

OFFICIAL RESPONSES

ANNEX E

8. Canada had arranged for a coach on a train from San Francisco to Vancouver for the Hong Kong veterans. There were only about fifteen of them. The officer who had been sent down for them said to the ailing radio officer, "I don't know what we are going to do about you, I've no instructions for you." After considerable altercation, the officer permitted him to ride on the coach provided he paid for his own meals. He then managed to borrow money from the Hong Kong veterans for the meals.

9. When he got home he went looking for work. After his three years in a Japanese prison camp, they tried to send him to a bush camp, and couldn't understand his reluctance to go. That was an offer comparable to that imposed on the Japanese-Canadian internees! He was sick and demoralized. The nightmare should have been over but it wasn't. He, too, was dispossessed, but there was no \$21,000 pot-of-gold at the end of his rainbow. Eventually he got employment through the compassion of a family friend.

10. It was devastating for most merchant seamen who returned from prison camps to learn that the Canadian government shared the Japanese view rather than the German one.

11. No exception was made under the terms of the Merchant Seamen Special Bonus Order (P.C. 3227), 3 May 1945, which said in part, "That Merchant Seamen are nevertheless employed in a civilian capacity and receive remuneration determined by competitive conditions and with regulations generally applicable to civilian employment; . ." So much for 198 prisoners of war with 700 man-years behind barbed wire! P.C. 149/2705, April 1944, offered a 10% War Service Bonus plus leave and sick leave to attract new recruits. P.C. 3227 appeared to be an afterthought for those who served before 1944.