

Starvation In Prison Revealed

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PEARL HARBOR, March 14. (AP)—Eating their first steaks in more than three years, a little group of American civilians from the Philippines sat at a dinner table last night and related a story of slow starvation during their long captivity.

There were five of them, all employes of the Consolidated-Vultee Aircraft Co. They had spent more than three years in Santo Tomas and Los Banos internment camps on Luzon.

In a stopover here en route by army transport plane to San Diego, they ate huge steak dinners topped off by ice cream. They agreed the best thing they could say about the Japanese was that the Japanese left them pretty much alone inside their camps.

"For months at a time that meant they practically let the civilians starve," said the group leader, George M. Messenger, 32, St. Paul, Minn., Consolidated representative in Manila when the war broke out.

The other four all were airmen caught by the war in Manila while ferrying planes from the states. They were Thomas S. Terrill, Pasadena, Cal.; A. E. Kalakowsky, Coconut Grove, Fla.; J. M. Nicholas, Los Angeles, and Alfred W. Smith, 2560 Makiki Heights Rd., Honolulu.

Describing conditions at the Los Banos camp, 35 miles south of Manila, Mr. Messenger said the Japanese were providing only a few hundred calories of food—mostly rice—for each civilian in the camp during the last months of captivity.

"The result was that 90 per cent of over 2,000 in the camp had some form of beri beri," Mr. Messenger said.