

Lack of Air and Naval Support Blamed For Ultimate Defeat—

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After nearly four years spent as a prisoner of war in Hong Kong, China and Japan, Rfm. Wm. Tainish, whose home is at 143 Kent W., here, arrived back Thursday along with two other veterans of the war in the Far East Thursday.

Unlike several others who were taken prisoner by the Japs when Hong Kong capitulated and have since returned to Canada, Rfn. Tainish does not place the blame of their defeat on lack of training.

In an interview with the Post Friday he stated that he had received adequate training before leaving Canada and attributed the ultimate fall of Hong Kong to a shortage of munitions and supplies coupled with poor air and naval support.

Taken prisoner by the Japs on Christmas Day 1941 he was interned at Hong Kong until September 1942 when he was transferred to Kowloon China. While in Hong Kong he was quartered in an old refugee camp and later in a military camp called Shamshuipo where he was assigned to a forced labor battalion for work around an airport.

After leaving Kowloon he and several hundred others, comprised of British and Canadian prisoners, were taken to Niigata, Japan where they encountered the worst treatment of their entire existence under their Japanese captor. Conditions at this camp were deplorable in more ways than one."

Rfn. Tainish stated. "Our daily rations were always the same—boiled rice and barley—and not much of it at that. Many of my fellow prisoners contracted Beri Beri as a result of our food to maintain us in proper health," he continued.

"When the war finally came to an end an American Army major took over the camp we were in and supervised it until the men were moved out to the coast".

"Leaving Japan on Sept. 6, aboard the U.S.S. "Ozark", was a grand feeling, "Rfn. Tainish said, because we were on our way home".

"I am certainly very pleased to be back with my wife and parents," he concluded.

Lindsay Veteran Of Hong Kong Says Training Ample