

Vol.: 2:1

1978

THE

ROLL CALL

HONGKONG VETERANS ASSOC^N OF CANADA.



*BRITISH COLUMBIA BRANCH
MAGAZINE*

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

L E N T E N T I D E

THE DARKNESS OF WINTER GIVES WAY TO THE LENGTHENING OF THE DAYS IN THE SPRING. IN THESE DAYS COME THE RESURRECTION OF ONE'S HOPES, THE REMOVAL OF PREJUDICE AND THE CULTIVATION OF TOLERANCE.

THERE ARE FEW GIFTS THAT ONE PERSON CAN GIVE TO ANOTHER AS RICH AS UNDERSTANDING. UNDERSTANDING IS A DISPOSITION TO RECOGNIZE SYMPATHETICALLY THE BELIEFS OF OTHERS WITHOUT NECESSARILY EMBRACING THEM. IT CAN BRING BEAUTY TO OUR LIVING.

TO OUR HONGKONG FAMILY AND FRIENDS AT THIS EASTER TIME MAY WE LEAVE WITH YOU THE QUAIN T IDIOM OF A STOIC PHILOSOPHER:

" DOTH A MAN BATHE HIMSELF QUICKLY? THEN SAY NOT "WRONGLY" BUT "QUICKLY". DOTH HE DRINK MUCH WINE? THEN SAY NOT "WRONGLY" BUT "MUCH". FOR WHENCE DO YOU KNOW IF IT WERE ILL DONE TILL YOU HAVE UNDERSTOOD HIS OPINION."

BOB MANCHESTER

ROLL CALL

HONGKONG VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA * BRITISH COLUMBIA BRANCH

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SPRING

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Page 1

AN EASTER GREETING

We take, in this our first issue for 1978, the opportunity of extending our warmest and sincerest Easter Greetings to all fellow Hongkong Veterans, their families and our friends throughout the land. May your Eastertide be a joyous and a happy one and may all the days that follow bring Peace and Serenity into your homes.

It was some thirty five years ago, in the little Chapel of St. Michael, the Archangel, we'd erected in Shumshuipo, that we celebrated another Easter simply and without the pomp and trappings that makes it the spectacle it is to-day and yet, in that bare bomb-shattered hut, I think I felt a greater peace and spiritual nearness than I had ever felt before or since.

It was in that same Chapel that one of the finest choirs that ever sang the Latin Mass was heard. Finest not because of its quality, power or range (alho there were over forty voices), but because the desperate search for the strength and faith in the belief that some day, we'd come through it all not only alive, but better men, made every man give of his utmost best.

Led by a member of the Royal Rifles who had been a choirmaster in Montreal, seldom, if ever, had the "Kyrie", the "Gloria", "Agnus Dei" and "Tantum Ergo" been sung with greater fervor or sound more meaningful.

It is a terrible pity it is not like that to-day. The lovely and solemn Gregorian chants have been replaced by nursery type ditties; the inspiring resonance of the pipe organ by electric guitars and the beautiful "Ave Marias" of Gounod, Schubert and Mascagni by Rock 'n Roll.

It is not for me. For me, celebrating Easter is sitting atop some quiet hill and going back, albeit in memory only, to a desperately poignant Easter in Shumshuipo some thirty five years ago.

A TRIBUTE TO GEORGE PORTEOUS

It was with the deepest regret and sorrow that we learned of the passing of the Hon. George Porteous, M.B.E., C.M., DD. Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, a Hongkong Veteran and a friend, on February 7, 1978 at the age of 74, shortly after returning from a trip to Ottawa.

George was the YMCA Liaison Officer in Hongkong with the Grenadiers and Royal Rifles for the duration of the war and earned his Member of the British Empire award for service to POWs in the camps.

His selfless desire to help his fellow man also saw him elected as Director of the Saskatoon Community Chest and Welfare Society; become one of the founders of the 100-bed Care Home for the Aged which bears his name "Porteous Lodge" in Saskatoon; made Honorary Life Member of the Saskatoon JAYCEES and the Saskatoon Threshermen's Club and in 1972, was presented with B'Nai B'rith's coveted "We Are Proud Of You" award.

In 1974 he received the Medal of Canada and in 1976 attained the highest office his province, Saskatchewan, could offer that of its Lieutenant Governor.

We feel it a privilege to offer him the following, written by a comrade, Harry MacNaughton, in Shumshuipo:

Gone shall be the shadows,
Our hopes are centred on
The life that lies beyond the veil
With the coming of the dawn.
Beyond the veil
Misty from tears
I see the coming dawn
That lies beyond
The yesteryears
With all the shadows gone.
A world that's new
And where we too
In love shall travel on,
From Heaven above
A father's hand
Shall guide us safely on
To anchored rest
Where love is blest
With the coming of the dawn.

EDITORIAL

Taking all things into consideration, I have come to the conclusion that all journalists, especially would-be editors must be loco-in-da-coco as they say in Tehuantepec. Who else but a nut will deliberately stick his neck out and await, with patient tolerance and resignation, the flak that is to be expected from angry and (oftimes not so) articulate to the point of insulting, readers who may, and do, take offence at the written word and proceed to throw everything within reach at said editor?

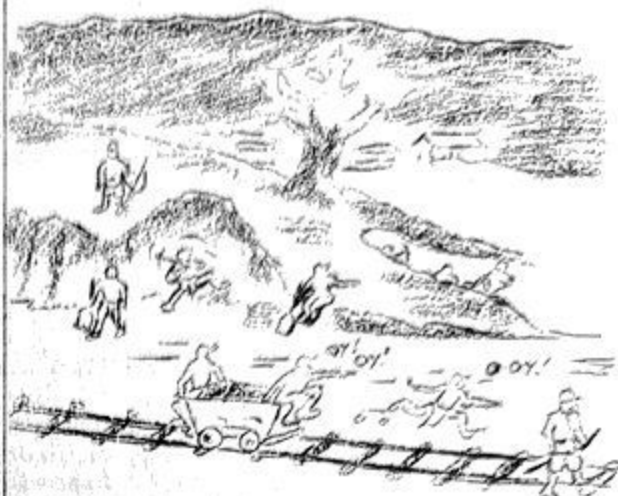
The rewards are few and far between but they are greatly valued and highly prized. In our particular case, however, we must confess that 99% of what is thrown have been warm expressions of encouragement and appreciation which are so sincere that they render us humble and at a loss for words (which is one helluva state for us to be in!). This, therefore, is our way of saying thank you. Keep 'em coming! We like it!!

An abler pen than mine once said that the life-blood of any publication is "controversy". Although no such thing was ever intended, the Roll Call did somehow manage to conjure one up and the result is a reward in itself.

We have, since our last issue, received requests for future issues (some subscriptions even for 1979!) from clear across the continent - from the Atlantic to the Pacific including from south of the border - providing us with that warm feeling of being well on our way towards achieving what we started out to accomplish, the uniting of Hongkong Veterans and our friends across the nation.

We stake no claim to professional ability or status. Instead, we would like this to be a 'let's sit us down together and share' vehicle of communication between friends and we hope it remains that way.

To do this we need your assistance in the form of input. Anecdotes which you may not consider so, are of interest to many who may have shared in same or been part of similar experiences. So, Friend, let us have it and should you require assistance in writing it up, it's there for the asking.



