

WASURERU-NAI

“Never Forget”

Volume 7, Number 1

April 2005

NEWSLETTER OF THE HONG KONG VETERANS' COMMEMORATIVE ASSOCIATION

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF V.J. DAY--OTTAWA 2005



The Year of the Veteran

Veterans Affairs Canada and your HKVCA Committee have

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combined their resources and efforts to make this, the commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of V-J Day one of the best gatherings ever to honour those that fought in the Far East during WWII.

Join us in Ottawa as Hong Kong veterans from across Canada make a pilgrimage to Ottawa to receive their Nation's recognition and gratitude for the sacrifice made by many of their comrades and for the unbelievable hardships suffered by the survivors of the battle as POWs of the Japanese.

Veterans Affairs Canada is providing full funding for the veterans and a caregiver to come to Ottawa for this national celebration of the end of WWII. They are also organizing a full medical team that will be stationed in the hotel on call 24 hours for any veteran that may require medical attention during their stay in Ottawa.

The Convention Committee has arranged a slate of events for the Convention that has something for all - from the most senior veteran to the youngest great grandchild.

The Registration kits for this event will be mailed almost simultaneously with this newsletter. Because of this, I will take the space to repeat what you will, or have already, received. If you want to see and participate in what promised to be a sensational celebration to honour this very special "Band of Brothers", you must register soon, for although the Lord Elgin hotel has been booked for our veterans and regular members, the interest is so high, we

might run out of hotel space. It will be very difficult to get other accommodations in Ottawa during this period, so please don't take the chance and register early.

The few remaining Burma Star veterans (Canadian Air Force veterans that were also Japanese POWs), and a few Merchant Seamen that were POWs with our HK vets will also participate in the ceremonies, for these merit this recognition as well. We welcome these men to share with us in all we have organized.

Lets show Canada and the world, that thanks to the HK veterans, the Hong Kong Family, is not only unique, but the tightest and most proud association in the world.

See you in Ottawa in August!

HKVCA NATIONAL CONVENTION BULLETIN

Members of the Ontario Region Executive, and the Ottawa Convention Committee, are working jointly with Veterans Affairs Canada in preparing for the National Convention in Ottawa. Chaired by Derrill Henderson, the Ottawa Committee has been active over the past several months putting in place the various aspects of the Convention which are specific to Ottawa.

We want to keep our HKVCA members across the country up-to-date in the best way we can about the upcoming National Convention. We are now in a position to begin sharing some of the details which have been finalized.

As you know, the dates for the Convention are Friday, August 12th to Sunday, August 14th. Our venue is the Lord Elgin Hotel in Ottawa, and, you'll be pleased to hear that, with the assistance of Veterans Affairs Canada, it has been possible to reserve the hotel's 335 rooms

almost exclusively for the HKVCA National Convention.

Just recently a letter was sent out to all Hong Kong veterans explaining that their travel, hotel, registration costs and reasonable expenses will be covered entirely by Veterans Affairs. Not only that, the same costs will be covered for a caregiver to come with the veteran, and, if a special caregiver is not required, the wife of the veteran can be considered as the caregiver. Medical facilities on site will guarantee that medical concerns, such as oxygen, will be looked after. In addition, wives and widows will not pay registration costs.

Registration packages will be sent out in late April or early May. This may seem later than usual but that should not be a concern because all rooms have already been reserved. It will simply be a matter of letting those working on registrations know the sort of accommodation you need. When you arrive, the process will be a simple one. You will be directed to the area where room keys are being distributed in order to pick up your keys, and you will be able to go directly to your room from there.

When you receive your Registration information, you will be hearing more about the various events taking place. However, we can let you know about some of the happenings which have been confirmed. For example on Friday afternoon at 2:30 p.m., there will be a presentation by the teachers from Port Perry High School who will explain the Port Perry Project. Nearly 200 students will be going to Hong Kong in December to honour the Canadian soldiers who fought in Hong Kong in ceremonies there. They will also have an opportunity to tour the battle sites. Following this session, at 3:30 p.m., Vince Lopata will present the plan for the Interpretative Center proposed to engage the Canadian public, and increase its understanding of the Canadian role in Hong Kong in World War II.

On Friday evening there will be a Meet and Greet hosted by the staff of the new War Museum. All HKVCA members are invited, and transportation will be provided. There will be a special tour for the veterans, and food and musical entertainment will be provided for all. All HKVA & HKVCA members will be admitted without charge to the War Museum for the entire Convention period, as long as they have their Convention name tags.

There is the possibility of a reception at Rideau Hall, with the Governor General in attendance, although this event has not yet been confirmed, and there are two special dinners at the National Arts Centre on Saturday and Sunday night. The Saturday night will involve a banquet, followed by a dance, and the Sunday evening will be a Gala finale to the

weekend's events.

