television screens, hot coffee and a cigarette were needed, the former provided by the Cathedral authorities.

At the conclusion of the Service we had been told to reappear from the North Crypt steps when the Archbishop had given the Blessing. We did but the National Anthem began. A quick halt. The ground now seemed clear but then the Trumpeters played 'Last Post'. Another halt and then 'Reveille'. I was not going to be caught out again so, a long pause. The Queen looked at me as if to say '...get on with it.' So off we went, picked up the Coffin and down the Aisle and the final trip down the steps. For a moment there was panic; the coffin slipped slightly on the Bearers' shoulders, but all was well. It did occur to me whether there was a taxi near-by to get me to Heathrow and South America or would it have been the Tower!

The tide was at the correct height at Tower Pier and we embarked on *Havengore*. As she turned up-stream the RAF aircraft streamed overhead and the jibs of the cranes were lowered one by one, a really moving scene. At the Festival Hall Pier, the Hearshe was awaiting us and finally we bade our final farewell to our Coffin and Sir Winston.

Under police escort, we sped back to Chelsea Barracks and a very large glass of brandy to get the circulation going again. It had been a week to remember.

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## Appendix II

### Lieutenant-Commander Lewis Payne's Recollections of *Operation HOPE NOT*

I was the Command Communications Officer to the Flag Officer Naval Air Command (Vice-Admiral Sir Richard Smeaton, KCB), whose Headquarters were at Lee-on-Solent, in the years 1964-1966. One of our responsibilities, when Duty



Staff Officer, was to muster the books and documents in the Top Secret safe.

I was on duty the day we received the signal from the Admiralty to open a certain numbered envelope, in that safe: it turned out to be the Procedure for Exercise "HOPE NOT" - the orders for the State Funeral which was to be accorded to Sir Winston Churchill. I noticed that the Revised Appendix A to "HOPE NOT" entitled "Revised Roster of Watches" was dated 21<sup>st</sup> December, 1961. I rang the Admiral and he told me to read it through and that he would come in a quarter-of-an-hour earlier in the morning to hear my report.

The Naval Air Command was required to provide hundreds of sailors for street lining, cooks for canteens, sick berth attendants and photographers inter alia. There was also a requirement to provide five officers for "Standing Vigil" around the coffin on the catafalque in Westminster Hall. Concerning this I said to the Admiral, "We have four operational Air Stations (Yeovilton, Brawdy, Culdrose and Lossiemouth) and I recommend each Station nominates a Lieutenant, Sir." "And what about the fifth?" the Admiral asked. I replied that, as I was responsible for ceremony, I thought it appropriate that I should represent the Headquarters' Staff to which he readily agreed.

So we reported in due course to the Ermine Street Hotel in Buckingham Palace Gate where the Welsh Guards (being at this time the Guards Regiment on ceremonial duty) had set up in the Ballroom an exact replica of the catafalque.

The Adjutant rehearsed us in the drill for moving our swords from the "Carry" to the "Resting on our arms reversed", both movements to take 10 seconds precisely. Then he talk us through the choreography of marching down the steps and getting to the right places around the coffin at the same time. The two steps on the catafalque were of the same height but the length between them was different so it was important to pace it properly.

He told us to practice standing still for twenty minutes, for reliefs were posted after that interval. So it was twenty minutes on and forty minutes off during the six hour period of the watch. Then we would be relieved by the Army. The watches were known as Night, Morning, Afternoon and Evening. The guarding of the coffin commenced at 6-00 p.m. on D + 4 which was Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January, 1965.

When you were resting on arms reversed with head bowed the public were so close that you could see only up to their knees. On my first watch we took over from the Royal Air Force and they suggested that we might pass the time by counting the "Kinky boots", then all the rage. It was quite intimidating when relieved as you moved to the "Carry" with your head up and stepped off so near to all those watching faces.

Meals were provided and, when off watch, we were allowed to meet relatives and friends outside Westminster Hall and give them a priority access into the great lines of people there to pay their last respects.

Standing Vigil for the Greatest Briton was surely the proudest moment of my life.

## A VERITABLE FOREST by Harold Hopkins

It was after my father showed me a pair of cuff links with a 'burning tower' on them which is supposed to be connected with the name HOPKINS, that I started to take a keen interest in my family tree and all it encompassed. Unfortunately I have been unable to find the exact tower on any heraldic crest in spite of reading numerous volumes. As time went by my parents became enthused in the genealogical trail carrying out many searches on my behalf, as I was still in full time employment.

