

DIEPPE TROPHY GIVEN TO R.H.L.I. RESERVE UNIT

Indian Veteran Hands Over German Rifle as Regiment Is Paraded

Hamilton, Oct. 23 (Staff).—In an impressive ceremony at the Armouries here tonight a German Mauser rifle captured from a Nazi infantryman at Dieppe by the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry was presented as a prize of war to the 2nd Battalion, R.H.L.I. (Reserve).

Four returned veterans of the Dieppe raid, including Corporal John Hope, full-blooded Indian member of the R.H.L.I., who handed over the weapon to Major-General the Hon. S. C. Mewburn, C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D., were given places of honor at the ceremony.

The entire 2nd Battalion, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Allen E. Parker, paraded for the occasion and lined three walls of the Armouries during the presentation. The galleries were crowded with spectators, including relatives and friends of members of both battalions of the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry.

Major-General Mewburn accepted the rifle from Corporal Hope, who brought it back to Canada as the R.H.L.I. representative of the Dieppe veterans. The Honorary Colonel of the Battalion, in turn, presented the first Hamilton prize of this war to Lieutenant-Colonel Parker.

In making the presentation, Major-General Mewburn read a letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. Hurley, officer commanding the First Battalion, R.H.L.I. overseas, which was delivered by Corporal Hope. The message said in part: "The First Battalion, R.H.L.I., wishes to present to the R.H.L.I. officers' mess a trophy which was brought back from the Dieppe raid, a German Mauser rifle and bayonet.

"It was brought back by B-37087

Lance-Corporal Graham, T. W., whose conduct was outstanding during this raid and whom we have recommended for the Distinguished Conduct Medal. (Lance-Corporal Graham, of Guelph, has since been awarded the decoration.)

"Things are going very well and we are rebuilding the unit quickly, since we have much splendid material as our disposal."

Besides Corporal Hope who was accompanied by his wife, the other Dieppe veterans who were guests of honor were Private Harry Wichtacz, of Sheffield, Ont., Private Ernest Poyton, of Hamilton and his wife, and Regimental Sergeant-Major H. R. Crampton, of London, Ont. All three are members of the First Battalion, R.H.L.I. and were wounded at Dieppe.

In handing over the Mauser to Lieutenant-Colonel Parker, Major-General Mewburn remarked, "while we were all thrilled with pride with the wonderful achievements of the First Battalion at Dieppe we were at the same time filled with grief beyond words at the casualties — the officers and men killed, wounded, missing or prisoners of war. We know that all lived up to the Regiment's motto: "Semper Paratus."

After the ceremony, Major-General Mewburn took the salute from the entire battalion which marched past. Colonel H. P. Healy accompanied Major-General Mewburn. The battalion's bugle band under the direction of Bandmaster Frank Doombes and the brass band headed by Bandmaster Bert Holder played several numbers.

149
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