The General Meeting for all HKVA and HKVCA members will be held on Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m. and there will be an opportunity to attend Ron McGuire's C-Force presentation on Saturday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. There will also be opportunities, on all three days, to enjoy a number of different tours in the Ottawa area. Details will be available when you reach the Convention.

We'll have a very special Memorial Service on Sunday morning at the National War Memorial where wreaths will be laid. The venue is just up the street from the Lord Elgin hotel. In addition, there will be opportunities to view special Memorabilia items on each of the three days in a large room able to accommodate items that attendees might wish to bring. In that same room, there will be books of interest, and other HKVCA-related items for purchase.

When you have received your Convention information, you may have questions related to your participation in Ottawa. If so, don't hesitate to get in touch with Derrill Henderson at derrill@sympatico.ca or Ph. No. (613) 829-5033.

Volunteers

To handle the various aspects of such a large undertaking, many volunteers will be needed. All those who do volunteer will be asked to spend no more than 1 ½ or two hours at most to assist in a particular area, unless they wish to extend the time involved. The five areas where we will need the most help are:

1. The Memorabilia Room:
 - a. Helping supervise the memorabilia section
or
 - b. Assisting with book sales for the Ontario Region.
2. The Registration Desk:
Working with those in charge of Registration.
3. The Hospitality Room:
Working with those in charge of setup & supplies for the room, and looking after needs of delegates.
4. The greeters:
Directing delegates, as they arrive, to the area where they will pick up their room keys.
5. Selling cash draw tickets: Extra cash draw tickets will be available at the Banquet on Saturday night.

There is no need at this time to specify hours when you would be available, but do indicate your first and

second choices when you volunteer. We will contact you once the Registration Kits have been sent out, so that you will know how the hours fit into the program before you commit to a particular time.

We would definitely like to hear from you now – just to get some idea of the number who would like to volunteer.

If you are interested, reply to Pat Turcotte in one of the following ways:

Street Address: 1374 Milton Avenue,
Mississauga, Ontario, L5G 3C6
Email: petsask@sympatico.ca
Telephone: (905) 274-3189

We look forward to meeting you at what we're sure will be a very special Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of VJ Day at the HKVA/HKVCA National Convention in Ottawa.

Pat Turcotte
Regional Director, Ontario Region
Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

President's Message

What an exciting year this is!! Canada is celebrating the **Year of the Veteran**. This is something that the 'Commemorative Association' celebrates daily, every month, every year. However, with this special designation having a national focus, it will give our members an opportunity to share our enthusiasm with others and perhaps encourage our membership growth.

Another exciting event this year is the **National Convention to be held in Ottawa, August 12 – 14, 2005**. This Convention marks the 60th anniversary of the cessation of World War II and the liberation of our Hong Kong veterans. There will be information in this edition of the newsletter so start now and plan to attend this special event to celebrate our Hong Kong veterans. The Memorial Project committee will be making a presentation to show their progress. Convention information is also available on our website at www.hkvca.ca.

The Hong Kong Veterans' Commemorative Association will be holding an election for the national executive. Please consider your involvement in the Association and let your name stand for an office. It is very enjoyable and informative working with the extensive HK family in the regions across Canada.

I wish to commend the members of BC Region, mainly **Murray Doull** as

coordinator, for an excellent job of representing the HKVA and the HKVCA in Hong Kong with the Prime Minister in January. Murray also followed up with an excellent report that can be found on our website www.hkvca.ca. Thank you to the veterans – **Larry Stebbe**, **Aubrey Flegg** and **John Lowe** – for agreeing to travel on the very quick but well coordinated trip.

Ontario Region, **Mike Babin** coordinator, is assisting some of the Port Perry schools with a major project of a Pilgrimage to China, particularly Hong Kong in November, to honour those Canadians that fought in World War II. They have opened this trip to any of our members who wish to participate. The information is available through their website www.pilgrimage.ca. If you are unable to make the trip but wish to participate in the project, the Memorial Capsule has been opened to all people, students and teachers across Canada to participate. If you want to write a story about a member of 'C' Force, a poem or picture, etc – something related to the project - and sent it to the coordinator for inclusion in the capsule you may directly contact:

Nancy Hamer Strahl, Pilgrimage to Hong Kong Memorial Capsule Coordinator, Phone: (905) 985-7337, Fax: (905) 985-8323, E-mail hamerstrahl_nancy@durham.edu.on.ca.

I would encourage our members who may participate in the Memorial Capsule to send the information to our website for all our members to share.

Many of our Regions are having success in promoting the curriculum and the resource books that our Association has available. If this is important to you and you want some information to begin this endeavour in your community, contact **Pat Turcotte** or myself and we would be pleased to offer some suggestions. Our Association is very strong in supporting education for many reasons but primarily to promote our relatives that fought in this conflict. By knowing the events of the battle, it should imbibe our youth with pride in the bravery, strength and endurance of these exceptional Canadians.

