

COAST FLIGHT TO MEET GRENADIER HUSBAND

"Hello, Dorothy?"

"Yes."

"This is Ronnie; can you come out to Gordon Head hospital, Victoria, B.C.?"

"O.K. I'll take the first train out," Dorothy said.

"No. Take the first plane out," Ronnie answered.

This was part of a telephone conversation Mrs. Dorothy Routledge, 243 Whytewold road, St. James, had with her Winnipeg Grenadier husband, Sgt. Ronald John Routledge, who is in hospital suffering from beriberi.

Mrs. Routledge left at 8.55 a.m. this morning. Her father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Robson, and her brother, FO. Edwin Robson, saw her off.

"She always vowed she'd never go in a plane," laughed her mother, after she got back home. "But when Ronnie asked her to come, that was different. He's a wonderful boy, my son-in-law. They knew each other as children. I talked to him, too, on the phone. His voice would fade. He couldn't control it. He said, 'I feel as

though I'm talking from the grave!'"

And he wasn't far from the grave, from what he went through, added Mrs. Robson. "He organized a plan of mass escape from one of the camps. It was foiled but he and another man were put in prison on a 15-year sentence. There was wire torture. . . Even then he was lucky. They say the rest were shot."

Mrs. Routledge talked to Dr. John Crawford, since he came home a couple of weeks ago, and he told her Ronnie was suffering from beriberi.

To make Sgt. Routledge's imprisonment worse, he got no word of his family because they moved from Brandon to Forrest and into Winnipeg while he was away. The first word his wife received from him was on Sept. 7 when a telegram came from Manila saying he was safe.

Mrs. Routledge has been working in Brandon at an optician's during the war. She had saved up her money and was ready to spend it when her husband called. The Grenadiers' headquarters helped her get plane accommodation.