

For the visit to Canada of General de Gaulle, the hour could not have been more happily chosen. At this moment, French and Canadian soldiers are fighting side by side in Italy. On the battle fields of Normandy, Canadian fighting men form part of the great Allied striking force. Amidst these scenes of conflict and triumph, there has been a proud renewal of the historic association between the peoples of France and Canada.

General de Gaulle comes to us fresh from his visit to Normandy. What emotion he must have felt as he set foot once more on the soil of France! What a thrill of pride was felt in many Canadian homes when we learned that the first troops he met in Normandy were men of Canada's army! It was from Normandy that the first Canadians came to make a new home, and found a new nation, in the new world. We rejoice that Canada's fighting men are helping today to free the ancestral home of so many of our people.

France is not only the ancestral home of many Canadians; in France are many shrines sacred to all Canadians. The Somme, Arras, Cambrai, Vimy and a host of scenes of battle, a generation ago, are names that will live forever in our history. In fighting for the liberation of France, Canada is fighting for what is truly a part of herself.