The Kai-Tak Express

THE BEST DAMN ONE THERE IS

Having been told so over and over again, we are committed to ensure that the Roll Call remains the best damn veterans' magazine there is.

One of our goals has been to include word-paintings of life in various prison camps within these pages. We have had Narumi and Sendai 2 stories in length as well as short items on Omori and Ohashi, all of which have proven interesting to our readers.

We are happy to include Oyama in this issue as well as a continuation of the Narumi story from another source. This is what we seek for and look to you, our readers to provide.

One important point must be emphasized. The stories submitted or written as recounted, are from memory of what took place some 35 years ago. Stress at that time and the passing of years may have created some deviation from the actuality. Versions of the same story from other sources may differ, partly because of outlook or individual viewpoint.

If there are differences, we ask you to take them for what they are worth. We do not wish to be the cause of any argument or controversy as to what or who is right or wrong.

What we feel is only gratitude towards those who have so kindly stepped forward with a helpful hand in an effort to make this magazine worthy of your interest.

LETTERS TO THE

EDITOR

HELP WANTED

Sir: Have just received and read your fourth quarter issue of the Roll Call.

I thought it was very good and would like you to send future issues to a friend of mine in Newfoundland.

He is not a Hongkong Vet, but his father, Robert Owens died in a Jap prison camp (Kawasaki) in 1943.

David Owens is trying to get as much information as possible on how his father lived and died while in Japan.

Oswald H. Collett

Transcona, Manitoba.

Thanks, Oswald. I feel sure if any of our boys were there, they'd like to help in one way or another. A photo of Kawasaki Camp is reproduced on the Photo Page. Dave Owens' address: 81, Berteau Ave., St Johns, NFLD. (ED.)

Sir: We've just received our Roll Call. Thank you very very much for all the things you have touched on. It takes a lot of work. Oh! It makes us here feel so much closer to our brother's and sister's families and we read it all. Oh! the sad memory too; around now our hearts are heavy as The One Christmas I Remember.

What I write to you, Sir, it was the same for me. All alone with three children. They open their little stockings with the apple, orange and small gifts my Mother and Sister had sent them as I sat to hear the news. What I heard my heart so heavy, but I brushed the tears from my eyes, prayed and went to join my children. Keep three little hearts happy. I'll never forget those four long years. God Bless you and yours.
Ivy Walton
Calgary, Alta.

Ivy dear: Thank you for your beautiful letter. I have always thought that if courage and anguish can ever be measured and used to compare us POWs and the loved ones at home, the result would be dead-even. Bless you and Joe. Ed.

The nice thing about meditation is that it makes doing nothing quite respectable.

ANOTHER BOUQUET! KEEP ON SPOILING ME!

Sir: I am enjoying the Roll Call very much. It is a real good effort.

Enclosed is a small donation to help in any way it can be used.

Naramata, B.C. Reg Kerr

Glad you enjoy it, Reg, and thanks for the thought.

Dear John: Just a few lines to say thank you for the Roll Call. I enjoyed it very much.

I am sending you a little cash to help you, keep up the good work. Lots of luck and good wishes.

Maurice Lapointe

Penticton, B.C.

Thanks, Maurice. We must get together again. When did you move out of Portage La Prairie? God Bless. ED.

A HUNDRED PERCENTER, IN EVERY WAY

Dear John: I am enclosing a money order and trust that it will help in a small measure to keep the Roll Call coming in to me and our comrades during the coming year.

I certainly do not envy you as Editor of the Roll Call, as you will be in that awkward position of being a Target for the cynical, the ignoramus, the crank and the nincompoop. But thank God, John, they are in the minority.

I'll close by saying hang-in there, old comrade and don't let them get you down. I'm for the Roll Call 100% and I don't expect perfection.

May God Bless you for the work you are doing for us.

Al Shayler

Vancouver, B.C.

If the stuff being thrown is the same as what you and the rest of the boys are throwing, I don't mind being a target. Not one littee bit! Hope the leg is not troubling you further. With the warmer weather coming, it should help. Keep pitching and 'rots 'o ruck! ED.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (continued)

Sir: My husband and I enjoy the letters and articles.

Just can't help wondering why so much credit is given to the 'Hon.'? Daniel MacDonald - for what? I have yet to have him follow through with any requests made by me (for my husband)-promises and more promises, I don't think he's worthy of holding office. I wonder if somewhere in the Roll Call mention could be made, or suggestions given for Veterans to write and ask that a commendation be given to the Hon. Stanley Knowles who has worked so hard for all veterans for so many years.

(Mrs) Frances Zytaruk
Winnipeg, Man.

Excellent suggestion. We'll work on it, and thank you. ED

Sir: Enclosed is a poem entitled "Shaughnessy hospital in the spring", written by my daughter Leslie at the age of 21. During the Spring of 1974 I was a patient at Shaughnessy and Leslie came to visit me. Being an up-patient, we went for a stroll through all those gloomy corridors filled with shells of men who once were the proud defenders of liberty. Leslie was so overcome with the tragedy that met her eyes that after our visit she went out into the garden amidst the peace and quiet of the daffodils and sat down to write this poem.

I submit this because, to my mind, out of the thoughts of this youth pours the horrors, devastation, stupidity and aftermath of war.

Padre Laite pleads that we must not forget. With this I heartily concur, but we must also think of our present position in the future destiny of our nation. Prejudice, unfortunately, is inherent in all of us and we are so susceptible to propaganda. I refer chiefly to our national dilemma, the unity crisis. We, of all groups and organizations, should be above the weakness of prejudice. Through this, 'our publication', let us uphold the principles for which we gave so much.

MEL KEYWORTH

Powell River, B.C.

Thank you for your understanding and support. That beautiful poem is reprinted within this issue with pride. ED.

'BANGO' AT SENDAI

Capt. Patrick M. Cmeyla, ex-U.S. Medical Corps and O/C at Sendai 2, has very kindly and thoughtfully provided me with the official Camp roster drawn up by RQMS E. Casey (HKVDC) in the summer of 1944 at the Yoshima Coal Mine, Sendai 2. This is not the complete list of the 253 POWs there but only Winnipeg Grenadiers, Royal Rifles and those HKVDC members who are or were members of the B.C. Branch, who survived to return home.

Grenadiers

Bradbury, C.
Chatwell, J.W.
Davies, J.C.
Furey, J.
Haskayne, T. +
Ingles, W.D.
MacTier, A.W. +
Morgan, G.O. +
Mulvaney, T.
Novak, L.
Paulson, S.W.
Peterson, G.N.
Peterson, M.A.
Poitras, F.W.
Pollock, J.D.
Reich, E.
Rix, D.E.
Shayler, E.
Slovinsky, W.
St. Germaine, T.E. +
Swartz, A.
Temple, G.A.
Vale, S.A.
Wilson, R.C.

R.C.C.S.

Beeton, J.D.

Royal Rifles

Boissoneault, W.
Court, W.H.
Cyr, A.
Glen, J.
Hamilton, W.W.
Jamieson, D.A.
Ladds, W.T.
Lalime, J.P.
Matchett, E.B.
Meredith, C.
Patton, H.B.
Pelletier, P.O.
Pryce, A.K.
Smith, E.C.
Thirlwell, W.G.J.
Valcourt, L.
Wellman, D.
Weston, A.M.
Wood, L.G.K.
Wurm, V.J.

