

2-003501
48/28

RETURN TO BURMA

Revisiting Burma (the wartime base from which he planned the rout of the Japanese) is Lord Louis Mountbatten, accompanied by his wife and daughters. Burma - no longer a British colony - has seen many changes since the war, but religion still dominates the life of her people. No visit to Rangoon is complete without seeing the famous Buddhist shrines - the Schwe Dagen pagoda, containing sacred relics of the Buddhas.

Here the visitors are initiated into the ceremonial rites of the Buddhist faith, which remains unaltered amid the whirl of political changes.

In deference to religious custom Lady Mountbatten removes her shoes when treading on the holy ground of the pagoda.

In Assam, also unchanged by the march of events are the Naga tribesmen - giving a display of war dances.

All parts of the country send representatives for the occasion. Although many of them are veterans of the Burma campaign (their personal courage and special knowledge of the terrain made them invaluable allies) they appear somewhat bashful when confronted by their former Commander-in-Chief.

In the fading light of evening women dancers from the North East frontier region give their version of the soft shoe shuffle.

Renowned for their generosity as for their dancing, the Burmese lead Lord Louis with gifts - tokens of their esteem for the man who delivered them from Japanese enslavement. But at times their hospitality is just a little overwhelming.