

King George VI Decorates Capt. John Gartshore For Courageous Deed at Dieppe

Wounded Hero Among 74 Canadians to Receive Awards For Bravery at In- vestiture in Buckingham Palace— Londoners Laud Recipients

(By Ross Munro, Canadian Press War Correspondent)

London, Oct. 27. — (CP Cable) — Heroes of the Dieppe raid went to Buckingham palace to be decorated by the King at a recent investiture. it was disclosed to-day. The group numbered more than 100. This, the first part of the investiture of men from the combined operations force, was predominantly a Canadian occasion.

Commando Leader Attends

Vincent Massey, Canadian high commissioner, Lt.-Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton, the Canadian army commander, and Lt.-Gen. H. D. G. Crerar, a Canadian Corps commander, had special seats, while Lord Louis Mountbatten, commander of the commandos, was in attendance on the King, his first appearance at an investiture since being decorated for his own part in the battle of Crete.

Major-Gen. J. H. Roberts, who led the raid on Dieppe August 19, was the first of 74 Canadians receiving decorations and, after pinning the Distinguished Service Order on his tunic, the King said: "What a great pity it was we lost so many Canadians at Dieppe, but it was a very good show."

The second Canadian going before the King was Brig. Sherwood Lett, who recently left hospital with his right arm still in a sling. He also received the D.S.O.

For one hour and 45 minutes Canadian and British heroes filed past His Majesty. More than 500 relatives and friends of those decorated crowded the long hall at the top of the staircase by the main entrance to the palace to witness the ceremony.

Victoria Cross Presented

The King wore naval uniform. The first to be decorated was Capt. Patrick Porteous of the Royal Artillery, who received the Victoria Cross for gallantry while serving as liaison officer between two commando detachments assaulting heavy coastal guns at Dieppe.

Only once before had a Canadian



Capt. John Gartshore

correspondent been permitted to witness an investiture and I watched the ceremony from a seat 15 feet from the King in the gilded, pillared hall with portraits of royalty on the walls.

I watched scores of friends step before the King—appearing far more nervous than when I saw them in the turmoil of battle on Dieppe's beaches.

Throughout the investiture the King seemed to enjoy every minute, and he said a few words to practically every soldier, sailor or airman. With several Canadians he asked about the Dieppe operation and the questions indicated he knew every detail of the plan and how the battle fared.

His Majesty stood in the centre of a red-carpeted ramp and the heroes lined up along the wall, then walked up and stood before him as the lord chamberlain, the Earl of Clarendon, called out their names.

Intimate Meeting

Each man halted before His Majesty, turned left, bowed and stepped two paces forward. Then the King hooked the medal on his chest.

Then there was a handshake—maybe a short conversation—and the soldier stepped back, bowed again, and walked down the other side of the ramp.

Standing by the King, Lord Louis Mountbatten several times leaned over to tell His Majesty about some particular man.

When each man's name was read out, the lord chamberlain also read out his regiment or service.

Men of two Highland regiments at Dieppe—the Essex Scottish and Winnipeg Camerons—all wore the McGregor or Cameron kilt.

During the investiture the Welsh Guards band played softly. Six yeomen of the guard in colourful uniforms stood at each side of the ramp.

Receives Military Cross

Apart from Brig. Lett, several other Canadians still showed evidence of wounds. Capt. Pierre Loranger, of Montreal, member of the Fusiliers Mont-Royal, was on crutches as he received the Military Cross. Capt. John Gartshore, of Ancaster, of the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, had his right arm in a cast. He also received the M.C.

Three members of the Royal Canadian Air Force were among those decorated. Sqdn.-Ldr. Leslie Forbes, of Halifax, received the Distinguished Flying Cross and bar. He told the King the bar was for Dieppe and the D.F.C. for attacking naval vessels in Hurricanes.

D.F.C.'s also went to Flt.-Lieuts. Don Smith, of Toronto, and George Casey, of Mitchell, Ont., for the Dieppe operation.

Brig. Churchill Mann, of Toronto, who served on Gen. Roberts' staff in the raid, said after receiving his D.S.O.: "I am one of the backroom boys and I feel my honour is on behalf of a lot of other men."

Flyers, Sailors Decorated

Capt. Don McRae, of Cornwall, Ont., attached to the Essex Scottish, said the King asked what beach McRae had landed on and how many men he took off in the small boat in which he evacuated. "His Majesty certainly knew details of the raid," Captain McRae commented. He received the Military Cross.

Naval officers and men who took the Canadians to France were among those decorated as well as members of the three commando forces who crossed the channel. Flyers of the bomber, fighter and army co-operation commands also were there and after the military decorations had been awarded a number of members of merchant navy and civilian war organizations in Britain were decorated, among them three women.

Following the investiture the Canadians and others left the palace by the main entrance, walking into the courtyard where they received congratulations from friends as army and civilian photographers took pictures.

Several hundred people gathered at the iron gates in the forecourt around the palace grounds, and the Canadians received more congratulations there — often from total strangers.

Captain Porteous was nearly mobbed at the gate by people wanting to shake hands.

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DECORATIONS