



13 June 2017



THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE COUNTESS MOUNTBATTEN OF BURMA,
CBE, MSC, CD, JP, DL, (D.St.J)

Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry regrets to announce the death of the Countess Mountbatten of Burma, the second Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment. "Lady Patricia was the embodiment of the Regiment for many years, and she set a sterling example of selflessness and dedication" said the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, current Colonel-in-Chief of Princess Patricia's. "She was loved and respected by the soldiers of her Regiment, and she will be sorely missed."

Lady Patricia, as she was known across the Regiment, was closely involved with Princess Patricia's from the time of her appointment as Colonel-in-Chief in 1974. Born in London on 14 February 1924, she was christened Patricia Edwina Victoria Mountbatten. Following education in Malta, England and New York City, Lady Mountbatten entered the Women's Royal Naval Service in 1943 as a Signal Rating. After serving in Combined Operations bases in the UK, she was commissioned Third Officer (Cypher) in 1945 and served in Headquarters Supreme Allied Command, South East Asia.

Major-General (retired) Brian Vernon, the current Colonel of the Regiment of Princess Patricia's, met the Countess Mountbatten on many occasions. "Lady Patricia was of that generation whose experience of war, and understanding of public service, was universal. I think those early experiences deeply impacted her, and she carried the imprint of those days throughout the rest of her life" he noted.

In October 1946, Lady Mountbatten married John Knatchbull, Seventh Baron Brabourne. Lord Brabourne was an officer of the Coldstream Guards and later became a renowned film and television producer whose notable productions included *Murder on the Orient Express*, *Death on the Nile*, *A Passage to India* and *Sink the Bismarck!*

Lord Brabourne died on 22 September 2005 at the age of 80. They had five sons and two daughters; Nicholas (an identical twin) was killed in a terrorist attack on 27 August 1979. They also had 22 grandchildren.

Lady Mountbatten was appointed Colonel-in-Chief of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) on 15 June 1974 following the death of Lady Patricia Ramsay (formerly Her Royal Highness Princess Patricia of Connaught). Lady Patricia Ramsay, the original Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, was Godmother and cousin to Lady Mountbatten. Lady Mountbatten is also first cousin of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh and is the Godmother of Prince Charles, Prince of Wales.

Upon the assassination of her father in 1979, Lady Patricia, as heir to his Earldom, became The Countess Mountbatten of Burma.

Lady Patricia was the Colonel-in-Chief of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry for almost 33 years and served with nine successive Colonels of the Regiment. Travelling from England, she has visited the Regiment on 45 separate occasions, visiting soldiers and their families at Canadian Forces bases and detachments across Canada including Gagetown, Ottawa, Petawawa, Winnipeg, Shilo, Edmonton, Calgary, Chilliwack, Victoria, Whitehorse and Yellowknife. Lady Patricia visited Patricia battalions serving on overseas operations with the United Nations and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization 15 times, encouraging soldiers and publicly recognizing the importance of their work. These visits took her to Cyprus, Germany, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo.

"I first met Lady Patricia when she visited us in 2nd Battalion, while we were deployed in Cyprus with the UN in 1990" said Major-General Wayne Eyre, the Senior Serving Patricia. "I was struck by her charm and the easy way she engaged with our soldiers, chatting and exchanging jokes. Her legacy lives on in the Regiment and we love her for it."

Lady Patricia was also Colonel-in-Chief of The Loyal Edmonton Regiment (4 PPCLI) and supported the Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps affiliated with the PPCLI. She served as Patron of the PPCLI Association, and supported groups like the Pipes and Drums of the Edmonton Police Service, the Burma Star Association (a veterans group that promotes the history and well-being of the 7,000 Canadian soldiers, sailors and airmen who served in the Burma Campaign), and Countess Mountbatten's Own Legion of Frontiersmen (a private volunteer organization devoted to military excellence, public service, and citizenship).

Lady Patricia relinquished her appointment as Colonel-in-Chief of Princess Patricia's at a formal ceremony in Edmonton, Alberta on Saturday 17 March 2007. She was succeeded by The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, who serves as Colonel-in-Chief to this day. Lady Patricia's 33 years of service to the Regiment and Canada was formally recognized by Her Excellency Governor General Michaëlle Jean on 28 August 2007 when she was awarded the Meritorious Service Cross. Lady Patricia continued her relationship with the Regiment as the Honorary Patron of the PPCLI Association, an appointment she assumed at a ceremony in Calgary at the end of August 2007. In addition to her Regimental duties, Countess Mountbatten was a Deputy Lieutenant and Justice of the Peace for the County of Kent, and was involved with over fifty charitable organizations around the world.

Soldiers from Second Battalion PPCLI, currently conducting Public Duties in London, England, will serve as the bearer party in Countess Mountbatten's funeral at the request of her family. The official funeral will be held in London on 27 June 2017 at 1500 London time, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge.