

Winnipegger Saved Lives At Hong Kong

By CMDR. PETER MACRITCHIE, R.C.N.

HONG KONG, Sept. 10—(CP Cable)—Working without drugs and with only crudely-improvised instruments, Maj. J. W. B. Crawford, of Winnipeg, saved many lives of Canadians and Britons confined in the Japanese prison of war camp at Samshuipo, released prisoners said Saturday.

Praising the courage and surgical skill of Maj. Crawford, the former prisoners told how he rigged up an operating room and equipped it with crude instruments, using a razor blade as a scalpel.

The Japanese had refused the major drugs and instruments and he was forced to operate by the light of a lamp burning peanut oil. His operating tables consisted of two rough boards covered with worn towels. Even the razor blade was at a premium, prisoners said.

But it was on such a makeshift arrangement that everyone lived in the camp. The camp shoemaker, for instance, fashioned sandals out of old suitcase buckles, army shorts and parts of old tires smuggled into camp by Chinese who sold their wares at the equivalent of a month's salary received by the Canadians from the Japs.