

Vol.: 2:3

1978

THE

ROLL CALL

HONGKONG VETERANS ASSOC^N OF CANADA.



*BRITISH COLUMBIA BRANCH
MAGAZINE*

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

WE ARE MEMBERS OF ONE GREAT BODY, PLANTED BY
NATURE IN A MUTUAL LOVE, AND FITTED FOR A SOCIAL
LIFE - WE MUST CONSIDER THAT WE WERE BORN FOR
THE GOOD OF THE WHOLE.

TO OUR COMRADES AND THEIR FAMILIES , GREETINGS AND
GOOD HEALTH FOR THE AUTUMN SEASON.

BOB MANCHESTER
President, B.C.Branch

ROLL CALL

HONGKONG VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA * BRITISH COLUMBIA BRANCH

VOL: 2 : 3

F A L L 1 9 7 8

Page 1

WE DID IT !! WE REALLY DID !!

It doesn't seem possible, but the Roll Call is now ONE YEAR OLD and it is with great pride and deepest feeling of gratitude that we offer our sincere thanks to all of you, our readers, for the tremendous support, interest and patience extended this little effort during the past year and to hope that it will continue in both the near and far future.

It started off as, what Bob Manchester so aptly termed, a "fun thing" for the amusement and entertainment of Hongkong Veterans in British Columbia and Western Canada and the intent remains unchanged. Encouragement and interest from fellow veterans, though enthusiastic even if it has been limited, across Canada has fostered the hope that one day expansion across the nation will be achieved. We look forward to that day.

We have not, nor ever intend to, solicit subscriptions for monetary reasons. What we have sought was recognition of the need for a magazine which brings pleasant, altho at times poignant, recollections of those days which will be forever etched in our memories and result in bringing Hongkong Veterans closer, as we grow older, together.

We have good reason to think that we are succeeding.

In view of the fact that this is our first anniversary, we expect and accept forgiveness for all the errors and omissions committed in the past twelve months and in return, forgive criticisms received - even if there were only two from non-subscribers outside Western Canada - and in so doing, perhaps learn ourselves a lesson in humility.

So, my good friends and dear readers, here we go starting our second year of publication, with a toast to you all, a "Thank You", best wishes and a "God Bless" to you and yours. Editor

STOP PRESS

Unavoidable circumstances forces the early publication of this issue. Sorry for any inconvenience, chaps! Editor

B.C. BRANCH READIES FOR FUN FEST

There won't be gobs of boiled rice and 'green horror' served at the Imperial Inn, Victoria, on 30 September when the B.C. Branch honors its ex-Hongkong Volunteers and ex-Imperial members at the reunion which promises to outdo all other reunions for fun 'n frolic and with official business curtailed to the very minimum.

Lionel Speller, with help from various quarters, has been working feverishly to make it one real "bang-up" affair, complete with top sirloin steaks and all trimmings, with Muriel, that lovely lassie fra Loch Lomond - who, at our last meeting earlier this year was simply terrific - to entertain and a flock of surprise packets for those attending. When Walter and Dora Jenkins put on their thinking caps you can bet the surprises will be novel!

In addition, there will be a number of distinguished guests in the persons of: Lt.Col. "Monty" Truscott, ex Royal Signal Corps, U.K.; Major Anatole Gomorskey, ex-HKVDC; Dr. J.W. 'Andy' Anderson, formerly of Bowen Road Hospital, Hongkong; Dr. A. Hoffer, well known Medical Authority; Mr. James Francis, Q.C., formerly of War Claims Commission; our old friends from Washington State American Ex-POW Association and last but definitely not the least, our Padre and Sally Laite.

A number of rooms have been set aside for visitors, but in view of the possibility of a postal strike occurring, it is recommended that reservations be mailed immediately to Lionel Speller, our Secretary, 3628 Saanich Road, Victoria, B.C. V8X 1X3.

President Bob Manchester will host the hospitality room and dinner will be preceded by a cocktail hour.

All members are urged to do their best, especially ex-HKVDC and Imperials, to attend and have a whale of a time renewing old friendships.

For further details please turn to B.C. Branch News elsewhere in these pages. REMEMBER! REMEMBER! 30TH SEPTEMBER!

