

V.C.'s, DINNER:

More than 80 holders of the V.C. and 40 who won the George Cross, gather in London for the first dinner of the Victoria Cross Association. Field Marshall Earl Alexander of Tunis is a guest - and French resistance heroine Edette Halloves, G.C., is here in her own right. Minister of Defence Duncan Sandys represents the Government, and the Duke of Gloucester, the Queen.

Brigadier Sir John Smyth, V.C., is in the chair at what must surely be the biggest meeting of brave men and women ever to sit down at the same meal. Captain Pollard (left) won his V.C. in 1917, and Sergeant Speakman in the Korean War. Captain Agar won his at Kronstadt, in 1919. Many more of this gallant band would be here if the newly-formed Association had more funds - but it has bigger plans for next year. Mr. Sandys expresses what we all feel about these remarkable people:

"In war or in peace, science will never be a substitute for leadership, self-sacrifice and courage. Since the earliest times and as long as the human race endures, men will continue to revere and honour the brave".

DUNCAN SANDYS' SPEECH

G.V. "YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS, MR. CHAIRMAN, REV. WOOLEY, HOLDERS OF THE V.C.
AND THE G.C." 25 ft

S.C.U. "ON THIS REMARKABLE OCCASION, TERRIFIC OCCASION, IT IS NOT EASY
TASK TO REPLY FOR THE GUESTS. ✓ NONE OF US I AM SURE COULD CONCEIVE
OF A GREATER HONOUR THAN TO BE THE GUESTS OF THIS COMPANY OF
HEROES. ✓ I KNOW I AM SPEAKING FOR MY FELLOW GUESTS WHEN I SAY
THAT THROUGHOUT THIS MEMORABLE EVENING WE HAVE ALL OF US BEEN
STIRRED BY FEELINGS OF EMOTION AND HUMILITY. YOUR CHAIRMAN IN THE
COURSE OF HIS SPEECH SPOKE OF THE OF THE LOW STATE OF YOUR
ASSOCIATION'S FINANCE." 125 ft

C.U. ✓ "IN WAR OR IN PEACE SCIENCE WILL NEVER BE A SUBSTITUTE FOR
LEADERSHIP, SELF-SACRIFICE AND COURAGE. SINCE THE EARLIEST TIMES
AND SO LONG AS THE HUMAN RACE ENDURES, MEN WILL CONTINUE TO
REVEER AND HONOUR THE BRAVE." 58 ft

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