H.K.V.D.C.

Fonseca, J.C.
Roza, M.L. da +
Sequeira, V.A.C.
Souza, H.A. +

With your help we hope to be able to publish similar lists of prisoners of other camps in Japan in subsequent issues. If you were somewhere in Japan during 1943-45, please help with a list of as many POWs in the same camp as you that you can recollect. We be glad to take it from there.

NOTICE: The next issue will be published early June. Deadline for submissions is 31 May 1978 (delivered). Veterans (outside of B.C.) wishing to receive the Roll Call, please send your subscriptions together with name, address and postal code to: The Roll Call, 796 Adiron Ave, Coquitlam, B.C. V3J4K2 or 3628 Saanich Rd, Victoria, B.C. V8X1X3

WELL, SOMEBODY'S GOT TO SAY IT ...

At the risk of being accused of flogging a dead horse, what has transpired since that glib sermon from the Hill.. " ..veterans and 'good Canadians' .etc" confirms that we veterans are being well and truly shafted.

The way his colleagues went about disposing the non-existent (?) cash indicates the presence of sufficient gas to warrant the Hon. Minister of Veterans Affairs to rush off to the nearest drug store for a substantial quantity of plop! plop! fizz! fizz! to enable him to get down off that cloud nine he's soared to and practice what he preaches.

I speak of the immediate turn-about after his flag waving utterance which saw our MPs voting themselves a \$2,100 pay raise on top of what they're already overpaid(this includes the tax-free \$12,000 p.a.) and not forgetting that pension for life after two terms being salted away.

Following this was the earmarking of \$75 millions for the cultural aspirations of national minorities(I wonder who they can be?). May I suggest to the Hon. Mister Minister that there are 190,000 veterans constituting a minority whose cultural aspirations are the maintenance of Canadian (and no way hyphenated either!) unity, honor and dignity from their representatives , apart from keeping body and soul together on a pittance.

Then we have those two futile "junkets": the cross country 'Unity' binge and the Trudeau vs Premiers charade - both of which must have cost taxpayers a packet with neither accomplishing anything sufficiently significant to justify the money spent and which could have been better served by: a questionnaire mailed to every taxpayer in the country in the first place, and over the Bell Telephone System - you've seen that TV commercial: "Operator? Please get me a Conference Line.!!" whereupon everybody starts on: "I can't give you anything but gas, Baby!" in the second place.

Sure, we veterans realise the need for restraint. Our grocery bill tells us! But, do you? You're talking to the wrong guys, feller! Look around at those intelligent looking colleagues of yours thumping industriously on desk tops! Tell it to THEM! Not US! They're the ones getting the money(our money)you say you haven't got! THE FONZ

UNKNOWN SOLDIERS



The Nullah Fatigue Men

OUR "SO SORRY" DEPARTMENT

A big SO SORRY to those of our readers who received their copies later than intended because of circumstances beyond our control. We hope the belated delivery of our Christmas and Season's Greetings did not detract one bit from the cheer and sincerity that went with the sending.

In 'Hither and Yon' we reported the incident of the 'malnutreated' hog as having occurred at the OHASHI Camp. It didn't! It happened at OMORI. They tell me it was the first FAT-LESS pig that's ever been eaten. Perhaps we shouldn't feel So Sorry after all!

Somewhere on Page 14 (in the last issue) 'Now it can be Told', top of second column, we missed an 'm' in 'remembered. Also, on Page 17, first line, we've got "baxes" (Now wotinels' a "bax"?) so sorry for the typographical error. The old Brothers Portable was talking of " Strike Notice!" " So Sorry!"

A "So Sorry" to have to remind those who want but forgot to send in their subscription(\$3.00) for the Roll Call. It isn't too late. A limited number of this issue will be available on a first come, first serve basis.

YOU ARE NEARER GOD'S HEART....

Like most people who live out in suburbia, we possess a bit of territory we proudly call "our garden" and, like many who have never owned one before, discovered that a garden can be a paradise or a hell of frustration, depending upon one's ability to take what it dishes out.

Take ours for instance. Unlike most other gardens, there is a deep brush-covered ravine attached at the bottom of which a trickle of a stream flows and gurgles happily in dry weather. When it rains it turns into a roaring torrent which eventually joins the mighty Pacific and in all likelihood, deposits debris in the form of bi-lingual labels of goods made in Canada on the shores of some Japanese island much to the annoyance of the natives thereon. To us, it either keeps us awake all night or lulls us into deep slumber, depending on how we feel.

The ravine is inhabited by sundry forms of animal life in the shape of moles, squirrels, raccoons and a cute tri-coloured bushy-tailed creature armed with an automatic sprayer as its sole weapon of defence which when used to repel the enemy, is more devastating than anything a skunk can offer.

As far as we are concerned, the only time this sprayer operates is when its owner gets into our basement and the dogs, duped into believing they're bloodhounds, try to chase it. Our furnace gets involved by picking up the smell and diffusing it into every room in the house. When this occurs around 1:00 a.m. in a cold and raw January night, you sure got problems!

Then there is the work (idiots call it gardening!) involved. You get a weed-covered and rock-strewn piece of ground and you plough it, screen it, level it and add top soil to it. Then you seed it, scare the hell out of the starlings that feed on the seed, fill up the pad-prints of the dogs that every so often decide to scamper on it and watch over it like doting parents. And one day you see a trace of green and your cup brims over.

Pretty soon you are the proud possessor of a lovely lawn. And pretty soon also, your neighbour, who could care less,
(continued next column)

has a lovely crop of dandelions who are determined to 'homestead' on your side of the fence. So the second stage of the drama begins. You dig. It develops into a kind of pagan ritual. Both you and the Missus get down on your knees and, surrounding yourselves in a cloud of profanity, assiduously root out the intruders one by one. At the same time you are spending a small fortune on antidotes suggested by well-meaning (or friends which range from solvents to anti-perspirants to T.N.T.

Then the moles who have been interestedly listening to your digging, decide to play too and, digging in reverse, industriously decorate your lawn with mounds of newly dug earth overnight in the most prominent spots. The dogs, not to be left out, pitch in by digging for the moles and the raccoons, join in by cutting up chunks of sod and rolling them neatly into grassy jam-rolls.

You begin to think of surrender and the rains which come just in time to split open the cherries ripe for the picking is the last straw and you decide to quit.

But suddenly, the roses are in full bloom, the gladioli more delicate and beautiful than ever and the season for dandelions is over, and you don't.

There are few things that provide more pleasure and contentment than a well-kept garden in full bloom on a calm warm summer evening as you relax, steaks sizzling over the barbecue pit, the beer chilled to perfection, good friends around you and the mosquitoes and sandflies vacationing in Florida.

Someone once wrote:

The kiss of the sun for a pardon.
The song of the birds for mirth.
You are nearer God's heart in a garden
Than anywhere here on earth.

So true! Can't wait to get back at it!

THE ROLL CALL.

A quarterly magazine sponsored by the British Columbia Branch of the Hongkong Veterans Association of Canada.

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B. C. BRANCH NEWSLETTER Feb.1978

General Meeting: Saturday, March 11th. 1978 at the Astor Motor Hotel, 4561, Kingsway, Burnaby, B.C. Business Meeting: 2:30 p.m.; Dinner: 6:30 p.m. (\$7.00 per person) Top Sirloin Beef and Yorkshire Pudding etc.