I hope this summary of some of the important events that are happening in the Association will motivate you to become active in your Region. There are projects waiting for volunteers to take up and run with them – will this be your opportunity?

I hope everyone enjoyed a peaceful and joyful Easter, and with spring just around the corner to permit us to get out and about again.

Yours truly, Carol Hadley

Dues and Views

Hello again from a cold place. It's not far away and it's called Manitoba. I want the winter to end but I'm told that before it does, I'll be looking at another dump of snow. Oh Joy!

However, I still have all my treasury work to keep me busy and most of that happens inside. I'm sure you think that as the Treasurer, I receive a little money in the mail, make a record of that, once in awhile package it up and take it to the bank, and then upon occasion write a cheque or two to cover our expenses. Well, if you thought that, you'd be right, but fortunately there's more to being a Treasurer than that. At least, in the way I approach it.

I'm glad to say that I have some say in the way our dollars are spent and in fact once in awhile, I even try to think up new ways to put our few funds to good use. For example, we were recently made aware of an opportunity to purchase all the remaining copies of a book written by one of our vets as the publisher wanted to clear them from his warehouse. So, we had to decide whether we wanted to tie up all our money in this one item. The price per copy was very much a bargain but with such a volume, our bank account would be depleted. The e-mails flew back and forth across the country and we finally decided how much each Region would contribute, how many copies each Region would sell, the selling price, the profit (if any), where the books would be stored, how the National account would be compensated, etc. I was pleased to co-ordinate all that but you can see that it's much more than simply taking in a few cheques for deposit.

The same process is followed for decals, although that's a system we repeat every two years. Historically, Manitoba has looked after having decals made for all Regions, going back many years when it was just for the HKVA. Now we have another design for the Commemorative Association and the Treasurer follows a fairly predictable reorder procedure. But there are still requests, suggestions, enquiries and complaints to be handled and my interest in the project is kept sharp by responding to ideas for new design, new colours, new shape, different background, stick on the inside, and for goodness sake, get a better price! I hope all of you appreciate your decal this year.

Another unanticipated challenge came my way with the need to put some focus to the vague notion surrounding the need for a new lapel pin. This subject had been bandied about for some time and the upcoming national convention more or less brought it to a head. There is no logical person or forum to deal with an item such as a new pin, other than someone or some group needs to have the nerve to try and

reach a consensus from across the country and at some point feel they have one and are willing to say so. Many, many e-mails on this one, but President Carol Hadley felt she had a good concept for a "Membership Pin" and with that, we were able to narrow the many points of view. I had lots of fun preparing a few very awful sketches of what I thought a new pin might look like, but Carol had one very neat, computer assisted design that made it easy to evaluate. We then were able to obtain approval from the National Executive to move ahead with the project and this summer you will be able to wear a nice (small) colourful Commemorative pin in your lapel.

Other non-banking activities included searching for items other than pins that might be suitable for the convention, both as handouts and possibly merchandise for sale. Recently a couple of the obituaries for our veterans suggested donations to the HKVCA and those need to be receipted and acknowledged. Attention must be paid to an audited annual statement and while the audit is actually carried out by an accounting firm here in Winnipeg, the preparation of the paperwork is a task which I undertake each year at this time. And finally, we can't forget our friends at the Canada Revenue Agency who have a few hundred rules which we need to abide by in order to retain our Registered Charity status. This means lots of contact with our Treasurers in each Region in an effort to assemble summaries of money collected, money spent, objectives met, and the like.

I'm pleased to say that the above examples show, I hope, that the life of your Treasurer is anything but dull. I really enjoy all the feedback I get from the volunteers in our organization across the country and you can see that our dialogue is much more than "where are your damn dues?". But hey, that reminds me—have you paid your dues for 2005?

Barry Mitchell
National Treasurer

REGION/BRANCH NEWS

British Columbia Region

We extend warm greetings from British Columbia to the HK veterans and HKVCA members across Canada.

I believe we have done ourselves proud in British Columbia. Our BC veterans and commemorative members have been involved in local, National and even International events. We've continued to participate in Remembrance Day and Christmas Day ceremonies throughout the Province. We've held our Spring Luncheons in Victoria and

Vancouver and are in the midst of planning our next ones. We organized the 2003 National Convention in Victoria. Three of our veterans participated in a Town Hall Meeting hosted by Peter Mansbridge on CBC television. Don MacPherson has been involved in a documentary called Victoria 1945 which will be aired on the History Channel on May 6th and 7th, 2005. Please check your local listings for the times. In January of 2005, three of our veterans and their companions met with Prime Minister Paul Martin in Hong Kong to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the liberation. A report of this pilgrimage written by Murray Doull, can be found at our national website at www.hkvca.ca.

