

12 MORE COME HOME

'Well Done, Boys!' Greet Grenadiers

Looking healthy and happy, 12 more members of Winnipeg's famous fighting Grenadiers are home. Trim and smiling in brand new uniforms bedecked with the red and silver Hong Kong flash, they arrived here during the weekend over C.P.R. lines.

Eight of the new arrivals pulled into the station at 6.45 p.m. Saturday. They were Pte. J. Aubert, L.-Cpl. G. Auld, Pte. A. Favel, Pte. O. A. Holden, Pte. J. A. Krog, Pte. B. Lewicky and Cpl. R. B. Oomen. All are from Winnipeg except Favel and Lewicky, who live in Pine Falls and Faulkner, respectively.

Every minute counted to Pte. A. Schwartz. He got off the train at Portage la Prairie and took a taxi in to Winnipeg.

Pte. A. W. MacTier and Pte. A. H. Dellbridge arrived Sunday at 6.45 p.m. and were followed an hour later by Pte. F. A. Mack and Pte. A. C. Carter.

All the Winnipeg arrivals were greeted by crowds of relatives who burst out of the waiting-room with cries of joy as the liberated men swung into the station. Bystanders applauded and shouted "Well done, boys."

Nearly a platoon's strength turned out to welcome Pte. Jack Aubert and they all tried to fling themselves on him at once. Pte. Auld, looking unbelievably young and carefree for a man who has

endured four years in a Jap prison camp, also found a large welcoming committee awaiting him.

Pte. Lewicky described the long trip home—from Hong Kong to Japan in a jampacked freighter, thence by air to San Francisco via Guam and Honolulu. The first two years in prison, he said, were endurable, but the last two he described as "really tough."

Cpl. Oomen, one of the oldest men in the battalion, looked remarkably fit. A pressman and a market gardener before the war, he was greeted by a large group including his son Gordon, of Bird's Hill. Cpl. Oomen married when the Grenadiers were stationed in Jamaica and his wife lives there.

Pte. Krog's mother, who lives near Clear Lake, was unable to come in to Winnipeg, but an admiring group of friends turned up to welcome him. Pte. Favel, who was one of a number of ex-prisoners who spent some time in a San Francisco hospital after repatriation, was met by his sister, Mrs. Rita Johnson, of Kirkfield Park. Pte. Holden was met by

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his mother, who lives in Fort Garry.

All Pte. MacTier could do when he arrived Sunday was gaze at his wife, who lives at 514 Langside st., and at his six-year-old daughter Sherrill, a babe in arms when he left home. Sherrill was waving a Union Jack in honor of Daddy. "Just look at those eyes" was his reply.

Friends and relatives of Pte. Dellbridge filled half the waiting room. When he could be torn away from his friends' and relatives' children, he stopped to tell a reporter of the dread beri-beri disease which he contracted along with most of the prisoners. "You couldn't sleep or eat for days," he said.

Pte. Carter's father, Bert Carter, 863 Moncton ave., received a postcard written from Nilgata prison camp in June, 1944, just last Wednesday, a few days after he received a phone call from Vancouver to say his son would be home as soon as he got out of hospital there.

Pte. Mack was also welcomed by a large number of friends. Soon they reached out and pulled the after he got off the train one of size-tag from his newly-issued uniform. He had also spent some time in hospital after liberation, but appeared to be fully recovered.

600 on Way; 101 Are Grenadiers

Six hundred Canadian and British troops, prisoners of the Japs for four years, are steaming toward Winnipeg today. The party left Vancouver Sunday night in two specials, one on C.P.R. and the other on C.N.R. lines.

The Canadians number 311, the Imperials 289. Among the Canadians are 101 Grenadier men and eight officers; the rest are Quebec Rifles. According to advice now, the party will arrive here between 5 and 6 p.m. Tuesday at the C.P.R. station. The time may change slightly. The men were passengers on the Admiral Rodman and the Ozark.

The Imperials will pass through Winnipeg about 10 p.m. over the C.N.R. system.

The Grenadier headquarters is open today, and the phone as busy as ever. "We're very thankful," said Mrs. John Norris, whose husband, Capt. Norris, is on his way. She is president of the auxiliary.

"The Grenadiers have a lot to be thankful for this year," agreed Capt. E. L. Hubbell, adjutant. "Yes, we'll be open all day today and most of the night."