

SAVES COMRADES BY GIVING LIFE

(By Gordon Root, Special Correspondent of
the Hamilton Spectator and the
Southam Newspapers)

Manila, Oct. 5. — The name of Sgt.-Major John Osborne, of Winnipeg, was this week added to the list of Canadian heroes whose deeds in futile defence of Hong Kong have been hidden in Japanese prison camps for four years.

Sgt.-Major Osborne died at Wongneiching gap on December 19, 1941. This week at Guam Pte. Bill Moore, of Victoria, told how Osborne sacrificed himself to save other members of Winnipeg Grenadiers.

Part of the battalion had been sent to the gap to clear out Japanese troops invading the island. On arrival they found the enemy far stronger than expected and were forced to withdraw.

As the unit drew back in search of stronger defence positions, a Jap grenade landed among a group of them. Without hesitation, Sgt.-Major Osborne threw himself on the ground, covering the grenade with his body.

Mortally wounded by the explosion the gallant Canadian soldier whispered his last words to men he had saved.

"Tell my wife," he said.

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