

Major-General Roberts Overseas to Command Reinforcement Units

T. G. Gibson, Toronto, Made Brigadier—Is Youngest of Rank in Canadian Army—Other Brigade Commanders Appointed

Ottawa, April 12 (CP).—Defense headquarters tonight announced appointment of Major-Gen. J. H. Roberts, who commanded the Canadian forces in the big Dieppe raid last August, to command all Canadian reinforcement units in the United Kingdom.

This important new post for Gen. Roberts, 52, and an officer with extensive experience as a fighting soldier, headed a list of six senior overseas appointments announced by defense headquarters.

Lt.-Col. T. G. Gibson, 35, of Toronto, is named commander of a Canadian infantry brigade overseas and is promoted to the rank of brigadier, the youngest officer of that rank in the Canadian Army.

Other promotions:

Brig. J. F. A. Lister, 36, of Victoria, is promoted from the rank of colonel and becomes deputy-adjutant and quartermaster-general of a Canadian corps overseas. He was formerly assistant deputy quartermaster-general at Canadian military headquarters in London.

Brig. J. E. Sager, 45, of Vancouver, is promoted from the rank of lieutenant-colonel and is placed in command of a Canadian infantry brigade.

Brig. Harry Sharp, D.C.M., 45, of North Battleford, Sask., is promoted from the rank of lieutenant-colonel and assumes command of a Canadian infantry brigade.

Brig. Emmett McCusker, M.C., 53, of Regina, is promoted from the rank of colonel and is appointed deputy-director of medical services of a Canadian corps.

Won D.S.O. at Dieppe.

Brig. Gibson is a brother of Brig. Ralph B. Gibson, Deputy Chief of the General Staff, Ottawa.

Gen. Roberts won the Distinguished Service Order for gallantry in the Dieppe operation, which he commanded from a destroyer lying offshore as a raiding force, of which five-sixths of the strength was Canadian, stormed into the town and its vicinity and remained ashore for

nine hours in the face of determined German opposition.

He received his decoration from the King at a recent investiture in London.

Gen. Roberts, who formerly commanded a Canadian division, calls Kingston, Ont., his home, but he was born in Pipestone, Man.

He was educated at Epsom College, Surrey, England; University School, Victoria; Upper Canada College, Toronto, and Royal Military College of Canada, Kingston.

Commissioned in the R.C.A. on graduation from R.M.C. in 1914, he saw extensive service with the artillery in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in the first Great War. Arriving in France in October, 1915, he served continuously with the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery until he was wounded in March, 1918. Then he became an instructor at the Canadian School of Artillery until the Armistice.

For his war services he was decorated with the Military Cross.

Was Permanent Officer.

Returning to Canada in December, 1918, he continued in the re-organized permanent force, rising to brevet major in June, 1929, and being confirmed in his majority in April, 1934. He was a lieutenant-colonel at the outbreak of the second Great War.

He went overseas with the artillery early in the war, and got to France for a few hours as officer commanding a brigade of the Royal Canadian Artillery in June, 1940. Then the collapse of France became imminent, and his regiment was ordered back to England. He brought back every gun under his command.

He was promoted to brigadier in July, 1940, and to major-general on assuming command of a division on April 6, 1942.

Gen. Roberts passed the gunnery staff course in England during 1921-22, and took various courses in England during 1930-31. A keen sportsman, he is particularly interested in rugby, cricket, tennis, bad-

minton and polo. His hobbies are shooting and fishing.

He was married for the second time in March, 1943. His first wife died in 1941.

He has three sons in the army, Sgt. John G. R. Roberts, 20, of Kingston, and twins, Lieut. Richard Roberts, R.C.A., overseas, and Capt. William Hamilton Roberts, R.C.A., overseas, both 24.

Brig. Lister, a member of the Permanent Force, was promoted to his present rank with his appointment as assistant deputy quartermaster-general at C.M.H.Q. last August. Prior to that he was deputy assistant adjutant and quartermaster-general, divisional headquarters, overseas.

Born in Quebec City, a son of Brig. F. A. Lister, D.S.O., Brig. Lister was commissioned in 1930 with his appointment in the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps in Military District No. 1, later going to Victoria.

He was promoted captain in 1936, on appointment to the Permanent Force, and major in October, 1939, in which year he attended the staff college, Camberley, England.

Brig. Sager was a technical high school teacher in Vancouver in civilian life. Born at Stirling, Ont., he was educated in Vancouver public and high schools, the University of British Columbia and the University of Washington, where he took his Master of Arts degree.

He joined the Westminster Regiment in April, 1923, as a lieutenant and rose to be lieutenant-colonel in command of his regiment in Febru-

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