

Many other points impressed the members of the Committee, either during these briefings, or during personal conversations with officials of the Ministère des Anciens Combattants et Victimes de guerre and the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance, as well as in exchanges with the many representatives of different veterans associations that we had the opportunity to meet in the five countries, who also showed great interest in the Canadian pension and allowance system for veterans.

While visiting the headquarters of the World Veterans Federation, in Paris, we were able to learn about the work and the activities of this association, which held, for the first time, its biennial Council meeting in Toronto, in May 1966. We also discussed with the Secretary General the problem of the Polish cemeteries in France and Italy. As a matter of fact, it is through the W.V.F. that, consequently, representations were made to the French and Italian authorities for the maintenance and upkeep of these Polish cemeteries in Europe. Among the publications of this association, the Annals of Comparative Legislation, an annual publication on the question of pensions, benefits and welfare, has received the attention of our delegation, as it includes many very interesting articles relating to specific studies which are made by, or for, the W.V.F.

Throughout the tour, we met with the representatives of the Commonwealth War Grave Commission and were briefed on the work and problems of this organization, at each of their regional headquarters. It would be very difficult to put into words how greatly impressed were the members of the Committee, by the standard of upkeep of our war cemeteries and the state in which they are maintained by the C.W.G.C., which by the way celebrated its 50th anniversary of existence on the 21st of May, 1967. It might be of interest to note that our group was the first Canadian delegation to tour the Canadian cemeteries in Europe, thereby enabling us to witness, on the spot, the care that is given to each and every one of the tombs of our Canadian soldiers, who lost their lives in war,

all over the world. Our visit was an encouragement to those who are responsible for that work, and who have been doing it with veneration during half a century. The officials of the C.W.G.C., at all levels, did not miss one opportunity to express their appreciation to the Committee for having taken this first initiative of an official visit to the Canadian cemeteries and memorials abroad, for the past fifty years.

During our stay in London, in addition to visiting the headquarters of the Commonwealth War Grave Commission, and meeting the representatives of the British Commonwealth Ex-service League, we extended an opportunity to the Executive of the Canadian Veterans Association of the United Kingdom, to meet with us and to present a brief which was mainly related to war veterans allowance, and "the twelve months residence in Canada" clause, applicable prior to being able to draw the allowance outside of Canada. We know that since then, Lt-Col. Victor Jones, has been in correspondence with the Minister of Veterans Affairs about this question, and we sincerely hope that some kind of a solution will be found to eliminate, what this association calls, an injustice to the Canadian veterans in the United Kingdom and in other countries.

The Committee is very grateful to the Minister of Veterans Affairs, and to the officers of his Department in Canada and London, along with the officers of the Department of External Affairs who co-operated with us in the organization of this trip and throughout our travels. We appreciated very much the warm attention given to our group by our various ambassadors and the personnel of our embassies in Europe; and we owe a debt of gratitude to the Ministère des Anciens Combattants et Victimes de guerre of France, the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance of U.K., the Ministry of Defence of Italy, the heads and personnel of the Commonwealth War Grave Commission, the Netherlands War Grave Committee, the World Veterans Federation, and all those who were more or less involved in our activities during that trip.

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