



## THE HONEYMOONERS

'Our grateful thanks to the millions who have given us this unforgettable send off'



One of the most memorable scenes of the wedding day occurred as the bride and groom left Buckingham Palace for their honeymoon. As the carriage set off from the Grand Entrance, the King and Queen with the bridesmaids, best man and other guests, ran through the Quadrangle to shower the newlyweds with rose petals and confetti.

As dusk fell, the landau rounded the Victoria Memorial and headed for Waterloo Station. Platform 11 had been sanded so that they could pull up inside the station. As the Princess alighted from her carriage, a shower of confetti fell from her dress on to the floor. Also alighting was the Princess' corgi Susan, who would be accompanying the couple on their visit to Broadlands, the Hampshire home of Earl Mountbatten.

Even at this private moment, the couple bowed to duty, meeting a welcoming committee, consisting of the Chairman of the Southern Railway Company, the Stationmaster of Waterloo, the Commissioner of Police, and more.

It was the same at Winchester, where Elizabeth and Philip emerged to frenzied cheering from a large crowd. At the station they received a civic welcome from the Mayor, Mrs Doris Crompton. Later that evening, a delegation from Romsey, the village nearest to Broadlands, came to the house to wish the couple well.

It wasn't until dinner that Elizabeth and Philip could finally relax and talk about their special day. If they thought that now they could be left in peace, they were to be disappointed. Crowds constantly surrounded the estate, ►



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and occasionally they would sneak into the private parkland. On the first Sunday of their honeymoon, when the newlyweds went to worship at nearby Romsey Abbey, people desperate for a glimpse of the couple stood on tombstones and stared through the Abbey windows. Chairs, ladders and even a sideboard were dragged into the churchyard.

After a week, they left Broadlands for Scotland, making a brief stopover for lunch at Buckingham Palace with the King and Queen, before setting off on the night train to Aberdeen. They arrived at 7.30am and Philip drove them to Birkhall on the Balmoral estate. Their privacy ensured, they could at last enjoy a peaceful visit in the seclusion of the Highlands.

Their final public act while on honeymoon was to issue the following statement from Buckingham Palace: " Before we leave for Scotland tonight we want to say that the reception given to us on our wedding day, and the loving interest shown to us by our fellow countrymen and well-wishers in all parts of the world, have left an impression which will never grow faint. We can find no words to express what we feel, but we can at least offer our grateful thanks to the millions who have given us this unforgettable send off in our married life.

*Elizabeth and Philip.*



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The couple pose for the cameras with Susan, the Princess' beloved corgi (above). The first part of the honeymoon was spent at Broadlands – Earl Mountbatten's 18th-century home near Romsey in the New Forest (below left and right). Set in beautiful parkland, the estate had once belonged to the Victorian politician Lord Palmerston. However, even the vast private grounds didn't offer the seclusion that the couple had hoped for, with crowds gathering outside and occasionally venturing in for a closer look

