

# WASURERU-NAI

“Never Forget”

Volume 4, Number 1

March, 2002

## NEWSLETTER OF THE HONG KONG VETERANS' COMMEMORATIVE ASSOCIATION

### National President's Message

As the newly elected President of the HKVCA, it is an honour and a pleasure to greet you for the first time. I congratulate and welcome the other newly elected or re-elected members of the Board of Directors as well as the Regional Directors and I look forward to working with all of you. A big THANK YOU to Derrill Henderson and the previous executive for all their hard work and diligence, especially the part they have played in creating a strong network across Canada.

The HK family is saddened yet again with the passing of our veterans, this time our **National President Harry Atkinson**. We will miss his humour and strength as he was very supportive and proud of the Commemorative and a strong advocate of the veterans' rights. *We will remember him.*

These are very exciting times for

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this wonderful and unique association. With a very strong Board of Directors, our Association is growing in numbers and with ideas to preserve our veterans' experiences for all to share and to understand. With the events held in the Regions to honour our veterans, it brings awareness and recognition to the general public and the other veteran associations.

I commend you on your efforts and support you on implementing ways of keeping the memory of these veterans alive.

Sincerely, Carol Hadley

### REGION/BRANCH NEWS

#### British Columbia Region

The HKVCA in British Columbia extends warm greetings to the rest of the country. There has been a lot of activity in our region and future events to tell you about. Our secretary and I attended the National Convention in Winnipeg in August. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the HKVA and HKVCA at Remembrance Day Ceremonies around the province. We participated in Victoria. Aubrey Flegg (WG) was active in Kelowna. Don MacPherson (WG), his wife Pearl and daughter Heather were at the cenotaph in Kamloops. Heather also laid a wreath in memory of her mother who was stationed with the Canadian Army in Italy. Bill Doull (RR), escorted by his son Murray, laid the wreath at Vedder Crossing. Four generations of the Doull family viewed the proceedings,

including Bill's great grandson Gray Pennington.

December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2001 marked the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the surrender at Hong Kong. There is a long-standing tradition with the HK Vets in Victoria to lay a wreath at the cenotaph on Christmas Day. While Lionel Speller and I planned for the ceremony we received a phone call from Gwen Day. Her father, Bertram Gilbert, was a sergeant with the Royal Rifles of Canada. She also had an uncle and a 16-year-old cousin who served with the Royal Rifles. With these close family ties she was eager to help make the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary a special celebration. Gwen contacted the Times Colonist and the Channel 12 TV News. The newspaper article attracted many people to the cenotaph. Following the ceremony Lionel was interviewed by the Channel 12 TV news, which aired that evening. We wanted the vets to know they were remembered and that the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary received its recognition.

Everyone was invited to the Embassy Hotel for coffee and sandwiches. Gwen Day and her husband, Stockwell Day Sr., graciously hosted the reception. Thank you Gwen for all your efforts. At the cenotaph, Blair Mehan, a member of the Forces and amateur military historian, was taking pictures. He said he's going to send the photos and an article about the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to the Canadian Armed Forces Newspaper – The Maple Leaf.

We recently mailed out our first real attempt at a newsletter -- "The Western Torch". It can be found on the HKVCA web page. It featured an article by Graeme Stacey, a story written by Pearl MacPherson of the 2000 Pilgrimage to Hong Kong and a Profile of HK vet Lionel Speller. Graeme Stacey was instrumental

in having the Hong Kong story become a part of the high school History Curriculum in BC. Thank you Graeme.

Luncheons will be held in May 2002 in both Victoria and Vancouver hosted by the BC HKVA. We are all eagerly looking forward to these gatherings.

