

Joyous Relatives Greet Grenadiers

Band Salutes Group of 32 Arriving Thursday Night

THIRTY-TWO MORE Winnipeg Grenadiers, recently released from Japanese prison camps came home Thursday evening over Canadian Pacific and Canadian National lines. Most of the men were from Winnipeg and Manitoba points.

Happy reunion scenes, tears, laughter and band music marked the homecoming of the men who have been imprisoned for four years.

But for Mrs. A. C. Thomas, 548 Ross ave. the arrival was a sad disappointment. She had expected to see Pte. J. Furey, Sydney, Man., to bring news of her husband, also a Hong Kong man. But Pte.

Furey didn't come through to Winnipeg.

Last week Mrs. Thomas got a wire from Manila stating that her husband was ill with heart disease. Tuesday she got another wire that he was stricken with malaria.

"I knew Jimmy awful well," she said. "He was a good friend of my husband's."

A four-year-old boy who had never seen his father met him for the first time when Pte. John Kitt, Hong Kong Winnipeg Grenadier arrived in Winnipeg over C.P.R. lines.

From Kenora little John, named after his soldier father, came to

Winnipeg to become acquainted with his dad.

Pte. J. Zahara, Molson, Man., was the only Manitoban to come into Winnipeg over C.P.R. lines. Other Grenadiers, Ptes. F. F. Christianson and J. C. Pueblo stopped at their hometown, as it is presumed Pte. C. Nichol did at Eikhorn, Man. Another Kenora man, Pte. W. W. Harrington, came through Winnipeg.

Before the train pulled in four-year-old John pointed to the loud-speaker in the reception room, wanted to know what it was.

"That's to tell you that Papa is coming in," his mother said.

Just then the band started up announcing the arrival of the men.

"There he is!" shouted Mrs. Kitt. Relatives rushed out of the room to meet the men.

John did not find his dad strange and awesome as most kiddies do. He immediately took possession of the comforts handed out by the train reception committee of the Greater Winnipeg Co-ordinating board.

The gift package included a card first issued Thursday night.

Bearing the province of Manitoba crest, it read: "Welcome home, gallant defenders of Hong Kong. Manitoba salutes you!"

"Johnnie went right to his dad," Mrs. Kitt said, half crying, half laughing. "You couldn't get him away from his dad."

Also at the station to meet Pte. Kitt were: Two brothers, Frank and Alfred Kitt; mother-in-law, Mrs. M. Thompson; sister-in-law, Mrs. V. Herbert; grandfather, J. Bradshaw; three Winnipeg aunts and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Meikle, Mrs. G. Sanderson, Mrs. H. Briggs.

Pte. J. Zahara, of Molson, Man., patiently stood by answering enquiries from persons about relatives at Hong Kong. He was on his way to spend the night at his sister's place, Mrs. M. Marr, 551 Sargent ave.

"Oh he looks nice," beamed his mother, Mrs. D. Zahara. "Poor boys, what they have gone through."

"My baby's home at last. Friday night he goes home for a long rest with his father and mother."

Healthiest looking of the lot was freckled, red-headed, Pte. Harrington, of Kenora.

"I got the sunshine on the ship," he explained. "I've gained 50 pounds in three weeks."

He politely refused coffee offered him by the reception committee. He was hurrying on to Kenora. At the station to meet him were his father, M. Harrington; Mrs. S. Lalonde, sister, Gnr. Ralph Hudson, brother-in-law, who arrived from overseas one month ago.

A Grenadier from Toronto, Pte. H. L. Barry, had no place to stay in Winnipeg. Chairman of the C.P.R. reception committee, James J. Milne, took him home.

Pte. W. J. Dooley, of Massey, Ont., was welcomed by the

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32 Grenadiers Arrive Home

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Dooleys of Winnipeg. There were Uncle Daniel Dooley, 32 Martin ave.; cousins Mrs. T. Dooley, and Tom Dooley of the same address; cousins Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Bucknell, 129 River ave.; Mrs. H. Dooley, 586 Atlantic ave.; cousin John Dooley, 504 Inkster blv.

