

COLIN STANDISH

(1916-1991)

Experiences as a Prisoner of War in the Far East, 1941-45

Interviewed by

Charles G. Roland, MD

30 May 1989

Oral History Archives

Hannah Chair for the History of Medicine

McMaster University

Hamilton, Ontario

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Interview No. HCM 9-89

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 on 30 May 1989 at COOKSHIRE PQ on the  
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INTERVIEWER: \_\_\_\_\_

INTERVIEWEE: \_\_\_\_\_

HANNAH PROFESSOR: \_\_\_\_\_

Charles G. Roland, M.D.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

30 May 1989

Colin Standish  
 Standish Brothers  
 Cookshire, Quebec  
 (819) 875-3197

Ex-Prisoner-of-War Questionnaire

Full name: Colin Standish

Birthplace & date: 15 Nov. 1916, *Jennopville*

Present address:  
Street Standish Brothers Apt. \_\_\_\_\_  
City Cookshire, Prov. Quebec  
Postal code (Zip) \_\_\_\_\_ Country Canada  
Telephone (home) 875-3197 (work) \_\_\_\_\_ Area Code 819

Service number: *E29812*

Date of enlistment; *3 Sept 1939*

Name of Regiment or Unit, Company, etc.: *RRC June 1940*

Date & place captured:

Rank at time of capture:

Wounded at time of capture: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Date & place released:

Would you give me permission to examine your service record (in government files) in order to obtain additional information (having to do with exact dates, etc.), for my research?

(Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to

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Colin Standish, Cookshire, Quebec, 30 May 1989

Charles G. Roland, MD:

First of all I'd like to just know your birth place and your birth date.

Colin Standish:

I was born November the 15th, 1916, in Lennoxville, Quebec.

CGR.:

And what were your parents' names?

CS:

My father was Angus Standish and my mother was Florence Standish -- pure Standish, I am.

CGR:

You mean her maiden name was Standish?

CS:

Yes.

CGR:

Oh, was it? And was there a relationship?.

CS:

Fourth or fifth cousin.

CGR:

Fourth or fifth cousin, yes. And what did your father do?

CS:

My father was a flour miller. Fundamentally a flour miller.

CGR:

And had the Standishes been in this area for some time?

CS:

We moved to Cookshire in 1925 from Lennoxville. My father

and mother came from Rougemont, Quebec, where all the apples are grown.

CGR:

Well tell me just a little, if you would, about your growing up, particularly your education; how much education did you have? What were you doing in the 1930s before the war?

CS:

I?

C.G.R.

Yes, exactly.

CS:

I went to Cookshire High School. And then after that I spent my last three and a half years in the Feller Institute, which is a Huguenot school, from Switzerland.

CGR:

Oh yes. And you left there in what year?

CS:

About '33. I went to Stanstead College.

CGR:

Stansick?

CS:

Stanstead. It's a private school right on the [US-Canada] border.

CGR:

And how long were you there?

CS:

Just one year. Except, I'm still there. I'm on the Board of Trustees, and I look after all the land for Stanstead. There

are 600 acres right along the American border. It's been a hobby of mine. I've taken over looking after that. But I am on the Board, the Executive Board of Stanstead.

CGR:

Isn't that nice.

CS:

It's a very nice school. A very good school.

CGR:

And after you left Stanstead....

CS:

I went to work for a wholesale hardware company in Sherbrooke, Quebec. I was one of the lucky ones to get a job. I stayed with Mitchell until 1940. I joined the army September the 3rd, 1939. But they wouldn't take me overseas so I'm afraid I was a deserter from [the 2nd Survey Regiment], Montreal. And I joined up in the Royal Rifles of Canada in June of 1940. And I actually started on September 3rd, 1939.

CGR:

I see. What was your service number?

CS:

E29812. I was the first man in the Royal Rifles.

CGR:

Really.

CS:

Number, we started with E29800, but I typed all the other boys first and when night came I typed my own [E29812], but I should have been [E29800], the first number.

I've been associated with the Rifles from the very, very

first day.

CGR:

Well perhaps you'd tell me a bit about the early days of the Rifles. I know roughly, I mean I know that you went to Valcartier and Sussex and out to Newfoundland, and some of them were up to Gander, and so on. But if you'd just tell me a bit about your own experiences during that time.

CS:

Well, I joined up in June of '40 and I went to the Citadel, Quebec City. And I was in the pay office there and recruiting office. Then we moved to Valcartier. Then Valcartier to Sussex, New Brunswick. At Sussex, New Brunswick, I went on course to Kingston, Ontario, as a physical inspector for the District Military District of No. 4. After that we went to Newfoundland. To Gander first, then Botwood, and then St. John's.

We didn't have very much sickness there. We had measles very, very badly. But fundamentally we were in very good shape.

CGR:

Right.

CS:

We were all country boys from the Eastern townships -- Gaspé, the north shore in New Brunswick. But most of us were in fairly good shape and very very few city people. In fact we only had, in the Royal Rifles, nine men in the ranks from Quebec City.

CGR:

Is that right?

CS:

Yes. Only nine. The rest were Eastern township boys. You

see, from the town of Bury here we had 31, Cookshire we had around 15, from Angus 10, Scotstown 10, Sawyerville 10-12, Megantic, about 15. The little town of Bury we had 31. So we were fundamentally Eastern townships and Gaspé or North shore. The Gaspé came down to Campbellton and we were on that side, Chandler down to Bathurst, Jack River.

CGR:

Well, I was in Chandler on Saturday.

CS:

Oh. Did you see Rawlson?

CGR:

I saw Hunt in Chandler and then Doddridge in New Richmond, Duguay in St. Omer, and Reg Law in Campbellton.

CS:

Reg was my corporal.

CGR:

Yes, well he asked me -- I wanted to be sure to remember that he especially asked me to send his regards.

CS:

Reg was a very good fellow. And Doddridge was a very good man. See, his sister, sister of private Doddridge, she nursed, was in charge of all our Hong Kong boys, at St. Charles Hospital, Quebec City.

CGR:

Oh yes.

CS:

She looked after so many of them.

CGR:



I don't want to take any extra time [of yours] here.

CS:

I'm fine. I've left the afternoon for you.

CGR:

Well, that's very nice.

CS:

I've got to pack my stuff for fishing but I've got time.

CGR:

Well perhaps we'd go on to Hong Kong and perhaps you'd begin by just telling me what you recollect of your first impressions of Hong Kong. It must have looked very foreign indeed to you.

CS:

It looked very very foreign, and very very hot, and very dry, and it wasn't very very appealing. Especially when I'd been sea-sick for 26 days on that boat. I was put in hospital right at the very first. I get terrible terrible sea sickness. So Hong Kong was fascinating too, I think. We went in to Sham Shui Po. We didn't get out for three or four days before they let us out on any leave. But it was completely new. It was such an easy life in Hong Kong compared to what we had in Newfoundland. The climate and the quarters and everything.