As you read through the articles in this newsletter you will discover that it's not just in BC that we have these wonderful people but they are all across Canada as well. You will read about some amazing plans being made by a group of school children in Ontario. Soon you will receive your registration kits for our National Convention to be held in Ottawa. All of these events take many, many dedicated people.

We are all honoured to be a part of an Organization that has such dedicated individuals so willing to be of service.

As I'm sure you're aware, the Minister of Veterans Affairs has declared 2005 the "Year of the Veteran". The VAC objectives are – Provide an opportunity for remembrance – Mark 60th Anniversary of the end of WWII – Encourage communities to organize memorial activities – Give young people a chance to learn – Commemorate military anniversaries throughout Canada. There are many commemorative events planned all across the country during 2005. Please keep your eyes and ears open and participate in the events that will be in your area.

We hope to see many of you at the National Convention in Ottawa in August. Until we meet again, take very good care of each other.

Linda Stewart
BC Regional Director

Manitoba Region

Hello to one and all, I am hoping you are all having a good 2005 thus far.

As this is the year of 60th anniversary for our veterans, there are many things happening around the country. Here in Manitoba we are still planning to have our VJ Day Aug 21, 2005 and our Reunion Oct 22nd, 2005.

We have lost several of our Veterans in the last few months Garfield Lowe, John Pollock, Edward (Chic) Query. As I sit and look at the Honour Roll

of the ones we have lost in the last year, I ask myself what are we doing to keep the memory of "C Force" alive. The Monument committee have been meeting and have progressed quite well to date. They need your help and suggestions so please contact me and I will take your thoughts to the meeting.

George Peterson and I will be very busy this spring and summer attending parades and official functions. By the way George just celebrated his 84th birthday on Feb 8.

We are planning on having another Tea & Tidbits for the Ladies on May 7th 1-4 p.m. You will be sent notices with the date, time and place. The last two gatherings we great and hopefully more of you will be able to attend this event.

Phyllis Downie has begun the responsibilities of the museum project and will ensure that all Hong Kong Veterans memorabilia will be identified. Thanks, Phyllis.

Judy Preston has notified me that her mom Helen Prieston is healing after her 2nd knee surgery. Keep up the good work Helen; we hope to see you soon. Sheila Lowe called to say that there were a few veterans who attended her father's service and she appreciated it. She said the interment will be in the spring.

Here is a little information from George Peterson on what has been happening here in Winnipeg. George and I have attended many functions. November 2nd George attended the unveiling of the Manitoba veteran's license plate, and on December 5th Winnipeg Cadet Corp Annual Battle of Hong Kong Memorial Parade; these are just a couple. Thank you to every one for keeping me informed on what is happening. I like passing on this information to all the H.K.V.A. & H.K.V.C.A. family. Keep up the good work one and all.

God Bless keep well
Juliet Lafortune MB Regional Director
H.K.V.C.A.

Ontario Region

This is a busy time for the Ontario Region. The National Convention is a very important part of what we're involved with right now, but there are other activities that we would like you to know about as well.

We have begun to work on the Hong Kong veterans' videotaped interviews from 1997-1998, which were sent to us not long ago. Copies have been made so that Ontario members who would like to be part of a transcribing team are welcome to volunteer for this opportunity to become familiar with the experiences of at least one veteran who has been part of

this videotaping project. Recently, we submitted the names of 20 additional Ontario veterans who are willing to participate in the next phase of interviews to be conducted by Veterans Affairs Canada over the next few months.

The Ten Lessons continue to be an important part of our activities. Nick Brune, as author of the Ten Lessons, has been involved in an initiative to reach History teachers in various Boards. He spoke to a number of Oakville High School History teachers at a workshop in February and will be participating in other similar sessions. We are also taking a serious look at preparing a French translation for those areas of the country with Francophone high schools that would benefit from such a translation. If your area is interested in this possibility, get in touch with Pat Turcotte at petsask@sympatico.ca or Phone No. (905) 274-3189. The more interest shown, the more likely that the project will be completed in the near future. We hope to have good news shortly regarding Veterans Affairs Canada's interest in this project.

Information has gone out to the various regions regarding a possible trip to Hong Kong being organized in Ontario for any interested HKVCA members and their families. The project's success will depend on your response. For further information, or to indicate your personal interest in being part of such a venture, contact Mike Babin at msbabin@sympatico.ca or Phone No. (416) 239-9192.

Regarding the National Convention, regular monthly meetings are being held in Ottawa, with members of the Ontario Executive joining the special Ottawa Committee chaired by Derrill Henderson. Many of the Convention details are being finalized at this stage. More specific information is included in a special section of this National Newsletter. We do thank Veterans Affairs Canada for making such a large contribution to this unique event, in particular doing their utmost to make it possible for all veterans able to come to do so. Information will appear in bulletins in Ontario, and the same information will be made available in other regions.

