

1064 Canucks Held in Prison In Jap Islands

By COL. R. S. MALONE

Yokohama, Aug. 31 (CP). — A Japanese Foreign Office official today produced figures, which he claimed accurate up to July 30, showing 1,064 Canadian prisoners in the main islands of Japan.

Records of this official, detailed by the Foreign Office as liaison with the Allies in prisoner matters, differ from latest Canadian records, but his picture is somewhat encouraging. He said his figures were official and gave this distribution:

Fukuoka, 157; Hakodate and Osaka, 128; Tokyo, 286; Nagoya, 47; Sendai, 445; Hiroshima, 1. The official said no Canadians now are at Fukushima, Niigata or Zentsuji. Canadian records listed no prisoners formerly at Nagoya or Sendai. The official said this difference was due largely to recent moves.

(After the Dec. 25, 1941, fall of Hong Kong, where Canada's contingent numbered about 1,985 men, the Japanese reported they took 1,689 prisoners.)

The official had no records of Canadian prisoners outside Japan, but had the numbers of Canadian civilian internees in assembly centres in China.

This was broken down as follows: Shanghai, as of last May 3; Kosei No. 2, 10 male, 10 female; Koto, eastern area, four female; Chapei, seven male, seven female; Lunghawa, 10 male, 13 female; Pootung, 11 male, six female.

In Yangchow, as of last Feb. 28, there were seven male and nine female while in Weichien as of the same date there were eight male and 14 female.

No totals were available for the number of Canadian civilian internees in Japan proper, but the official, named Fujisaki, said all now were released.

The chief difficulty these first 36 hours in Japan in obtaining prisoner-of-war information is the extreme shortage of local transportation and the ban on movement outside the Allied perimeter until after formal surrender.

Adding to the problem of locating Allied prisoners is the fact that Allied figures of various nationals in the respective camps are estimates pieced together from various sources during the last year. Also, many prisoners were moved to different camps in recent months.

The only prisoner-of-war camp in the restricted Allied zone is that at Kawasaki, from which prisoners were moved by the Allies yesterday en route to Manila. No Canadians were in the camp, but there were some Australians, Americans and Britons. Some Britons had come from Hong Kong but had seen no Canadians there in several months. These prisoners seemed in fair health.

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