
Report To:	Policy and Resources Committee	Date:	17 September 2019
Report By:	Head of Organisational Development, Policy and Communications	Report No:	HR/16/19/GB
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Subject:	Remembrance Sunday – Canadian Armed Forces’ Involvement		

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report highlights the pivotal role Greenock played at the start of WWII in welcoming Canadian forces to the UK and proposes that a formal invitation is extended to the High Commissioner of Canada, or her representative, to attend the Greenock Remembrance commemorations each year.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 Greenock played a pivotal role in welcoming Canadian forces at the outbreak of WWII. In anticipation of the declaration of war, the Canadian Active Service Force was mobilised on 1 September 1939.

2.2 The Canadian forces arrived in Greenock between December 1939 and February 1940 with the first arriving on 16 December 1939.

2.3 The official party, which included the future Prime Minister Anthony Eden in his capacity as Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs and Mr. Vincent Massey High Commissioner for Canada, came aboard the RMS Aquitania, a Cunard ship built on the Clyde, to welcome troops to Greenock. They read a welcome message from the King: *“The British Army will be proud to have as comrades-in-arms the successors of those who came from Canada in the Great War and fought with a heroism that has never been forgotten”*.

2.4 Given the pivotal role played by Greenock in welcoming Canadian forces to Scotland and the UK at the start of the war, it is considered appropriate to recognise the link the area has and to extend a formal invitation to the High Commissioner of Canada, or her representative, to attend the 2019 and future Remembrance services in Greenock.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

3.1 That the Council formally extends an invitation to the High Commissioner of Canada, or her representative, to attend the annual act of Remembrance in Greenock each year.

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