National News: Chas. Brady, Nat'l Pres. continues to fight for basic increased disability pensions. Congratulations to Charlie on being promoted to Honorary Lt.Col. of his old regiment, the Royal Rifles of Canada. John Stroud, Toronto, has been elected Vice Chairman of the National Council of Veterans of Canada.

Branch News: Your Branch Executive held an important meeting in Victoria, B.C. on January 28th. John Davies, Treasurer, reports the finances in good shape. Our membership continues to grow and John Fonseca says the next issue of the Roll Call will be mailed shortly after the General Meeting and before Easter.

James Archibald, ex R.R.C., of Ontario, has moved to Surrey, B.C. and should be at our meeting March 11. Jack Brady of Gig Harbor, Wash., U.S.A. reports several of our American Ex-POW friends from south of the border, will be coming up to our Meeting so be sure to be there to give them a BIG WELCOME. Many thanks to Ralph Ingram who arranged his trip to Hongkong to attend the Annual Memorial Service (Canadian) December 11, 1977, at Sai-Wan Cemetery. It is good to know that a member of the B.C. Branch was there to represent our Hongkong family in Canada. Cliff Chadderton, Ex-Secretary of the War Amps and a great friend of the H.K. Boys, was recently awarded the "Order of Canada" by the Governor-General of Canada in Ottawa. We salute you, Cliff, for the high honour conferred on you and which is so richly deserved.

Obituaries: Brig. F.T. Atkinson, Kings-ton, Ont.; Arthur Alden, Lennoxville, P.Q. His Hon. George Porteous, Lt. Governor of Saskatchewan, have all passed away since we last met. To their families and friends we extend our profound sympathy. May the Good Lord grant them Peace and Rest.

Sick List: Earl Mawson, Tom Mulvaney, Mort McKay, Aubrey Flegg, Bud Orr, Ken Hogarth, Bill Sarginson, Bert Broadfoot, Art Ferrall, Tony Neault and Ed Toews (continued next column)

BITS 'N PIECES

The B.C. Branch is proud to have participated in helping the Variety Club's Telethon, with a \$50 donation, which saw the Club top the \$1 million mark for the first time in its history, towards the building of a new hospital for crippled children. Sure feels good!

Congrats to Lionel Speller for being re-elected to represent Branch #31 of Royal Canadian Legion at its Dominion Convention in Edmonton this June 1978.

You are reminded that all members of the B.C. Branch are invited to attend the Washington State Convention of the American EX-POWs, scheduled for May 26th and 27th in Olympia, Wash. More details in our next newsletter.

The boys from the Canadian Signal Corps - Ray Squires, Lionel Speller, Tony Grimston, Walter Jenkins, Gerry Gerrard John Douglas, Howie Naylor, Rollie D'Amours, Don Beeton, Mel Keyworth and Ted Kurluk as well as other members of our Branch look forward to a visit by Lt.Col. Monty Truscott, Royal Corps of Signals, to Victoria in September this year. Monty lives in Dorsetshire, England and is one very popular British officer amongst Canadian veterans.

Veterans John Stroud and Leo Cyr, will be meeting with Mr. John R. Wood, lawyer, representing the American EX-POWs, in Sarasota, Florida sometime this month to discuss presenting claims on our behalf for maltreatment and forced labour in conjunction with those being presented by our American comrades. The results of the discussions will be made available early April from Toronto.

IMPORTANT: Veterans are urged to make sure your Doctor submits his report to the D.V.A. after you've been to him for any kind of service. It is imperative that treatment, illness, prescriptions issued are recorded in your personal file at the D.V.A.

NEWSLETTER (continued from next column)

have all being seeing their doctors or are in hospital. We all wish you speedy recovery and hope to see you at our meeting.

DUES are due for 1978 \$10.00 per year.

NARUMI - THE GRAND FINALE

By Jan Solecki

With reference: Now It Can Be Told - Narumi. Let me finish the story, because I was in that camp till the end, and it was from this camp that we marched to freedom.

I did not keep a diary, so I can't give you the dates; perhaps if we make a beginning others will write in and provide further details. After the earthquake there came bombings that increased in frequency and destructiveness. Some time in the spring of 1945, the locomotive factory you mention in the report was bombed with incendiaries and pretty well everything that could burn went up in flames; among others, this included the timber yard and the wood-working section where railroad box-cars were made. Three or four weeks later, the factory was bombed once again with high explosives, and nothing but rubble remained of the enterprise which, prior to our arrival in Japan, had produced close to one locomotive a day. From then on our work at the factory consisted of carting the rubble out.

We knew nothing of the first atom bomb, but a day or two later we read in the Japanese newspapers (stolen and translated in camp) that the Americans had dropped on Japan a bomb of immense size. On the day after the second atom bombing (Nagasaki: August 9, 1945), or perhaps a day later, we were back at the factory doing our usual cleaning job, when we were called in at about 10:30 a.m. and taken back to camp. I heard from the foreman, Yamaguchi, that the Emperor was about to make a speech.

We were brought to the camp and locked in our barracks. Then the guards brought out machine guns, mounted them on tripods and trained them on our barracks. Even after thirty years, I still remember the sensation of being a sitting duck. Dressed in their best, the guards lined up in front of the guard-house. It did not take much imagination to work it out that if the Emperor called for resistance to the end we would have been disposed of as undesirable nuisances. But nothing like that happened. After the speech, the guards dismantled the guns and left us in the barracks, locked up and without any information.

(continued next column)

Late in the afternoon we were told that we would not be going to the factory the next day and when a honey cart came to pick up the night soil next morning, we managed to snatch his paper. We were astounded! The war was over and we free! Father O'Reilly, the Catholic padre for the 200 Americans who joined us in the camp about six months after our arrival (about mid-1944), demanded to see the camp Commandant.

At first the Commandant refused to see him, but in the end he agreed. When O'Reilly told him that he knew the war was over and demanded that the Commandant surrender the camp to him, the Commandant threatened him with punishment for breaking regulations, but he quickly saw the absurdity of his attitude. O'Reilly demanded the release of the American fliers, who were kept in 3x3x3 boxes as punishment for having been shot down over Japan. Instead, the Commandant gave him the keys and told him to do it himself.

Five seconds after the Padre's return our doors were unlocked and we could go out. We bought the bullock that pulled the honey cart and by the end of that fateful day had slaughtered and eaten it. The next day we were spotted by American aircraft, and so far as we were concerned our lean days were over. Almost every day a dozen B-24's would come over and release food and other supplies and by the time we left the camp to go to Amamatsu, to be taken to U.S. destroyers then to a Hospital ship for medical processing, then back to destroyers to be transported to Tokyo, we had enough food and supplies to last the camp a year.

The camp commandant and some of the guards remained with us in the camp until we left. They were there to see that we were safe! I heard from Jim Bertram that the camp Commandant was executed and that some of the guards were located and tried.

I was back in Nagoya in the summer of 1976, but the Japanese company, whose guest I was, was not co-operative and did nothing to help me locate the factory or take a trip to it. Perhaps some day I'll return to Narumi to see what happened to our old camp.