CGR:

I understand that you could even have Chinese people doing things for you. They were inexpensive?

CS:

We did have until they started to put us down. I had two boys working for me until the RSM found out about it. [laughter]

But you had your routine, bread in the morning, and everything. And all men had people keeping the barracks clean -- and all it cost so little. But it wasn't a good life for us.

CGR:

No.

CS:

It was a very very bad life for us. We would have had enough sexual disease and stuff like that. If something...the best thing that ever happened to us was the war. We didn't understand that type of thing. We got into that and these men had never had a life like that before. We were going to have a terrible bad trouble in the regiment. And the senior officers had realized it and we were probably even setting up our own recreation services and everything that....we had them.

CGR:

Yes.

CS:

And there was the same thing on the food, rationing and all, we couldn't stand the British ration at all. But we would have had within a month probably a complete change of regiment. We had a lot more officers. We had a lot of NCOs go up to officers.

CGR:

What was your rank at that time?

CS:

I was Quartermaster Sergeant then. Then first day of war I became Sergeant Major. The first day that the Japs landed.

CGR:

What does a, what does a Quartermaster Sergeant do?

CS:

Well, you look after all the rations. You look after all the clothing and everything for your company. It's the best position in the army actually. You usually have your own quarters, your own transportation and you don't have any marching very often because you always have too many other things to do. It's a very good position in the army.

CGR:

You had a bit of responsibility.

CS:

Yes a lot. You're second in charge after the CSM. But I became the CSM the first day of fighting.

CGR:

Tell me a bit about the fighting, the three weeks of war-time. What were you personally doing during this time?

CS:

As I say I became Sergeant Major the first day of fighting. Actually I probably didn't know -- I got the DCM, I got the first Canadian DCM in World War Two.

The first earned one -- I didn't get it until the last [because I was a POW].

CGR:

No.

CS:

I earned it in the first day of fighting -- I guess I did. We had a very hard fighting. We were completely disorganized. We never had a chance to ever look our territory over. We never

had any cooperation with the British. They thought we weren't at all qualified -- and I guess we weren't. But we were, we used good common sense where the British soldiers probably took the easiest way out to get it knocked into their heads. It was something like that. Canadian would pick up in a day or two, but we weren't a qualified military at all. We'd been on guard duty in Newfoundland, and we only had 750 men for that whole island of Newfoundland to try to police. You see we lost 26 planes in Gander -- one flight. And then they put us in charge of the hangers, you know. But we had a lot of sabotage.

CGR:

Ah, I see.

CS:

But we had to load our men into Botwood, from the airport. And again the airport is a big place, we had five or six of outposts. But the men never could come in to Gander. So we had no time for training.

CGR:

No, no.

CS:

No way out for training. But we had good men there. They were good men.

We had very little sickness then. Of course they were into beer. They had nothing else to do except drink. Especially if you were involved with some where you went on guard duty -- you came off guard duty and that's all there was to do.

CGR:

Did they have Screech there too?

CS:

Oh yes. [laughter] I brought a bunch of prisoners back to Canada and I took a bag of Screech with me. I never put a handcuff on a prisoner or had a loaded gun or anything. I brought them back to Montreal. I gave them a bottle of Screech, two bottles of Skreech every night -- no one had problems. I wish I could drink it now -- I can't.

CGR:

Well perhaps we could go back to Hong Kong. Would you tell me something about this action that ended in your getting the DCM.

CS:

Well, I just got mad, that's all I guess, at the Japs pretty well. But I got it from quite a few different actions. But our biggest thing was rations in Hong Kong. It was very hard to feed our men. The Japs came in to a very large area from a small point and they found out we had no chance once they landed on the island. All the heavy artillery and everything was facing the sea and not the land. You see the Japs came down into Kowloon and they just set up guns in all the depots and pounded any position [they wanted to]. The British took over the pillboxes, and all the Canadians had none. The cement in the pillboxes was very inferior cement, and this still goes on in the army when contracts are let out. And the Japs, once they landed we had no chance -- we had no chance even before that. You might have stayed for six months or eight months, but once there was no food coming in -- you couldn't grow anything -- it was only a matter

of time. We should never have been there. And we would have had probably more casualties if we had been highly trained.

CGR:

Why is that?

CS:

Well, the Japs didn't know where we were and we would have probably been in more positions. But C Company the Japs hit C Company, which was my company, the first of everybody, on the night of December 18th. And they hit Pai Ki Wan, which is the, there's a fort there. Then they come up the hill and once they turned around behind us, we were finished but we killed a an awful lot of Japs. But just that day we counted 543 unexploded shells. Unexploded! Stuff that landed in our position. The Japs, some of their stuff was very bad.

I had one shell go through the truck motor of mine and never exploded. Put the truck on the road, you know, but it never exploded. But we counted 543 unexploded shells in that one area, one valley.

CGR:

That's amazing.

CS:

But even, you see, when they started fighting us they were using high powered .22 bullets. So this is why a lot of the people didn't understand, that our casualty, our death casualty [rates] were quite low compared to our wounded casualty. And it was over. But the Japs right after that stopped using this .22 mushroom shell -- they went into a different type of shell. But they were using a steel shell with us. And we had a lot of clean

wounds.

A lot of people....of course there's no officers that ever studied this. Oh yes did you interview MacMillan in Quebec City?

CGR:

No.

CS:

Angus [MacMillan] would be a very very good person [to interview concerning the fighting]. He was a Lieutenant Colonel in the militia. He was the principal of this Quebec City High School. But Angus was very good. We had another man who was very good [with knowledge about the fighting], Everett Dennison, but he's dead.

CGR:

Yes.

CS:

But there's been very few people study the overall reason for the Hong Kong fiasco. I've always taken an interest in that. I was the first president of the Hong Kong POW Association. I started the association. And then I was the first national president. Most of my time being national president was to get the thing established and get -- it took 30-40 years to do it -- get our pensions -- that we started way back in '50. Yeah '52 really. Once we realized that our officers weren't going to do anything for us, we packed up and started our own association. It wasn't that we had bad officers, we had certain officers that, I guess, they had too much money. You see officers got promoted. The NCOs and all, we didn't get promoted. [Many officers came from very wealthy families.] We went in and came out the same

rank. Actually I was made a captain in the field. I didn't hold my rank in action for 30 days [so it was not confirmed].

CGR:

Is that right?

CS:

It is under K.R. [King's Regulations] in Canada. You see you can't keep your rank. That happened a lot. Not a lot -- six or eight sergeants. Our sergeant, sergeant-majors were very very intelligent people. You probably have run into some.

