

3 APRIL 1965

Howard honoured by 39 nations in London

'TWO THOUSAND Pay Tribute To Peter Howard' was the *Evening Standard* headline reporting the Memorial Service in the Royal Parish Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields on 12 April.

The Rt. Hon. Quintin Hogg, Q.C., M.P., gave the address, 'in gratitude and love for the life of a man by most standards remarkable, by any standards lovable and by all human standards good'. The service was conducted by the Lord Bishop of Leicester and the Vicar of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square.

Diplomatic representatives of 39 countries, including 21 Heads of Mission, were present; members of both Houses of Parliament from Government and Opposition benches; neighbours of Howard's farm in Suffolk, actors who had taken part in his plays, rugby internationals who played alongside him for England, journalists who had worked with him in Fleet Street, and with them Mr. T. Blackburn, Chairman of Beaverbrook Newspapers, and Lord Thomson of Fleet, Chairman of the Thomson Organisation.

Fifty-eight members of the Pontypridd Male Voice Choir from Wales gave what the *Evening Standard* called 'some of the finest singing that even that church has known'. They sacrificed a day and a half's pay to come to London for the Service.

The first lesson, Psalm 103, was read by Peter Howard's son Philip. Sir Max Aitken, Bart., son and successor of Howard's old boss Lord Beaverbrook, read from the sixth chapter of Ephesians beginning, 'We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities,

against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.'

Mr. Hogg, who was Chairman of the Conservative Party and a member of Sir Alec Douglas Home's Cabinet, spoke of Howard's 'courage, gaiety and unaffected goodness' and continued: 'It was the combination of this natural goodness with an acquired determination that goodness should not perish from the earth, that light should conquer darkness.'

'It does not need a philosopher to tell right from wrong, courage from cowardice, integrity from deviousness, kindness from cruelty, purity from its opposite. Most of us are inhibited by modesty or shame from becoming open advocates of goodness. Peter was not, and in this he was right. He answered the voice he heard and because Peter was good, the world not merely heard but listened.'

'The change which he underwent in the early years of the war dominated the rest of his life and gave it a wholly new direction and sense of purpose which brought him, though he did not seek it, national, even international, renown.'

As Mr. Hogg ended his address, the congregation stood in silence. Moments later two thousand voices joined in James Russell Lowell's hymn:

'Then it is the brave man chooses,
While the coward stands aside,
Till the multitude make virtue
Of the faith they had denied.'