HITHER AND YON WITH THE FONZ

Padre Laite mailed a Christmas Card to his lovely wife, Sally, on 7 December 1941 from Hongkong and inserted a dollar bill for son, Grayson, who was only 12 years old. Sally tells me that she received that card shortly AFTER the Padre returned to Canada in 1945 - some four years later. We are not permitted to repeat what Grayson, 16 by then, had to say about the purchasing power of the dollar in 1945.

Cutting from an Island paper:

" ANOTHER DAY 36 YEARS AGO"

Christmas Day 1977.

Half a dozen Second World War veterans, one wife and a daughter turned up at the Unknown Soldier statue in front of the Legislative Buildings.

Thirty six years ago on Dec. 25, the men were among 1,500 Canadian soldiers captured by the Japanese and taken to prison camps in Hongkong. Of the total, 558 died.

One modest wreath with rusty legs and a banner reading Hong Kong Veterans Association was laid and the group recited a prayer.

It was the only memorial service held in Canada on Christmas Day. "

.. and to think they get paid for that brutal kind of reporting! All he apparently noticed were - the rusty legs!

It was with pleasure that we received the January 22 issue of WAX-POW (Washington American Ex-PoW) Newsletter which contained the "A Salute to Our Canadian Friends" (printed elsewhere in this issue) and we are grateful for the sentiments expressed. At this juncture we would like to congratulate both Alfred and Charlotte Galloway on their being elected as Commander and Adjutant respectively of the Seattle Chapter for 1978. Best wishes are extended to Don Morgan, one of the organisers of the 1978 State Convention for its success. All three of the above-named were welcomed guests at our Branch Annual Meeting in Victoria last October.

Excerpt from letter to Welfare Dept:
".. my husband got his project cut off last week, and I haven't had any relief since."

The most disappointing and frustrating thing suffered by the Executive and the membership of the B.C. Branch after the initial shock of the sudden passing of friend and comrade, The Hon. George Porteous, M.B.E., Lt-Governor of the Province of Saskatchewan, was our inability to ascertain when and where the State Funeral in his honour was to be held, so that we could attend, both in our official capacity and personally as his friends.

Telegrams to Ottawa and Regina seeking this information failed to elicit replies in time (we were informed too late that his internment was held Saturday, 11 February 1978).

Enquiries on flight availability from airlines revealed that due to the uncertain adverse weather conditions in that area, no assurance could be offered as to landings at Regina with the result that we were left high, dry and helpless.

Received a phone call from Fred Boughey ex No.22 Coy (Fortress) R.E., and ex-POW Shumshuipo and Japan, whilst here on a short visit to his sister and who lives in Darley Abbey, Derbyshire, England.

Other than being at Shumshuipo at the same period, I'd never met Fred. Our acquaintanceship dated back to 1970, when a small group of Hongkong Veterans celebrated the Silver Jubilee of their release in 1945, here in Vancouver. The local papers played it up and Fred was sent a clipping of the goings-on. His letter of congratulations and good wishes started a friendship by correspondence which culminated in our meeting finally, and a most pleasant afternoon of reminiscing.

Apart from going through what all of us did, and contracting Parkinson's Disease in the process, Fred had something more to add. Two months before he's been sent out to Hongkong in 1941, he'd made it out of Dunkirk in an open boat! He left a message: It is: "Happy Yasumei" to all Canadian Hongkong Veterans. It comes from him and, unofficially, from his fellow Far East POWs in England.

" The thing that separates the men from the boys is the cost of car insurance - and you can stick that in your ear!

B. C. BRANCH GENERAL MEETING

The first of our Bi-Annual General Meetings was held at the Astor Motor Inn, in Burnaby, B.C. Saturday, 11 March, with about forty members and guest from Washington State, in attendance.

The Meeting was called to order by our President, Bob Manchester at 2:30 p.m. and was followed by observation of two minutes silence in memory of comrades who have passed on recently. They were: Arthur Alden, Brig. F.T. Atkinson and The Hon. George Porteous, Lt. Governor of Saskatchewan.

Treasurer Jack Davies' report revealed that the Branch's finances remain in a healthy state in spite of expenditures amounting to \$700.00 which went towards bursaries, donations to charitable organisations and production costs of the Roll Call. This latter, however, was partially offset by receipt of very welcomed donations and subscriptions from members in B.C. and elsewhere.

Concern was expressed at the apparent attempt to turn down and minimise Prisoner Disability claims by veterans attending re-boarding examinations, by the current DVA, and it was decided to press and fight for what was, by legislation, rightfully due veterans, especially at this stage when, more than ever, the ill effects of prison camp life are becoming increasingly evident as we grow older.

Two members brought up the question of misuse of privileges by Associate Member and this, with tacit agreement from the floor, was discussed at some length.

Of note, was the proposal to include the wives and widows of Hongkong Veterans to full membership of the Branch. As one member put it: These good ladies, many of whom have had to bear and help during the difficult period of re-adjustment by returning POWs, for so many years, deserve the right to full membership, if they so desire, even to attaining Executive status.

New faces, a few first-timers at our meetings, were welcomed by our President, Bob Manchester. They included Bert Broadfoot (Campbell River), Archie Clements (Van) and Prof. Jan Soleski (Van) of UBC. Also from Washington State came: Comm. Reg Reed (State Commander); Comm. Don Morgan (North-Western Chapters) and Jack Brady (former U.S. Nat'l Commander).

A GRACEFUL "THANK YOU"

It is an honor and privilege to relay the following message from Mrs. Kathleen Porteous, widow of our comrade, the late Hon. George Porteous, Lt. Governor of Saskatchewan, who passed away on February 7, 1978 at Saskatoon:

" PLEASE SAY A SPECIAL THANKS
TO THOSE HONGKONG VETERANS
WHO HAVE SENT CONDOLENCES.

BLESS YOU FOR YOUR KIND
THOUGHTS AND SYMPATHY.

KATHLEEN PORTEOUS "

AN ENJOYABLE "SHINDIG"

The Dinner Dance that followed our Annual Meeting, although not as well attended as some previous get-togethers, was a thoroughly enjoyable if somewhat noisy one. The last minute acquisition of Bill Henderson's Band, preventing adequate notice to members, and friends, can be blamed for this, but could not be avoided.

Over sixty, however, were in attendance and most welcomed of all were widows of our former comrades in the persons of: Mrs. Annie Oomen, Mrs. Alice Weir, Mrs. Marion Zarcoe and Mrs. G. Hooper. Very welcomed too were the Padre and Sally Laite; Gordie Price, all the way from Coronach, Sask.; Mrs. Elsa Fonseca who made her first appearance at our do's and Mrs. Audrey Brady, Mrs. Don Morgan and Mrs. Reg Reed, all from south of the border.

The dinner - Roast Beef and Yorkshire Pudding with trimmings, was excellent - even if 'Oor Bob did splatter dessert topping all over the shop! and the band sure did enliven things.

The only sour note were two treacherous steps leading down from the foyer which in the dim light, caused two dangerous falls by our ladies. A particularly bad one resulted in Mrs. Marion Morris getting a deep cut on her chin which may require stitches. Hope both ladies are alright and not more seriously hurt.

My pal is a feller named Speller
Who, though small has a helluva beller.
He's not big as they go,
But from his head to his toe,
He's got guts of all colors-but yellor!