My other son owns Standish Brothers Limited which is a chemical business. We are the largest chemical applicators in Canada. Gregory does more cutting and dust control and specialized work on it. But we are big chemical people. Started it after the war and did very well. Everybody thought we were crazy when my brother and I started in the chemical brand business. We were the first chemical sprayers in Canada. And it's proven up pretty good and we've done well. And it's an interesting business. We operate in seven provinces and we sell in 10 provinces. And we are in this new anti-acid-rain stuff. Gregory has been in that business. It's just getting on his feet. But we sold a million dollars last month. And from this little place like Cookshire. But we specialized in special herbicides and fertilizers. We don't touch the regular stuff. But we do have a cure for the acid rain, for the maple trees (it looks like we have, from here). It's looking very very good.

CGR:

I sure hope so.

CS:



We're working out of Elmira, Ontario at the plant for the fertilizers. We're distributors for Dupont, Eli Lilly, and all the major companies. We are the only Canadian distributors for many. We are recognized by them all. We're the only company that has a good reputation.

CGR:

That's excellent.

CS:

It's a nice business to be in. And all this talk about -- I've been in chemicals ever since I came back and never has there been any problems. Nor have I ever had a man with a problem. I've had men work 34 years in herbicides and chemicals and we've never had bad reactions -- we had one man die of cancer but it had nothing to do with the chemicals. I had a huge tumor in my head that had no cancer in it.

That's interesting, I think. Three or four years ago I got so I couldn't see anywhere, couldn't see to drive my car. I didn't dare drive up to my office, even. I went to the eye specialist and they more or less said there's nothing wrong, you're getting old. I said it's not that. Well, they sent me to two hospitals in Sherbrooke and one hospital said there is nothing wrong with me, the other hospital said I had diabetes in my eyes. They sent me to another hospital. I was getting pretty fed up. I drove 100,000 miles a year -- with my business we had to. So my wife has been going to a French-Canadian eye doctor in Sherbrooke, Dr. Fortier. She said, "Why don't you go and see him?" Well, anyhow, he has a private practice. So I went into

his office and he looked at me and looked my eyes over and he says, "Were you a prisoner of war?" I said, "Yes." He said, "I know what's wrong with you." He said, "I'm sure you've got a tumor in your head caused by malnutrition."

CGR:

Really.

CS:

He said, "You need a scan." So they sent me to CHUS [Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Sherbrooke] hospital in Sherbrooke, which is one of the best ones in Canada, I guess, and they gave me the scan on the back of the head. So the head doctor, Dr. Boucher, said, "I know there's something wrong." So they gave me another scan in the front. And they tell me I have two of the biggest tumors, in the front of my head. Now, they couldn't reduce it by medication. They had to open my head up to take it out. So they got in there and every doctor in CHUS says it was caused by my malnutrition from Japan. Every doctor put it down that it was caused by malnutrition. So they raised my pension to 95% less the 50, so I got 145%. They give me \$543 a month as home care assistance alone. They give me the VIP [Veterans' Independence Program] allowance of \$5000 a year. So altogether I get around \$4000 a month. But the essential thing is, that this doctor recognized it right off, what caused my trouble. But there was another boy in Toronto, Art Appleton, but he had cancer -- he died last October. But evidently quite a few of the missionaries came out with tumors in their heads from malnutrition. This doctor he said, "I know what's wrong with you." And he did. The examinations showed it, and DVA accepted it with no argument.

They raised my pension 45%. They gave me the home care allowance.

CGR:

I'll have to look into that. I've never heard of this before.

CS:

I know. That's why I thought you'd be interested in listening. Of course, that's right here in Sherbrooke. But Art Appleton, in Toronto, he died, he had cancer, and he died very very quickly. He was a prisoner in Singapore. A very good friend of mine. He worked for the Dupont Company. In fact he was the one guy really up in this chemical business. But he came down with this and went to Portugal for two or three months, then came home, and in a month he was dead. But he got cancer out of it.

But I think there has been probably quite a few cases that they haven't know. In my case I picked the right doctor. But I went to, I don't know how many doctors before. And I'm still going. I was in the hospital yesterday, I've got to go tomorrow morning on my diabetes. They say my eyes may come back -- they don't know how much. I know I'll never be able to drive a car again. Overall, they've been very good to me. They send a girl once a week here to train me with these new types of machines for reading, and magnifying glasses, and all these things.

CGR:

Oh good, good.

CS:

But DVA, the big thing is they never argued one thing. I thought they were going increase 5 percent, but they raised me 25

percent. I could only go 5 percent.

CGR:

And this man's name is Fortier?.

CS:

Yes, Dr. [Jean Paul] Fortier, on Gordon Street in Sherbrooke, Quebec. He's a very nice man, very very intelligent man. Very trustful fellow. He's right next to St. Patrick's church [on King Hill in Sherbrooke].

CGR:

I may write him a letter and ask more about -- not about you -- but about this thing generally.

CS:

Yes. Well he's the one that said to me, "Were you a prisoner of war?" I said, Yes."

CGR:

Isn't that something.

CGR:

Well maybe we should go to your time as a prisoner of war and perhaps you would tell me where you were when the surrender came about.

CS:

Well, I was way up north. In Hong Kong we were particularly....of course, you know about our diphtheria. I was a diphtheria carrier. In fact I was in charge of the compound with it. We had about 250 carriers. But I happen to be the one that knew it was a very bad place to be because the morgue was there too, in the compound, with the carriers. You could hardly control your men. I put my men, all of them, making wreaths and

stuff, but it was very discouraging.

CGR:

Now, was this at Sham Shui Po?

CS:

At Sham Shui Po, yes, there. But we lost quite a few. But the Canadians came out much much better than the British and all. We could stand it. We had boys you'd swear would never come out of it, and they did come out of it. I remember one guy Spencely, whom I didn't give a chance. First thing I knew he had a pair of roller skates attached to a board and riding up and down. Just flying. But we had a lot of that. But we came out better than anybody else. And we went right straight through this, losing several hundred men. We lost several men on the ships going to Japan in 1942 -- I only lost two Canadian men. Which was very good compared to the Americans.

CGR:

Tell me about the diphtheria carrier business. Now, when did they start identifying carriers?

CS:

Almost at the very first. People would be breaking down -- the next person wouldn't. And it turned out we had 250 carriers in the compound; there probably was about 5000 of us in this camp, that is. And I think there was about 248 carriers.

CGR:

So they segregated this group is that right?

CS:

Yes, we were put down at the far end, away from the other people, because we could give diphtheria to everybody, yet we

couldn't take it ourselves. And the Japs couldn't put us to work or anything. So we were about 2 months separated during the worst of it. Then, after the compound was all closed down, when diphtheria was finished, there was only 250 -- I think it was 248 if I remember right. And I was in charge -- that's why I knew.

CGR:

And so basically they couldn't go to work so it was a matter of sort of occupying their time, wasn't it.

CS:

That's right. It was just terrible to be down and behind the barbed wire and you couldn't go out and you couldn't see anybody else. We had a wonderful doctor -- Dr. [Martin] Banfill. He apparently came from Cookshire.

CGR:

I didn't remember that. I've interviewed him.

