

9 Manitobans Reach 'Frisco

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 16—(CP)—Twenty-six liberated Canadian prisoners of war, including one officer, were among hundreds of servicemen who returned here Monday aboard the United States transport U.S.S. General R. L. Hawze.

The group included: Pte. D. F. Davidson, Winnipeg; Pte. A. G. Fleming, Winnipeg; Pte. A. J. Harris, Renner, Man.; Pte. K. Hogarth, Winnipeg; Pte. R. L. Leach, Dryden, Ont.; Pte. J. McLeod, Winnipeg; Pte. R. Nobiss, St. Laurent, Man.; Pte. A. Skibinski, Winnipeg; Pte. A. R. Whitman, Winnipeg.

The group was carried immediately by ferry to Fort McDowell, an island in San Francisco bay, where they will remain until transportation to British Columbia can be arranged.

One of the most spectacular stories of any Canadian returnee was partially revealed by Sgt. R. J. Routledge of Brandon, Man., and Victoria.

"I was sentenced to 15 years hard labor in the Stanley Japanese penitentiary," said Routledge, "but was released after serving more than two years in that hole, which is nothing more than a land of the living dead."

"I never thought I would live to see Canada again and I don't think I could have lasted much longer. . . . I was plenty scared when I first went to the penitentiary but after a few beatings my fear changed to contempt, hatred and revenge and I somehow became almost immune to the horrible tortures."

Sgt. C. Windsor, of Winnipeg, said: "Hospitalization was an unheard of thing in the prison camps. Amputations were made without anaesthetics in a hut that resembled a slaughter house more than a hospital."

"I only wish we could have rejoined a fighting unit after about two years in those torture-houses. We sure would have made a crack suicide squad and I'm positive we would all have enjoyed revenge."