



Hong Kong Veterans  
Commemorative Association  
Canada



Manitoba Council, Year 1, Edition 2

October, 1997

# Welcome!

## *Executive*

### *Manitoba Council*

Juliet Lafortune, MB President;  
203-1055 Powers, Winnipeg, MB, R2V 2G7  
(338-3354)

Carol Hadley, MB Secretary; 54 Barnstaple Cove,  
Winnipeg, MB, R3R 2W3 (837-6754)

Barry Mitchell, MB Treasurer; 22 Tunis Bay,  
Winnipeg, MB, R3T 2X1 (269-1497)

### *National Council*

Lora Wachtendorf, National Vice-President; Box 885,  
Niverville, MB, R0A 1E0 (1-204-388-6536)

Executive Meetings are held the first Wednesday  
of the month at 7  
p.m. at John  
Osborne, A.N. &  
A.F. at Ellice &  
Empress.

## *Executive Meeting - 3*

Due to the flood the April meeting was canceled.  
The Executive meeting was held on Wednesday,  
June 4, 1997.

*Julie reported that the Wine & Cheese  
was very successful and she thanked  
everyone who helped her.*

Lora reported that several letters of  
concern about the care of the cemeteries  
in Hong Kong were received by the HKVA.  
The association is on top of this and action  
is in the works.

A request for translators of written  
material has been solicited by National  
Council and a list of volunteers will be  
compiled. Anyone who wishes to volunteer  
for translating, please call one of the  
Executive.

A request has been made that HKVCA be  
more actively involved with the HKVA Golf  
Tournament next year. Hopefully this will  
be part of the entertainment committee's  
mandate.

Barry reported on his interview of Gerry  
Mobley and submitted a copy to be forwarded  
to the National newsletter.

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Veterans Affairs in conjunction with HKVCA have asked for volunteers of the HKVA, to be interviewed for a video. This video will perpetuate the HK story and ensure

Monday, August 11, 1997, at 2 p.m. Due to various circumstances the meeting was delayed from August 6. Lora reported that the Video interviews went well and we are looking forward to the completed product.

The V-J day meeting was discussed and a brief presentation was planned. In town members will be called to remind them .

The Book of Remembrance in the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, contains the names of all members of the Armed Forces who gave their life for this country. Each day a page is turned. Barry received a copy of the page listing his Dad and Uncle and a document telling him January 31 is the viewing day .

### CONVENTION

*September 3 - 7, 1997 Toronto, Ontario*

It was very exciting for me to attend the first Annual Convention for the HKVCA and meet for the first time many people who were just names on a sheet of paper.

### Humour

*Too many people cast their bread upon the water hoping it will be returned to them toasted and buttered.*



An old gentleman in the hospital refused to eat a bowl of quivering Jell-O. Pressed for an explanation by the nurse, he replied,

future generations will be aware of the high cost of democracy.

..... .

### Executive Meeting - 4

“I’m not going to eat anything that’s more nervous than I am”.



More accidents are caused by pickled drivers than by traffic jams.



The dog is man’s best friend because it wags its tail and not its tongue.



You can’t change the direction of the wind but you can adjust your sails to get where you want to go.



### Informal Gathering

*August 15, 1997 marked the 52nd Anniversary of V-J Day and the 1st get-together of this new Association. Although there were only a few people in attendance, it was important that the observance was made. There were many momentos to view and interesting information to share. Hopefully next year there will be more in attendance.*

### Remembrance Day

*November 11th is the day that we remember and thank all veterans for the gift of a democratic country. However their grief and memories have stayed with them over many decades. The following poem expresses the thoughts of one of our HKVA members and we sincerely appreciate his sharing it with us.*

## ***1941-The Wounds That Will Not Heal***

*When London requested assistance,*  
Many questioned the lack of appraisal,  
Committing troops to a theatre of action  
With little thought of refusal.

It seems there was no disagreement  
About the need for a hasty decision,  
All told there were nearly two thousand  
And there's many a story to tell,  
Of the horror of being a prisoner  
In a war which proved to be hell.

We'd arrived on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November  
Amidst bands and applause from a crowd,  
Not knowing our lives were in danger  
But we certainly wondered aloud....

When the planes overhead appeared ancient  
The pilots' scarves flying behind,  
Waved welcome this latest addition  
Of troops not yet fully trained.

We didn't know all the details  
Rumors flew in no special order,  
There were few heavy weapons, ..no transport  
And a total lack of air cover.

Many said Hong Kong was a fortress  
And the chance of attack was so small,  
We needn't look for a weakness  
In soldiers who weren't very tall.

Word had it their abilities were lacking  
They couldn't operate well in the dark,  
But we found this information  
Did more than just miss the mark.

They moved about with precision  
Were adequately trained and commanded,  
They soon overran our positions  
On an island which could not be defended.

Though strategic details appeared lacking,  
And perhaps, just perhaps, some facts  
hidden.

Some believe our thoughts are quite faded  
The experience is beyond our recall,  
But memories of those days are as vivid  
Had they happened earlier this fall.

Nothing can change what did happen  
Nor alter the truth now recited,  
It's for those who experienced such misery  
To say how they were affected.

The wounded were dreadfully beaten  
Many people were randomly killed,  
They raped nurses all day and evening,  
We grieved at the blood that was spilled.

Next came the foulest conditions  
Starvation and slavery abounded,  
Scores died before it was over  
Never more to be beaten and tortured.

As well as those killed in action  
Many suffered premature death,  
Loss rates of survivors keeps mounting  
Because of continued poor health.

For the years we spent at forced labour  
Our group asked for full compensation,  
But so far we've met with defiance  
By some countries bent on rejection.

These thoughts continue to haunt us  
As we bow our heads to remember  
Our friends, our comrades, our loved ones  
At Memorials each year in November.

### **Written by:**

Fred Chapman,  
Royal Rifles of Canada,  
October 13, 1995

### **Acknowledgments**

I gratefully acknowledge the recollections, discussions and support of those who were there.

## **Reminders**

*Membership (\$10.00) renewals are now due.*

*Widows of Hong Kong Vets are exempt.*

*Badges (\$18.00) for blazers are available. This is the new Association*

*Information regarding these items are in the National newsletter. Please call me if you have not received yours yet.*

## **Conclusion**

We sincerely thank the Vets that participated in the interviews for the video.

*Until the next time . . .*

Carol Hadley

*crest and has a 5 - 7 week delivery on it.*

*Monument badges (\$43.75 + \$2.00 shipping) are available.*

*The money for the above items are to be sent to:*

Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association  
5929 L. Jeanne d'Arc Blvd.,  
Suite # 156, Orleans, ON K1C 7K2.