

Grenadier Got "The Works"

Sgt. Routledge Survives Torture, Prison for "Betraying" Japs

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MANILA, Sept. 10. — (CP) — Taken prisoner with the Grenadiers at Hong Kong on Christmas Day, 1941, Sgt. R. J. Routledge, whose wife lives at Forrest, Man., was submitted to torture by Japanese gendarmes before he was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment by a court martial. He had served two years of his sentence before being liberated.



Routledge

Although Sgt. Routledge, a signaller, was wounded by bomb shrapnel in the battle of Hong Kong, he is physically intact and looks fine. He now is in an American military hospital here. He credits his condition to the fact that his long prison term was spent in Stanley prison at Hong Kong, and in the Canton jail.

At the present it is not possible to explain the circumstances under which Sgt. Routledge was summoned from a Dominion Day sports meet at Shamshuipo in 1943 and was turned over to the infamous gendarmes and their

Gestapo-like methods, but the full story will be told as soon as possible.

Routledge was taken to the gendarmes, handcuffed, tied and subjected to the water torture because he refused to answer their questions.

This Japanese method of extracting information consisted of putting the bound victim on his back, placing a towel across his face and pouring water on it from a bucket.

Sgt. Routledge said the Japanese kept putting water on the towel and he was swallowing it against his will until he was on the verge of fainting. Then they'd revive him, ask him if he wanted to change his mind about talking, and repeat the performance. They kept it up for an hour and a half.

When Sgt. Routledge still refused to talk, a board was placed on his stomach and one of the gendarmes jumped up and down on it until Routledge said he felt "everything was going to pop." Between periods of questioning, the gendarmes kept this up until Routledge was on the point of collapse.

Finally the Canadian soldier gave the Japanese information they already knew, and in the company of two British prisoners,

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