Another upcoming event that we are very excited about is the publishing of a book called "Letters to Harvelyn". Harvelyn McInnis lives in Victoria and has compiled the letters that her father wrote to her and her mother while he was in the prison camp. He was Major Ken Baird of the Winnipeg Grenadiers. He hid the letters in a boot buried under the hut. To be found with them would have meant be-heading. They were written in the form of a diary that he never expected anyone to see. When they were liberated, he dug up the boot one last time and brought the letters home. Harper Collins will publish the book in August or September 2002.

In closing, I want to say how very much the Regional Council in British Columbia has enjoyed working together since we formed in July 2001. I want to thank our treasurer, Murray Doull, and our secretary, Heather MacPherson. They have worked hard to get the Commemorative Association in BC up and running. We are extremely appreciative of the support and assistance we have received from our Hong Kong Veterans. THANK YOU.

Warm regards, Linda Stewart,  
BC Regional Director

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### Manitoba Region

Hi to everyone from Manitoba!

I would like to thank the previous National Board of Directors: Derrill Henderson, Lora Wachtendorf, Neil Darrah, Mitzi Ross, Bill Kellas and Sheila Rattie and all the Regional Directors, that have been involved with pioneering this Commemorative Association to date. We truly appreciate all the hard work and effort that you have put into creating the

Commemorative Association and we look to you for guidance in the future.

Manitoba is very proud and excited in having Carol Hadley as our National President. We extend our support and best wishes to the new National Board of Directors. Manitoba Region of H.K.V.C.A. is working hard in preserving the memory of our Veterans. We have begun a museum project with the Museum of Man and Nature to have a permanent display for information on the Hong Kong Veterans. City Hall has asked us to create a display of our Veteran's memorabilia. We will be pursuing with the Department of Education, to have the British Columbia syllabus "Human Rights in the Asia Pacific 1931 -1945", put into the senior social studies program in Manitoba schools. Ongoing and always prominent in our mandate is the general public awareness of the events of the Battle of Hong Kong and 'C' Force's role in that Battle.

Harry Atkinson has left us for a more peaceful home. I have known Harry since I was a child. My Father had a lot of respect for him and I grew up with that same feeling. Harry worked very hard in his position as National President of the H.K.V.A. as all the men meant a great deal to him. He could tell you how each of them was doing as he kept in touch with all of them. He will be missed by us all .

Congratulations to Phil Dodderidge on being the new National President. You are a good man, Phil and will do well.

Sincerely, Juliet Lafortune,  
Regional Director

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### Ontario Region

The publication of the Ontario Region's very first newsletter, which we have named "The Spirit of the Torch", made for an extremely busy Fall in 2001. We were working on all sorts of articles which we hoped would appeal to our readers. The response, after publication, was very gratifying, as many chose to let

us know that they were pleased with what they saw.

We first listed all the towns and cities where our members could be found, and as we researched, we were surprised to learn that there are Hong Kong veterans, wives, widows and other family members in over 107 different communities in Ontario. Our total number of members now stands at 296, including 27 that we are still trying to locate. Our Area Reps have done a great job searching out, and getting in touch with a majority of these members. Besides reports from the various Area Reps, we were delighted to have articles from two of our veterans, Leo Berard, WG, and Bob "Flash" Clayton, RRC, as well as a column by John Stroud, RRC. We hope to have our veterans represented in every issue, so if you know of someone with a story they'd like to tell, let us know and we'll be happy to contact them. We also want to hear from some of the widows, wives and family members, too, so encourage them to be a part of the sharing of information. In this way, the younger generation will have a better understanding of what it's been like to be a part of the Hong Kong legacy.

