

Remembrance services held for Canadians in Dieppe battle

The fortieth anniversary of the August 19, 1942 raid on Dieppe, France, was commemorated in England and France honouring the Canadians who fought and died in the raid.

A Canadian delegation led by Minister of Veterans Affairs W. Bennett Campbell attended the ceremonies. The delegation included members of the 18 army units that participated at Dieppe and representatives of the Royal Canadian Air Force, the Royal Canadian Navy and the Nursing Sisters Association of Canada. Joining the delegation were veterans of the 1944 campaign, French prisoners of war from Dieppe, some United States rangers and British commandos, and ten youths representing each Canadian province.

The raid on Dieppe, or "Operation Jubilee" as it was code-named, marked the first time all three Canadian services were engaged in the same major mission during the Second World War. Some 5 000 Canadian troops, who outnumbered their British, American, French and Polish colleagues, led the assault at Dieppe and the nearby beaches of Pourville and Puits.

Only 2 200 Canadians returned from France. There were a total of 3 367 casualties, including 907 dead and 1 946 taken prisoner.

Initial ceremonies in England

The first commemorative ceremonies were held on August 15 in England at Runnymede where the Canadian troops had been stationed and at the nearby Brookwood Military Cemetery. A mem-

orial at Brookwood is dedicated to all Commonwealth service men and women who have no known grave, and Runnymede is the site of the Air Force memorial, erected in tribute to all Commonwealth aircrew with unknown burial places. Some 105 aircraft had been lost by the Royal Air Force during operation Jubilee, the largest single-day aircraft loss by the force during the Second World War.

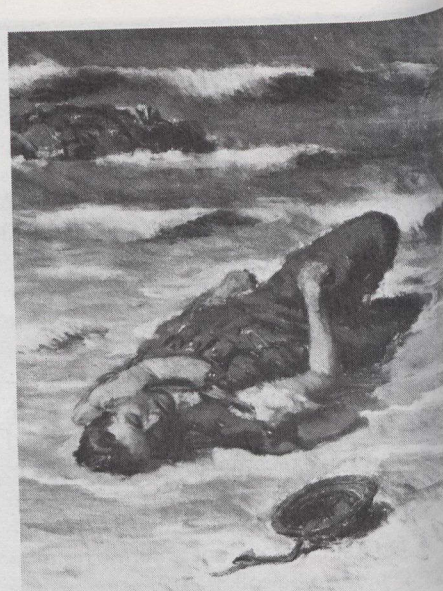
On August 17, a memorial ceremony honouring members of the Royal Canadian Engineers was held at Newhaven, the English port from where the troops sailed to Dieppe. An additional ceremony was held at Fort Newhaven, home of a permanent exhibition dedicated to the Dieppe raid.

The ceremonies included a hymn-and-prayer service conducted by the Bishop of Lewes with music by Quebec's Royal 22nd Regiment, the *Van Doos*. Two plaques were unveiled by Mr. Campbell, one of which was presented by the crew of one of the landing crafts that carried the Canadian soldiers across the English Channel.

During the ferry crossing across the English Channel, a wreath-laying ceremony was held in memory of the naval personnel killed.

Raid remembered

The main commemoration ceremony during the week was held on August 19 at the Canadian War Cemetery on the hillside at Hautôt-sur-Mer, five kilometres south of Dieppe, where some 700 Cana-



Casualty on the Beach, Dieppe by German war artist A. Hierl.

dians are buried.

Tributes were given to the Canadians by Mr. Campbell, Canada's Ambassador to France Michel Dupuy and the French Veterans Minister Jean Laurain. Music was played by the regimental band of the Royal 22nd Regiment and pipe major Alex Graham from the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Winnipeg, who had fought at Dieppe and had been captured. A 100-man Canadian guard of honour fired the salute.

Following the service, the Canadian veterans, paraded from Canada Square, next to the beach where the Canadians soldiers died, to City Hall. Later, the veterans marched from memorial to memorial along the beach, each remembering fallen members of the four regiments that came ashore on the Dieppe beach: the 154th Canadian Army Tank Regiment of Calgary, Les Fusiliers Mont-Royal, the Essex Scottish and the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry.

Two more official ceremonies honouring the Canadians who fought in the raid were held on August 20 to close the week: one at the memorial in Pourville; and the other beside the seawall at Puits. At Pourville the 78 members of the South Saskatchewan Regiment and the 60 members of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders who died in the raid were remembered. At Puits the members of the Royal Regiment of Canada from Toronto who landed on the beach were honoured.

It was at Puits, where the beach is only 250 metres wide, that the Royals suffered more than any other regiment in the Dieppe raid. Of the 554 who left England,



National Museum of Man photos

Dieppe Raid painted by Canadian war artist C.F. Comfort