

Victoria Mobs Homecoming Hong Kong Men

VICTORIA, Oct. 12—(CP) — Crowds that rushed the gate at the government dry-dock, knocking guards off their feet and delaying the unloading of the American Troopship S.S. Gosper Thursday night gave British and Canadian liberated prisoners from Japan the most rousing welcome yet tendered a troopship arriving here.

The wail of sirens greeted the ship as she hove into sight. First to be taken off were three stretcher cases followed by the Hong Kong veterans who were taken to Gordon Head camp.

One of the first men off the giant transport was Lieut. Francis G. Power, of the Royal Rifles of Canada, who was met by his parents, Hon. C. G. Power, former Canadian minister for air, and Mrs. Power of Quebec City.

Of the 554 British and Canadian sailors, soldiers and airmen who left the ship under floodlights and a sky rent by searchlights, none was more surprised and pleased than Pte. John Downey, of the Winnipeg Grenadiers, who was met by his daughter, Mrs. G. R. Dunn, who left Winnipeg some time ago to reside in Victoria.

Pte. Downey achieved fame among his fellow prisoners as recipient of the most mail while at a Japanese shipyard prison camp at Yokohama.

"Why he must have received 70 letters," said Pte. J. Gauthier of Detroit who was imprisoned with Downey. They would come may be 10 at a time and there were 500 of us there to help enjoy them."

Canadian aboard the vessel included: Capt. Njall O. Bardal, Winnipeg; Lt. Hugh E. MacKenzie, Winnipeg; Capt. John A. Norris, Winnipeg; Lt. John E. Park, Winnipeg; Lt. Alexander Prendergast, Killarney; Pte. John Downey, Winnipeg; Pte. Andrew D. Harvie, Neepawa.

Pte. Alexander J. Hinkle, Winnipeg; Pte. John Hoosa, West Kildonan; Sgt. Joseph Hopper, Winnipeg; Pte. George A. Humphrey, Winnipeg; Cpl. Douglas A. Jeffrey, Winnipeg; Pte. Clifford L. Johnston, St. Boniface; Pte. Frank W. Jones, Winnipeg; Pte. Reginald A. Kerr, Winnipeg; Sgt. Joseph Kitkoski, Winnipeg; Pte. Basil Kohut, Winnipeg; Pte. William Kyrnisky, Winnipeg; Pte. Marcien Lafortune, Vassar, Man.; and Pte. Alfred S. Johnson, Fyfe Lake, Sask.