

# Crew of "Fort William" Honored at Civic Banquet

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Canadians overseas have experienced an intensifying of their pride and love of their native land. As a result of the noble part played by their fellow-countrymen in the present war, and this new version of Canada as a nation prominent among world powers, was an answer to the problems of sectionism which are dividing the country, declared Lieut-Commander Hugh Campbell, DSC. R.C.N.R., in addressing the complimentary banquet given by the city of Fort William last night.

The banquet was held in honor of the officers and men of the H.M.C.S. "Fort William", the minesweeper in the Royal Canadian navy named after the city. About 250 persons attended.

A gay and festive occasion, commemorating the return of the ship's company from two years and eight months active service on the sea lanes of the Atlantic and the British Isles. The banquet was attended by representatives of all organizations which provided comforts for H.M.C.S. Fort William, as well as heads of civic departments and the City Council in a body.

Streamers of united nations, flags and many other large Canadian, British and American flags gave a cheerful glow to the room. Seated at the head table were Lieut-Comdr. Hugh Campbell, skipper of the Fort William, and Mrs. Campbell, and several members of the ship's company on leave here.

## Souvenir Program

A souvenir program of the occasion was placed at each plate on the banquet tables. Details of the fete were arranged by a committee comprising Ald. J. O. Booth, chairman; Mayor Gerald Anderson, M.L.A.; Ald. H. Badanai, Ald. A. Batters, Ald. George Bell, E.F. Hatch, H.A. Irving and C. Strachan.

Guests at the head table marched in their places behind two kilted girl pipers of Fort William Girls' Pipe Band. Mary MacRae and Muriel Weaver. Ald. J. O. Booth resided as chairman, and the grace was given by Archdeacon C. W. Balfour. During the serving of the banquet courses an orchestra played popular numbers.

At the conclusion of the excellent dinner a short musical program, was proceeded with Mrs. Mary Taciuk Koimatvcki was heard in two beautiful violin solos with Miss Alma McGill A.T.C.M., as accompanist and Mrs. Elizabeth Barber, with Mrs. H. Mrth as accompanist, rendered two delightful vocal solos.

Ald. Booth called upon Mayor Garfield Anderson to give the civic welcome to Lieut- Comdr. Cambell and his men.

Mayor Anderson after paying tribute to the navy, "the silentservice" declared that, "We used to speak of ships of oak and hearts of oak, butnowadays our ships are of iron and of steel, and it is not too much to say that the hearts of our sailors have evolved in like manner. Nothing but 'raw courage' and



'nerves of steel' fare today. Such a man is our honored guest this evening.

August, 1942.

**O**n D-day when H.M.C.S. Fort William was in the van of ships leading the attack, "there was present with you, in spirit at lewast, every loyal and patriotic Canadian. And as Commander of a Canadian naval ship you personified the great effort and courage of our people." said Mayor Anderson.

### Born in Scotland

**M**r. Strachan stated that Hugh Campbell was born in Ardrossan, Scotland, at the mouth of the Clyde. He first went to sea in sail and in steam under the command of his father.

### Cheque is Presented

**T**he Mayor presented a cheque to Lt- Cmdr Cambell for the provision of entertainment to members of the ship's company not able to be present.

**A**fter he was awarded his master's certificate, Hugh Campbell served for several years as an officer in the British Mercantile Service. He first came to Canada in 1926, and in 1927 sailed to the lakehead on the "Claremont", serving on the Great Lakes three years.

**A**nd on behalf of the citizens of Fort William and in a larger sense the citizens of Canada, I hope you will accept our deep and sincere gratitude for the great part you are playing in this struggle," said Mayor Anderson.

**I**n 1930, Hugh Campbell decided to "swallow the anchor" and take a position on shore, entering the employ of Canadian Industries Ltd. In 1939 when the navy called for experienced men, Hugh Campbell volunteered and served on the "Annapolis," a four-stacker, and later the "Niagara", as a navigator. Finally he was sent to assume command of the "Fort William". Mr. Strachan pointed out that the "Fort William" was mentioned several times in dispatches and Lt- Cmdr Campbell himself was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his outstanding heroism and bravery in action.

**L**ieut- Cmdr. Campbell, in accepting the cheque, assured the mayor and City Council that each member of the ship's company would participate in the good cheer provided by the gift.