One mother exclaimed with pleasure when she saw her Hong Kong son at the C.N.R. station: "It looks as though he has been starving the Japs, instead of the Japs him." She was Mrs. A. Henderson, 162 McIntosh ave. He was Cpl. Alexander Henderson, one of 15 Winnipeggers who came in on the same train.

The lone out-of-towner in the party was Pte. Roy Stodgell, whose mother came in from Fisher Branch to welcome him. A neighbor, Mrs. C. E. Barlow, who happened to be in town, added her glad, "Welcome home, Roy."

C.Q.M.S. R. A. Wold, 215 Centennial st., brought home one souvenir he will never part with—"A parachute that dropped food supplies to us from one of the giant B-29's. The parachutes were all colors—they were a pretty sight, but mine happens to be white."

"We all had servants allotted to us as soon as we arrived. The weather was perfect—so was everything else for about three weeks," grinned Sgt. Wold. "Then the fireworks began." His wife, who has been working in the C.P.R. freight office, sat in the back seat of a car provided by the Young Men's section, Board of Trade, hugging her husband's arm.

All 15 local men and their families were taken home in cars provided by the section. Many of the drivers genially held their doors open for a minute while The Tribune spoke to the returned men. It was a great scramble, because the men were anxious to be off. The jammed station was as clear as a Sunday morning downtown street a half hour after the train came in. The crowd melted quickly.

The man who had half St. James down to meet him was Sgt. T. G. Marsh, whose wife lives in Windsor Court. But his parents have a confectionery store in the Belvidere block, St. James. Apparently all the customers came to welcome Tommy.

Rev. L. Swalwell was there, too: "Tommy used to help me in my Sunday school." People from Transcona who knew Tommy when he went to school were on hand. But The Tribune never did get a sight of Tommy in the crowd. Somebody said, "He's a swell kid."

Pte. E. A. Van Raes, 472 Ritchot st., said he was going to go some place on his honeymoon now; "some place, but definitely not Japan." He married his Gloria just about an hour before he left Winnipeg. They sat in a back seat hugging.

Pte. Art Lyons, 43 Regal ave., said he had a rickshaw ride before the enemy stopped all that. The only souvenir he brought home was himself. He was a big, fine-looking sample of a soldier.

Pte. Frederick Sndova was welcomed by his sister, Mrs. Mary Cherbino, 656 Simcoe st. His good white teeth looked very strong and healthy. He was anxious to say something to the reporter, but the crowd got in his way.

Half the Salvation Army was down to meet the two Cox brothers, Sgt. A. A. Cox and Cpl. A. J. Cox. The Salvation Army band played for them because they both used to be members, one playing horn, the other cornet. "The last time I played in the Hong Kong band was early in December, marching to barracks," said the full-cheeked, ruddy looking sergeant. "After that I had a bit of fighting to do."

"Six of our handsmen joined up; the last one was reported safe just yesterday," said Pearl Payton, superintendent of the Salvation Army's Grace hospital; she was one of the welcomers.

"One of our handsmen, Jack Muir, who now lives in Vancouver, met the Coxes there and took them out to tea with all the Winnipeggers he could round up," reported a helpful bystander.

A quiet man, in Grenadier uniform, stood back from the crowd. He was Pte. D. M. Cameron, of Rossburn, who came home Friday. He made headlines as the "lost man" because he got off the train further west to reach Rossburn, and so did not arrive in Winnipeg.

"My mother was at Rossburn—I saw her first. Then Saturday morning my wife and daughter, Joyce, nine, came out from Winnipeg." Pte. Cameron explained how it all happened. Joyce was with her Dad to welcome the 16 Grenadiers. "They look good to me," Dad said.

Before the war he had a barber shop at Birtle. He barbered the men in his camp all through captivity. "At first there were 300, then 600, finally 750. Yes, I kept them all clipped. I still had my shears and a comb. And there were stones to sharpen the shears on."