

'PYJAMA' V.C. LEADS RETURN TO NAZAIRE

Guns Again— In Salute

"Evening News" Reporter

ST. NAZAIRE, Saturday.

COLONEL CHARLES NEWMAN, who led the Commandos in the attack on St. Nazaire and won the V.C., has a unique name to-day. He is now the "V.C. in Pyjamas."

Wearing only a gay-coloured dressing gown over his pyjamas, he stood on the foredeck of the cruiser *Sirius* as, in the first light to-day, she nosed her way into the port that he and his men attacked five years and four months ago.

Seeing 'The Sights'

All round Colonel Newman were 125 other survivors of the raid of March, 1942. Many of them were seeing the port for the first time—when they were here before they arrived and left in darkness.

Joining in the sightseeing at one time was Commander R. E. D. Ryder, who was in charge of naval operations and also won the V.C. In the group, too, was ex-Commando Norman Aukett, of Paddington.

All these survivors have brought with them a large bronze plaque. On it is written, in French, the words "In proud memory of those who gave their lives in the attack on St. Nazaire, 28th March, 1942. They achieved much having dared all."

It is being fixed to-day to the monolith, put up by the local people in memory of those Britons who died on the beaches or in the streets.

Londoner's Honour

The men drew lots out of a Commando's beret for the honour of carrying the bronze plaque, and it fell to C.O. Whittle, of "The Ingles," St. Leonard's-avenue, Hayling Island, Hants, and Jack Harrington, of Seymour-street, Marylebone.

Mr Duff Cooper, our Ambassador, and Lady Cooper are here for the unveiling of the memorial by M. Ramadier, the French Premier. A wreath will be laid by Admiral Sir Geoffrey Layton.

Also looking on will be Commander S. H. Beattie, the other living St. Nazaire V.C.

The *Sirius* fired a 19-gun salute as M. Ramadier and M. Jacquinet, the Navy Minister, arrived on board the French destroyer *Kleber* to welcome her. Two French minesweepers met *Sirius* many miles out at sea at dawn and escorted her in.

ST. NAZAIRE: RAID SURVIVORS HONOUR DEAD

THE people of St. Nazaire yesterday gave a great welcome to survivors of the British Commando and Navy raid on the port on March 27, 1942, when they returned in the cruiser Sirius to honour their fallen colleagues at the unveiling of a memorial.

As over 100 survivors of the raid marched ashore—headed by two V.C.s—they carried a bronze plaque for the monolith worded "They achieved much, having dared all."

The men drew lots out of a Commando's beret for the honour of carrying the plaque.

M. Ramadier, the French Prime Minister, unveiled the memorial to the sound of the Last Post.

After the ceremony everyone went to La Tranchée—burial place of many of the 250 soldiers and airmen who died in the bombing of the Lancastria when she was sunk evacuating troops from France in 1940.

Later the Puy Cemetery, where 30 of those who fell in the raid lie buried, was visited.—*Reuter.*

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old green berets, to St. Nazaire



Five years after the raid but still in step, Colonel Newman, VC (right), and Commander Ryder, VC, arrive at Portland to board the cruiser Sirius.

Skates and servi

A combined skating drome approved