**A**ld. A. Batters introduced by the chairman as the "poet laureate of the city council," gave a poetic toast to H.M.C.S. Fort William and her crew, a toast of his own composing. Ald. Batters was warmly commended by the chairman for his unique toast.

**L**ieut- Cmdr Campbell in an eloquent and witty address regretted that he did not have the whole ship's company present at the banquet, but one third were on the vessel. He called on the members of his "whaler's crew" and introduced them in assemblage. E.R.A. Gus Kullin was an able and valued member of the engine room which was responsible for the record made by the vessel of 1587 hours at sea without a boiler clean, compared with a normal

**L**t- Cmdr Campbell was introduced by C. R. Strachan, who was chairman of the of the committee in charge of providing comforts for the vessel when it was commissioned in



run of 500 to 800 hours.

**S**ignalman Steve Lysak had made good on board the ship and also since he had come home, for he had taken unto him a wife, said the Commander with a smile.

**T**elegrapher Mel Mounk, of Keewatin, was skilled in the work of the wireless room and he had done a very good job indeed.

**D**uring the past year the ship was engaged in minesweeping and needed an excellent minesweeping department. AB Joseph Black was a splendid example of the men in the department.

**A**B Elmer McDonald was an efficient member of the depth charge department of the ship's company.

**T**he Commander regretted that Lieut. Hecotr McGowan was unable to be present, and he asked Mr. and Mrs. Robert McGowan to stand up and be introduced in place of their son.

**T**he gift cheque from the City of Fort William would be expended carefully and well for the benefit of the whole ship's company, and he also assured Ald. Batters that his poem would be posted up in the ward room.

### **Ties of Friendship**

**S**ince the vessel had cleared from Fort William, two years and eight months ago, the ties of friendship between the ship's company and their namesake city had grown stronger due to the continuous stream of letters and gifts

forwarded to the ship by Fort William folk, particularly the ladies who had supplied knitted goods through the Auxillary.

**L**t-Comdr. Campbell told of one cold day late last fall when there arrived on board a large case of knitted goods from Fort William.

**T**hese knitted articles arrived at the right moment, and he again extended his thanks to the ladies for their efforts which had "always kept us a little better supplied than the other ships of the flotilla".

**H**.M.C.S. Fort William, as her trials had indicated, was a superlative craft. She had shown wonderful speed and efficiency.

**"O**ur ship was subjected to the stress of storms and gales. Mines blew up near her bow and stern. Depth charges went off close to her sides. But she carried on and never once let us down," he said proudly.

**O**n their visits to Britian, the ship's company had proven to be good representatives of Canada. The british people, he said, although short on rations and clothing, had an abundance of courage and high spirits, and had traeted the men magnificently.

**T**he speaker declared that the Canadians in the armed forces overseas, hearing on every side tributes to the gallantry and courage of their fellow countrymen, had become imbued with a high sensee of patriotism and experienced an intensifying of their feeling for Canada.



## Need National Spirit

**T**here awoke in us the knowledge that this contry of ours is a very wonderful country. We take it a little bad on coming home to find so much socialism. This Canada of ours needs to aquire the spirit that we are a nation, and not eight or nine provinces. If this Canada of ours can make such a great contribution in the war effort, as in the last Victory loan, we can make a great contribution as a nation among the world powers. Many of your sons are coming back with this new conception of Canada. It is a very wonderful opportunity for us if we capture their spirit, for it may ease the way to a slettlement of our national problems."

**R**ehabilliation of the forces would cost a great deal of money, and the speaker urged everyone to "buy and buy and buy Victory bonds".

**H**.M.C.S. Fort William had preceded American forces to the continent on D-day. Just as many Canadian boys had fallen on the beaches of Normandy and would never return, so fell many American boys who likewise never would return.

**I** hope and trust that all of us, as a tribute in the boys who will never come home from overseas, will do our best for the boys who are coming home," concluded Lt-Comdr. Campbell.

**T**he speaker was given an ovation by the assemblage, after which Ald. J. O. Booth as chairman extended the city's thanks to the speaker and Mrs. Campbell, who had left their home and family in the east in order to be with us tonight," for an unforgettable evening.

**T**he singing of the national anthem concluded the fuction.