

"Forgotten Camp"

Escaped Canadian Says Prisoners Starving

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TOKYO, Sept. 11—(CP Cable)— Locked behind mountains so steep that they cannot climb them in their weakened condition, and forcibly held there by Japanese still willing to die for the emperor, is a large number of starving Canadian and British prisoners of war in what escapees describe as the "forgotten camp."

Stories of indescribable horror were told today by a Canadian soldier, who, with several British soldiers, survived the rigors of the exhausting mountain ascent followed by a 400-mile hitch-hike to Tokyo.

(This dispatch did not name any of the men involved in the escape.)

When they reached this city they saw a row of jeeps lined up in front of a large hotel and they invaded the hotel, filled with important personages, and ate their first real meal in nearly four years.

The camp is known as Ghasi and is near Kamiishi, a coastal town which was shelled recently by the United States fleet. Obviously the site was not known to the Allies, thus lending color to their story that it is a forgotten camp. It is set among a huge steel works and lead mines.

The escaped prisoners said hundreds of tons of shells crashed in their area and 30 prisoners were killed and many shell-shocked so badly that they were taken away from the camp.

"We were so sick of everything in that camp that we'd have welcomed an atomic bomb which, while it would have exterminated us, would have accounted for

thousands of Japanese," said one weary Canadian.

The Canadians were forced to work in the lead mine. Two hundred of them were awakened at 4 a.m. every morning and driven by civilian guards with sticks and stones on a 12-mile route march to the place where they were compelled to work. Then they were flogged back to camp each afternoon, arriving exhausted and beaten at 7 p.m.

Many of the prisoners now are in a pitiable condition. On Aug. 14 food was dropped by American planes but it was badly damaged owing to a parachute failure. Since then they have received none and they are starving and uncared for in the hands of the brutal captors.

The first man they saw was Maj. C. C. M. McDougall, of the Canadian army, around whom they danced and sang when they met him on a street in Tokyo.

"Something must be done for those other fellows," their leader said. "Even if they escaped, in their condition they couldn't possibly survive that mountain journey. They'd die one by one as they tried to make it."

When the group's report was presented to army officials, arrangements were made to rescue the forgotten — or unknown — legion immediately. Troops now are on their way to rescue them and it is anticipated that the do-or-die Japanese will submit quietly when confronted by American arms.