

Talk of Portage Ave.

## Grenadiers Leaving Manila

By GORDON ROOT

(Tribune Far East Correspondent)

MANILA, Oct. 8—There's talk of home in Canadian sections of the military repatriation camp today, talk of a trip through the Rocky Mountains, of the time to be spent in Vancouver, of a walk down Portage Avenue in Winnipeg, as 120 veterans of Hong Kong prepare for their Pacific crossing.

If present plans are carried out, the party including 39 Winnipeg Grenadiers will board the aircraft carrier Glory today and by night-fall will be sailing down Manila Bay.

Excitement is running high among these men who spent two years working in coal mines in Fukuoka district not far from Nagasaki, excitement that makes you realize just how wonderful home can be.

Pte. Edward Weibe, son of Mrs. N. Weibe, 1110 Waller ave., Winnipeg, declared he has spent the last week in Manila getting in shape for a good holiday. He intends to live in Canada.

Digging into his kit bag he produced a packet of souvenirs that will remind him of his stay in Japan, a kimono, fan, pair of wooden slippers and other trinkets.

For Pte. William Vidal, whose sister, Mrs. T. L. Hardisty, lives in ste. 11, Diana Court, Winnipeg, home means the opportunity to get back to a job driving a truck for the Safety Freight Lines, which he left to join the Grenadiers.

"Yes," he mused, "it will sure be good to get behind the wheel again and know there's no Jap waiting to clout you if you look sideways."

Off in another corner of the tent Pte. Roy Pottinger, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Pottinger, of Overton, Man., and Pte. Walter Schmall, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Schmall, 934 Pritchard ave., Winnipeg, packing their packs for the trip home, were making a sharp trade on smoke rations drawn from the American Red Cross canteen.

In the end Schmall exchanged four days' rations of cigars for a package of tobacco and good-naturedly believed that he'd been gyped.

"Manila," said Rfn. Gerry Ask-senchuck, whose sister is Mrs. L. T. Gricco, of 322 Roseberry st., St. James, "has been too hot for comfort, but evcrybody has treated us swell." Asked how a Manitoban happened to get into the Royal Rifles, he replied with a grin at the Grenadiers that "some one from the prairies had to get into a good regiment."

In spite of four years of mistreatment at the hands of the Japs and the rigors of work in Jap coal mines, the troops leaving today are returning in excellent condition. One thing worries them, however. In enemy prison camps the fear of guards has developed a haunted look in their eyes. They admit they stare at people and can't help it. They still haven't forgotten the beatings they received for offenses that were insignificant or even non-existent.

Pte. Joe Michalkow said he'd like his parents in Mikado, Saskatchewan, to know that he is feeling fine and expects to be home very soon.