Hong Kong Fight Cost 104 Killed, Maltby Reveals

Ottawa, Sept. 4 (CP). — Defense Headquarters tonight released tentative, unofficial figures of Canadian casualties in the fall of Hong Kong in December, 1941, showing 104 Canadian officers and men killed or dead of wounds and 347 others missing. In addition, the figures showed 238 wounded among the 67 officers and 1,555 men of the Canadian force who were taken prisoners-of-war by the Japanese.

The figures were given out by Maj.-Gen. C. M. Maltby, former British commander of Hong Kong, who has now reached India after three and a half years as a prisoner of war.

Figures he brought back to an RCAF base in India and gave to Sqdn. Ldr. Joseph Crampton, RCAF Public Relations officer, were compiled by him from smuggled information during his captivity and he stressed they were in no way official, were only approximate and were not free from error.

In addition, Gen. Maltby brought back a nominal roll of three officers and 39 men known to have died in hospital between Dec. 19, 1941, and March 14, 1943. He said, however, that this list could not be regarded as complete as many others may have died between these dates and subsequently from malnutrition, dysentry, beri beri and other causes.

Gen. Maltby said that the Winnipeg Grenadiers lost six officers and 31 men killed or died of wounds, eight officers and 106 men in the fall of the Hong Kong bastion on Christmas Day, 1941. Of the prisoners, 12 officers and 56 men were wounded.

His figures showed the Royal Rifles of Canada lost three officers and 42 men killed or died of wounds, six officers and 157 men reported missing and 32 officers and 764 men taken prisoner. Of the prisoners, his reports gave four officers and 160 men as wounded.

Canadian staff casualties, he said, including Royal Canadian Army Pay Corps, Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, Royal Canadian Army Service Corps and others, were two officers and six men killed; four officers and 10 men died of wounds, eight officers and 62 men reported missing. Of prisoners among this group, three officers and three men were reported wounded.

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