CS:

Well Martin is a great fellow. I was his first patient here in Cookshire.

CGR:

Really?

CS:

Before the war. And I joined up in his office in Sherbrooke [Dr. Banfill had left his practice and joined the army]. I wasn't supposed to go overseas or anything because I got a silver plate on my leg. He said, "If you're determined to go you better come with me." Martin is a very very good man. He was the one in the diphtheria [epidemic] that was so wonderful. He saved many guys. We had no medicine, and you had to trade for

anything you could get. We had to trade cigarettes too. I was not in camp too much because I was in charge of the working parties, you know.

I started learning Japanese first week in prison camp. It was kind of interesting. And I figured we were going to be there for a while. But I was in charge of most of the working parties and it was not a very good place to be. And I became in charge of the Canadians' rations. They figured the British were stealing our rations and all so there was a big campaign and they made me in charge of all the division of rations and all. So I was always in the camp administration or something. I took a draft to Japan to work.

CGR:

Before we go to Japan, maybe you could tell me more about this business of looking after the men who were going out to work.

CS:

That was a very bad thing. The Japs would demand quotas. We had a terrible problem with malaria. Sham Shui Po was really the end of the sewer system. It was a big storage flat before they built on it. So we had a lot of malaria, a lot of disease. Most of our disease wasn't listed as malaria, it was listed as fever, NYD, I guess. In my own case I had it for four or five years, even after I came back to Quebec. I was still NYD when I came back. You would have a lot of the symptoms of malaria. Most of them thought that it wouldn't be malaria. And I think the whole thing was malnutrition on it. When you get a man with a fever of 104, 105 it's damn hard to put him off to work. In a

lot of cases 102 and 103 they had to go to work because you had to make that quota up. And then the Japs turned around, if a man didn't go to work they stopped his ration. Plus you had to take his ration away from the other men. And when you've got to pull all your hospital rations away from your working men it's kind of hard. So you had to watch and you still had to make that quota.

CGR:

Now, did the Japanese ever select the select men or did they just say, "We must have this many"?

CS:

Yes, they said, "We need this many men," and we had to supply the number asked for. Of course they were contracting us out to other contractors. So they got so much money.

CGR:

So much a head.

CS:

Of course, that's right. A lot of our men don't understand. They had to put out so many men. And this really became more a problem in Japan than it did in Hong Kong, because in Hong Kong we had a lot of wounded men and sick men, who were fed as well as the able-bodied. But when you got to Japan everybody was supposed to be able-bodied. Because it had been sorted out in Hong Kong [all who left Hong Kong were supposed to be well]. So this part came very very hard when you have to get your men up in Japan. But this is the way it went on the quota system.

CGR:

Now I've heard that men in Hong Kong sometimes were carried out to work. Is that true?



CS:

I think it happened a few times. You had to make that quota up. They were taking us by these harbor boats. I'm thinking of building Kai Tak airport, see. Actually, we built Kai Tak airport with baskets filled with earth on our shoulders. Then we did set up a little railroad pushing the carts. But fundamentally you worked with baskets. And we had men that would go to a mountain, taking the earth from the mountain and bring it in to the sea. Now, it just depends on your Jap guard, in some cases you could protect your weak men [by giving them an easy job. But if the prisoner cut back on his work or something, the Jap said, "Back to work." There's only one thing to do is put them to work until they dropped. But most of the Jap guards weren't too bad. When they had to push back or something -- the news came out, they'd be in bad humor. They'd take it out on the prisoners.

And then we had these, what they call stickmen. Most of them were young fellows or Koreans, they just loved to use that, they didn't have rifles, but they had this heavy stick and they just loved to use it. They were fundamentally retarded people.

In Hong Kong we didn't have the 15-year-olds like we had in Japan. But we did have the Koreans and power went to their heads -- they were miserable people. Very very miserable people.

All the time you're paying everything with cigarettes. You've got 10 cents a day or something. But fundamentally all your bargaining and everything was in cigarettes and all your pay was in cigarettes. Money meant nothing. You couldn't use it.

CGR:

Tell me about the ration business. Did you go out of camp to get rations?

CS:

Yes. I was the only Canadian on the ration detail allowed to get....

CGR:

Yes. Would you tell me about that? I mean, what the system was.

CS:

First of all, each section of the camp would put in how many men they had, how many sick, how many in the hospital. And then the Japs would take five or six people out to get rations. I was always the one because I was the Canadian in charge. You would go out in a truck to these army people around the island and you'd get so much rice, so many vegetables, so much peanut oil. And then it was brought back into camp and whatever you had was divided. Like for instance, rotten eggs or something -- they'd come in in great big baskets because that's a delicacy over there. Then you'd take your percentage. This is where the hard part came. In a lot of cases the officer ate a little bit better than we did because we'd have these small amounts that you couldn't divide. And the officers were the lowest percentages. Hospitals got first choice of it. And each kitchen had it. But it was all divided equally -- it went down to the ounce on dividing. Rice of course was the big thing. But a lot of times we only got the rice sweepings of the floor -- the godown -- they called them godown at the warehouse. And you had to divide that stuff up just as though it was number one stuff.

CGR:

Now, these depots that you got the food from, were they regular Japanese army depots?

CS:

Some were. An awful lot was rations that the British had stored up. But that ran out pretty fast. That only happened two or three months and we would clean the depot and then you had to go to the army because the Japs hadn't too much food themselves, they wanted their own stuff first. You were last on the totem pole and there was discrimination for them. A lot of the stuff, like we'd get the fish tails and fish heads, but the Japs would keep the good fish. But we'd have to make stew out of them -- fish heads and stuff. The same thing with the meat, we'd only get the trimmings and stuff like that. You see, we only averaged one teaspoon full of meat per month. I was the ration officer once, I know. One teaspoon full per month.

CGR:

That's not a lot of meat.

CS:

It's not very much. You saw my picture probably in the book.

CGR:

Yes.

CS:

Don McKiver [in the photograph] is dead, and Porterfield is dead. I weighed 71 pounds then.

CGR:

What was your normal weight?

CS:

About 175-180. I was a phys-ed instructor. But I weighed 71 when that picture was taken.

CGR:

It's amazing isn't it?

CS:

Yes. I still worked and carried somebody else.

We had one interesting thing in Hong Kong. We were fighting in Lye Mun and the Japs pushed us back. One of the cooks and a driver got into one of these steel bunkers, locked themselves in. We got pushed back about four miles. And the Japs, these guys came out, the Japs worked them all day and then bayoneted them. Gary Price and Gerry Cuzner, but Price is the one I'm talking about. Price had his hands tied behind him. He rolled down this bank about 50-60 feet at least. He laid there and they bayoneted right through the back of the shoulder and came out the stomach here. At night he came to and he went back up the bank and he got into this dugout, this steel dugout, which was our headquarters then. And the only food we had in there was one bottle of navy rum that I had, a gallon of navy rum that I had. So the only thing he had was rum. He drank the rum and it evidently sterilized the wounds. On January the first, we marched out of Stanley, we marched down through Lye Mun and the Japs stopped us right there. Well, I had this bottle of scotch hid right in the bank. I went in and the door was locked, and I hammered on the door and this guy answered. He said, "Who is it?" I said, "Canadian." This guy Price come out. He'd been locked in for

one week, so two of us carried him the next six miles down. He lived until last year. He's right from Sherbrooke here. The rum acted as food and medicine.

