

Symbol of the North's Gratitude to People of St Valery

Lady Huntly Opens New Gateway to Military Cemetery

'PERFECT RESTING-PLACE' FOR 51st DIVISION HEROES

FIRST of the major ceremonies at St Valery was the opening of the new gateway to the military cemetery by the Marchioness of Huntly on Saturday forenoon.

In the cemetery itself were gathered civic and military representatives, pipers and drummers of The Black Watch from Berlin, and detachments of French Infantry and dragoons.

Thousands of people were lined along the Avenue d'Ecosse, which looks down through the trees on to the graves.

At the gateway, Lady Huntly presented M. Cherfils with a gold ring, the gift of Messrs Alexander and Co., Aberdeen, which she opened the new gateway. Brief religious services were conducted by Protestant and Catholic clergymen.

Speaking in French, the Marchioness of Huntly said: "It is perhaps fitting that the first ceremony we perform here to-day should be one that expresses the profound gratitude of the people of the North of Scotland—the families and kindred of those who died in the neighbourhood for what they did in the years that have followed."

Hallowed Spot
"This ceremony, taking place on this hallowed spot, this beautiful perfect resting-place for those from the fact that it gives expression to that deep friendship and unity between Northern Scot which emerged from the sufferings we suffered ten years ago, on the very battlefield on which we are now gathered. It is the kind of international regard and understanding of which the world stands very much in need to-day."

"Consequently I feel very proud of the honour of inaugurating the gateway which the people of the North of Scotland have erected at the entrance to this cemetery as a symbol of that gratitude of which I have spoken."

The two pillars are cut from our native Scottish granite and the one that grew in an oak tree that grew in a Highland glen. They are emblematic of the staunchness of Scottish character, which the full fury of Nazi militarism found indestructible on those and other shores.

Proud Memories
"As we stand beside these graves, looking at the heartstrings of someone of us here, British and French, soldier and civilian, those of you who have come back to the scene of the battle in which you fought will, like the veterans, find your memories of the last decade and seeing the raging tide of war sweeping over this peaceful countryside. It was ten years ago to-day that the Nazis launched their attack on the St Valery perimeter, and men of our Highland regiments and French cavalrymen fought side by side with matchless bravery against overwhelming odds. Our gallant leaders were under the command of that very gallant gentleman, Victor Fortune, whose son is to-day. The French cavalry was led by that dauntless General Berniquet, who was killed in the battle and now lies in this cemetery."

Our soldiers who had fought ceaselessly day and night for weeks were physically weary. But their spirit was unbreakable. They went on fighting with an indomitable spirit that will be remembered as long as Scotland endures."

Great Victory
"One of the greatest of our Division's leaders, Major-General Wimpey, who is here to-day, to the new 51st Division great victory at El Alamein and when, as part of the Eighth Army, it helped to drive Rommel's Afrika Korps a thousand miles across the African Desert to the stage of the way back to St Valery. We are proud of the achievement of our soldiers, but my message to-day is to the men of the North of Scotland, to you, the people of St Valery."

"We remember that you were suddenly caught in the grips of the fiercest battles of 1940 and that you bore yourselves bravely. In the quiet heroism of the sisters at a convent who nursed our wounded during the battle, your appreciation of what the devotion of these women must mean to our wounded men and in the very midst of the fighting."

"We remember those other women and men who sheltered the wounded in their homes until they could escape."

Pilgrimages
"We remember that you, although four-fifths of your town was destroyed, immediately gathered round the dead who had been buried in fields and those later washed up to the sea, to give them Christian burial. Your Municipal Council consecrated it as their last resting place."

"We remember how lovingly you look after their graves throughout the year, on the first anniversaries of the battle, in spite of German reprisals. You made pilgrimages to the cemetery and heaped flowers upon the graves of our men."



Pipers and drummers of the Black Watch lead the procession to the St Valery cemetery.



At the official ceremony of the unveiling of the 51st (Highland) Division Memorial. In the group, reading from left to right, are—Mme. Cherfils, M. Massigli, Lady Huntly, Mr Hector M'Neil and M. Cherfils.