EDITORIAL

If you find the contents of the Roll Call sufficiently interesting, amusing and worthy of reading, please stop to consider that it is all made possible by stories and anecdotes provided by your fellow POWs and without them, it couldn't be done.

You will note from time to time those same few names cropping up and being credited with stories and items. You may wonder why there are no others -including yourselves - and even wonder if they are being favoured.

Well, Friend, forget it! They are the very ones you should feel grateful to as it is they who take time to submit the material for your reading entertainment and without them, the Roll Call could very well cease to exist.

Your Editor, even if he may think so, is no Superman. He, by a quirk of Fate, only happens to be here to gather, collate and put the Roll Call together for your benefit and is merely one of many cogs that make this magazine.

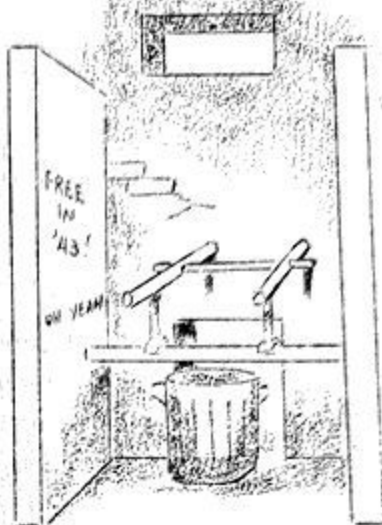
The Roll Call needs and can use anything and everything relating to Hongkong Veterans experiences during that free-for-all back in 1941-45. From names of your fellow POWs in whichever camp in Hongkong or Japan to the telling of any particularly amusing episode experienced by you yourself or in company with other prisoners.

You don't have to worry about having to be a literary genius to be able to turn out a story. Just put it down on paper as if you're talking to the boys over a pint and tell it as it was. Remember the ones who read it are friends and buddies who shared in the experiences in one way or another, and understand how difficult it is to remember everything correctly and in the proper sequence after so much water has flowed under the bridge.

We have been told that we have a unique approach towards veterans' literature. We know that. Almost everything that has been written concerning POWs has been "doom and gloom", telling of suffering and sadness and enough is enough.

The Roll Call is, and has been, deliberately slanted towards the other extreme - the lighter side of life in prison camps - and we intend to keep it that way.

It takes fourteen muscles to bring on a frown and only three to smile. Why do it the hard way and waste all that precious energy?

INVENTORS' CORNERFAIL - SAFE DEVICES

Portable Arm-pit Support Balance Aid
Patent Applied For: Shumshuipo 1943

A MOMENT TO REMEMBER

Just about now, some thirty three years ago, remnants of the forces which so heroically defended Hongkong against impossible odds and subsequently, were interned as prisoners of war in various camps in Hongkong and in Japan, were just beginning to realise and savor that newly found freedom after almost four years of deprivations and maltreatment.

Although the surrender became official on August 15, 1945, it wasn't until the news reached all camps until the final week of August and relief supplies were dropped thereby confirming the end of the war and, at the same time, saving hundreds of lives.

We think it is a time to pause now for a few moments to remember those friends and comrades who are no longer with us, to comfort those still suffering from the ill-effects of those desperate days and to give thanks for having endured and survived all the trials that were visited upon us to emerge with strength and dignity in the knowledge that we did our bit when called upon and did it well. That is one thing they will never be able to take away from us!

Hongkong Veterans, we salute you!

THE ROLL CALL

A DAY! NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN
33 YEARS AGO. AUGUST 15, 1945

Our evening meal of inferior rice, chrysanthemum leaves, carrot tops and sweet potato tops was finished and we sat and watched the sun set in a clear sky over our camp of boredom, suffering and pain at Shumshuipo, Hongkong. There were no signs around our enclosure to indicate that the new day would change our lives and make our tired, sick, emaciated bodies seem to become quickened into new health and our spirits to sing for sheer joy when we would awake in the very early morning. Because of conditions in our camp, some of us had calculated that with present conditions prevailing, not more than ten percent of our present complement would last for another six months. Such calculations were our own secret.