A VICE-REGAL STATE FUNERAL FOR A HONG-KONG VETERAN

A tremendously impressive Vice-Regal State Funeral was accorded the late Hon. George Porteous, Lieut. Governor of Saskatchewan and a Hongkong Veteran, who passed away suddenly on 7 February 1978 and was interred in Saskatoon on Saturday, 11 February 1978.

A delegation representing the Hongkong Veterans Association of Canada paid their final respects to our comrade as he lay in state at the funeral home on Friday, 10 February.

George Porteous was accorded full Military and Civilian Honours at both the Church service and the ceremonial parade preceding internment, with a 21-gun Royal Salute, with the flag draped casket borne on a gun-carriage, a 'fly-past' by planes of the CFB Squadron over the gravesite and complements from Military, R.C.M.P., Municipal Police, Civil Organisations and groups from schools, together with dignitaries from all levels of Governments and people from all sectors of the population, forming the long cortege.

In recognition of the closeness of our ties with the late George Porteous, the Hongkong Veterans' delegation was given the honour of being designated the Official Mourners and followed the casket during the parade, leading the detachment from the R.C.M.P.

That evening, our delegation, by special request from Mrs. Kathleen Porteous, widow of the deceased, attended the formal gathering at the Porteous home. Amongst the dignitaries present were: Premier Alan Blakeney (Sask); Their Honours, Lt. Gov. Robichaud (N.B.); Lt. Gov. and Mrs. Ralph Steinhaur (Alta); Mr. Esmond Butler, (Gov.-Gen. Rep); Mr. Otto Lang (Fed. Govt Rep.); the Hon. John Diefenbaker and the Hon. Mervyn Woods (author of the Woods' Report on CPC-DVA Study).

Of special note to all veterans is that Mrs. Kathleen Porteous requests that she be remembered by all Hongkong Veterans across Canada.

Our delegation comprised the following: Comrades Sid Vale, Frank Harding, Howard and Clara Donnelly, Pete Bogard, Mrs. Sellars (widow), Dave and Clara Martin, Joe Hanel and Charles Brady (President).

DEDICATION

by the late SID VARCOE

It may be that this is the wrong song
To offer to comrades who fell,
But here's to the heroes of Hong Kong,
And here's to the cowards, as well!
Impartially, gallant and craven
Repose beyond eulogy's reach:
And Death in his limitless haven,
Grants slumber to each.

I offer this brief dedication
To all whom death chose to disband:
The men of the South China Station
Who sleep in this alien land.
For us are the streets of the city,
The wail of a home-coming train;
A sound full of infinite pity
For these, who remain.

We'll posture in garments of glory;
Who'd tear up his ticket to fame?
And print the incredible story
Of those dead to honor or shame?
That story may never be written,
But over our glasses of ale,
There's many a name will be smitten
In telling the tale.

(Reprinted with kind permission from
Mrs. Marion Varcoe, widow of the author)

SCOTCH SAKE ON THE ROCKS !!

Hidden away amongst the mass of papers and cuttings strewn all over my desk, I discovered an item which I think will be of interest to those who have the next Yuletide celebrations on their minds.

It comes from Dundee, Scotland (where else!) and is the brain-child of that city's town-councillor. It teaches us how to make Rice Whisky at home at an approximate cost of two bits a bottle! And here's how!

Place 3 lbs round (not long) grain rice; 1 lb chopped raisins; 3 lbs white sugar; juice of one lemon and 1 gal. warm water into a large bowl. Add 1 oz yeast (dissolved). Cover with cloth and let stand for 12 days in a warm location, stirring occasionally for the first three days. After the 12 days, skim off top and filter into clean cask or stone jar. Store in cold dry place for six months then bottle.

Go to it, men, and Good Luck!

REPORTS AND NEWSLETTERS FROM OTHER BRANCHES

MANITOBA BRANCH NEWSGENERAL MEETINGS:

You are reminded once again that all Manitoba Branch General Meetings are now held in the Army and Navy Hall, 299 Young Street, Winnipeg. All Hongkong Membership Cards (1978) will be honored. The next General Meeting will be held Wednesday, June 7, 1978.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the dates for the 1979 National Convention will be September 12-16, 1979, at the North Star Inn, Winnipeg. Room rates are not available until the fall of this year, so will advise at that time. It is not too early to start making your plans to be in Winnipeg at that time.

GOLF TOURNAMENT:

The Annual Manitoba Branch Golf Tournament is all set for Sunday, June 11, 1978, in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. Our good member Ken McCulley, of Portage la Prairie, is in charge of arrangements. Application forms will be inserted in our next news letter.

ANNUAL REUNION (1978)

Entertainment Chairman, Ike Friesen, reports that our next Annual Reunion will be held Saturday, October 14, 1978, at the International Inn, Winnipeg. We will keep you posted on further developments.

OBITUARIES:

We regret to inform you of the death of Lt. Joseph S. Rymarchuk, Associate Member of the Manitoba Branch. Lt. Rymarchuk was a career soldier with service in the Second World War and Korea. Following his retirement in 1974 he became connected with the Winnipeg Grenadier Cadet Corps. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Mrs. Rymarchuk and family.

George Porteous, who will be remembered as the Y, M, C, A. Liaison Officer, attached to "C" Force, passed away February 7, 1978 in Saskatoon. George was a member of the Northern Alberta-Saskatchewan Branch and at the time of his passing was Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan. We, of the Manitoba Branch, extend our deepest sympathies to Mrs. Porteous, and the family.

(continued next column)

(Manitoba Branch continued)

HOSPITAL:

As of this date Gordon Cole is the only Manitoba Member in Hospital. We wish Gordon a speedy recovery.

MEMBERSHIP:

A sincere thank you to those who have paid their membership dues for 1978 and also to those who have made donations to the branch in 1978. Membership dues are still only \$10.00 per year.

SID VALE
Secretary-Treasurer

QUEBEC-MARITIMES BRANCH

A copy of the above Branch's Newsletter has been received with a request that the following be publicised:

The Quebec-Maritimes Annual Branch Re-Union has been scheduled for September 1 thru 3, 1978 in Atholville, New Brunswick. For those who intend to attend, the following Hotels and Motels will be receiving early reservations and are recommended: Hotels: The First Canadian, Regal and The Chateau. Motels: Wandlyn, Forty Winks and Clipper. All, but the last named, are located in Campbelltown, N.B., the Clipper is situated at Cross Point, P.Q. over the bridge. Room rates range from \$18 single to \$38 for four per night.

An item which should be of interest to many veterans is that a History of the Royal Rifles is in the process of being written. Interested veterans may apply for reservation of advanced copies (at \$7.95) to The Township Sun Books, Box 420, Waterville, P.Q. who are publishers.

By a strange coincidence, mention is made of the Kawasaki Camp, subject of a Letter to the Editor on Page 4 of this issue. We wish to extend our very warmest greetings to John Kaine, who was crippled in a mine accident at that camp on 28 April 1943 and has not been able to walk since. Hang in there, John!

Dave Owens: Please take note. John's almost in your back yard. Suggest you contact him. Now aren't you glad you've got a ROLL CALL?

NOW IT CAN BE TOLD - OEYAMA
as related by Gordie Sissons

Oeyama, the little village north of Osaka and somewhere in Central Honshu, and whose existence revolved around the iron and nickel surface mine in that area, was the end of the journey for between 500 to 600 Allied prisoners of war comprising Canadians and Imperial troops from Shumshuipo, Hongkong, Americans from the Phillipines, Dutch from Indonesia (the Dutch East Indies during World War II) and Australians and New Zealanders from Malaya.

