

# Grenadier Seeks Twin

## Captive Mulvaney's Were Separated Months Ago

By WILLIAM STEWART

(Canadian Press War Correspondent)

MANILA, Sept. 14.—One of the toughest prison camps in which Canadians were held in Japan was at Niigata, a city of 1,000,000 population some 150 miles north of Tokyo, where starving prisoners performed hard labor under clubbings in coal yards, warehouses and a foundry.

There were 250 Canadians there and 89 of them died of pneumonia, beriberi and dysentery during their stay from September, 1943, until they were liberated. The prisoners were undernourished and without medical supplies.

One of the prisoners liberated at Niigata is Pte. Leonard Mulvaney, whose wife, Mrs. Winnifred Mulvaney, lives at 79 Morley ave.

Leonard is now searching for his twin brother, Tom, who was also taken prisoner at Horg Kong. The brothers were separated many months ago.

Mrs. Thomas Mulvaney lives at 553 Elgin ave. They are the twin sons of Mr. and Mrs. P. Mulvaney, 488 Alexander ave.

During the winter it was bitterly cold at Niigata and the camp was swept by great snowstorms, one of which made it necessary to move from one barracks to another through snow tunnels. During one period storms tied up railway traffic and the camp was isolated for three weeks. Practically until the moment they were freed most of the prisoners believed they would spend their last days in Niigata.

At various times the prisoners lost up to 60 pounds, some of which they made up by stealing food while on one warehouse job. When they were caught stealing the prisoners were clubbed until they couldn't walk.

Mulvaney saw an American prisoner clubbed to death in February, 1944, and a Canadian was forced to stand outside the guardhouse for four days in freezing weather, wearing only his trousers and without shoes. He suffered severe frostbite and died later.

The Canadians were taken to the camp from Osaka just two years ago. They were addressed upon arrival by a stringy, bearded Japanese, who seemed to have charge of all prisoner labor in the Niigata area. He soon came to be known as "Bluebeard."

This is what "Bluebeard" told the

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moved to Marutsu to work in a warehouse. Mulvaney was among them but he spent two months in hospital before he was able to do any labor.

Just before the prisoners at Niigata were liberated last month "Bluebeard" disappeared. On the day they were freed a number of the prisoners, including Mulvaney, broke out of the barracks and conducted a search for the Japanese overlord, intending to kill him.

Another Japanese at Niigata was just the opposite type of "Bluebeard" and sometimes took beatings himself when he spoke up in defense of the prisoners. His name was Hura Hashi and he often told the prisoners that the United States was "Ichi bon"—No. 1.

Hura Hashi presented Mulvaney with two Japanese pipes before the Canadian left the camp, boarded a train for Tokyo and then flew to Manila.

Mulvaney was so surprised by the sudden liberation that he couldn't believe it when he got on the train for Tokyo and suspected there must be a catch somewhere.

When he arrived at Tokyo and saw American soldiers and nurses Mulvaney fainted.

The Winnipeg private would have liked to have got an opportunity to serve in Japan and get some of his own back from the Japanese soldiers. Those in the Niigata area are still cocky, he said, because they were never defeated in battle and saw comparatively few raids.

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prisoners in fairly good English:  
"You are my slaves. You are descendants of the Anglo-Saxon piracy that we are fighting today. You are here to work, and you shall work until you die and be glad to.

"If you prove to be willing workers we will send you home when the war comes to an end. That will be when the Americans on their hands and knees are begging for mercy. It will be the year 1950.

"Though you are sick in body and mind your hands belong to me."

Mulvaney said the Canadians agreed that "Bluebeard" looked just like "Geezil," a character in the Popeye comic strip. The taskmaster addressed the prisoners several times in the same fashion, chuckling as he spoke, pulling at his beard and sometimes rubbing his hands with delight.

The Canadians started work in the coal yards, where they pushed around loaded cars weighing a ton. At first they were barefoot. They were semi-starved and weak. The first address by "Bluebeard" left them all feeling they were con-Japs for the rest of their lives.

When the prisoners left the camp in the morning for the Rinko coal yard they drew breakfast and lunch rations at the same time. But the rations were so meagre that the men ate them all at once and had to go without lunch. Work lasted from 7 a.m. until noon and from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m.

Mulvaney said he went to his knees often while trying to push a ton of coal along the tracks of the conveyer from which it was dumped. Coal came to Niigata from northern China and Manchuria.

CSM. Vic Myatt of Verdun, Que., though sick, did his best to fight for better conditions for the prisoners but had little success before he was transferred to another camp.

After a year at the Rinko yard some of the Canadian group were