

**Delayed Christmas Dinner**

**Feast Prepared for Returning Grenadier**

To make up for the Christmas in 1941 that Billie missed, Mr. and Mrs. T. F. Savage, 2 Vopni ave., Brooklands, welcomed home their son, Pte. W. H. Savage, with a Christmas dinner. "Yes, we've got roast chicken and plum pudding and everything. We thought about red tissue bells but we decided to leave them for the real Christmas, coming soon enough," said the Hong Kong boy's mother. His little brother and sister, Allen and Hazel, were at the station to meet Billie.

He was one of eight local men welcomed home Tuesday night at the C.P.R. station. Seven for eastern points also arrived.

Pte. W. G. Nicholson, 243 Kilbride ave., worked in Japanese mines, losing weight from his standard 180 pounds down to 110. When someone remarked he couldn't see how men could work in mines on such limited rations, the soldier agreed drily: "I didn't see how we could, either. It's wonderful what you can do when you've got to."

Waiting at home for Pte. Nicholson was a big basket of fruit sent by the West Kildonan Legion. His mother said the neighbors were all coming in for an informal reception. She lost her husband after the last war, as a result of his service. "He was 30 years a soldier—he served in the Boer war, too." Down to help her welcome her son were two women from the same street: Mrs. William Dudley and Eleanor McInnes.

Pte. Thomas L. Mulvaney, 553 Elgin ave., flung his arm around his little son, Darwin, with a hearty, "This is one fellow I really go for." Thomas has a twin brother who also served at Hong Kong; he is still in Manila; they were parted in 1943. That makes three sets of twins heard from: the McKnights, Petersons and now the Mulvaney's. The family went out to the soldier's mother's home at 1267 Parker ave., for "chicken pie, wine—everything," said his wife.

Pte. Walter Slovinski, 176 Stevens st., came home to his

father, John, and a new mother. "It's fine," the shy, grinning soldier told her, trying to find words. He has two more brothers, Joe and Pete, yet to come from the European theatre.

When he smiled Walter had two beautiful rows of teeth to show. How did he keep them so nice through imprisonment? "Well, I hung on to my tooth brush and brushed them — yes, just with water; yes, the same brush all through. I lost my watch in action but I did save the brush."

Cpl. Ross McGavin, 334 Maplewood ave., brought home a bit of a parachute that dropped food to the prisoners as the first good news that the Allies had won. He was the third son home: Gordon from the army and Jack from the navy. An older brother, Bob, was also at the station. Father and mother at last had their family complete.

What Ross wanted most to do was "just talk," he said, with a sweet look at his mother.

Cpl. J. C. Matheson, 736 Valour Rd., grabbed his wife outside the reception room and made a bee line for home. Pte. W. D. Ingles got off the train at Kenton. Man. Cpl. F. Neufeld is staying over at Salmon Arm, B.C.



**HONG KONGERS HOME:** Top left is Pte. W. H. Savage, 2 Vopni ave., Brooklands, with his family; they formerly lived in Beaconia; top right, Pte. T. L. Mulvaney, 553 Elgin ave., with his wife and son, Darwin. Bottom left, Pte. W. Slovinski with his dad and mother, 176 Stevens st. Bottom right, Pte. W. G. Nicholson, 243 Kilbride, with his mother and Mrs. W. Dudley, left, and Eleanor McInnes.