

OFFICIAL RESPONSES

ANNEX E

Act, provided that they had received a bonus under either the Merchant Seamen Special Bonus Order or the Merchant Seamen War Service Bonus order."

35.06.01 *The Bonus was conditional on signing a Manning Pool agreement to serve for two years or the duration, whichever was less. The vocational training was "of a restricted nature to increase their skill and knowledge for advancement in the Merchant Navy." Only 282 seamen or 28% of the applicants had been accepted by 22 May 1950. The references to benefits denied when they could have been useful, and are no longer applicable let alone available, rub salt in old wounds. The nature of the vocational training was restricted to, and required a Canadian Merchant Navy to serve in. By 1949, it was clear that the Merchant Navy's future was in the past and that the training would be a ticket to oblivion, or at best the temporary shelter of the then violent Seafarers' International Union. In 1949 the restriction of merchant marine only training was dropped. By that time 82% of MN POWs had passed the age limit of 30 years of age. It was too little, too late.*

35.06.02 *Merchant Navy Captain G. Martin-Smith, who served throughout the war, recalls the 1940's in the Introduction to his "TRAMPSHIP TO PARADISE" published by Galleon Crown Books. He presents the view of a senior officer:*
"The late '40s were anything but post war boom years for ocean going merchant seamen of any rank. The ships were sold off, some to our former enemies who now enjoyed the very benefits we were told by slick politicians would be ours in a great peacetime merchant marine. Never again will Canada be caught short with no ships," one Minister of