Another important focus for the Ontario Executive, aside from initiating a newsletter, has been to encourage individual members to join us in increasing the public's awareness of the important role the Canadian soldiers played in the struggle for Hong Kong, and the horrors of the times the survivors faced afterwards. Remembrance Day has been the logical place to start, and Commemorative members have begun to support a drive to lay as many new wreaths as possible in the communities of Ontario on that day. We are pleased to be able to mention that this past November, 16 wreaths were laid by our members around the province, with several more promising to do so next year. In our "Spirit of the Torch" June Issue, we'll be explaining in detail how to arrange to sponsor a wreath. As an Executive, we have inaugurated a "Spirit of the Torch" Fund to assist that project, to which donations have already been made. Since wreaths are used for a number of years, the Ontario Region's objective is to support the laying of a wreath in at least one new

community in each of the 6 Areas in the Ontario Region each year. It was quite an experience to go to one ceremony this last Remembrance Day where a wreath for the Hong Kong veterans was being laid for the first time. The comment was made that no one had ever asked to have a wreath laid before, and that it was certainly about time.

The Ontario Executive has been more than delighted with the support we have received this year. Much of that support has come from the veterans, the wives and the widows, as well as the younger generations. We do thank everyone for their generosity and good will, and take that as a sign that they appreciate what we're doing. Above all, we want our members to keep in touch, and to be sure to let us know what we can do better in 2002, and beyond.

Pat Turcotte, Secretary, Ontario Region, Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association

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### Quebec Region

Things are busy in the Quebec Region. Busy organizing our next Reunion. Our Quebec Region Reunion will be taking place August 15th to 18th, 2002. If members from other regions are interested in taking part in our reunion, they are the most welcome. Call, write to Lucette M. Muir, 18 Barre, Canton de Granby, Qc. J2H 2E6, tel.: 450-375-7439 or e-mail: [lmum@sympatico.ca](mailto:lmum@sympatico.ca) and it will be a pleasure to send you an "Invitation Kit" complete with all info.

Phil Doddridge, Bob Barter and Lucette Muir were honoured to represent the Quebec Region at Harry Atkinson's funeral. Deepest sympathy to Harry's family. Harry has left us after long service to his fellow HK Vets. May he rest in peace.

Quebec - Membership: a note from Marcel Mondou-- if you are not holding your membership card dated 2002, you are late. Just take a minute and make things right. Mail your dues to Marcel Mondou, 18 Barre, Canton de

Granby, Qc. J2H 2E6. If you have any questions, do not hesitate and call at 450-372-7893, it will be a pleasure to answer you. Thank you, Marcel.

Lucette M. Muir, Quebec Regional Director

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### Atlantic Region

It has been my great fortune to have been involved with the Hong Kong Veterans' Association and the Commemorative Association over the past 10 years. To be exposed to the Hong Kong veterans on a personal level has been a great experience. These men, because of their experience as POWs, show a love of life that is hard to explain. They, because of their bravery and sacrifices, then and now, are the only true Canadian heroes that I personally know.

It is for these men that we must strive to make the HKVCA a strong and united organization across Canada. Their bravery and sacrifices cannot be lost in time. We, in the Atlantic region, are working to build our membership, but we have much more to do. We need to hear from people in our region who would like to get involved with the HKVCA, Atlantic Region.

On Labour day weekend, this coming September, in conjunction with the Maritimes-Gaspesian Branch of the Hong Kong Veterans' Association annual reunion in Florenceville, New Brunswick, I would like to hold an annual meeting of the Atlantic Region's Commemorative Association at that time. All members: make your plans to attend. It will be an enjoyable weekend.

You will be receiving an information package in the mail. See you then!

Neil Darrah, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, National HKCVA; Director, Atlantic Region. HKVCA

### Québec-Maritimes Branch

Greetings again from down east. Like most places in Canada, we have had a very mild winter with comparatively little snow. Now it seems that spring is about to spring. A welcome visitor! BUT. It's not over yet! The last issue of Wasurerunai was great. Ian and his staff as well as regional contributors are to be congratulated and thanked for their efforts.

