

GHASTLY TALE OF JAPANESE TORTURE TOLD

[Special to The Winnipeg Tribune]

VANCOUVER, Sept. 19.—Kneeling for four hours, holding a bucket of water over his head while Japanese soldiers held cigarettes up to his nose and officers kicked his mouth shut if he tried to gulp in fresh air, was only part of an atrocious torture perpetrated on Pte. James A. Murray, of High Tor, Sask., who served with the Winnipeg Grenadiers at Hong Kong.

For four hours the Japanese beat and revived him. They used their rifle butts and their heavy shoes on him, but he still wouldn't give in.

Finally, an American army lieutenant stepped up and carried his limp body from the reach of the brutal torturers.

Pte. Murray was one of seven travel-weary repatriated army personnel who have been, in prison camps in Hong Kong and Japan since Christmas Day, 1941, that arrived in Vancouver Tuesday.

"It all started when I swiped some soap from the stores at Sinagawa district P.O.W. hospital where I was. It was fine until the Japs caught a sick buddy of mine with some of the cakes. They started to beat him. I knew he couldn't stand it, so I gave myself up."

The next day when he had been revived by the American officer, Murray was forced to stand at attention for 12 hours in front of the guard house on the coldest day of the year, without anything but a shirt, pants and shoes on.

"A lot of the guys wanted to go back and clean up on a few of the Jap guards, but they all scammed

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into the hills when peace was declared," said Pte. Murray.

"It was hell to see the Japanese soldiers take out Red Cross parcels and, unconcernedly, right in front of us, open them and eat the contents.

"The sirens blew every day from the first of November until surrender day, and did we love to see those planes coming over!" said Pte. Peter Rollick, Winnipeg Grenadiers, whose home is in Portage la Prairie.

"Those B-29's sure levelled the factories around our camp."

Pte. Donald Cameron, of the Winnipeg Grenadiers, spent nine months in hospital with a compound fracture of his right leg and is still navigating with a crutch.

His wife, Laura, is waiting for him in Rosburn, Man.

This group of men left their Japanese prison camps nine days ago and were flown from there to San Francisco.