

## Manitobans Among Far East Repats

ESQUIMALT, B.C., Oct. 22. — (CP) — Canada's anti-aircraft cruiser Prince Robert, docked here Saturday with 27 Canadian ex-prisoners of war, 17 British officers, rankings and civilians, one R.C.A.F. officer, and 15 Roman Catholic missionaries, all from the Far East.

The Robert left Manila Sept. 28. All "repats" had the same stories to tell of bad and insufficient food but not all had been slapped and kicked by their Japanese guards.

Pte. A. C. Thomas, Grenadiers, whose wife lives at Winnipeg, was in hospital two years and eight months as a result of heart trouble due to malnutrition. His eyesight is poor. His weight went down to 102 from a normal of 140 but he now weighs 120.

Other service men aboard the Robert included the following Manitobans: Cpl. Art McCorister, Portage la Prairie; Pte. L. Hanna, Gladstone; Pte. H. L. Militaire, Carman; Pte. J. E. Campbell and Pte. R. McFee, both of Winnipeg. From Saskatchewan—Cpl. Sam D. Kradinchuk, Canora, and Pte. W. J. Dube, Yynyard.

Lt.-Col. H. B. L. Dowbiggin, formerly commandant of the Hong Kong volunteer defense corps, had been retired from that position as chief distribution officer of food control for Hong Kong. He was interned at Stanley camp as a civilian and reported "not too good treatment."

Prof. K. H. Digby, chief surgeon of the Queen Mary hospital, Hong Kong, consulting surgeon to the Hong Kong government and professor of surgery in the university there, also was aboard.

All repats will remain here a few days for check and reconditioning before proceeding eastward.