There were two hundred from Shumshuipo who sailed off in an old tramp named the "Heiho Maru" - which was, of course, immediately re-named "Hell Hole Maru" by the POWs - who consisted of a mixed bag of Canadians, Hongkong Volunteers and British Regulars.

The "Hell-Hole Maru" sailed from Hongkong sometime during the fall (August ?) of 1943 and after the usual bad pitching and tossing off the Pratas Bank in the South China Sea, stopped at Keelung in northern Formosa (Taiwan) for three days, during which it rained continuously.

The final leg - Japan - which normally took three days, - took almost two weeks and added much to the despair and discomfort of the men crammed into the two holds (200 in the forward hold and 300 in the after hold).

They docked at Osaka, after threading their way through the Inland Sea of Japan and from there, were transported by rail through the mountains directly to Oeyama where they would remain for the duration. Fifty one would be there permanently, with a peak death rate of 28 in February 1945.

Gordie worked at both the ore face and the 'shigotan', the coal feeder to the heating-drying unit until his accident - a pick-axe through his hand - relegated him to the ranks of the unemployed and eventually became the camp's shoe repairer.

Of the Japanese personnel at Oeyama, only two received any mention. These were the two interpreters: American born KAWAKITA and FUJISAWA. The latter, when compared to Kawakita, was the "GOOD GUY", while the former apparently belonged to the same club as 'Four-Eyes', the Kamloops Kid and members of that ilk. Definitely, (continued next column)

but definitely, "bakaeiros!"

We have an awesome example of 'retribution' reported in connection with Kawakita.

We are told that an American POW, Brian Hislop of Little Rock, Arkansas, and former inmate at Oeyama, walked smack into Kawakita in the streets of San Francisco (this should make a good episode for the TV series. Burbank please take note!) sometime in the late 1960s. He wasted no time in turning the guy in to the authorities and we understand the interpreter of Oeyama is languish in some cell, and will, for the next 20 years.

Gordie has in his possession a photograph taken after the surrender of Japan, showing a representative group from all nations in the camp, which acted as the honour guard at the flag-raising ceremony there. The Union Jack, Stars and Stripes, the Norwegian and Dutch flags were raised simultaneously. Commonwealth representatives were: F.G. Sissons (W.G.) Canada; Jock Sutherland (Royal Scots) U.K.; W.O.L. ? Graham (Australian Air Force) ANZAC.

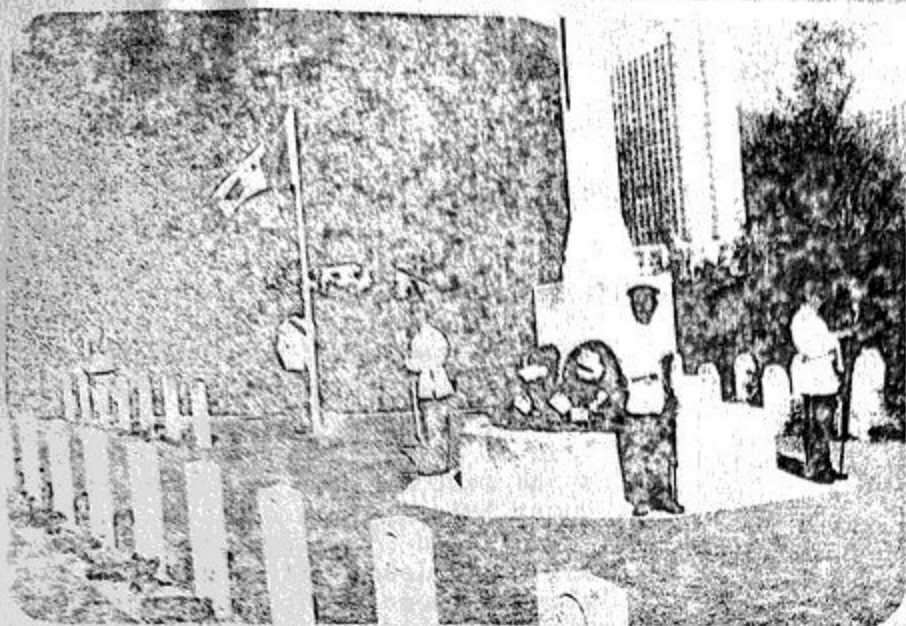
His return to Canada was effected by train to Yokohama, spent three days on board the U.S.S. Indiana in Tokyo Bay, by air to Guam and then home (via Hawaii and the U.S.) on the U.S.S. "Ozark" a tank carrier.

We wish here, to express our thanks to Gordie and to all those who have stepped forward and help contribute. We apologise for taking the liberty of 'dressing it' up a little. More reports on life at Oeyama and other camps will, we hope, be published in subsequent issues, and urge that our readers will assist in sending in anything they may have in order that we can do so. ED

OUR ASININE ARTIST was asked to illustrate: 'They met face to face!'



CRASH
and he came up with this!



WHO DAT ??

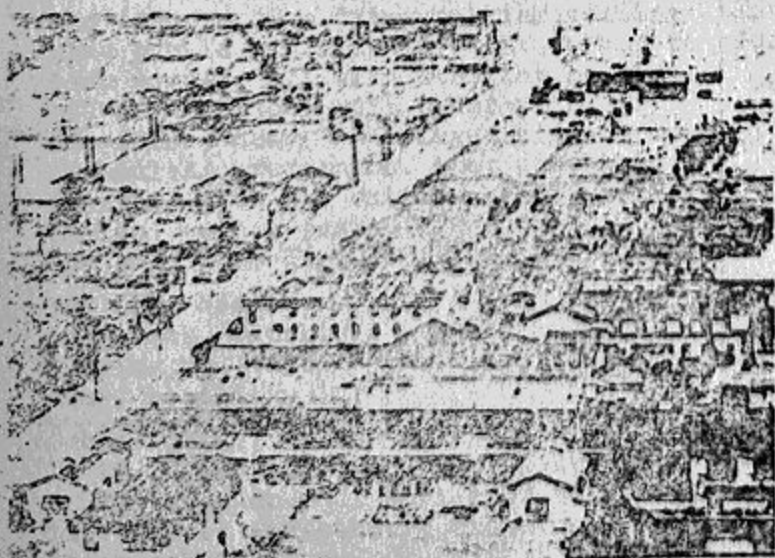


PHOTO PAGE



Top left: Memorial Service for Canadian War Dead at Saiwan Military Cemetery on December 11, 1977. (Courtesy Ralph Ingram)

Centre: Cast of "Here Comes Charlie" Shumshuipo, July 1, 1945
 l to r: Sonny Castro, Art Campbell, George Lemay, the late Boots Boutellier, Angy MacMillan Len Corrigan, Bill Nugent, Frank Power and the late huck O'Neill. (Courtesy Harry White)



Bottom left: Aerial view of the Kawasaki Camp 1B, taken by U.S. plane on August 15, 1945. This Camp is the subject of a letter to the Editor on Page 4 of this issue.

(Courtesy: Oswald Collett)

TOP
~~Bottom~~ right: This is a photo quiz! The first person to guess who this handsome young Canuck is, will receive a suitably decorated Bento-Box filled with raw rice. A HINT: He was at one time known as 'the Baby of B Company!'

