Ceremony at Adegem

DURING the campaign in Belgium and the Netherlands in 1944, one of the fiercest battles was that fought to clear the estuary of the River Scheldt and open Antwerp to the Allies. This task, as well as the liberation of Northern Pelgium, fell principally to the Canadian Army, which suffered heavy casualties. Eight hundred and thirty of the men killed lie today in the Canadian Military Cemetery at Adegem, a little Belgian town near the Dutch border.

Every year since 1944, the Association Belgique-Canada has organized a memorial ceremony at Adegem to honour these Canadian dead. During the ceremony, the Canadian Ambassador, the President of the Association, representatives of the King of the Belgians and the Belgian Government, and the Burgomaster of Adegem lay wreaths at the monument. Two guards of honour, one from 1 Wing, Reyal Canadian Air Force at Marville, France, and one from the Belgian Army present arms in tribute to the fallen. The children of Adegem help care for the graves all year long, and perhaps the most moving part of the ceremony is when these



The official party, headed by the Canadian Ambassador to Belgium, Mr. S. D. Pierce (left), and the Belgian Minister of Defence, Mr. L. M. O. Moyersoen (right), and including the Burgomaster of Adegem, the representative of the King of the Belgians and officers of the Canadian Armed Forces, enter the Memorial Gates at the Canadian Military Cemetery at Adegem, Belgium.