

LIEUT. W. DOUGALL IN KING'S PRESENCE

Port Arthur Officer Writes of Day He Was Decorated by Monarch

In a letter dated February 12, Lieut. W. Dougall, formerly on the reportorial staff of the Daily News, gives an interesting account of the ceremony at Buckingham Palace when he was decorated by King George with the military cross for valor on the field. His letter reads in part:

"I was invested by the King last Monday, a very impressive ceremony, in which I never thought I would participate. As there were a large number of officers, mostly English, the addition of myself and two other Canadians, one New Zealander, and one Australian, gave a somewhat cosmopolitan air to the scene.

"The investment took place at Buckingham Palace, a beautiful building of Elizabethan architecture, standing well out at the head of the broad Pall Mall, which runs from the palace to the Strand. Inside the palace a battalion of 'flunkies' rushed hither and thither waiting upon the large number of officers to be decorated. The walls of the halls were draped with pink crepe de chene while open cabinets placed indiscriminately contained lovely samples of products from Derby and Worcester china potteries. The floor was elegantly carpeted with songy Turkish ware, while the illuminations consisted of hundreds of electric candles hung in sparkling crystal chandeliers.

Whiter Than Snow

"The marble staircase, bulwarked by perpendicular electric standards, was, in my estimation, whiter than the snow outside. The upper hall was de-

corated in the same manner as the lower except that beautiful works of art took the place of the pink draperies at regular intervals on both sides of the hall. The paintings were, for the most part, of an ancestral nature, such as the famous garden party at Buckingham Palace in the reign of Queen Victoria, and the crowning of several British sovereigns. The flunkies, bedecked in glowing colors sprinkled with gold braid which imparted a dazzling effect in comparison with the stolid khaki of the officers who passed by en route to shake hands with the King of Britain. Their coats and blue breeches and white stockings reminded me of the old uniforms of the Ninety-Sixth regiment.

"The waiting room to which we were led was entirely different to the other rooms except for the cabinets of chinaware and huge glistening chandeliers and the works of art. The pink draperies had given way to a beautiful green and gold flower embossed wall-paper, while the lounges, chairs, etc., were upholstered in crimson leather. There were two large open marble fireplaces in the room on the mantelpieces of which ticked two old fashioned clocks which, I am sure, were of great intrinsic value. The windows of this room, which were oblong in shape, were of the French style, and when open led into a snow covered balcony, one of the ornaments of which was an unexploded German shell, a souvenir brought home by His Majesty from his recent tour of the French front, presumably.

"The next room we were ushered into was the room next to the one in which the King was decorating. The upholstering and decorations of this room were exactly similar to the room we had just left, the only difference being that the number of pictures on the wall was less, the vacant places being taken by large mirrors, my vanity not allowing me to pass these by without first seeing that my clothing was just as immaculate as when I first entered the place.

"My name was called and I entered the room to be decorated by the King. After pinning the cross to my tunic, His Majesty shook hands with me and said he was very pleased to give me the military cross. I bowed profusely, thanked him, and retired from the room. The King was attired in the uniform of a Field Marshal and the Duke of Connaught stood behind him."

MILITARY CROSS WINNER



LIEUT. WILLIAM DOUGALL

Although Major Crozier and Capt. Knobel were mentioned in despatches for extended periods of valuable service and Flight Sub Lieutenant Potter was decorated by the French, the only officer of any of the overseas forces from Port Arthur to win a decoration for conspicuous gallantry in action so far has been Lieutenant William Dougall, who left with the battalion organized by Lieutenant-Colonel Hay. Before enlisting Lieutenant Dougall was a reporter on the Daily News and was quite well known in the city as an energetic news gatherer and fluent writer. His previous newspaper experience was in his home town of Aberdeen, Scotland. Lieutenant Dougall won his decoration, the military cross, by his daring and brilliant executive in leading a raid last June. Subsequently he was returned to England suffering from rheumatism and has been there since. He is now attached to a reserve battalion for instruction duty but it is doubtful, on account of his ailment, whether he will be able to return to the firing line.