

1,064 Canadians Held in Japan

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YOKOHAMA, Sept. 1—(CP Cable).—A Japanese foreign office official Friday produced figures, which he claimed accurate up to July 30, showing 1,064 Canadian prisoners in the main islands of Japan.

Records of this official, detailed by the foreign office as liaison with the Allies in prisoner matters, differ from latest Canadian records but his picture is somewhat encouraging.

He said his figures were official and gave this distribution:

Fukuoka, 157; Hakodate and Osaka, 128; Tokyo, 286; Nagoya, 47; Sendai 445; Hiroshima, one.

The official said no Canadians now are at Fukushima, Niigata or Zentsuji. Canadian records listed no prisoners formerly in Nagoya or Sendai. The official said this difference was due largely to recent moves.

(After the Dec. 25, 1941, fall of Hong Kong, where Canada's contingent numbered about 1,985 men, the Japanese reported they took 1,689 prisoners.)

The official had no records of Canadian prisoners outside Japan but had the numbers of Canadian civilian internees in assembly centres in China.

This was broken down as follows: Shanghai, as of last May 3; Kosei No. 2, 10 male, 10 female; Koto, eastern area, four female; Chapel, seven male, seven female; Lung-hawa, 10 male, 13 female; Pooling, 11 male, six female.

In Yangchow, as of last Feb. 28, there were seven male and nine female, while in Weichien as of the same date there were eight male and 14 female.

No totals were available for the number of Canadian civilian internees in Japan proper, but the official, named Fujisaki, said all now were released.

Adding to the problem of locating Allied prisoners is the fact Allied figures of various nationals in the respective camps are estimate-pieced together from various sources during the last year. Also, many prisoners were moved to different camps in recent months.

A U.S. navy report from Yokosuka said that 1,000 more Allied prisoners of war, emaciated and starving, reached the U.S.S. Ancon, Friday, bringing to 1,494 the number of prisoners freed from seven camps.

Other horror stories were recounted in Rangoon by liberated war prisoners, according to the Hong Kong radio. The men said all but 35 of a group of 1,800 Allied prisoners had "died or become ill" when the Japanese compelled them to work 18 hours a day, on scanty rations, building a railway through the Burma jungles.

A dispatch from Australia said that Rear Admiral Harcourt has already visited war and internment camps in Hong Kong and found that the morale was high despite the obvious effects of malnutrition.

The navy expect to start transferring patients to the hospital ship Oxfordshire today.