

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

New Delhi, May 12, 1949.

INDIAN DEFENCE DELEGATION IN CANADA

Wreaths-laying at Ottawa War Memorial

TALKS WITH CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

Ottawa, May 12 - Strains of Tagore's "Jana Gana Mana", played by a band of the Royal Canadian Air Force, were heard in Confederation Square in the heart of Canada's capital at noon on Tuesday.

The occasion was the laying of wreaths by Mr.H.M.Patel, Defence Secretary of the Government of India, Lt-Gen Kalwant Singh, Chief of the General Staff, Indian Army, and Air Vice-Marshal S.Mukerjee, Deputy C-in-C of the RIAF, at Canada's War Memorial.

Among those present were Mr.C.M.Drury, Canadian Deputy Minister for Defence, General Charles Foulkes, Chief of Staff of the Canadian Army, Rear-Admiral F.L.Houghton, acting Chief of the Naval Staff, Air Vice-Marshal A.L.James, acting Chief of Staff, R.C.A.F., and Sardar H.S.Malik, Indian High Commissioner in Canada. After the ceremony, the national anthems of Britain, India and Canada were played, with the RCAF providing the guard of honour.

On arrival on Monday evening at the Rockcliffe airport, near Ottawa, by a R.C.A.F.Dakota, the India Government defence delegation was received by Mr.Malik, Mr.Drury and other high-ranking Canadian Army, Air and Naval officers. After inspecting a guard of honour furnished by the R.C.A.F., the delegates were escorted by a guard of the famous 'Mounties' (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) to their hotel.

On Tuesday, the delegation had a crowded programme, including a conference with the Canadian Chiefs of Staff Committee, a meeting with the Defence Minister, Mr. Brooke Claxton, a reception by Mr. Malik and a dinner by Mr. M. R. Ahuja, Indian Trade Commissioner.

Yesterday, Mr. Patel visited the gun division of Canadian Arsenal near Montreal, while General Kalwant Singh visited the Staff College, the R.C.E.M.E. School and the Signals School at Kingston.

Today, General Kalwant Singh went round the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps School and the Royal Canadian Infantry School, both at Camp Borden.

Air Vice-Marshal Mukerjee has, during the last few days, visited the Photo Establishment at Rockcliffe, the Central Flying School and Air Armament School at Trenton, and the Flying Training School and Instrument Flying School at Centralia.

The delegation will return to New York tomorrow.

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