We look forward to a very special time in Ottawa in August. Hope to see you all there!

Pat Turcotte,
Ontario Region, HKVCA

Québec-Maritimes Branch

Carol's email reminding us that the deadline for the newsletter has passed gets me going to submit something for the current edition. Because I am so late, my contribution will be rather sketchy, and for

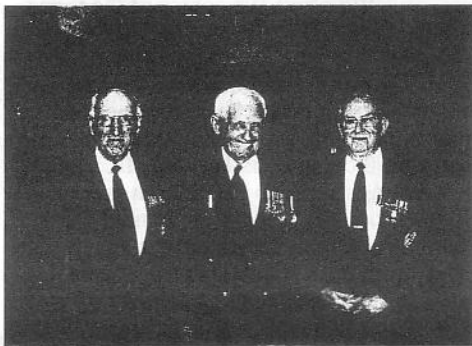
that I apologize.

HK VETS VISIT HONG KONG

By this time everyone will have heard of the trip to Hong Kong by three of our chaps in the company or Prime Minister Martin and the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Larry Stebbe, Aubrey Flegg, and John Lowe were selected to represent us on the trip accompanied by "caregivers". Murray Doull was one of them. I'm sure he will have something to say about it, so I won't comment further, except to say that their presence was another link in the process of remembering the Battle of Hong Kong. Many thanks to all three and to their caregivers. Great stuff!

LANCE ROSS

Lance Ross's conduct in the defence of Hong Kong was exemplary. He was nominated for a decoration, but he never received it. Now, after all these years, and largely, I believe, through the efforts of Ron McGuire, his bravery in battle and his leadership in prison camps will be recognized. He was inducted into the Canada Veterans Hall of Valour in a ceremony in Ottawa on April 23. We are extremely proud and grateful that the efforts of this man will be recorded in history.



Lance Ross (centre), flanked by HK veteran Bob Barter (left) and HKVA President Phil Doddridge, following his induction into the Hall of Valour.

It is interesting to note that at the same ceremony, CLIFF CHADDERTON, whom we respect, and to whom we owe so much, was also inducted into the Hall of Valour. This will add more letters to a very lengthy list of post-nominals.

Congratulations and best wishes to both Lance and Cliff.

It was also as a result of Ron McGuire's efforts that one of the most famous heroes of C-Force, Sgt.-Major John Osborn, V.C., was inducted posthumously into the Hall of Valour. Osborn became Canada's first Victoria-Cross winner of

World War II. The award was accepted by his son, Capt. (ret'd) Gerald Osborn.

BERT HOLT

I got an email the other day from Helen Holt, the daughter of our old CSM of "D" Company of the RRC. Her father, Bert Holt, died on March 11 of this year at the age of 89. He had been with us from Valcartier to Sussex, to Newfoundland and back, but was drafted out on the eve of our departure to Hong Kong. I met with him for the only time since 1941 at a reunion in Pointe Claire, Quebec, in 1993. As far as I know, he didn't speak to anyone else at that time. We had lunch together. He was apologetic for having missed the draft and was worried that the guys would hate him for that. Daughter Helen says that he spent "many sleepless nights and restless days" agonizing over his failure to be with us all the way.

Bert Holt went overseas and retired after the war at the rank of Captain.

MY 83rd

Yesterday was my birthday, and after the birthday cake I sat down (with a glass of wine) and penned the following bit of doggerel. It is silly, of course, but you may get a grin out of it.

On my Eighty-third
I've never been eighty-three before.
What's it like to be eighty-four?
I intend to stick around and see
At eighty-three nothing else interests me.

Younger women give me the eye,
But I'm not flattered, I know why.
They realize I can do no harm.
At eighty-three I am barely warm.

My hair is gone, teeth also went
I'm deaf as a pot and my money is spent.
But give me liberty or give me death
I'll stick around till my dying breath.

And if that occurs at ninety-five
I'll thank the Lord I'm still alive,
And wish I could do a little bit more
And see you all at a hundred and four!

That is all for this time. Be good to each other and may God Bless.

Phil Doddridge

ESTATE PLANNING

I am addressing a topic that we don't like to think about: estate planning. This stage in your life is more important than planning marriage, family and retirement since you will not be there to implement it. Angus McRitchie, my predecessor, had a document that he sent to

bereaved families to assist them with final arrangements. I hope to take it one step further by giving you an outline to begin the process. You are never too old to have your affairs in place and it is a great benefit for your family to know your wishes and more cost efficient to have the arrangements pre-planned. After consultation with a well-known professional and member of our Association, Eirik Bardal has offered assistance.

