Atrocities Prove Japs Inhuman, Repats Testify

Vancouver, Oct. 3 (Special).—For Rfmn. Gilbert Wurm, Arnprior, Ont., one of the worst features of Jap prison life was never knowing what was going to happen next.

One of the Canadians captured when Hong Kong fell, he was among 57 repatriates reaching this city Tuesday.

"The Japs would smile in your face one minutes, and then strike you with a pickaxe or shovel the next," he said.

"And the food we got—a small bowl of rice and grass soup—would not be fed to the pigs back home."

Shipyards and Mines

Rfmn. Wurm was working for some time in the Yokohama shipyards and latterly in the Sendai coal mines.

"The Japs just aren't human," said Sgt. Eric W. Dissing of London, Ont. "They go in for all kinds of torture. In the hospital in Hong Kong one of the boys in my platoon finally died of it. First they bayonetted him and cut off his ears. We were kicked around for everything we did wrong, and for everything we didn't."

Rfmn. W. W. MacKinnon of Quebec, added: "One of the chaps working with me in the mines was a young fellow. He couldn't catch on to the Jap language. He couldn't understand the orders and the Japs almost did him to death with a crowbar. It didn't take long to learn the language under conditions like that.

Pumpkin Vine Soup

"We grew pumpkins in our little gardens. The Japs took the pumpkins and we made soup out of the vines. We used potato tops, too."

Sgt. A. R. Nolan, Loggieville, N.B., told a vivid picture of Jap hatred.

"We were lying wounded in hospital in Hong Kong on Christmas Day in 1941,'" he said. "Jap shock troops broke in and murdered 19 boys in our ward. We saw them bayonetting and torturing the wounded men. Then we were forced to go out and burn the bodies.

"Once when we were marching, they shot the chap in front of me. No one ever knew yhy."

More Than 2,500 Arrive

Victoria, Oct. 3 (CP). — Decks lined with shouting repats, the United States transport General Longfitt docked at Esquimalt at noon today where hundreds of service personnel and civilians awaited to give them a real homecoming welcome.

On board were 2,252 United States personnel, 10 Canadians and 289 Britons. The Canadians were disembarked here and the Longfitt proceeded to Seattle at 1 o'clock.

There were no cot cases, all being able to walk ashore, although some will require medical attention during the day.

Rfmn. Gerald Sunstrum, from Niagara Falls, Ont., son of Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Sunstrum (2410 Orchard Ave.) reported bad treatment. He was frequently slapped and kicked.

Acting as spokesman for all the Canadians, Quentin Mulrooney of Douglastown, Que., said:

"Too bad a few more atomic bombs weren't dropped on Japan and you can say for us that we don't want Japs in Canada. Get them out. We also want to pay the highest praise to the Americans for the way they treated us. The Marines freed us, took us to a United States hospital ship in Tokyo Harbor and then we were put aboard a British aircraft carrier for Manila.

"Before being freed, the old 29's and some seaplanes dropped 40-gallon casks of food and smokes to us. Boy, were we glad. Some of the casks fell on Japs and they 'went west' in a hurry."

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