

1,000 Canadians May be Freed

MANILA, Aug. 23.—(CP Cable)—Approximately 1,000 Canadians will be among the 32,000 Allied prisoners of war evacuated from Japanese camps to the Philippines.

The exacuation of both prisoners and internees will be carried out as quickly as possible by the American recovered personnel division replacement command, the American Red Cross and occupation forces entering Japan.

The initial case of Canadians who eventually will come to the 5th American Replacement depot, near Manila, will be in the hands of the Australian section at general headquarters.

Canadian groups are en route from Canada to relieve the Australians. In the meantime, Col. Richard Malone, Canadian public relations officer, is maintaining liaison with the Australians in connection with arrangements for evacuated prisoners, and Col. Moore Cosgrave, Canadian military attache at Canberra, Australia, is due in a day or two to handle the work of preparing for the prisoners' arrivals until Canadian teams arrive.

It is not yet known if the 390-odd Canadians in the Hong Kong area will also be evacuated to Manila, however, arrangements for them will be supervised by Brigadier Kay, Canadian military attache at Chungking.

Recovered personnel units which will accompany occupation forces will make lists of liberated prisoners before their evacuation and cable them to the war department at Washington. It is presumed this service will apply to Canadians.

Message to next of kin will be accepted immediately.

Once prisoners have been evacuated to the Philippines by air and water transport they will find specially converted replacement depots specially equipped with every convenience.

During the trip to the Philippines the prisoners will have medical supplies, food and clothing available, which will be taken to Japan by the occupation forces.

Canadian prisoners of war and civilian internees probably will be returning home directly across the Pacific, under arrangements to be made with all haste by Allied commanders.

Most of the Canadians held are believed to be in the area north of the Philippines.

The war office prisoners of war directorate said that Japanese headquarters information on prison camps was incomplete and that deaths of all those who died had not been reported. The bulk of the prisoners in the north are believed to be in Japan.

Movement home of the prisoners by air is not favored by the war office, which maintains that the sea voyage is valuable in safeguarding their health, that it aids recuperation and eases the shock of contact with the outside world after years of imprisonment.

Only prisoners and internees requiring medical care before they can travel will be held in the Far East for any length of time before beginning their voyage home.