

To commemorate the main feature of the voyage, which has been the very happy relationship between all members of the Ship's Company and the Army on board, arrangements have been made for a brass plaque to be presented to the Ship.

Unfortunately, this plaque could not be completed in time for presentation personally, but arrangements have been made for it to be delivered to the Agents, who have agreed to forward it to the Ship.

The plaque will have the following inscription:-

CAPT J. W. THOMAS, THE OFFICERS AND SHIP'S COMPANY
EMPRESS OF JAPAN (H.M.N.Z.T. 12)

IN APPRECIATION OF A VERY PLEASANT TROOPING
AUG - SEP 1940
FROM
ALL RANKS
3rd ECHELON 2nd N Z E F ON BOARD.

To Captain Thomas, Officers and crew and nurses
We wish kind fortune's smile, and not reverses.
Alas, the day will come when they are parted from us -
We hope 'tis au revoir and not farewell,
Good Captain Thomas.

For the C. P. S. and the Empress line
And especially number 12
We've a very soft spot in all our hearts
And not very far to delve.
They came for us and they brought us here
And fed us and housed us too,
And - if only for this, we wish them well -
It wasn't eternal stew.

Time was when one thought of a nautical man
As compounded of paint, tar, and coir
With complexion reduced to mahogany tan -
But now we have met Mr. Moir.
Nationality Scotch (he will care for your cash)
Of caution a smack, of abandon a dash -
(When crossing the line, did the Scotch make a splash?)
And the air of a prosperous lawyer.

When the press from "A" and "B"
Like a flood comes down to "C"
There is none but will agree
There's a Mess,
But Marini holds the fort
With a quiet, regal port,
And a manner that's a sort
Of a caress.
(Garibaldi and Mazzini in their time were patriots too,
But they never served a "weenie" or fed troops on Irish stew.)

If Amos is famous, then what about Jerry, and Jack, his obliging side-
For the boys think them "tops", kicker,
And in handing out hops,
It is hard to say which is the slicker.

They are pleasant, polite; they are Canada's best
And the boys from N. Z. far away
Give a good "Kia Ora" and hope, though we part,
For a happy re-union one day.