We hope to continue offering a Photo Page in each issue and request our readers' co-operation in sending us sharp and clear photos complete with history. These will be returned if required. Thanks. ED.

shaughnessy hospital in spring
by Leslie Keyworth

war. it breeds alone.

not from gunfire,ripping sky like
blue cloth, or tearing
limbs off & out, featherflesh dropt.

but after blood. slow death of
eggshell men.

skull & purple robes,white sheetfaces
dropping away into time faults. the
inside membrane locked against
a flesh vessel, beating, faint star.

one foot dragging behind a wooden cane
foot, the slow scraping up of all the
earth that ever buried bones and resur-
rected memory.

and the bumpersticker, black & white
on the back of the wheelchair reads 333,
my father says, " a loser number".

some are open petals(and) falling,
making empty eyemaps into the darkness,
staring people flickers.

what comes out from behind the wall,
peeled off like old paint skin,is only
the incessant moving arm, a cigarette

attached,
moving back and forth to the mouth.
endless to death. the inner firepanic.
murky whistle and thud of bomb plants,
growing smoke leaves.

poet cannibalizes, tries to read the
spitting men into words. while on a
hillside,
distant and wandering, the daffodils
make a yellow drum roll to no
particular glory.

the sadness of a dying soldier,rolling
wide pupils and his heartbeat curved to
each moment. his wife stepping in and
out of the room, soft eyesteps up to
the doors, heavy & crying oaklids.women
in endless procession. they come here
everyday from the outside. carry their
smiles, years, pasted lines to join
the amputated limb souls of their men.

the only bed is
the earth, watching, round &
turning up. like
arms, reaching.

Subscription for the Roll Call for 1978
is \$3.00 per year (includes postage).
A limited number of copies of this issue
is reserved for subscriptions received
after publication.
Late subscribers will receive copies as
long as they last and on a first come
first serve basis.

O F F I C I A L S

From: Canadian War Museum,
330 Sussex Drive,
Ottawa, Ontario. K1A 0M8

To: The Editor,
"ROLL CALL"

Re: Request for Hongkong POW Artifacts

Dear Sir:

The Canadian War Museum (CWM) seeks to strengthen its collection of military artefacts of uniforms, weapons, medals, military books, insignia and photographs relating to the military history of North American (?) from 1604 to the present. Artefacts relating to the allied and enemy forces from the First and Second World Wars, especially Hongkong, are of interest.

These are for display, future reference and research in the CWM in the national capital and in other Canadian military museums. The CWM would be pleased to hear from readers who may be able to assist in this requirement.

L. F. MURRAY
Chief Curator CWM

A similar request has been made in a letter to Charles Brady, Nat'l President from Jeff Marston in the name of R.K. Malott, Advt. Manager and Convention Co-ordinator of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and also, the Assistant Curator of the CWM.

This request, however, is for the artefacts submitted to be displayed at the International Philatelic Exhibition in Toronto - "CAPEX '78" in June this year.

We quote (in part):

"Such an exhibition, he (Malott) explained, occurs only once in every ten years. There will be tens of thousands of collectors, international visitors, and of course, the Canadian public attending."

Copies of this letter have been sent to all Branches and anyone interested in participating in the display should get in touch with Mr. R.K. Malott, Advt. Manager, & Convention Co-ordinator, Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, 16 Harwick Crescent, Ottawa, Ontario, K2H 6R1.

We suggest that those who wish to have their artefacts displayed at both locations, enquire from Mr. Malott as to what will become of the display at CAPEX '78 when the Exhibition in Toronto is over.

JACK BAILLIE'S - GRENADIERS

Leafing through Jack Baillie's collection of records covering the Grenadiers, a headline from the Winnipeg Free Press of 11 November 1941, caught the eye. It states: "GRENADIERS BOAST 5 SETS OF 3 BROTHERS". The article goes on to say:

"The Winnipeg Grenadiers have five sets of three brothers each, who have joined up since the war started and if any other unit in all the armies of the British Empire can equal this record, the Grenadiers would like to hear about it."

The five sets listed were:

AGERBOK: Ken, Tiger and Buster.

BATY: Arthur, John and Stanley.

GELLY: Albert, Tony and Louis.

HARVIE: No first names - from Riding Mt.

SHAYLER: Harry, Edward and John.

The above clipping covered the period prior to the Grenadiers departure for Hongkong and a little digging revealed that not all the above named sailed with the regiment. In addition, the McKnight threesome - Gerald, Elmer and Melville were omitted. A short item on them appeared in our last issue.

Then there were the Shaylers. In actual fact, there were FOUR brothers all in B Company at the same time. Al, residing in Vancouver at present and formerly with the Pensions Commission, was with the 1st Renfrews but obtained a transfer to join his brothers and when the Grenadiers sailed for Hongkong, he, Ed and Harry sailed with them. John was left behind in Canada.

All three survived the fighting and ended up in Shumshuipo. Al and Harry were shipped to Oyama where Harry died in November 1944. Ed went to Sendai 2 (together with your Editor). Al and his brother John are both here in Vancouver and Ed lives in Calgary.

Art and Stan Baty went overseas but John remained behind. Both Art and Stan attended our National Convention at Edmonton last July. Stan lives in that city. Art's in Winnipeg.

Information regarding the other sets of three is scanty. Only Tony Gelly appeared to have sailed to Hongkong. Their present whereabouts are unknown and we also have nothing on the Agerboks and the Harvies. Can anyone help? If you can please send info to this magazine.

Another item provides an example of how fantastic coincidence can be. This was headlined:

"Fighting in his Native Hongkong"

LOCAL SIGNALS OFFICER IN THICK OF BATTLE

and it tells of Capt. G.M. Billings who was believed to have been born in Hongkong.

Here's where coincidence takes over.

"Jimmy" Billings was a close friend and classmate of your Editor from 1921 until 1925(?) at the Shanghai Public School where his father, J.M. Billings was the headmaster (principal) before and during the Great War. We can therefore assume that he (Jimmy) was Shanghai - not Hongkong-born.

Being a cookhouse staff member in Shumshuipo in 1942, it was obvious that our reunion, after 16 years, should be in the cookhouse staff quarters. And what a reunion it was.

I am informed that 'Jimmy' Billings is no longer with us. Will somebody please confirm or if not, can I get his present address?

I hate to do this to you guys, but although this does not directly concern the Grenadiers, it has - or will have - some effect, in view of the challenge issued in the previous column, concerning number of sets of three-brothers.

The Hongkong Volunteer Defence Corps too, has some sort of a record along those lines.

It had two sets of SIX brothers, two of FOUR and two of THREE who participated in the defence of Hongkong. Of the six Reed brothers, Stephen, Art, Ed and Francis died in action and Bob and Reggie marched out of Shumshuipo in August 1945.

Six Noronha boys enlisted. Francis was killed at Taikoo Docks and the others went to SSPO following the surrender. Of these the most popular were the two female impersonators, Eddie and Gussie. The two with Hermes stayed behind when the draft for Sendai 2 picked out Dick and Henry (Ariri).

The foursomes were the Sequeiras (John was our pig-herder) and the Soares, and the triples were: Alves (Tony, another female impersonator and EL, the violinist) and the Lopes'. Now aren't you glad there's only one John Fonseca?