### CANADIAN MILITARY HISTORY

Some of you would have received from Wilfrid Laurier University, and through the good offices of Derrill, a copy of the latest issue of Canadian Military History. It contains several articles on the Hong Kong story, treated from a somewhat different perspective and all very interesting. The first article, titled "The Defence of Hong Kong" by Terry Copp, brings to light some information that I, at least, was not aware of. Another article by Lt. Col. George Trist, is a "Report on the Part Played by the Winnipeg Grenadiers in the Defence of Hong Kong." A third is a report by Kay Christie, written aboard the SS Gripsholm on her voyage home from Hong Kong in 1943. Again, an article by Lt. Gen. Kenneth Stuart written in March, 1942, is his brief to the Royal Commission which examined the Hong Kong operation. In the same issue, a report by Anna May Watters, also written aboard the SS Gripsholm, when she and Kay Christie were being repatriated in 1943. The magazine is highly recommended. It prompted me to subscribe to the magazine, now published quarterly, and as a bonus they offer a back issue of the publication. They sent me a copy of the Autumn, 1997 issue, and lo, and behold, in it were three stories of particular interest to us.

One of the stories was a report on the heroism of our own Sgt. Routledge, DCM, CD, Brigade Headquarters. Another was an account by Cameron Pulsifer of the life of John Robert Osborne, VC. The third story of interest to us was one of a Canadian seaman, Stuart E. Paddon, who had served on the HMS Prince of Wales, but luckily for him had been transferred before she was sunk by the Japanese in the

first days of the war. Also highly recommended reading, if you can get your hands on a copy. The cost is \$32.00 per year, (4 issues) and can be had by writing to : Canadian Military History, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, ON, N2L 3C5, or by phone with a credit card, at 519-8840710, ext. 4549 or e-mail--mbechtho@wlu.ca

### LAST POST

This item is always painful to report, but must be done to keep everyone informed. We sadly say farewell to the following ex-members of the Royal Rifles and Brigade HQ:

ALFRED ROWAN, RENAUD COTE, KENNETH INCHE, FRED KELLY, ALLEN MARTIN.

Also MRS. STELLA PARKES.

*WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.  
NOUS NOUS SOUVIENDRONS D'EUX.*

Please note that I leave the reporting of Grenadiers to the Manitoba Branch.

With that I'll sign off for this time and get this off to Ian, with my usual plea, "be good to each other, and may God bless."

Philip Doddridge

### In Memoriam

We regret to inform you of the deaths of the following Hong Kong veterans and family members, deceased since publication of the last newsletter. We offer our sincere condolences to the families of:

Kenneth Agerbak, WG  
20 December 2001  
Harold A. (Harry) Atkinson, WG  
4 March 2002  
George Belcourt, WG  
28 December 2001  
Frederick (Fred) Chapman, RRC  
4 November 2001  
Renaud Coté, CDC  
13 January 2002

William Cox, WG  
22 October 2001  
Albert H. Delbridge, WG  
28 February 2002  
Cecil Devouge, RRC  
24 December 2001  
John Fertal, WG  
21 February 2002  
Kenneth R. Inche, RRC  
30 January 2002  
Fred Kelly, RRC  
23 December 2001  
Régis Lajeunesse, WG  
8 October 2001  
Allen Martin, CDC  
7 February 2002  
Milton McDonald, RRC  
3 January 2002  
Gordon McLellan, WG  
6 October 2001  
William Pople, WG  
12 March 2002  
Alfred E. Rowan, RRC  
13 February 2001  
William Sarginson, WG  
22 October 2001