PREPARATION:

As we cannot predict the future we should be prepared with the following in place:

- Always have a current, up-dated Will identifying an Executor - this is important for all financial institutions, insurance companies, etc to ensure that your wishes are upheld.
- Have a file outlining your assets and liabilities, also any pre-arrangements - all documents are required to finalize your affairs along with the name of your lawyer. With these items in place your family will be able to deal with the final arrangements efficiently and without difficulties. Any time there is a change in your family's situation, reflect the change in your Will - it will prevent future problems.

EXECUTOR:

When your position has been initiated, begin with gathering and organizing necessary documentation: review the Will; safeguard assets and beneficiaries; list assets and liabilities; and meet with a lawyer. Next begin the filing and notification process by: making arrangements to probate the Will, file for benefits; notify income providers and creditors; and cancel services and suppliers. When all the items above have been completed it is time to close the estate by settling all accounts; distributing the assets; filing tax returns and securing releases.

This information is just a brief outline to show that there are many steps in finalizing an estate but with proper planning the process can be expedited.

If you require more detail or assistance with this process please contact:

Eirik Bardal
c/o Neil Bardal Inc
984 Portage Ave
Winnipeg, MB R3G 0R6
(204) 949-2200
or, Carol Hadley
PO Box 381
Winnipeg, MB R3C 2H6

IN MEMORIAM

Once again it is our sad duty to inform you of the deaths of the following Hong Kong veterans, deceased since the publication of the last newsletter. Our deepest condolences to the families of:

Ludovic "Vic" Bujold, RRC
22 April 2005
Melbourne Carter, RRC
18 February 2005
Lloyd Doull, RRC
10 January 2005
Richard J. Grant, RRC
25 December 2004
Ernest G. Ladds, RRC
23 August 2004
Garfield W. Lowe, WG
16 January 2005
Donald MacPherson, WG
11 April 2005
David Martin, WG
16 November 2004
Gerald Pentland, RRC
30 November 2004
John D. Pollack, WG
20 January 2005
Edward Query, WG
25 January 2005
Elved Thomas, WG
14 February 2005
Harry White, WG
28 October 2004
Allan Roy Whitman, WG

"We Will Remember Them!"

The following deaths have occurred in the greater Hong Kong family:

Margaret "Peggy" Doull, wife of the late Lloyd Doull, 14 December 2004

Betty Maloney, wife of Eric Maloney, RRC, 30 April 2005

Helga Porter, widow of Kenneth Porter, 13 November 2004

Stockwell Day, Sr., 6 February 2005.

Lloyd and Peggy Doull

From Carol Hadley: We are always saddened when we lose one of our HK family but when we lose two, a husband and wife, it is particularly devastating to the family involved and to the HK family generally. On behalf of the 'Commemorative Association', I wish to pay tribute to Lloyd and Peggy Doull for all the work and dedication that they have given to the HKVA and the HKVCA over the years. Their diligence inspired many of their family and we are pleased to have

their son, Ian, as the editor of the national newsletter and their nephew, Murray, as the Secretary, Treasurer, Membership chair of BC Region. I have asked permission from Phil Doddridge to use his message as he was a long-time friend of both Peggy and Lloyd.

From Phil Doddridge: *As with the passing of all of my comrades, the death of Comrade Lloyd touches me deeply. I first met Lloyd in Valcartier in July 1940, shortly after the Royal Rifles of Canada were mobilized. I was assigned to number Seventeen Platoon, and Lloyd became platoon sergeant. As second-in-command of the platoon under Lieut. Elmer Denison, Lloyd showed leadership and dedication to his position. We, members of the platoon, were a rowdy bunch, but Lloyd never lost his temper, and always treated everyone equally and with good humour. He earned the respect of all the men under his command.*

We have remained friends for almost sixty-five years.

Lloyd became National President of the Hong Kong Veterans Association in 1978 at the national reunion in Winnipeg. As President he showed the same dedication to duty and service to his fellow Hong Kong Veterans.

Since his beloved Peggy died only weeks before him, it causes me to wonder if he had clung to life, sick as he was, so that he could be with her to the end. To lose both of them in so short a time compounds the grief.

To the family - I extend sympathy on behalf of the Hong Kong Veterans Association, and for myself, I remember Lloyd as one of the important people in my life.

We will remember him. We will also remember Peggy, who was his help and support in his labours on our behalf.

Margaret (Peggy) Doull died December 14, 2004. Peggy was an Honourary Lifetime Member, Hong Kong Veterans Association.

Lloyd C. Doull, E-29875, RRC died January 10, 2005 - Past National President of the HKVA

"We will remember them."

