

Grenadiers Leave 'Frisco for Home

By **PETER INGLIS**

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SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 4 — Deep in one of the bunk-packed holds of the big U.S. transport Admiral Rodman one of the most dramatic reunions of the war's end took place at noon Wednesday. There Col. F. W. Clarke, of Quebec and Ottawa, special assistant to the adjutant-general and founder of Canada's directorate of repatriation, met his son, Capt. W. F. Clarke, of the Royal Rifles of Canada, a prisoner of the Japanese at Hong Kong for four years.

Both were almost speechless. Col. Clarke said only, "I can't put that into words," and his son: "Oh boy, this certainly is grand." Around them were packed 25 officers and 79 men of Canada's Hong Kong force.

The Admiral Rodman, which was

packed with 4,000 United States troops and 188 Britons, as well as the Canadians, was delayed by fog off the Golden Gate. And the Canadians were taken direct by ferry to Oakland pier to board a train for home, joining 244 others who docked Tuesday on the Ozark and had been taken to Fort McDowell in San Francisco Bay for rest. Down in the steaming holds, officers and men told their stories.

Capt. Uriah Laito, of Vancouver, who was a marine missionary on the west coast of Vancouver Island for the United Church before the war, and became chaplain of the Winnipeg Grenadiers, said: "The Japs set out to break us. They said at the end they were amazed at our spirit."

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George Porteous of Saskatoon, Y.M.C.A. auxiliary services attached to the Grenadiers, told of his struggles with the Japanese to permit education and recreation for the prisoners. "I tried to get recognition as a welfare officer, but word came back that I was a prisoner of war."

Cpl. Guy Faulkner, of Winnipeg, a former Tribune reporter, was more interested in getting news of his home office than in telling of his experiences.

Of them he said only: "We made the best of it, but I can tell you we didn't have much straw to make our bricks. The food situation was chronic and the medical situation very bad. I can't say too much for the officers. They did a marvelous job in a very invidious position."

A merchant seaman, Wireless Operator Ozzie Collett, of Winnipeg, was in the same camp but has not yet been shipped home. They were the only Canadians at Kawasaki No. 1, near Tokyo. The rest were British, Indians and Chinese.

There were a brief flash of humor during the welcome ceremonies, when Gen. Walford announced: "I have a message here from the minister of national defense," and a voice from among the repatriates called out "and who would he be now?"

Gen. Walford went into conference with Lt.-Col. William Home, who became senior Canadian officer at Hong Kong on the death of Brigadier J. K. Lawson and Pat Hennesy, and was Maj. George Trist, of Winnipeg, second in command of the Grenadiers.