\*\*\*\*

Evelyn MacAulay, widow of  
Major M. MacAulay  
11 August 2001

Stella Parkes, widow of Lt. W.  
Parkes

Merle Webster, nephew of  
Lawrence Henderson, RRC  
25 October 2001

### Harry Atkinson, 1922-2002



Harold (Harry ) Atkinson, the last President of the Hong Kong Veterans' Association, has died in Winnipeg at the age of 80. Harry was born in Selkirk, Manitoba, and was employed by Robinson Little, Ltd, retiring as Development Representative in 1979. In 1939 Harry lied about his age to join the army with his older brother, Ron. After serving with the Winnipeg Grenadiers in Bermuda and Jamaica, he was sent to Hong Kong with C-Force in 1940. The two brothers became separated when Harry was eventually sent to Niigata, Japan, where he endured until liberation in 1945; Ron Atkinson died in Hong Kong. Harry became the first of the Winnipeg Grenadiers to return to Manitoba. He later represented the HKVA as President of the Manitoba Branch, and more recently as the Association's final national President; last August he presided over the last meeting of the Association, dissolved administratively after over four decades of distinguished service to its members. One of the highlights of the Winnipeg meeting was the standing ovation given Harry over his dedication and diligence in the award of 100% pension to all HK veterans due to avitaminosis.

Predeceased by his wife Penny, Harry Atkinson is survived by his four children, six grandchildren, and numerous family members and close friends. To all,

we offer our sincere condolences.

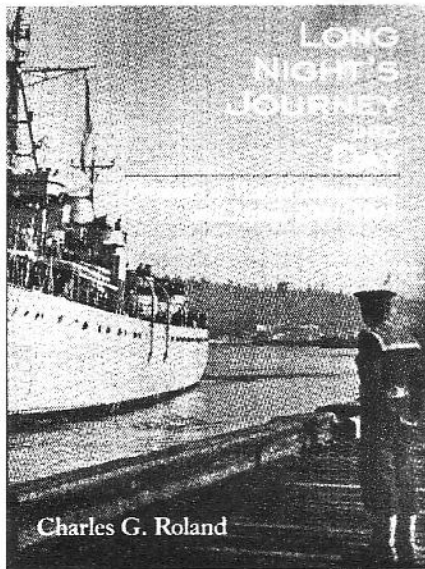
### The Book Corner

#### New Reviews:

There has been a significant increase of interest in books on the Hong Kong event over the past year, the last six months especially. We will continue to review as many as we can. Any interest in the books listed below, with the exception of Long Night's Journey into Day, should be addressed to the:

**Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Assn.**  
Suite 164, 1 Stafford Road  
Nepean, ON K2H 1B9

*Unfortunately all the books below are only available in English*



#### Long Night's Journey into Day: Prisoners of War in Hong Kong and Japan, 1941-1945

by Charles G. Roland

This book views a new look at the event as it concentrates on the medical aspects of what the men of "C" Force had to endure.

I have read most of the books available on the battle of Hong Kong and the ensuing years as POWs, so I have some reference whenever I picked up a new book. This is a different "story". I spoke to several

veterans, including Dr. Banfill. Often, in the case of other books, some vets questioned or openly disagreed with particular anecdotes since each "saw" what transpired through different "eyes.", but in this case, I received no disagreement at all.

The book is an interesting read.

Wilfred Laurier University Press  
Price - \$28.95  
Available at most book stores  
ISBN: 0-88920-362-8

*Review by Derrill Henderson*



#### From JAMAICA To JAPAN

By Thomas S. Forsyth

1939



#### THE DIARY of A HONG KONG Prisoner of War



1945

**BY ONE WHO WAS THERE!**

#### From Jamaica to Japan by Thomas S. Forsyth

The diary by Tom Forsyth is different from other 'diaries' in that it is the thoughts of a soldier governed by the nature of that profession. It focuses on collective issues rather than private concerns. As far as the stay in Jamaica is concerned, it is really more of a Grenadier story than a Tom Forsyth story. His words silently express his concerns for the "good name" of the regiment. This may be heightened by the fact that he, in Jamaica and Hong Kong prior to the fighting, served as a member of the Military Police, and by his strong Christian background.

