

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's Speech
On the Occasion of the Opening of Mountbatten House

25th June, 1981

"I am so delighted to be in Studley once again, for I remember so well my visit to this beautiful countryside a long time ago in 1929.

It is now 20 years since I opened the first Commonwealth Conference in London and today marks the end of your Fifth Conference. During this time a great deal has happened to reduce the number of deaths by drowning.

Education by the family and in schools, using new equipment and imaginative methods, has stimulated interest and last year nearly one million people throughout the Commonwealth qualified as lifesavers.

Nevertheless, there can be no room for complacency and I am therefore very pleased to learn that the future development of life saving, with particular emphasis on extending the influence of the Society in other countries, has been the keynote of this year's conference.

Lord Mountbatten became the President of the Society at the request of the King in 1945. His personal initiative on his visits abroad continued the expansion of the numbers in Branches in Commonwealth countries and then the granting of the Supplemental Royal Charter in 1960 established the new Commonwealth Council. The emergence of the first National Branches was due to his wisdom and guidance.

This new Headquarters will be a lasting memorial to Lord Mountbatten whose vision and leadership in times of war and peace have made him a legend not only in our Country but in all nations throughout the world.

And now it gives me great pleasure to unveil the plaque and portrait and declare open Mountbatten House."