CGR:

Astonishing what people can survive, isn't it?

CS:

He's one that survived, is that Price.

CGR:

Well, you know this terrible massacre that Dr. Banfill survived.

CS:

Well that's where I was, you see. I was the last person to go in and see him. My major sent me down the road, he said, "Go down and find out what's going on." I was going down all alone and I went into the hospital where Banfill was; he was in there and we were fighting right behind him. There was a fort up on the hill. And then we had this dugout, this steel dugout right on the road where the passage to the interior was. And the funny part, two days after, Banfill was the only one alive, you see. And the Japs were marching him through the jungle and he could hear me talking. He knew me so well. But he knew where I was. And the Japs were that close that they could hear me talking, Banfill could.

CGR:

Well, you remember that story, the slaughter of all those orderlies.

CS:

Yes, Harrison [his mother was Silver Mother one year], and

many of the boys from here.

CGR:

Right. And also the British orderlies; one of the British survived, and he's still alive in England. I'm hoping to see him in August. I've corresponded with him -- Norman Leath.

CS:

He came to one of our reunions. I'm going to the DCM world-wide reunion in Nottingham in September 11th.

CGR:

Oh are you?

CS:

Yes. As far as I know I'll be the only Canadian there. But I'm going. I've got my tickets booked and everything. I didn't ask DVA or anything because I'm just going on my own. I can afford it. But we had one of the Harrison boys here. I met that Britisher -- I met him.

CGR:

Maybe I'd better ask you tell me something about your trip to Japan; which draft were you on?

CS:

I was on the third draft. I was in command.

CGR:

I think that was the last big one, wasn't it?

CS:

Yes, yes. I was to go on the first one and I got blood poisoning in my leg and I couldn't go. So I took the third draft.

CGR:

And you were in charge of it.

CS:

Yes, I was in charge of the Canadians. We had a very very bad trip off -- terrible terrible storms. We had everything washed overboard. We landed up in Formosa, to start with, and then came back over to Nagasaki. And we got into Nagasaki in a hell of a snow storm. And in these short pants and everything. I thought I was going to lose a lot of men -- but I didn't. Then they sent us to Nagoya.

And when we went into the prison camp in Nagoya, the only people went in in formation were the Canadians. The Jap commander of the camp called me up and said, "Who's in charge there?" I said, "I am." So he said, "You will be in charge of the prison camp." The British had majors and everything, but they said, "No, no, we are." The Jap commandant told the guards I was to be in charge. So I became the camp commander.

CGR:

Really.

CS:

Because my Canadians were in order and the rest straggled in. But we Canadians, we kept that word "Canada" on our shoulders all the time. All of my men kept it on. And we did better than the Americans did and the British, I think. And this is one reason the Japs respected Canada -- our orderlies. We were more like that too, I guess, we were country boys. Some of them were very very bad, some were very good.

CGR:

Yes. Like any other group from any country, I think. Did you stay as commandant at Nagoya?

CS:

No, they got me in the end. I was commandant for quite a while. Then the camp commandant went away on holidays and some of the other Jap NCOs were stealing rations. They were scared that I would report them so they beat me up. Unfortunately they broke my arm, which made them lose face terribly. And this gave me the chance to get out of being camp commander. But I then became commander of all the men working in the factory. I could speak some Japanese. But it wasn't a very good position to have, I can tell you that.

CGR:

It must been very uncomfortable.

CS:

You're between your men and the Japs. You had to take the Japs orders and give to the men no matter what they were and then you had to try to find a way to get around the orders.

CGR:

And I'm sure the men didn't always understand.

CS:

Oh, they sure didn't, they sure didn't. But most of them backed me; the actual fact is, when I came back I became the first National President. The men mostly understood, but you always had some that didn't understand, and you always had some that did their best to cut your throat. Not many but you had them. I had six that did not cooperate, and I had to watch all the time.



CGR:

Canadians?

CS:

Canadians.

CGR:

Six Canadians, yes.

CS:

Oh you had your ways of controlling them, don't forget....

[End of side 1.]

CS:

Well they kept thing quiet [referring to Royal Scots killing some of their own officers]. But they went into the Gin-Drinkers Line. First of all it was just men in action. We had a few there but never saw action. But the stuff came out when you may as well say, no officers. It was hushed up very badly.

CGR:

Yes, yes, I wouldn't doubt it.

CS:

They weren't all bad, but you couldn't trust them, trust them at all. And don't forget they were all mixed in with the Canadians. In first camps in Japan. Not in Hong Kong -- we were separated into the different nationalities. But once we got in Japan we went by numbers. The Americans were always taken away from us. In the same camp, but in separate barracks. The British, the Hong Kong Volunteers -- I had 38 nationalities.

CGR:

Really.

CS:

Yes. The first camp I was in charge of. In Hong Kong we had 54 nationalities in the prison camp.

CGR:

Now tell me a bit more about Nagoya. How large a camp was it and....I don't know much about Nagoya. I know Niigata and some of the others.

CS:

Yes. Well, we weren't a big camp compared to the other ones. We were building locomotives, landing craft and stuff at Nagoya. We were in Narumi, six miles away. That's where the camp was.

CGR:

Narumi?

CS:

Narumi, yes. But it was six miles away from that. And then you see they were building the Zero planes about 10 miles further on. But we were building landing craft. We built the motors for the biggest Yamata battleship ever built there for the Japanese navy. We were working in the Mitsubishi factory, had 25,000 people working in there. Of the prisoners there was 5,000. Our camp I guess we had about, Americans had about, I guess about 1,500, the Canadians and Americans. We had a lot of the British and Royal Scots. The Americans were about maybe 1,000. We had probably 6-700 of us.

CGR:

So basically people who were captured either in the Philippines or in Hong Kong.

CS:

Most of them -- the Americans were very....And then we had two submarine crews from the Dutch. And we had two Free French crews -- they all died. Not so much the Dutch but the Free French, they died because they gave up. They got pneumonia and pleurisy. Pneumonia was very very bad with that cold weather and we just had shorts. We got a lot of pleurisy. At our hospital we had nothing in the hospital. We had a very very good American doctor -- Schultz.

CGR:

Schultz?

CS:

Yes. A doctor out of New York City. But he had nothing to work with. And these Free French they just, they didn't have any will to live, so they died.

CGR:

How did you get along with the Japanese civilians in the factories? Did you have much to do with them, first of all.