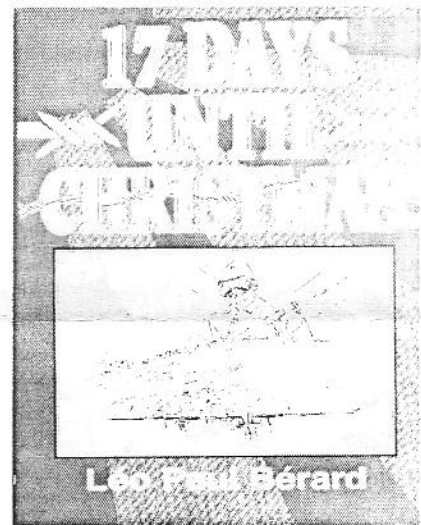
The book is divided into three distinctive parts - the 17 days of battle are excluded:

a) - Pre Hong Kong service - which express the thoughts of one far from home and which details the shenanigans of his regiment's troublemakers. It is almost as if he is apologizing for the "unbecoming" actions of a select few.

b) - P.O.W. experience - a picture is painted of the misery these gallant men had to endure. The senseless actions, from any aspect, on behalf of their captors is clearly illustrated. By treating the POWs such, the very objectives the Japanese wanted to be met were jeopardized. What comes through here is the emergence of the special "bonding" only the Canadians of "C" Force experienced. In essence, the forming of the "Hong Kong Family".

c) - Post-war reflections - the senselessness of war and the capability of individuals to put the unforgettable atrocities behind them is shown here. These were never forgotten, rarely forgiven, but 'accepted' as life's lot. At the end of the day, the search for, and attainment of, inner peace is humanity's ultimate goal.

*This book is currently out of print, but if sufficient interest is shown, I am informed that the publisher will undertake another limited printing. Probable cost \$20.00 plus postage*



#### 17 Days Until Christmas by Léo Paul Bérard

This book's title belies its name. It gives a much broader view into the life of a

Winnipeg Grenadier member of "C" Force then just that of the 17 days of warfare. It is one's soldier's experiences from the day of enlistment to the ongoing nightmares that continued long after the war ended. As such, it gives a good insight into the thoughts and emotions of one living the military life - from the excitement of enlisting and getting a uniform, to the other extreme of the gauntlet, internment as a Japanese P.O.W..

The author does not dwell on any one aspect, but gives anecdotes of specific events evoked from his diary and recollections. The four major sections are:

- Enlistment to Jamaica (42 pages)
- Hong Kong and the Battle (47 pages)
- The P.O.W. years (87 pages), and
- Post War problems (28 pages).

There are a few photographs which help to set the stage for this interesting recounting of events as seen through the eyes of this Hong Kong Veteran.

The cost of the book is \$25.00 - mailing & handling included

**Second Announcements:**

**Royal Rifles of Canada in Hong Kong**



The third reprinting of this unique book was announced in the last newsletter. We

are listing this a second time since many new members have joined since last September. This book is a must for anyone associated with the Royal Rifles, and excellent reference material for others.

This book has 436 pages in total, divided in 3 parts: Part 1 deals with historical aspects of the Royal Rifles in 1939; the Crown Colony of Hong Kong; the battle as seen by the RRC; and the imprisonment following the surrender. Part 2 is illustrations and photographs supplied by the veterans. Part 3 is mainly personal accounts.

*Because of the limited printing (350 books), the cost is \$50.00 all costs included.*



The inspiring odyssey of a 17-year-old Canadian rifleman who fights the first World War II battle in Asia immediately after disembarking in Hong Kong. is captured the day after Christmas, 1941, and comes of age during the four years he survives some of Japan's harshest prison compounds. He was the



**Guest of Hirohito**

*Kenneth Cambon, M.D.*

**Guest of Hirohito**

by Kenneth Cambon, M.D.

This book, first printed in 1990, has been one of the most popular of books written on the Hong Kong event. It has been translated into seven languages. Written by a Rifleman in "C" Company of the Royal Rifles, apart from brief sections on pre-war and the actual battle, it is as its name implies, - a story of the youngest soldier in the RRC - he had his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday as a POW. The last chapters deal with his return to civilian life. Ken Cambon became a doctor following the

war, and has recently been honoured by McGill University in Montreal.

