CANADIAN DRAFT LEAVES MANILA IN HIGH SPIRITS

Members of Hong Kong Garrison Start Home; Horror Stories Told

(By William Stewart, Canadian Press War Correspondent)

Manila, Sept. 18. — A reduced draft of 25 Canadian officers and 80 other ranks, members of the Hong Kong garrison, who were liberated after nearly four years in Japanese hands, moved out of a reception depot here to-day, to board a ship for their homeward trip, possibly via San Francisco.

Earlier it was reported some 300 would leave on the ship.

Meantime, 100 other prisoners were warned to stand by for air passage home.

The prisoners, most of them wearing United States uniforms, some draped in waterproof ponchos, boarded trucks at the depot, which took them some 18 miles to Manila docks, where they were due to board the American ship, Admiral Rodman.

All were in high spirits over their good fortune, although the rainy day meant postponement of the departure of those due to fly home.

Describes Jap Brutalities

Manila, Sept. 18.—(CP Cable)—Rfmn. William Robert Campbell, of Novar, Ont., to-day described the bayonetings and shootings of bound and helpless civilians and soldiers, including Canadians, which he witnessed during the week he roamed the hills of Hong Kong, after the surrender of the garrison there to the Japanese, in December, 1941.

Campbell, who has his right hand scarred by a severe grenade wound untended while he was in hiding, was a member of a company commanded by Major C. A. Young, of Quebec, which was cut off and ambushed shortly before the surrender on Christmas day.

He tried to reach Stanley peninsula where the main body of the Royal Rifles of Canada—one of the defending units — was forced to withdraw, but the night of December 26 he saw the lights come on over a wide area and knew the battle was over.

Remains in Hiding

On the morning of December 27 from his hiding place overlooking a road, he watched three Japanese officers and eight or nine guards bring six soldiers and a dozen civilian men, tied together with wire and rope, along the road and drive them off onto the grass, where they were shot and bayonetted to death.

Campbell met two British soldiers who took him up a hill to a dugout where there were three wounded Canadians and one unwounded member of the Winnipeg Grenadiers. The group decided to surrender, but Campbell, frightened by what he had seen, remained hidden as, arm in arm, they helped one another down to the Japanese road.

The rifleman heard them shout as they neared a Japanese outpost and about 20 guards, with two swords, ran up. The Japanese separated the wounded men by pushing them with rifles, then slaughtered all of them on the spot.

Body Tied to Tree

Campbell remained frozen where he was and left only after dark with a soldier from the Middlesex Regiment, who also had remained behind. While trying, again without success, to reach Stanley peninsula, he came across the body of a British officer tied to a tree. All around the hills there were Japanese, British and Canadian dead and a litter of abandoned equipment.

In the area of Stone hill, Campbell watched the shooting of seven more civilians from a distance and parades towards Stanley peninsula of hundreds of whites and Chinese bound together and walking "like a chain gang," with Japanese guards prodding them along.

Campbell saw groups of bodies of other atrocity victims on December 29 and while he crept about in his stockinged feet at night the Japanese started bonfires which apparently burned the bodies of those they had killed.

The Canadian lay near Stanley prison for two days while the Japanese marched prisoners along the road and on New Year's day he spotted a Japanese truck with a Canadian burial party. He hailed it and was taken to North Point prison camp, then to hospital, where he was kept until September, 1942.

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