

The concept of the statue in Dover, and another at the family seat in Monmouth, was to commemorate the cross-Channel flight but sadly, five weeks later, he was killed on 12 July, 1910 in a flying accident at Bournemouth. As result this statue became a Memorial rather than a tribute. It was sculpted by Kathleen Scott, named on the plinth, whose husband Captain Peter Scott, R.N, had perished in the Antarctic, although unknown to her, just four weeks previously.

The loss of Charlie Rolls was a tragedy to his family, to Rolls-Royce, to his friends and to this nation of ours. He was a great schoolboy hero of a past era, yet his heroism and achievement remain today. The nation owed him a very great debt. He gave his time, money, study and, eventually, his life because he saw the danger of indifference and the folly of delay in the matter of the loss of our insularity and the danger to our Empire. He forced Britain to wake up to the danger of air power from a potential enemy, as was proved in two world wars.

### *Miss May Jones gives a lively spectator's view:-*

At 10.40 am on Friday, June 2nd, the first arrivals of the Rolls Royce Enthusiasts' Club were gliding effortlessly eastwards along Marine Parade. Fifteen minutes later a convoy of more than twenty vintage Rolls-Royces appeared, in close formation behind their official police escort, from the opposite end of the sea front. From here they were marshalled, with due solemnity, on to the promenade facing the sea with their backs to the railings, which allowed the gathering crowd of Dovorians and visitors to admire their well kept exteriors and chat to their owners.

One of the Rolls-Royce vintage cars that helped to grace the occasion



Alan Clark, suitably attired in sheepskin jacket to withstand the rigours of the English summer, was driving his pre-WW1 open-top model, still capable of coping with mountainous terrain, as its Alpine Rally Geneva 1993 plate triumphantly announced. Towards the other end of the line was a beautiful 1960 Silver Cloud 2, gleaming from its fortnightly polish and allowed out in the rain only if its journey was unavoidable. All the assembled vehicles were beautifully kept and made a fitting "guard of honour" for the re-dedication of the Rolls statue on its granite plinth, surrounded by freshly-laid turf. In its new position, on the lawns in front of the Gateway flats at the western end, it is on almost exactly the same site as its original installation, on the Guildford lawn, in 1912.

Once the vehicles were in place the crowd awaited the arrival of the official party, composed of members from all the organisations which had contributed to the relocation of the statue: the Dover Harbour Board, the Dover District Council, Impact, Rolls Royce plc and, above all, the Dover Society, represented on this occasion by Jack Woolford, Leo Wright and Budge Adams, the instigator of the event.

When these had all taken their places, Jonathan Sloggett of Dover Harbour Board, introduced the Rev. Graham Batten, Vicar of St. Mary's who performed the re-dedication by reading from Ecclesiastes the passage, "Let us now praise famous men ... their bodies are buried in peace, but their name lives for evermore", and then offering a short prayer. Then Mr. Michael Evans, Chairman of the Rolls Royce Heritage Trust, officially unveiled the statue in its new position, before delivering a very interesting speech outlining the life of "Charlie" Rolls and the history of the foundation and the work of the Rolls Royce Company. At one point his speech was almost drowned by the roar of hovercraft engines (Rolls Royce, of course!) as the vessel crossed the harbour on its way into its berth behind the Prince of Wales Pier.

The figure of Rolls and its simple inscription, sculpted by Kathleen Scott, wife of

Another Rolls — of great interest to all who saw it.



the Antarctic explorer, now stands suitably located, facing the Channel, where all can see and appreciate it. The two hundred or so spectators present at the June 2nd ceremony were not only honouring the memory of its subject and indulging an interest in the vintage vehicles, but also rejoicing with Budge Adams. Without his drive and perseverance the re-siting of the statue would not have taken place.