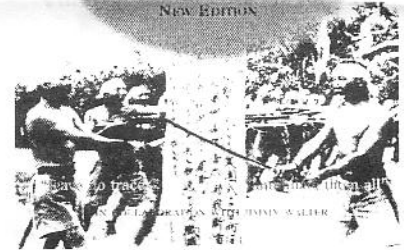
Although the book has been in short supply these past years, a reprint has been made so they are now readily available.

*The cost is \$25.00 shipping and handling included.*

**JACK EDWARDS**

**BANZAI YOU BASTARDS!**

NEW EDITION



**Banzai you Bastards!**  
By Jack Edwards

Many of you that ordered this book from the last newsletter had to wait for delivery since our consignment quickly ran out. The author had a very serious medical problem last fall and lost his sight for a while. He now has it back in one eye.

This book is perhaps the best known book written on Hong Kong during WWII, certainly the most widely published. Written by Jack Edwards, a British veteran and POW, who was a witness at the War Crimes trials and who lives in Hong Kong.

*We are handling these as a convenience to our members and are selling them at cost. The price is \$48.00, all costs included.*

**Veteran's Corner**

I realize that it is just the cycle of life that is the cause, but still, it is very saddening, and unnerving, that we have lost another National President. When I accepted the

task of serving you as your National Secretary, I was energized by the enthusiasm by those serving on your national executive. I had as my mentor, the then President, Roger Cyr. I spent many afternoons at Roger's, learning the background of your association; the way it operated; the written and unwritten rules and practicalities of dealing with the Canadian government; the contacts I must establish; and the process which must be followed to achieve our goals. Roger both praised and chided me on my actions as warranted. He became a second father to me. Then Harry Atkinson decided that I should become involved in the Pensions and Welfare issues. Harry and I spent hours at the Lord Elgin hotel in Ottawa prior to, and after, meetings with Veteran Affairs. I accompanied him to PEI to argue pension and benefit cases on behalf of HK vets. Harry and I often discussed what approaches should be followed on these issues. When Roger resigned, and when Harry was voted President, we had weekly contact. As a result, another very close bond developed. Now we have lost them both, but as the history of the HKVA has demonstrated over the years, another steps in to fill the void with dignity and honour.

The National Executive, as one of its final decisions, established an immediate "line of succession" to serve as President and Spokesperson for the Hong Kong Veterans Association of Canada. Philip Doddridge was named to replace Harry if and when he was no longer able to fulfill the duties of President, and George Peterson was named to succeed Phil if necessary. They also established a procedure to be followed to maintain the line of succession should it be needed.

Phil as you well know, has been the President of the Quebec/Maritimes Branch for the past seven years. He is a very competent individual, well liked and very articulate. Rest assured that you are, and will continue to be, well represented at any function or duty, where he will be called upon on your behalf.

At the Convention in Winnipeg last August, the desire was still there but the body was refusing to supply the strength. The result is now well known, the Hong Kong Veterans Association of Canada will continue to exist under the terms of your Constitution which dictates

it must fold when the second last HK veteran crosses over. All activities on the national level will now be arranged by the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association, and I may state with pride that its members, mainly your sons and daughters, have accepted this assignment with vigour and determination to ensure that the Battle of Hong Kong and the Canadians involved will remain in the public's awareness as long as our children and grandchildren are around. Hopefully they will pass on this special heritage to future generations.

The H.K.V.A. Branches will continue to exist as long as they wish to fulfill the requirements of your Constitution. Many have already chosen to turn over their local activities to the Regional organizations of the HKVCA. In all areas, the Commemorative Association is ready to undertake whatever is asked of them.

