



For the Glory of The Maple Leaf

LT. ROLFE E. HARSTONE

Wearing the ribbon of the Russian decoration of the order of St. Stanislaus and the 1914-15 ribbon also, Lieutenant Rolfe E. G. Harstone, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Harstone, Dufferin street, Port Arthur, returned home on Friday night. Lieutenant Harstone lost a leg on the Somme in 1916, but is able to walk quite well with the aid of a stick, and expects that in time his artificial leg will give him even less trouble than it does now.

Twice Wounded

Lieutenant Harstone, who in civil life was in the employ of the old Canadian Northern railway, left Port Arthur with the 28th battalion in May, 1915. In the spring of 1916 he was slightly wounded at St. Eloi, and later on in the same year, during the fierce fighting at Courcellette on the Somme he was so severely wounded in the leg that amputation was necessary.

"That finished my active military career," said Lieutenant Harstone, with a grin.

He was in the Duchess of Westminster's military hospital at Le Touquet, in France, and after being transferred to England was in hospital at Denmark Hill, London, and Ramsgate. While in France he was transferred from the 28th battalion into the Canadian Scottish.

Prince No Chocolate Soldier

"The prince of Wales," said Lieutenant Harstone, "is no chocolate soldier. I came across him in France, and he is hail-fellow well met with everybody. He is the most popular member of the royal family in Great Britain today. I should say, too, that the king and queen and members of the British royal house are even more popular today than before the war. The king has come through the crucible of war splendidly, and the queen has done excellent work, especially in looking into the housing conditions of the poor, going down into the slums herself, and seeing how they live."

An Hour With Royalty

Lieutenant Harstone was staying at the house of a Colonel Wallace in London, and one Sunday afternoon the king, queen, Princess Mary and Princess Patricia walked in and spent an informal hour. "I had quite a talk with Princess Pat about Canada," said Lieutenant Harstone. "She asked me what part of Canada I came from, and when I said 'Port Arthur,' she said she knew it quite well."

The young officer told the Times-Journal on Saturday night that the Russian decoration was given him in 1917 through the headquarters office. He would not say what it was for. Lieutenant Harstone left London as lately as May 2nd.