CS:

No. Very little. They kept somebody watching you all the time, that you wouldn't have anything to do with the civilians. We got, like our foreman, main foreman was a guy we called him "Blue Coat," he was pretty good. Actually some of the women were the worst. And the worst of all were the sixteen-year-old, fifteen-, sixteen-year-old military cadets. They were indoctrinated to hate us, and they were a bad bunch. They were really really bad. And they hurt you. The old Jap, say a guy of 45-50,

he was all right. Very seldom would you run into trouble with him, except you may run in one that just got notice that his son has died or something. But fundamentally the old Japs were OK, but the young ones were bastards. And the Koreans were terrible. You see, they had all these Koreans who were semi-prisoners. They weren't in prison and all, but we had to stay in certain areas, and they were working in the factories and they were very bad, and they were very dishonest. That was one of my worst troubles -- making sure that my men wouldn't steal from the Japs, or wouldn't steal their food. I was death on any of my people stealing the Japanese food. Because they had no food either. And that was quite a problem, but we all had some. And you had to punish them, your men, if it happened, or you'd lose all face with the Japs. We always stole newspapers, everything. We stole, we had people who could read Japanese. We'd always steal a paper every day. So we knew from the Japanese line what was going on. But once we stole one paper we'd leave the rest of them alone. Once it went through the grapevine somebody got the paper. But I had some people who would steal food too. I had one guy, Canadian, steal boots from somebody else on the line.

CGR:

Another prisoner?

CS:

Yes.

CGR:

How did you take care of that?

CS:

Well, I gave the boots back, and paraded him up and down the barracks, and....You always have something else. I rushed in and there were people selling their food for cigarettes. I lost one man that way. Only one. He came from about 15 miles from here. Nothing I could do for that man. He'd sell his food for a cigarette butt -- so he didn't live. You had to try to stop all selling of food, but it was very very hard.

CGR:

Yes I guess it must have been.

CS:

Well, I only lost one man that way.

CGR:

How did you cope with it? I mean what kinds of things did you do?

CS:

Well, I'd talk to him, parade him in front of the men, tell all his people around him, "don't let him do it." Sometimes there's always somebody wanting to get that man's rations. In the end he died, just straight from that. But that's the only man I lost that way. I lost a lot of other men but that was the only one because of selling food for cigarettes.

CGR:

You mentioned the Japanese women as being particularly bad, tell me about the women.

CS:

Well, they were doing men's work and they seemed to be cooler than the men. Of course there was not much, there was no modesty, the women would take a bath and everything right in

front of you. You used the same latrines and all.

CGR:

Oh really.

CS:

Oh yes. But fundamentally the women weren't very good. Of course most of their husbands were away in the army. And then after they had to go home and look after the home I suppose. But I found the women crueller than the men. But the sixteen-year-old boys were worst.

CGR:

The mention of the women raises another question -- and that's the whole question of sex and sexuality and so on.

CS:

Nothing. When you're a prisoner and no food in you, the last thing you talk about is sex. All you talk about is food. Sex never comes into it. You have just no sexual appetite, nothing. It didn't mean that if women run around in front of you -- it was just nothing.

CGR:

Just no interest.

CS:

No interest. You were interested in your home, what you'd get for Christmas was our big thing. Christmas day was what we lived for. So if you got captured on Christmas day, everything went from one Christmas to the next. You talked about Christmas, you talked about your food. And I still got my recipe book that I wrote in the prison camp. I started collecting recipes and I've got it all written down here. I've got quite a few things

from prison camp actually.

CGR:

Really.

CS:

I collected cigarette boxes, but my recipe book is pretty good.

CGR:

I'd like very much to see it later.

CS:

I'll get it later for you. I've got a lot of stuff that way. I lost a lot of stuff too. But I've still got a lot. Someday I hope to set it up and maybe write a book out of it. You see the Royal Rifles Book I was the chairman of the select committee that wrote that book. I set the whole book up.

CGR:

Well it's a very useful book, I must say.

CS:

Others wanted to be credited for it, but I was actually the chairman of that book.

CGR:

Yes, I have a copy in the car in fact.

CS:

This is a very good book too.

CGR:

Yes, yes, I have that book. And everybody seems to say that's the best, Vincent's book.

CS:

I think it is. Vincent's book, No Reason Why, gives more on

the battle. But he had a government grant to write the second book. He came to see me and he wrote the outline with me. Then he went researching. I don't know what, I hear he got in some trouble or something. I don't know who. But I haven't heard from him in two years I guess. But he did have the money, I know, to write the second book. I think he's in Streetsville.

CGR:

I don't know him but I certainly know of him.

CS:

His wife is a historian too, a military historian on forts and fortifications.

CGR:

Have you see Will Allister's book?

CS:

No, I'm afraid I don't have much use for Allister. I haven't seen his new book.

CGR:

No, it just came out.

CS:

I read the write-up. I've got his Handful of Rice. His facts are not too good.

CGR:

He's a pretty bitter man.

CS:

He is, eh.

CGR:

Yes. He's very vehemently anti-officer.

CS:



Yes, I've got to admit that.

CGR:

I mean more so than anyone I've talked to. Everybody varies of course, but he is very bitter about that whole business.

CS:

His Handful of Rice is not a good book, it is not a true book at all.

I have quite a few books here that I've been collecting in my fireplace room.

CGR:

Again later, perhaps if I could have a look just to check and see if there are any I've missed. I have quite a few too.

Let me go back if I may. I wanted to ask you if you'd tell me more about the boat trip itself from Hong Kong to Japan.

CS:

Well the boat trip was a heller. We got on this boat loaded with scrap iron. We only had three feet between the scrap iron and the deck to sit on in there. And you were laying on scrap iron. You couldn't stand up, you had to sit between another man's legs, or something. And we had, the latrines were on top. You were only allowed up once a day. They flew off in a hell of a storm. So we didn't have any latrines. We had food for six days only. We got into the terrible storm, we lost all the grain food on top. If Red Cross parcels were sent, the Japs wouldn't issue them. They issued, I think, one eighth of a parcel per man. We finally got into Formosa. Our boat turned over in Formosa. We boarded another and went to Shanghai.

CGR:

Turned over?

CS:

Yes. We were taken ashore on barges, got ashore, and the boat turned right over. The steel had shifted in the boat and it was top heavy. Then we were on shore and they just give us a few oranges. And then we got a new ship, the Toyama Maru, and it was coming back as an empty troop ship from the south. And oh, by God, it was full of bed bugs and fleas and stuff. And we got on that ship which hit another storm. We lost all our food in the other boat anyhow. We got into Shanghai and we never even saw Shanghai. I did, because the Japs called me up on deck. Then we went across to Nagasaki on the Toyama Maru. But we lost our first boat -- turned right over in Formosa -- Taipei they called it.

CGR:

Taipei, yes.

