

GRENADIERS AT GUAM TELL EXPERIENCES

Winnipegger's Brief Escape Nearly Fatal

By GORDON ROOT

(Tribune Far East Correspondent)

GUAM, Oct. 5—What it's like to walk down a road expecting a shot in the back at any moment from a lot of trigger-happy Japs, was graphically described to me by Cpl. Ernest MacFarlane, 367 Langside st., Winnipeg, who was among a group of liberated Winnipeg Grenadiers I talked to in hospital here.

Cpl. MacFarlane's hair-raising experience came during an escape attempt in April, 1942.

With two prisoners he got out of camp and was heading towards a spot on the island where they had cached weapons and food before surrendering.

"We were walking along the road in the dark when we stumbled into a Japanese road block guarded by two Nip soldiers. We couldn't understand any Japanese and they didn't know English so we couldn't figure out what they were going to do with us. They called the corporal in charge of the guard and he pointed to 12 o'clock on his watch and pulled his finger across his throat so we figured at midnight we were going to get it. It was then a little before 11.

"Finally, after a lot of jabbering, they motioned us to go down the road. We started to head back to camp but they stopped us and made us go the other way. It looked as though they were sending us into Jap headquarters in town. As we headed down the road we waited for them to start shooting but they didn't. As soon as we got around a turn in the road we found a trail and sneaked back into the camp. Nobody knew we had been outside."

A message from his sister that I brought out from Canada meant a lot to Pte. Wilfred Tremeer, 172 Bannerman ave., Win-

nipeg. Since he was taken prisoner at Hong Kong Tremeer had received only one letter from home.

Pte. John Olason, Pilot Mound, agreed it was going to take a little time to get acquainted with his four-year-old son.

The homecoming will not be so bright for Pte. Arthur Dallingall, 229 Manderville st., St. James. He had heard that his baby died while he was in prison camp.

Sgt. William McAuley, of McAuley, Man., and Pte. Kenneth Roy Johnston, whose sister, Mrs. George McLeod, lives on Berry st., Winnipeg, gathered in a group to describe their experiences of the last four years.

Conditions in the coal mine at Sendai where he worked during the last months of imprisonment were terrible, said Sgt. McAuley. "One day I took a thermometer down with me and when I read it about half way down the shaft it was 115 degrees. The mine was 2,000 meters underground. Others who worked in the mine were Ptes. Richard Johnson and Joseph Rafferty, Winnipeg.

Occasionally they got an English language paper that a Japanese civilian used to smuggle into them. "We got one on the day Germany surrendered," the sergeant continued. "We were sure cocky that day, almost too cocky in fact, and we nearly got into trouble with the Nips."

The men had some kind words for a Japanese medical officer named Moro who treated them as human beings. Sergeant McAuley said: "He came into our camp and ordered all men out for medical inspection. He asked us why we were so thin and we told him it was lack of food. He ordered the commandant to take us off work and let us rest but when he left four days later the commandant sent us all back to work. Moro was back again in a month and put us on rest again but it only lasted as long as he was in camp."