- Income Tax - In the last newsletter I mentioned the opportunity of receiving a Disability Tax Credit (Form T-2201). Two more opportunities exist. If you are "an individual who has a permanent mobility impairment and cannot safely use public transportation, as certified by a qualified medical practitioner", you may apply for a Federal Excise Gasoline Tax Credit. In other words, if your doctor does not want you climbing on and off buses (or if a public bus system does not exist where you live) you can apply for this credit. The form number is XE8 (00). Your accountant can provide this, or it can be picked up at any local Canada Customs and Revenue Agency office.

AND, if you live in Ontario, and must have a car to get around for the same reasons as stated above, you can apply for a Retail Sales Tax rebate on the purchase of the car. You need not hold a driver's license yourself, but as long as you purchased the car so that a "Care Giver" (family members qualify) can drive you around, you qualify for this rebate. **IT CAN BE CLAIMED FOR VEHICLES PURCHASED IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS.** The Provincial form number is 1793L (00-01).

I encourage you to take

advantage of these opportunities.

- I am here to serve you. Call me if you need more information on the Tax credit items; on any other problems with Pensions or benefit programs; or with any questions relating to the HKVA.

Derrill Henderson  
National Secretary, HKVA  
75 Priam Way  
Nepean, ON K2H 8S7

Tel: (6130 829-5033

**NOTES AND COMMENTS**

**Atlantic Region Quilt Raffle**

Neil Darrah informs us that a commemorative quilt, made and donated by Verna Pearson of Long Creek, New Brunswick, is being raffled with all proceeds going to the Atlantic Region, HKCVA. This beautiful item features the insignia of the HKVA and the HKVCA, and is in memory of Verna's father who died at Hong Kong. Tickets cost \$2 each, or three for \$5, and can be obtained from Verna Pearson at 20 Highfield Cross Road, Long Creek, N.B., E4C 1K6; Tel 506-362-5376; email [vpearson@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:vpearson@nbnet.nb.ca).

**Ontario Region Newsletter**

*Congratulations!* to the hardworking members of Ontario Region, who recently issued an excellent first edition of their newsletter entitled "The Spirit of the Torch", under the guidance of Pat Turcotte and Lori Smith. See Pat's report under **REGION NEWS** for more information.

**Postal History of C-Force**

In future newsletters, as space permits, we hope to reprint excerpts from C.R. (Ron) McGuire's "Postal History of Canada's World War II Hong Kong Field Force." Ron continues to research this subject, and is interested in hearing from anyone who may have correspondence or postcards received from C-Force members while in Hong Kong and is willing to allow him to scan or photocopy the items. Ron can be reached at (613) 224-3245.

**Ontario's High Schools Curriculum to teach about Hong Kong?**

David Murray (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, HKVCA and Ontario Region Director) has contacted the Hon. Janet Ecker, Ontario Minister of Education, to have Canada's involvement in the defence of Kong Kong added to the grade 9 curriculum. This would mean that Ontario would follow the lead of British Columbia. David is currently awaiting a reply.

**Army Cadet League of Canada  
Ligue Des Cadets deL'Armée du  
Canada**

The Army Cadet League of Canada is a non profit, civilian organization, established in 1971 to partner with the Canadian Forces to support the Army Cadet Program. To help the League do more for Army Cadets and become more pro-active, they are attempting to increase their membership and also develop a more extensive foundation of potential supporters.

If you have any questions, please contact Dave Boudreau, executive director, at 613/ 991-9637 (direct), 877/ 276-9223 (toll free) or by email at [dboudreau@armycadetleague.ca](mailto:dboudreau@armycadetleague.ca). The League address is 305 Rideau Street Ottawa, ON K1N 9E5 and our website can be accessed at: <http://www.armycadetleague.ca>.

**Newsletter by email, *ou en Francais***

Please contact Ian if you would like to receive future newsletters by email.  
*Appelez Ian Doull si vous desirez d'avoir votre copie en Francais.*  
[ian\\_doull@pch.gc.ca](mailto:ian_doull@pch.gc.ca)  
(613) 523-5442

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