CS:

The boat turned right over in the harbor.

CGR:

Do you remember the name of that boat by any chance?

CS:

No, no, not really. I've got it, and I should find it, it's in some of the books. But the boat we landed in Japan was the Toyama Maru.

CGR:

So how long were you total on that trip, do you remember?

CS:

I think 16 days it was.

CGR:

Sixteen days.

CS:

It should have been six. We only lost one Canadian, Peter Coucette. He wasn't right in his head. He was sick and he couldn't understand, or he was a French Canadian and he spoke hardly any English and the Japs gave orders and he would be very slow in responding. They stood him up in front of the ship and the waves were hitting him -- they killed him one night. He froze to death out there. But he couldn't use his head.

CGR:

This was a punishment?

CS:

Yes, it was a punishment for not obeying fast enough. But he just didn't have the head to do it. And you couldn't talk to him. We had a very bad interpreter on board that boat. And if there had been a good interpreter probably then he could have told him the man was mental. But the interpreter we had was a bombastic guy. I was lucky we didn't lose more men.

You see, the ships that went before us lost 1,500. We sailed right, in fact the ship that lost all the prisoners on we sailed a good 300 yards from it. The American torpedoes didn't know it was there, the boat. But we went right along side the ship. But we thought they were going to seize our ship and take us ashore but it would have been very foolish. We wouldn't have lasted.

The reason we lasted so well, we knew nothing. This is what it comes down to it. The reason the Canadians lasted so long was that we knew nothing. We couldn't speak Japanese, we couldn't speak Chinese, we didn't understand the country. We were on islands and we were too ignorant; we might have tried to escape and we could not have survived. And this was what saved our lives.

CGR:

Plus if you have a white skin, you are pretty obvious too.

CS:

Oh definitely! Two people did try to escape, but they could speak Chinese, they had lived there for years. But we only had five Canadians that tried to escape, and they all were killed.

CGR:

Yes, I interviewed John Crawford, as I mentioned earlier, and as the word "escape" came up there he just stood up and he said, "Look at me." And of course he's what, 6' 4" or 5", and there's no way he could escape.

CS:

John is a very very funny man, very funny man. He was after a promotion for himself. He didn't get along with the other doctors very well, but somehow he went to Ottawa, he had an important position. But he didn't like our Association at all. He had no use for us and said we would never get anywhere. I had quite an argument with him in Ottawa. You see I wrote the war diary. That's why I know so many of these different names. I wrote the war diary in San Francisco, after we came back. They put me, I wasn't in any shape, but they said you've got to write

the dairy. So I didn't go to any of the entertainment in San Francisco at all; I wrote a war diary. And then I became the first president of the Quebec-Maritimes Association. We started the Association right in the hotel here in Cookshire.

CGR:

Is that right?

CS:

This one old fellow from the first war taunting us, "You are nothing." We started the association. And then the officers came in after we had it going. Like Dennison, MacMillan, Bishop, and Hurd. At first there were just the men because our officers didn't do anything about it. And Crawford was the worst because he was in charge of the medical.

CGR:

He had a position where he could have....

CS:

Especially when he was a Deputy Minister, in a minute he could have done so much. But he didn't, he didn't. And he swore we'd never get anywhere.

Now Martin Banfill was complete different. Completely different from Crawford. Price was a very good man for us but he didn't do anything the first five or six years. He ran for parliament for himself, but he did nothing for us. Afterwards, oh, he was a good member of our Association. He's a fine fine man. But these people that should have stood up -- you see we should have all been sent to Florida or Texas when we got back here after, we should have been. We lost more men afterwards through liquor and stuff, you know.

CGR:

Yes, I know that liquor is a terrible social problem.

CS:

If they had put us in a camp in Florida for six months, we wouldn't have had this, we wouldn't have had it at all. But nobody took an interest in it. Until Dancey, Dr. Dancey was very interested in us and did a lot for us. Yet you won't probably hear his name anywhere. He wrote on the anxiety state, and we all had it you see. A lot of our problem was avitaminosis -- our avitaminosis is an anxiety state one way or another. It affects your stomach and mental state. It is an anxiety state. Once we got 35% for that, in most of our men, but any of the men that Crawford interviewed didn't get that.

CGR:

Is that right.

CS:

But Dr. Mercier, in Montreal, was very very good for the men in the hospital in Montreal. But at St. Johns, New Brunswick, there's a guy, Dr. McKay, in charge of the veterans' hospital at St. John's. I was down to see him because we had many complaints about him. I got down there and I found he was doing wonderful things for the men. But he's in New Brunswick there, the men were drinking themselves to death and blaming the hospital. In fact I had a lot of problems with the Maritimers.

CGR:

How about the Winnipeg Grenadiers?

CS:

We never had, you see we never had much to do with them. .  
They got an excellent president, Harry...?

CGR:

Atkinson?

CS:

Harry Atkinson. Harry's a good man.

CGR:

He was very helpful to me.

CS:

Yes, Harry is a good man. But I had a couple out there.  
You see the previous president was a communist. Now I had to get  
rid of him. I had to get rid of him, then there was a lot of  
trouble. But Harry is a good man.

CGR:

He just lost his wife.

CS:

She was a nice girl.

CGR:

She was. I met her too, briefly.

CS:

We were in Hong Kong with them four or five years ago, my  
wife and I. But Harry's a nice person. But he does not carry  
things through -- that's his problem. He could have, well I  
don't think there was any way of stopping Deer Lodge [Hospital].  
I went out and I wrote a letter to Lamontagne but the DVA wanted  
to close it and they closed it. It should have never been  
closed, Deer Lodge. They should have left one in Winnipeg and  
one in Montreal and one in Vancouver. But it was old but it was

adequate. But Harry could have, I think, pushed harder. He said he did, but I don't know. But Lamontagne, he was the minister then, he wasn't opposing it, I know. I know Gilles Lamontagne very well. He's a nice man.

CGR:

He was a POW, wasn't he?

CS:

Yes, a POW. He's a Lieutenant Governor now. He's a nice nice man. At one time his military attaché lived right across the road from me. Well, I knew Gilles when he was the Mayor of Quebec, before. I mean we saw one another. But he was in the same prison camp with my cousin too. We get along good.

We'd better get back here or you're going to have a lot of things on your tape that have nothing to do with what you're after.

CGR:

Tell me more about your own health during this time. What sort's of things, you mentioned a couple, but.....

CS:

Well, I had malaria every year for seven or eight years. A couple of times very bad. I had pleurisy in Hong Kong. On the whole, compared to the rest I came out fairly good. But I had a lot of trouble with tropical sores and things like that.

CGR:

Tropical ulcers?

CS:

Tropical ulcers, yes. I had the Hong Kong balls too. We all had that, and your eyes went bad. But some of the men did,



90%, we all had the hot feet.

CGR:

I was just going to ask about happy feet or electric feet.

