

No More Japs, Bedbugs, Disease!

Grenadier Hails Liberation

Lieut. R. W. Queen-Hughes, of the Winnipeg Grenadiers, son-in-law of former Mayor Queen, was captured when Hong Kong fell Dec. 25, 1941. Here he tells how it feels to be a liberated prisoner of war.

By LIEUT. R. W. QUEEN-HUGHES

SHAMSHUIPO CAMP, Kowloon, Sept. 7—(CP)—Civilization is marvellous! After three years and eight months of Asiatic food and accommodation, most of the Winnipeg Grenadiers have tasted hospitality aboard the Prince Robert and vote Canada tops. We all hope those Grenadiers held in Japan have the same good luck.

Since Aug. 11, when we learned via the underground route that Japan would quit, we have been in a state of nerve-racking impatience. But now there will be no more rice and greens, no more iron beds, no more barbed wire. And there will be no more Japs. We now can eat our vitamins by the knife-and-fork method instead of receiving them by hypodermic needle. It's farewell to beriberi and pellagra.



Lt. Queen-Hughes

We've had the pleasure of sitting in chesterfield chairs in the Prince Robert wardroom with electric fans to cool our brows. We've had a genuine three-course lunch off white table cloths in decent dishes with civilized knives and forks and all the fixings, with someone else to wash them when we're through.

Best of all, we've had recent news of Winnipeg and Winnipeegers. All we now need to make our happiness complete is an individual communication from our loved ones.

Just to be able to ride in an automobile from the camp to the dockside has been exciting. Then to see warships flying White Ensigns in the harbor and one's own people holding rifles and Tommy guns after seeing nothing but Japs with swords and bayonets for nearly four years is the thrill of a lifetime. The past already begins to seem like a bad dream while the circumstances of the release are almost unbelievable.

As was not unexpected, there were considerable fireworks before we were free. We don't have to bother about funk holes or dodge flying shells, which is a good thing for all concerned. Meanwhile morale is high.

To all relatives and friends of the Winnipeg Grenadiers, greetings.

We will see you soon.