

lines of what we have done in the case of the Hong Kong prisoners. At the moment the answer I give is that there has never been in Canadian history any group that were as badly treated as this group of Hong Kong prisoners, and therefore they merit very special consideration, which they are receiving.

An hon. MEMBER: Absolutely right.

Dr. RICHARDSON: If I may add a remark about the medical aspects of captivity in German prisoner of war camps, we have had fairly close contact with men and officers who themselves experienced captivity in German hands. Men who were liberated from captivity in Germany had to go back through a hospital in which I worked in England in 1945. I have been interested in them. It has been common for my fellow medical advisers and for the commissioners to refer to me claims in which it was alleged that starvation or maltreatment at German hands resulted in permanent disability. I would like to say that there are extremely few such cases that have been brought to my attention. I would think at an estimate not more than 10 or 20 of the some 4,000 prisoners in German hands have been shown to my knowledge to have any permanent ill effects of starvation, poor diet or malnutrition while prisoners in German hands.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any more questions, gentlemen?

(Translation)

Mr. ÉMARD: Mr. Chairman, have you been given the recommendations of the Liberal study group, which studied the report on Hong-Kong prisoners? Were you not given recommendations by the group?

The CHAIRMAN: No, we will make our own recommendations as a committee. Gentlemen, this concludes this stage of our study of the Hong Kong Report. Two years ago the committee was quite convinced of the importance of this study was under way. We have looked at this report and it proves that we were justified in looking at this problem. Again I must congratulate Dr. Richardson and the help he received in preparing the report. I congratulate them on the good work that they have done, but I must also express my gratitude to him on putting himself at the disposal of the committee and for the clear answers that he has given in reply to our questions. I wish also to thank Mr. Anderson and Mr. Fortey for giving us so much of their time. The committee will carry on its work on the report. We will look at the other side of the story on May 17. I am pretty sure that from a thorough study we will come to conclusions and recommendations that we shall be able to present to the House before the end of the month.

Thank you very much, Dr. Richardson, Mr. Anderson and Mr. Fortey.

Mr. HERRIDGE: I want to join with you in expressing the thanks of the Committee and of many veterans who have written me about this subject for the very excellent study made of this by Dr. Richardson and his associates and for his very clear and objective answers to the questions raised during these hearings.

The CHAIRMAN: Dr. Richardson or Mr. Anderson, would you have any comments to add? No?