CS:

Oh, they were awful. We all had that. You just don't talk about it even any more because everybody had it. But we had a lot of eyes go blind. You see 27% of them were blinded at Hong Kong. And it's probably higher than that now. But right after the war 20 percent of the men had visual problems.

CGR:

Yes, I've talked to a few of them.

CS:

There's a very good guy, Bernie Castonguay, in Beoeil, Quebec. He worked for the CNIB. He retired last year -- Bernie's a nice fellow. But we had a lot of trouble, but the hot feet that was awful stuff. And these sores, you know, you're very sick, you couldn't eat, you couldn't have anything. We sustained ourselves on tea more than anything else. The Japs didn't drink and the Red Cross sent a whole ship load of tea in. And the Japs didn't like the Ceylon Tea. That's probably the only thing in prison camp we had much of was tea. Because tea is a great thing to help you. But when you've started in the diseases that men in prison camp get, you tend to forget it, because diphtheria and malaria overshadowed everything else. Because we had all this, the regular ones, and chicken pox was very very bad. I got chicken pox terrible. So bad they had to put me in the hospital. The Japs would just grind their teeth when they put me in the hospital because I couldn't run the camp. This is

where I got...These Free French they all died right around there. Every morning there was another one dead.

CGR:

But this was in Japan.

CS:

Yes, Japan. I don't think there was a Free Frenchman came out alive. They just got chicken pox, and gave up, and died. Whereas the Canadians, we didn't give up. You got back on your feet....

CGR:

Were you at Nagoya when the war ended?

CS:

I was at Toyama, which is quite a distance from Nagoya. We were bombed so badly in Nagoya. But then they moved us. We were in the Mitsubishi factory there building locomotives and this battleship and then they move us. They took 50 Canadians away to Tokyo. They moved us all to Toyama to build steam rollers up there. We had a nice camp until the Americans started bombing us. Then they just bombed and bombed. The last 10 to 15 days we had nothing to eat. The Americans just bombed that city out of existence, just like cutting an oat field. We lived in the ditches. We wouldn't go into the dugouts because the bloody sand flies were ahead of us, and you couldn't stand those. We could stand the bombing but we couldn't stand the sand fleas. They are awful. So we ate every frog, every bit of what we called land squatters, we ate the whole....The Japs just let us go. The best thing that ever happened was that Atomic bomb. We wouldn't have been alive in 10 days.

CGR:

No.

CS:

Nothing was better than that, the atomic bomb. I came out to the Americans at Hiroshima, after that. September the 1st I was in Hiroshima.

CGR:

Is that right?

CS:

We were all in very bad shape. None of us ever got cancer from that atomic stuff. But we had an awful lot of sick men. Oh my God! In the end they all had these, oh you were so weak when you see my pictures. And I was in good shape, don't forget, compared to my men.

CGR:

You were one of the better ones.

CS:

Yes. I was going on my feet but I had a lot of men that weren't on their feet.

That picture we had, that film from the first, it was still good when the war was over. This guy from Winnipeg has it. And he turned out to be a prominent bureaucrat.

CGR:

What was his name, do you remember?

CS:

Watson....Don't ever put that in your book.

CGR:

No, no.

CS:

I had our National Secretary call me, I had to get rid of him. There was a lot of communists from Winnipeg area.

CGR:

Yes, that's been a heavy concentration always. I mean this century.

CS:

Don't let anything like that get in because it wouldn't be right. We cleaned our own act up, very very effectively too, right to the end. But they got into our association too. And good cause going for this you see, good publicity. I was going to have to clean it out. I had good people with me too. One good guy I talked to was Cliff Royea, who is in St. Anne's hospital.

CGR:

I've interviewed him.

CS:

Oh you have. Good. I went to see Cliff two weeks ago. His number is E29813.

CGR:

Oh, right after you.

CS:

Yes. He came from Bury, Quebec. He was quite bitter and....

CGR:

About four years I went out there. I interviewed Rattie at the same time.

CS:

I was talking to Rattie. I had Rattie go to court for me yesterday in Montreal. I had to go in the hospital. Rattie is a good one now. But Royea I saw him two weeks ago, he was better, but sometimes he is very bitter. But he is a very smart man. He should have been a lawyer instead of a steel worker. He's one of the original founders of the association.

CGR:

Is he the one he lost a leg after the war from some kind of an accident.

CS:

An industrial accident -- grain. He wasn't supposed to be working either. Cliff is a very good man. And Rattie is a very good man. And Denzil Firth is a very good man.

CGR:

Yes, I've corresponded with him -- I haven't met him.

CS:

You should.

CGR:

Well I'm going to Quebec City today.

CS:

Well I would see Angus MacMillan there because he did a lot of the historical part of the regiment. And he and Don Ross and me we are all in the same building. And Denzil Firth is not very far away. But Angus MacMillan, you ought to talk to him.

CGR:

Would you have his phone number or address? Well I can look

in the phone book.

CS:

He's right in the phone book, Angus MacMillan, he's on Holland Avenue. And Don Ross is in the same building. But Denzel, I've got Denzel's address if you want his telephone number.

CGR:

Well this will be fine. I'll just make a note there.

CS:

But Angus definitely because he is the historian. We didn't have many that took good interest.

CGR:

Well it seems that most people just want to get on about their life and....

CS:

We had to get the World War II official book, the second book had to be rewritten all over about the Hong Kong thing. But the British wrote the Canadian War History and it was absolutely wrong. And the War History is still wrong. It always is. But since the war we've had an awful pile of people go to the hospital. I used to go three weeks to six weeks per year every year and I went for 15 or 20 years. I was alone but I was one of them who, when they were called, always went. My brother was one of the brothers too that went in that they checked brothers.

Once the war was over it's finished -- the glory is gone, but the darn medical goes on and on and on. One of my friends died here two weeks ago. And he comes up to his pension review yesterday -- after he's dead. So his widow went in to Montreal.

But our medical problems are going on and on. I don't know if we are worse than the regular people but we are lucky we had the medical attention we had. Montreal has been a very good hospital. St. John's, New Brunswick was a very good hospital, and I think Sunnyside was a good hospital. Deer Lodge, what I saw of it, was good. I went up and saw it, I thought it was well run.

CGR:

Yes, I did some of my training at Deer Lodge, and at that time, at least, it seemed to be a good hospital.

CS:

It's a old hospital, but it wouldn't have cost many dollars to fix that up to look a nice, good veterans hospital. It was close enough inside the city, you could get to it. I was very sorry to hear they canceled that.

CGR:

Well, maybe this is a good place to put this off.

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Pierre Marc Johnson au moment où il a annoncé aux membres de l'Assemblée nationale, hier, qu'il démissionnait comme chef de l'Opposition officielle, député d'Anjou et président du Parti québécois.

photo PC



## Rogers: contrat de trois ans avec les Expos

## Kenneth Muir se souvient de l'enter des camps japonais

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photo Michel Paquette