BOOK CORNER

Although the HKVAC does not have a new book to promote, I would like to advise you of a book written by our Patron, Clifford Chadderton. It is called, "Excuse us! Herr Schicklgruber" (this was Hitler's birth name), and is basically a history of the Winnipeg Rifles during their

journey through Europe in WWII. It is an accounting of the personal stories of the men of this regiment, some tragic, some humorous, with a few miracles thrown in. It is being sold for the cost recovery price of only \$10.00 and may be ordered by calling the War Amps at 1-800-250-3030 or by visiting www.waramps.ca.

In this, the 60th Anniversary of the end of WWII, the Year of Veteran, maybe you have an aunt, nephew, or other family member, that a gift of one of our books would give them a better understanding of what our veterans went through as very young men. Maybe you have a friend or neighbour that you want to say "thanks" to in a meaningful way - a book is always a nice thought for such an expression of thanks.

We still have available:

No Reason Why by Carl Vincent; \$35.00 plus postage.

The Royal Rifles of Canada in Hong Kong 1941-1945 by Grant Garneau; \$50.00 postage included.

Guest of Hirohito by Kenneth Cambon HK vet; \$20.00 plus postage.

17 Days Until Christmas by Leo Bedard HK vet; \$20.00 plus postage.

One Soldier's Story - by George MacDonell HK vet; \$20.00 plus postage.

We also have copies of the video, **Slaves of the Rising Sun** (\$10.00 plus postage), and we have recently placed an order for more **Monument badges**. The cost of these is yet to be determined, but it will run around \$50.00. Mounting one of these on the grave marker of a HK veteran is a lasting tribute to the veteran and the special role he played as a member of Canada's Armed Forces during WWII.

All these may be ordered by sending a cheque to:

H.K.V.C.A.
Suite 164.
1 Stafford Road
Nepean ON K2H 1B9

VETERANS' CORNER

With the Convention News covered in the opening article, and any additional needed enclosed in the Registration Kit, there is no need to speak further on that, so the remaining news comes from two issues being promoted by our patron, Cliff Chadderton.

This man gets far too little recognition from those he serves. He has developed a credibility among his peers and government alike focused around his insightfulness of the true needs of veterans and widows. He is relentless in attacking

the *status quo* when it falls short of what ought to be. We are so fortunate in having him in our corner.

One of his current objectives is to have Veterans Affairs set up a department just to deal with the needs of the widows of veterans. He has successfully pushed for the continuation of the VIP program for the widows of those veterans who were recipients of this benefit, but not he feels it is time that widows be seen and evaluated in their own right as people that paid a great service to our country by spending nearly all their lives caring for the disabled veteran. We know only too well what this meant. In my own case, my mother was faced with a husband that underwent one operation after another in the years following the war. Additionally, all HK veterans and their families, had to learn how to deal with Post Traumatic Stress before it was accepted as a medical condition. I am certain that Mr. Chadderton's files contain case after case of even greater hardships the wives of veterans bore.

Another is having an Ombudsman for Veterans. This is not a new proposal. He has had this on the burner for years, dating back to the Woods Committee. Now the Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs has it on their agenda, and I'm certain that Cliff will nurse this through to fruition as well.

It is also Income Tax time again so this is a reminder of the **Disability Tax Credit**. You doctor must complete the form, and do so properly, for if it is not, CCRA will refuse it. If you are not already using this credit and want more information, please contact the Service Bureau of the War Amps (613-731-3821). Faye Lavell and Jean McMillan are the primary contacts. They are the experts and will make certain that if you are so entitled, the form is properly prepared. If your doctor has already prepared the form **T2201**, it is recommended that you send it along to the Service Centre for review prior to submission to CCRA.

Derrill Henderson
National Secretary
HKVA

ROCKCLIFFE COMMEMORATIVE AIR FEST

If you are looking for an excellent reason to come to Ottawa a week early and spend some vacation time with us, plan to take in the air display at the Canada Aviation Museum on August 6th & 7th. In addition to the March Past, accompanied by the Legion's Dominion Command Colour Party, there will be WWII re-enactment groups and vehicles, and, there can never be an air show without a fly-by. Admission

to both the show and museum is free to veterans. There will be a special area set up where veterans can relax, take refreshments, and talk about days gone by.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Sincere thanks to Carol Hadley and Derrill Henderson for having produced the autumn 2004 national newsletter while the editor was occupied with urgent family matters.

Remember to **check our website!!** regularly, at www.hkvca.ca This truly excellent site provides a wealth of information, regularly updated, on all aspects of the Canadian Hong Kong experience: discussion forums, personal accounts, battle accounts, suggested readings, lesson plans, photos, and current issues such as the upcoming convention and trip to Hong Kong, and the recent (December 2004) pilgrimage by four Hong Kong Veterans.

