

WARTIME BACKGROUND

Annex A

official memorial--not even an official list. If there has been official recognition, it has been well concealed.

11. In another comparison, 913 Canadians of a total of 4,963 made the supreme sacrifice at Dieppe. That was slightly less than one in five.

12. There was another group of Canadians: Their service was voluntary; they were under military orders; they received little or no training at government expense; they did not have the firepower to fight or the means to escape. That reads like a description of the Hong Kong Veterans, but here it describes 23 Merchant Seamen who spent over three years as prisoners of the Japanese.

13. There were 198 Canadian merchant seamen who encountered the enemy, and were captured from the sea when their ships were sunk. The hazards of war at sea, were replaced by the purgatory of imprisonment ashore. Most of them spent over four years in prison camps in Europe, but 23 spent over three years in the Far East. In the Pacific theatre those who survived to return had spent their three years under conditions of appalling deprivation and degradation.

14. Some of the 198 had committed acts of gallantry or heroism in the face of the enemy and some Canadians on Allied ships were recognized by other nations, including Russia. They have not been honoured by Canada!

15. Some did go to sea for the money or just for employment, and faced higher risks than the military to do it. Some remained at sea because it was their vocation. Some went to sea because of the disinterest of the recruiting agencies. Others went to help the war effort, while waiting for a service call-up. Some went to sea to