

Freed Canadians Feed Japs Who Abused Them

By **WILLIAM STEWART**

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GUAM, Sept. 29—Canadian prisoners liberated from Ohashi mining camp in Japan described Friday how they fed the hand that bit them despite conditions so bad they felt they could not have survived another winter. They concluded that Allied service men are too soft-hearted.

Pte. Nick Berzenski, Russell, Man., told how Canadian and American prisoners in the camp waited a month after Japan's surrender for release. During that month they gave cigarettes to Japanese guards who had abused them during confinement and shared their meagre rations with hungry Japanese civilians.

The Canadians were at Ohashi, near Kamaishi, for four months. They said they had to hike five miles into the hills, frequently through rain storms, to work up to their knees in water 2,000 feet underground in a mine the walls of which threatened to collapse.

When the Pacific war ended the prisoners waited for Allied forces to arrive at the isolated camp. Allied aircraft dropped food to the prisoners but despite this addition to a meagre diet food was scarce until Sept. 10. The men said some of the parachuted supplies went astray in the hills.

Some of the prisoners made their way to Tokyo and as the remainder awaited liberating forces, they turned over all the camp's rice supplies and latter some of the relief rations to Japanese civilians who gathered at the gates.

The prisoners boarded a United States hospital ship at Kamaishi, Sept. 15.