

who after the long wait wanted to hurry past. No, one had to stop a moment to say a short prayer and then move on, many with tears in their eyes. They all knew him and had seen him many times walking among the bombed ruins in London when he always stopped and had a kind word to say to all.

The Duke of Norfolk, as the senior Duke, was master of ceremonies and as I have already mentioned had everything planned long before the funeral as it is said Churchill had expressed his wish as to what he wished done on that day. There were daily rehearsals for on the day of the funeral there should be no mess ups. On the day of the funeral the streets along the route were lined with thousands of people, not just as enquisitive spectators, but those who wished to bid their hear and friend Fairwell on his last voyage. Yes to pay their tribute to a wonderful man. Police and soldiers lined the streets along the route along which the procession moved in silence except for the sound of the bands. Here one saw a most orderly number of people, many of whom had slept on the streets to make sure of procuring a site from which they could see at that point. These people could however only see a short portion of the procession whereas in our lounge we could on the tele see the whole procession etc. from beginning to end.

Promptly at 10 A.M. Churchills flag draped casket on its gun carriage drawn by some one hundred and twenty or so men of the navy, moved quietly among scenes where he had made history-10 Downing Street, where he had resided at one time as Prime Minister- Admiralty Arch, reminiscent of his service to the Royal Navy- Trafalgar Square, Fleet Street and so to St Pauls. Here the casket was borne by men of the Grenadier Guards- all six foot two inches at least- powerful men who moved carefully up the steps of St Pauls and so into the Cathedral. where thousands of people including the Queen and Prince Philip the Queen Mother and other members of the Royal family - many of the nobility and the representatives of 110 nations. After the service the Guardsmen now carried the Casket very very carefully down the steps and the procession of Guards Regiments, and many other Units of the Navy, Army and Air Force and other branches Nurses etc. Following the guncarriage were officers of Churchills own Regiment of Royal Irish Hussars bearing on cushions his medals and many other decorations and Orders. What a wonderful sight to see all these people, soldiers, sailors, airmen bands etc. moving in this solemn procession. Here one saw with what precision the troops moved. Not a man out of step and so on to the Tower and the Lower Pier.

The Pall Bearers included Lord Ismay, Harold McMillan, Lord Norman Brook Field Marshall Sir Gerald Templar, Sir Robert Menzies, Lord Bridges, Field Marshall Viscount Slim, Viscount Portal of Hungerford, Earl Avon (I den) Earl Attlee, Field Marshall Earl Alexander and Earl Mountbatten.

At the Tower Pier the coffin was transferred to a Port of London Authority Launch while 60 Kilted Pipers filled the air with high Stirling Laments. Then on down the River Thames, where all the cranes dipped in memory of Churchills visits to the Docks during World War II and at the Festival Hall Pier the casket was transferred to a train at Waterloo Station and conveyed to his last resting place the village of Bladen.

And now the guns and Pipes are stilled. Marching men march on other grounds. The music of bands and the wail of Pipers sound on the ears as only echoes. The Union Jack- here at half mast before St Pauls once again flutters from the top of the mast.

One could almost hear Churchill saying- Sunset and evening star,

And one clear call for me,

And may there be no moaning at the bar
When I put out to sea

Twilight and evening bell

And after that the dark

And may there be no sadness of farewell when