My father concentrated on the main surname and his mother's name of DASHWOOD, whereas my mother gathered everything in her path which has since proved most useful. As more and more information came in and the family tree grew until it occupied the best part of the back of an A2 sized 'year planner'.

It was in the summer of 1998, that a lady who I did not know, contacted me requesting information about my great grandfather one Rev. EVAN HENRY HOPKINS of Holy Trinity Church, Richmond. She made copious notes from my genealogical file and went away happy. I heard nothing more for several months until one day a very large envelope arrived containing my complete family tree done on a computer, but on its side and well researched. She was using a program called 'Pedigree'.

Much later she sent me another tree of a family, from Wigan, that I had never heard of by the name of HOLME, and she also asked "Did I know that I was descended from King Edward III" On the tree there was a JANE HASTINGS who was 16th in descent from KEIII. I could see where this tree linked up and it wasn't long before that was plotted on the grand plan. Then a friend lent me a volume of the book BLOOD ROYAL (all the descendents of King Edward IV, and while working my way through it I came across the name ANNE DASHWOOD who married JOHN STEWART, 7th Earl of Galloway in 1764. So here was yet another tree to be plotted. A smattering of Royal Descent, such was the shock, that my sister refused to believe it and told me not to tell her children.

It was while I was sorting out our church records that I found a family tree for the name of the SCALES, drawn by W.H. Challen, which starts with the family in Middleton, near Kings Lynn around 1198 and the Blackborough Priory. Where does this connect I hear you say? Well King Edward IV married Elizabeth WOODVILLE(or Wydeville depends on which book you look at), and she had a brother one Anthony (c 1440-1483) and he married Elizabeth SCALES who was daughter of Thomas, 7th Lord Scales (1399-1460) & Esmania WHALESBURGH.

So here was yet another tree to be added to the already overburdened chart. By curious coincidence this tree goes back through one Robert de Scales, 3rd Lord, who actually lived in Haslingfield (where the author now lives) and no doubt gave a lot of money for the re-building of our beautiful church, which was consecrated on Thursday 15th November 1352 by Bishop Thomas de Insula, a man who was later thrown out of the country for his 'mafia' like approach to church matters.

On my mother's side the name of ADAMSON may ring a bell with some people, William Adamson was the agent who introduced Anna LEONOWENS to the King of Siam. William, being interested in amateur theatricals, would have most amused to know a musical resulted from this story. William was later awarded a KCMG for his part in helping to stabilise the currency in Singapore.

On the CUHAGS visit to Hengrave Hall, last summer, I noticed that a family tree showed that Elizabeth and Richard Woodville had a sister, one Katherine who married Henry STAFFORD. So that means that there is yet another tree to be added, if there is enough room. To make things easier, I am in the process of drawing the whole tree on a computer using a very versatile MAC DRAWING programme, of 1992 vintage, that allows a single 'draw' file measuring 12 A4 sheets by 9 A4 sheets. It is one of the few drawing programmes that has dashed lines.

I wonder whose tree become the next addition?

## Forthcoming Conferences and Other Events

- 29 March, 2002      **Cambridge Family History Fair**  
Cambridgeshire Family History Society  
*Impington Village College, Cambridgeshire*
- 3-6 April, 2003      **Westward Ho! Movement & Migration**  
South West Family History Societies  
*University of Exeter*
- 25-27 April, 2003      **Annual Conference**  
Guild of One-Name Studies  
*University of Liverpool*

3-4 May, 2003

## Family History Fair

Society of Genealogists  
*RHS New Hall and Conference Centre*

29-31 August 2003

## A Little of What You Fancy

Week-end Conference and FFHS AGM  
Essex Society for Family History  
*University of Essex*

*For more details of any of the above events please contact the Editor*

## Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Society's AGM will take place in the Thirkill Room at 3-00 p.m. on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2002. The business of the meeting will be as follows:

- To receive the President's Report*
- To receive the Society's Accounts*
- To Elect Officers and Committee for the Academic Year 2003-2004*

In accordance with the Constitution adopted at the EGM held on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2002, nominations for Officers and Committee must be submitted to the Secretary not less than 21 days before the AGM (i.e at the latest - 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2002).

## EDITOR'S POSTSCRIPT

Hopefully it will be possible to include more articles in future issues of this magazine so I very much look forward to receiving further contributions from members. Please let me know if you have specific aspects of heraldry or genealogy which you would like to see featured. Please write to me at the address given below or, if you have E-mail facilities, by all means take advantage of that method.

*Derek A Palgrave*  
*Crossfield House, Dale Road, Stanton, Suffolk, IP31 2DY*  
*Tel/fax: 01359-251050 E-mail: president@one-name.org*