Wider Scope for Blind Federation

THE Scottish National Federation for the Welfare of the Blind agreed at Edinburgh on Saturday to alter the constitution to permit affiliation to the Federation of a new group of local government bodies and national organisations.

The reorganisation is intended to "embrace all sections engaged in the welfare of the blind." The recommendation came from the Executive Committee, and was presented by Mr J. Balfour, Aberdeen.

An amendment calling for direct representation from all local authorities operating welfare service committees as individual members was rejected.

Mr J. M. Donaldson, Glasgow, was elected president.

'Send Old Ploughs to Spain'
A CALL to British farmers to collect their old and unused horse-drawn ploughs and send them in bulk to the farmers of Spain was made last night by a farmer, Mr J. M. Stratton, of Cotford St Mary, Wiltshire.

"We know that farmers in Spain are very backward," he said. "They are still using wooden ploughs, and there are these good iron horse-drawn ploughs in this country rusting away on scrap heaps."

"There is no political motive behind this idea," he added.

Savings 'Raided'
Heavy withdrawals continue to feature latest national savings figures. They totalled £15,841,000 for the week ended June 5, and exceeded new savings (£12,470,000) by £3,371,000.

UNIT TRUST PRICES
First British, 27/8-32/2; Second British, 27/8-32/2; Third British, 28/8-32/2; Fourth British, 28/8-32/2; New British, 27/8-32/2; Foreign Government, 20/10; 22/1-14/1; 19/2-21/2; Midland, 20/10; 22/1-14/1; 19/2-21/2; Southern, 22/2-26/2; Scottish and North, 22/2-26/2; Bank, 20/2-22/2; Insurance, 20/2-22/2; Cornhill, 22/2-24/2; Cornhill & Co. Deb., 20/2-22/2; Investment, 16/8-18/2; Scot. Ins., 18/1-20/1; British Empire, 18/1-20/1; 18/9; 19/2-21/2; Cumulative, 19/1-20/1; 19/1-20/1; 19/1-20/1; 17/10-19/1; do. "B", 17/1-18/1; do. "C", 15/6-16/2.



Lady Huntly addresses the gathering at St Valery cemetery.



Drummer Walter Philips, of Inverness, with Mme. Germaine Charpino, who helped him to escape from the Gestapo in 1940. It was their first meeting since Mme. Charpino and her friends kept him in hiding. After Drummer Philips's escape from capture at St Valery he was able to make his way to Spain and Gibraltar. He now works as a welder.

Dividends and Reports
Boase Spinning, — 10 p.c. tax free (same).
New Kleinfontein, — 1/9 (Dec. 1949 1/4) and June 1/-.
Albion Motors, Ltd., — 124 p.c. for year and bonus 24 p.c.
Kelly's Directories, — 174 p.c. (35 p.c. six months, since increased by 100 p.c. capital bonus).
Albion Greyhounds, — 37 p.c. on Ord. (203,545 p.c.).

ORPHEUS CHOIR TO BE DISBANDED

Sir Hugh S. Robertson, the seventy-six-year-old founder and conductor of Glasgow Orpheus Choir, confirmed on Saturday that the choir will be disbanded at the end of next season on his retirement.

GAS ACT, 1948

Notice to Holders of Securities of Gas Undertakings. (This notice should be retained.)

The Minister of Fuel and Power has declared by Order that the values of the undermentioned securities have been determined under Part II of the Act, the Conversion Date being 12th June, 1950, on which date the securities will be extinguished and the holders thereof will become instead holders of British Gas 3 per cent. Guaranteed Stock, 1950-1955 (issued at par and redeemable at par) calculated in accordance with the rates mentioned below.

Where any payments of interest made on or before 1st May, 1950, by the Gas Council under direction of the Minister are not sufficient in total to discharge in full the interest due for the two periods of six months ended 31st October, 1949, and 30th April, 1950, respectively, the Gas Council will, on or about 17th July, 1950, make good the deficiency by paying to holders of securities as at 30th September, 1949, an advance of interest for the first period of six months, and to holders as at 27th March, 1950, any balance due for the second period of six months. The third six months' interest will be paid on the British Gas Stock on 1st November, 1950.

