

Sir Greville Spratt

Distinguished soldier who was a popular Lord Mayor of London in 1987

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Sir Greville Douglas Spratt was Lord mayor of London in 1987. The mayoralty was the culmination of a highly successful and distinguished military and civic career.

After The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, he served with the Coldstream Guards. In 1946 he was commissioned in the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. At the age of 19 he was put in charge of a draft of soldiers sailing for Port Said in Egypt and from there he went on to Palestine and Jordan. He was then seconded into the Arab Legion as Second Lieutenant. From 1946 to 1948 Greville served with the Legion in the Middle East.

After demobilisation, Greville Spratt joined the Infantry Battalion of the Honourable Artillery Company as a private soldier and was recommissioned in 1950. He had a distinguished military career with the HAC and in 1962 he was appointed commanding officer, with the rank of lieutenant colonel. He then served as Regimental Colonel from 1966 to 1970 and again in 1978. He was ADC to the Queen from 1973 to 1978.

In 1978 he was elected alderman of Castle Baynard and became an ardent supporter of the Corporation

of London. He served as Sheriff and was elected Lord Mayor on Michaelmas Day 1987. Subsequently he was appointed Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire. After his mayoralty Sir Greville continued to serve as an Alderman until 1994, and he became Master of the Ironmongers in 1995-1996.

Sir Greville Spratt, GBE, soldier and former Royal Mayor of London, was born on May 1, 1927. He died on December 13, 2012, aged 85