

Canadians at Manila

Men Spend First Night in Sheets; Planes Arrive Every 10 Minutes

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MANILA, Sept. 10—Refreshed by their first sleep between white sheets in more than 3½ years, the first Canadian prisoners recovered from camps in Japan were settled in a converted United States replacement depot on the edge of Manila, Philippine capital, today.

Their arrival coincided with that of hundreds of United States and other Allied recovered prisoners, who also came by air as well as on ships, including light anti-aircraft carriers. Allied prisoners who were stretcher cases were driven in ambulance convoys preceded by military police in jeeps who cleared their way through heavy traffic.

All day, as plane load after plane load appeared, the sky was filled with a larger number of heavy aircraft than has been seen here for months. At two airfields the big aircraft were landing at better than the rate of one every 10 minutes.

The Canadian section of the camp soon will take on a truly Canadian atmosphere. Freshly-painted street signs ready for erection bear names of such streets in Canadian cities as

Portage ave., Yonge st., St. Catharines, Granville and Sparks streets. The two mess halls will be named Fort Garry and Frontenac.

The Canadians immediately were able to draw complete new outfits of American tropical wear.

As they got settled, the Canadians were given a pamphlet issued by the Inter-Service Committee on Prisoners of War, with one section written for military personnel and another for liberated merchant marine personnel. The pamphlet explains what the reception organization here is attempting to do for them, how their next-of-kin will be notified about their safe arrival and details about their pay and a brief lineup of the Canadian government's rehabilitation plans.

Some of the prisoners were lucky enough to get mail from home, coming in daily to Canadian group headquarters.

The men got their first official summary of Canadian news Sunday. It was compiled by army public relations here and was the first direct news of Canada many of them have received in nearly four years.

The former prisoners will live in 10-man tents, with wood floors, in which they have camp beds with mosquito nets. Prisoners will be permitted a rest before they are interrogated.

Interrogation will be carried out in three easy stages by special officers, including Maj. John Howlett, a Winnipeg Grenadier.

Information individuals have concerning the fate of comrades listed as missing, civilians or merchant seamen also will be gathered.

Preliminary medical examinations will be carried out quickly, a more thorough check-up coming later. The prisoners also will be inoculated against tropical diseases.

Though there will be little opportunity to spend money, because such conveniences as American canteens will dispense smokes and other articles without cost, all other ranks will receive \$100 cash for homeward out-of-pocket expenses and officers will get \$200.