

Edinburgh, Glasgow, Birmingham, Bristol, and Plymouth was an indication of their hospitality and the importance they attached to the Canadian visit.

Western Europe

The Western European tour began with approximately a week in the Low Countries. Included in the programme were tours of the harbours of Rotterdam and Antwerp and important industries like the Fokker plant near Schiphol. The Canadian missions in The Hague and Brussels arranged for briefings on the notable aspects of Dutch and Belgian affairs not only by members of the Canadian staffs but also by officials of the two governments. Some relief from the grimmer kinds of industrial tour was obtained in a view provided by the Dutch of their national industry displayed in the bulb fields and the Keukenhof Gardens. The only other occasion on which the less severely practical processes were studied came later when the French authorities invited the party to inspect their great wine industry at Dijon.

In view of the extraordinary importance of Germany in the broad strategy of defence, a considerable portion of the European tour was devoted to this country and likewise to Austria. The principal areas visited were Hamburg, Hanover, Berlin, the Ruhr Valley, and the Cologne-Bonn-Frankfurt district. An opportunity was also afforded to see the Canadian Twenty-Seventh Brigade during their training manoeuvres at Celle. The programme included, in addition to talks from Canadian, British, and American officials and military men, various aspects of German life on such occasions as a visit to the police headquarters in Hamburg, a tour of the Hanover Trade Fair, and a meeting with civic officials in Berlin. The briefer stay in Austria was along the same lines and included stops in Vienna and at the British headquarters in Klagenfurt.

From Austria the group proceeded by bus to Venice, a trip which enabled them to see the north eastern Italian frontier area and a remarkable display by the Italian Alpini Troops. This was followed by a view of Italian industry in Milan and in Turin, where the impressive Fiat works were visited. In Rome there was an opportunity to hear something of the political, economic, defence and foreign policies of Italy from the Canadian Chargé d'Affaires and officials of the Italian Ministries.

A highlight of the stay in Rome was a visit to the Vatican where the group was graciously received by His Holiness, Pope Pius XII.

Middle East

The party which went to the Middle East travelled considerably beyond the bounds implied by that somewhat ill-defined term, Middle East. The tour proper began in Cyprus where, in addition to seeing something of the problems and policies of this important colony, the group received a thorough series of background lectures from the senior British officers who had very kindly flown up from Fayid in Egypt for this purpose. Fortunately the group was able to pay visits to the two remoter NATO allies, Greece and Turkey, where they were hospitably received by the Greek and Turkish authorities and shown a wide variety of military establishments. Among the interesting and at the same time enjoyable occasions were a dinner given to the group in Athens by General Grigoropoulos, Chief of the Greek General Staff, and a visit to the Turkish War Academy in Istanbul during which the N.D.C. members were made honorary graduates of the Academy. Greece and Turkey were the only two countries on this tour in which there were Canadian missions, and due advantage was taken therefore of the facilities provided and the guidance given by the Canadian Embassies in Athens and Ankara and the Canadian Consulate in Istanbul. Elsewhere arrangements were made and information was given by the British military, diplomatic or colonial officials. Transport to and from Malta was provided by the RCAF, and the RAF conducted the party the rest of the way.