

"I HAVEN'T SEEN A BETTER PLACE"

Carman Men Await Return at Guam

By **GORDON ROOT**

(Tribune Far East Correspondent)

GUAM, Oct. 1—The name "Hong-Kong" will be etched in the hearts of the people of Carman, Man., for many years. Answering the call to arms in 1939, sons, husbands and fathers of the town flocked into Winnipeg to join the armed services.

Pte. Bob Lytle couldn't say exactly how many had enlisted but at least a dozen joined the Winnipeg Grenadiers and crossed the Pacific to garrison the tiny British colony on the coast of China. Three were killed in battle and at least one other, Benny Neufeld, died in prison camp.

Pte. Lytle, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Lytle, of Carman; Pte. Les Adams and Pte. Thomas Ford, represent the town in the group of recovered Canadian prisoners who are now at Guam awaiting transportation home.

Buddies in Carman before the war, Lytle and Adams enlisted together on Sept. 9, 1939. Ford joined the battalion later. The three men went through battle together, were in the same prison camps and were evacuated together.

Lytle has seen a lot of the world since he joined up but he still likes Carman and he's on his way back there to settle down. "I haven't seen any place I like better," he said. "I'm going back to get a job around town somewhere." He worked in a service station there before enlisting.

Pte. Bill Morris, whose wife lives in suite 3, Keswick apts., Winnipeg, was sitting on his bed in the hospital as I walked in. Quickly he glanced at the shoulder patch on my uniform and read the word "Canada."

"Canada," he said fervently. "What a wonderful country. When are they going to get us back there again?"

Cpl. Knud Agerback, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Agerback, 89 Hallett ave., Winnipeg, was anxious to find out about his family and about things at home. In his four years of imprisonment he had received only one letter and that was in 1942.

"Would you mind sending a message to the folks at home and to my brother Bernard in Vancouver?" asked Pte. Henry Miron, son of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Miron, of St. Boniface. "Tell them I am feeling fine, that the prison camp didn't hurt me and that I will be home soon."

Sympathetic Jap

There were bright spots in prison camp that made life a little more bearable, explained RQMS. A. B. Beare, 78 Smithfield st., Winnipeg. "At Kawasaki there was a Japanese interpreter named Kwinanagi who was all for us. He used to tell us 'Don't have anything to do with these monkeys,' referring to the Japanese guards. Once he got into a fight with a guard to protect one of our boys who was being beaten.

RQMS. Beare is not the only member of his family in the armed forces. He has an 18-year-old son in the navy. His wife and two other sons and a daughter at home will be happy to know that although he is a little greyer he is in very good health.