Anyone who intends to bring material to the Ottawa Convention for display in the **Memorabilia Room** is urged to contact **Ron McGuire**, so that he will be able to provide sufficient display space. **Note:** it is still not certain whether secure display cases will be available. Please discuss any concerns you may have with Ron, and let him know if material you intend to bring requires a display case. Ron can be reached at 613-724-3223, or by mail at 485 Hillcrest Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, K2A 2M8

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ROYAL CANADIAN CORPS OF SIGNALS

My uncle, Don Penny, was with the RCCS at Hong Kong. He survived the battle and years of imprisonment there and in Japan. I am doing research for a book about the 32 members of the Signal Corps who were part of "C" Force. Don brought back a number of notebooks, letters and other mementos of his time in the Far East and I am hoping that others may have done the same. If any Signals veterans and/or their families would be willing to share information with me it would be greatly appreciated.

D. Burke Penny
483 Forest Hill Court,
Midland, Ontario L4R 5G1

(705) 526-9174
LMPDBP@csolve.net

HKVCA TRIP TO HONG KONG

As you no doubt know, there will not be a government-sponsored pilgrimage to Hong Kong this year such as the one in 2000. But interest remains high among our HKVCA and HKVA members, families and friends in traveling to Hong Kong to mark the 60th anniversary of the cessation of WW II hostilities in the Far East, and the release of our Hong Kong Veterans from the prison camps.

The Ontario Region of the HKVCA is working with a travel agent to organize a trip to Hong Kong to commemorate this significant anniversary. There will be a commemorative ceremony at Sai Wan Cemetery on December 4, 2005 and we plan to be there and to participate in that ceremony. All HKVA and HKVCA members and any other interested folks are invited to join the group.

Although the exact agenda in Hong Kong is still being worked out (the order of events in Hong Kong is currently based largely on the 2000 pilgrimage itinerary) we do have firm travel dates and costs and these are shown below.

If you are interested in participating in this exciting trip or have questions about it, please contact Mike Babin as soon as possible. Mike can be reached by phone at (416) 239-9192, or by email at msbabin@sympatico.ca.

This is a wonderful opportunity to see where our veterans fought and fell or were captured, as well as seeing the modern-day Hong Kong.

ITINERARY

Here is the tentative itinerary:

- Day 1 - November 30
o Canada to Hong Kong (arrive on Day 3)
- Day 2 - International Date Line
- Day 3 in Hong Kong (Dec. 2)
o all day - Travel recovery
- Day 4
o am/pm - Bus tour of Hong Kong highlights (incl. Peak, etc.)
- Day 5
o am - Ceremony at Sai Wan Cemetery
o pm - Visit to Coastal Defence Museum

- Day 6
 - o am - Visit to St. Stephens Cemetery & School (at Stanley)
 - o pm - Lunch & free time in Stanley Village

- Day 7
 - o am - Visit to Lawson's Bunker
 - o pm - Visit to Jardine's Lookout

- Day 8
 - o am - Battlefield Tour
 - o pm - Free time

- Day 9
 - o all day - Free time

- Day 10 (Dec. 9)
 - o Depart for Canada (arrive same day)

COSTS

The estimated costs are shown below. These costs assume:

- Adult traveler (small reduction possible for students under 21 years at departure date)
- Group size of 20-24
- Double/twin occupancy in hotel

Departure City/Price*

Toronto	\$3,256
Halifax	\$3,378
Ottawa:	\$3,287
Vancouver:	\$3,106

- * Price includes the following:
 - o Round-trip airfare
 - o Airport fees, taxes, and airline fuel surcharges (all subject to change)
 - o Weekend supplement of \$35 (applies when departure or return flight falls on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday)
 - o Transfer to/from airport in Hong Kong to hotel
 - o Overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms, double/twin occupancy
 - o Breakfast daily
 - o 3 group dinners
 - o Guided sightseeing tours and city walks as per itinerary
 - o Visits to select attractions as per itinerary

- * Price does not include:
 - o Transportation to/from home to airport in Canada
 - o Passport and visa fees (non-Canadian citizens must secure any necessary visas)
 - o Dinners other than the 3 group dinners
 - o Beverages at dinner
 - o Lunches
 - o Comprehensive Travel Protection or Comprehensive PLUS (travel insurance)
 - o Local transportation to unscheduled activities
 - o Optional excursions and/or extensions
 - o Tips to Tour Director, bus drivers, and cruise staff

The price will vary depending on the number of participants. The above prices assume a group size of 20 to 24. The price would be reduced if there are more participants, and increase if fewer. For example, if the group size were less than 20, the price would increase by \$100. On the other hand, with a group size of 30, the price would be reduced by \$64. These

differences may vary slightly depending on departure airport.

A Single Supplement is available at a cost of \$280 for those unable to share a room.

JAPAN EXCURSION

There has been some interest in arranging a side trip to Japan to visit the Yokohama War Cemetery. This is in the process of being priced, and will be communicated to you as soon as possible.

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