The procedure regarding transfers, the exchange of certificates, etc., set out in Part A of the Gas Council's Notice published in the Press on 15th April, 1950, will apply on and from the Conversion Date to holders of British Gas Stock issued in exchange for the said old securities.

SCHEDULE OF VALUED SECURITIES.

Undertaker	Security	Unit	Compensation Value
Hampton Court Gas Co.	Consol. Ord. Stock	£100	£102/10/-
Kinghorn Gas-Light Co. Ltd.	4% Red. Deb.	£100	£100
Musselburgh Gas Co.	Ord. Shares	£1	60/-
Tideswell Gas Light & Coke Co. Ltd.	Ord. Shares	£1	17/6

MINISTRY OF FUEL AND POWER, LONDON, S.W.1. 12th June, 1950.

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Mr William Veitch shakes hands with Mme. Wagner, watched by Mme. Cherfils, wife of the Mayor of St Valery.

One Slept in Rommel's Bed!

THE village square last night was transformed into a magnificent ballroom. Flags fluttered from surrounding windows and in all the houses there were little parties prior to the Grand Ball, which was expected to last well into the morning.

There was hardly a house in St Valery that was not giving hospitality to someone from Scotland over the week-end.

Someone had the distinction of sleeping in the bed which was occupied by Rommel during his successful drive in 1940.

A spirit of deep and lasting friendship was everywhere. The week-end will never be forgotten by those who shared in it.

MR M'NEIL HOME

Mr Hector M'Neil, Secretary for Scotland, arrived back at Northolt airport last night from St Valery.

At the official ceremony of the unveiling of the 51st (Highland) Division Memorial. In the group, reading from left to right, are—Mme. Cherfils, M. Massigli, Lady Huntly, Mr Hector M'Neil and M. Cherfils.

Draft for £7500 Handed Over to Municipal Council

A SUGGESTION that Dundee, Perth and Stirling might augment the fund for reconstruction of the town hall was made by Mr William Veitch, editor-in-chief, Aberdeen Journals, Ltd., when he presented a draft for £7500 to M. Cherfils at a dinner last night, given by the parent towns of St Valery.

"Hitherto during these celebrations," said Mr Veitch, "we have been paying tribute to the soldiers of France and our soldiers of Scotland. As you, Mr Maire, said four years ago 'Your dead are our dead and our dead are your dead,' but there is one aspect of the great St Valery episode which we can never forget."

"It has already gone down to history, how in the midst of their own sorrows and sufferings and at considerable risk the people of St Valery took upon themselves the care of our dead and made sacrosanct a corner of their soil that will be for ever Scotland."

Spontaneous
"Five years ago in response to an appeal which I made to the people of a limited portion of the North-east of Scotland, the people raised a sum of over £8600."

"It was a spontaneous thanksgiving, which expressed by generous deed rather than by easy word the gratitude of our people."

"Not the least significant was the enthusiasm of our women-folk whose interests were most intimately affected. Although no fewer than thirty-one towns organised their contributions, there were actually 113 rural institutes which made it a point of honour to raise funds."

"Out of that fund we have contributed the gateway to the cemetery, but I do deplore the fact that the Imperial War Graves Commission will not permit us to record the gratitude of the people of the North-east of Scotland to the people of St Valery."

King Leopold to See the Pope

KING LEOPOLD of the Belgians arrived in Rome by train yesterday on a Holy Year visit, accompanied by his wife, the Princess de Bethy.

Both will be received in audience by the Pope.

The Count of Paris, Pretender to the French throne, said in Lisbon yesterday that rumours spread abroad that Prince Baudoin of Belgium was engaged to his daughter Isabel were "absolutely unfounded."

Prince Baudoin is the nineteen-year-old son and heir of King Leopold.

Mr William Veitch shakes hands with Mme. Wagner, watched by Mme. Cherfils, wife of the Mayor of St Valery.