



Too Excited to Talk

Twins Held in Same Jap Prison Return

The Peterson twins, Cpl. George and Pte. Morris Peterson, imprisoned together at Hong Kong, arrived home 6.45 p.m. Monday. They were a little taken aback at the reception given them. The clapping and cheering might have come from twice the number of people in the room.

They were too excited to talk and all questions were answered with "pretty tough."

Their parents, Cpl. George M. Peterson, W.L.L., and Mrs. Peterson forgot all the things they were going to say when they met them. "You can't hug sons, cry, laugh and talk at the same time."

In Sendai prison camp, No. 2, the two boys spent 15 months working underground in the coal mines. Pte. Morris was ill "off and on" with malaria. "Nearly all the time," his brother added.

Mrs. C. L. Cooke, the boys' sister, brought her little daughter Geraldine to the station to meet their uncles. She's "heard lots about them." Also there to meet the twins were Sgt. and Mrs. Eddie Shayler, Sgt. Shayler, who was imprisoned with the boys, arrived home last Friday.

The 7.45 train brought two more Hong Kong men. Pte. Gerald Dupont and Cpl. Lawrence Stebbe, Beausejour.

The Dupont reception committee was happy and talkative. The Stebbe group was quiet, saving their enthusiasm for when "he came."

Roland, 12, and Eugene, 10, sons of Mr. and Mrs. E. Beaulieu, thought they remembered their uncle, Pte. Duont, "a little bit." Eleven-month-old Gerald, son of Mr. and Mrs. Pete Gaultier, was named for the Hong Kong hero.

Pte. Dupont "weathered conditions not too badly." He now weighs 175 pounds. The lowest he's been was 130.

He held two jobs there. Working in a coal mine while in Sendai No. 1 camp, and as a gardener. "And what a gardener I am," he said with a happy laugh.

"Oh, I don't know, the treatment in general was rough, but I didn't do too badly," he said seriously. "I did have 'berl-berl' in fact," he said confidentially. "I've still got it."

Cpl. Stebbe wasn't interested in being interrupted by the press although his relatives were interested in the answers.

They discovered he's suffered through a "couple of bouts of dysentery" and a "couple of attacks of malaria."

Working with other prisoners underground in the coal mines they were abruptly told Aug. 17 they could quit work. The war was all over.

"All we did was cheer and yell," he recalled. "We couldn't celebrate very well because there wasn't anything to celebrate with."

He mentioned Louis Specht, of Lac du Bonnet, who is on his way home. "He was a swell guy and our ramp cook even if there wasn't much opportunity to practise his culinary arts," Cpl. Stebbe said with a grin.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. Stebbe, his elder brother Richard and his wife, and his sister Mrs. Selch with her husband Archer Selch and their two children came from Beausejour to meet the corporal. His uncles Leo and

Another party of liberated Winnipeg Grenadiers arrived in Winnipeg Monday evening, to be greeted by joyful friends and relatives. Pte. Gerald Dupont, "who couldn't be any happier," is shown at top. To his right is his sister, Mrs. Pete Gaultier and her 11-month-old son who was named for "their hero." At left are his sisters, Mrs. E. Desllets, who came in from Pine Falls, for the homecoming reception, and Mrs. E. Beaulieu.

Cpl. Lawrence Stebbe, at bottom, is pictured with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. Stebbe of Beausejour.

Otto Lentz, of Transcona, were there with their wives.

Four-year-old Sandra Selch grabbed her uncles gloves as soon as he reached the group and announced, "C'mon, I've got his gloves, we can go now."

Mr. and Mrs. Stebbe were satisfied to sit and watch their son get reacquainted with all the relatives.

Cpl. George Temple, whose wife and eight-year-old son Brian, were in Vancouver to meet him also arrived, at 7.45 p.m. He was greeted by his wife's brother and wife, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Saunders. Little Jerry Saunders, 5, "Can still remember his uncle."

Passing through on their way east were Rfn. J. S. Hickey, Windsor, Pte. E. H. Wrigley, Toronto, and Rfn. L. Rettle, Campbelltown, N.B. People in the rotunda took care of them until they were due to leave.

Special welcome home cards were given the men by the Train reception committee of the coordinating board who were on hand to pass out cigarettes, coffee and chocolate biscuits.

Mrs. R. Vale, on behalf of the Hong Kong Group, Ladies' auxiliary, welcomed the small group home.