

paintings of Royalty, past and present, on the walls all round the room, and each full-length painting was almost the height of the walls. There were rows of red and gold chairs for the guests and a small military orchestra played soft music throughout the Investiture. Soldiers in battle dress flanked the dais in front of the audience. A high ranking officer in full dress uniform, resplendent with all his medals, then told us what we had to do.

Suddenly large double doors opened on the dais, and H.M. King George VI was standing there in the uniform of Admiral of the Fleet. Then the Investiture began. First the Knights who knelt, the King placing a sword on one shoulder. As they are the Senior Service, the Royal Navy were the first of the armed forces to be decorated. My father was the first D.S.C. the music stopped and the citation was read out to a hushed audience. Dad walked through a side door and stood in front of the King, he took a few steps forward and the King pinned a medal to his chest and congratulated him. My father stepped back, saluted, then turned and walked away. It was such an impressive sight as each member of the Armed Services, in turn, went through this ceremony, all heroes of the war who were honoured by their King.

We came out of the Palace to find my brother, who had got last minute leave, waiting for us and we returned home to a wonderful party of family and friends, who had come to congratulate my father. Truly a wonderful and memorable experience, one that I shall never forget so long as I live.

Min Silver