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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000 (020-7782 5000)

Napelenkericht.

De onbeantwoorde vraag is
of „the enlisted in the Royal
British Legion die POW ^{men} ~~men~~
zijn door de Jappen of die
hun wedde voor betaald
hebben gekregen van de
English Government?

Kunnen overlevende Duitse
en Japanse krijsofgevangene
ook bij het Engelse
Government claimen?

Binnen de context van hun
samenleving moesten ze misschien ook wel
mensen vullen in het leger dienen. 70 jaar
nadat

Call to recompense PoWs of Japanese

From Lord Healey and others

Sir, We write in support of The Royal British Legion's campaign for a much-deserved special gratuity from the Government in recognition of the extraordinary suffering and hardship British PoWs endured during the Second World War at the hands of their Japanese captors.

No one will dispute that the £76 that most PoWs received after the war was quite inadequate. Documents recently discovered clearly show that the 1955 UK Government quite deliberately decided to conceal its decision not to pursue a claim for better compensation under the terms of the 1951 peace treaty, as it was fully entitled to do. Unknown to the British people, ministers preferred to stay silent in the alleged interests of better trade and diplomatic relations with Japan.

There is now unprecedented all-party support for a special gratuity, shown by 275 MPs, 65 peers and by 71 per cent of those asked in a recent national opinion survey.

We owe a debt of honour to these men and to their families who also suffered, in recognition of what they endured in the service of this country. It is already much too late for many of them, but for those who remain and their surviving widows we believe the Government should at last heed the people's wish to recompense our former PoWs of the Japanese.

Yours etc,
DENIS HEALEY,
* RICHARD OXON;
SLIM,
BERNARD WEATHERILL,
c/o The Royal British Legion,
48 Pall Mall, SW1Y 5JY.
October 15.