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Says Army Got Full Retribution For Jap Crimes

Hamilton Officer Writes Of Trials



MAJ. W. P. McCLEMONT

"The fullest retribution consistent with the principles of justice has been exacted from the Japanese war criminals charged with offences against Canadian servicemen," states Major William Porter McClemont, E.D., of 320 Caroline Street South, in a comprehensive

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article in the June issue of The Canadian Army Journal.

Maj. McClemont, who is at present stationed at Ottawa in the Army's legal branch, is a member of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada, and served with them during the war.

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Maj. McClemont, as officer in charge of the War Crimes Investigation Section of the Army's Directorate of Administration, had the responsibility of procuring supplementary evidence in connection with the trials.

Lust For Power

"History will show that Tojo and his associates were simply unprincipled international gangsters with a lust for power," Major McClemont says. He goes on to describe how Canadians, as prisoners of the Japs, were starved to such an extent that many robust men lost as much as 100 pounds in weight.

"They were required to work long hours every day as labourers, even when sick with dysentery, beri-beri and other deficiency diseases. If they could stand they went to work, and beatings by the guards were the order of every day."

As a result of the trials, seven Japanese have been sentenced to death and many others have been sentenced to 30, 40, or 50 years' imprisonment with hard labour.

All the important Canadian cases have been disposed of and it is estimated that the remainder will likely be completed by midsummer, 1947.

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