Early on the morning of our new day, Guards were everywhere and there was much serious activity amongst them. Why that sudden suicide in the Guard watch tower? And why, later, the sudden death of a Corporal Guard who had been so disliked by his platoon? Then, suddenly there came the clarion call from the Senior Command of our Camp. "The war is over!". "The Emperor has spoken!" "His message is clear!".

Strong men wept. Reunions of comrades separated by barbed wire were very many. There was so much excitement that the Sgt Major of the Guards came through the camp saying: "Gentlemen! Get rest for your tomorrows!"

What a day for us all. Our thoughts of home cannot be revealed. Because it was my own twenty-first anniversary date my day was spent in thoughts of Home and with prayers that all who had survived would eventually be welcomed home.

Our thoughts were, quite naturally, with our comrades who went to Japan. How many survived? Would we meet on the way home? and many other questions which were really prayers for all.

Why is it that after thirty three years we cannot forget? I speak the sentiments of many hearts when I say that it was because of dangers shared, of kind words spoken and of noble deeds performed without show. But for most of us it was because of something more profoundly felt and of which we are too reluctant to speak.

(continued top of next column)

It was that such a comradeship of ours has Eternal value and this binds us to each other by cords which not even death can sever. Sharing, caring, Humor, comradeship and Deep affection, with Pride, won in the crucible of wars and the hell of Concentration Camps, reveal our worth as members of a great company, who would maintain the great tradition of our heritage as men of merit and truly CANADIAN.

PADRE LAITE

LEST WE FORGET

Our deepest sympathy and condolences are offered to the widows and families of our comrades who have recently passed on:

ROBERT PETRA, Arvida, P.Q.

STAN SOMERVILLE, Sillery, P.Q.

JULES PROVENCHER, Chomedey, P.Q.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.

A 'FRIENDLY' ENEMY

Many of the men, sick and dying, at Camp 3d, Tokyo, may have unknowingly, owed their lives to the old interpreter, Harry "Mushmouth" Koyanagi.

It was Harry, at no little risk to his own life, who regularly smuggled much needed medicine - obtained on the black market - into Camp and gave same to our Doctor Capt. J.A.G.Reid, for use by the sick and the dying.

We regret to announce that Harry, who turned eighty last year and who was welcomed to Canada by a group of B.C. Branch members at the airport in Vancouver last year, died on June 3rd 1978.

We feel that here is one 'enemy' whose passing merits regret, respect and a "May he rest in peace".

Because of up-dating publication to avoid a possible postal strike, a number of letters and items received are being held for our next issue.ED

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear John: Enclosed please find \$3.00 for a year's subscription to the British Columbia Magazine.

Best regards to all members in your area.

Las Vegas, Nevada. Roger J. Zane.

Thanks, Roger. That was a truly subtle and nicely worded compliment. We too, think the Roll Call is the ONLY magazine in British Columbia!

Dear Sir: Have received every issue of the Roll Call and enjoy it. Keep up the good work.

Hope we can get more names on the Oeyama list. Two of our comrades (just off hand) were Lucien Brazeau and Paul Arsenych. Lucien departed this world lately. Also Blanchard (?) (died Oeyama).

Would like to hear from Bert McKinnon and Paul Arsenych. Remember all three buddies, especially the last two hectic weeks of the war. Also Zaharachuk. Must be about 100 more around. Cheerio and best regards.

Angela and Bill Achtymichuk
Vernon, B.C.

You asked for it and you got it! See Page 5. How do you like the Okanagan as compared to Terrace? Hope you're all settled and enjoying it. John

Dear John: Very hasty note as I want to get this off to you. Enjoy our B.C. Magazine and especially about Oeyama as that was my 'hotel' during my stay in Japan.

I have a "beat-up" scrap book which you can have to go through to look for other information as to other camp inmates.

I am enclosing a page concerning sixty Manitobans - many not in the list of Vol 2:2 issue. As you will note, yours truly heads the list. I have many such clippings from the Winnipeg Free Press and Tribune that appeared as far back as 1945.

I am happy to see names of comrades I thought had long passed away, but are still with us.

Continued good luck on the paper. Enclosed, a small contribution for your paper. Best

Vancouver, B.C.

Really generous of you, Ken. Re scrapbook, promise to take good care of it. John

Dear Johnnie:

No flowery words are needed here - Just a plain "thank you" for the terrific job you are doing. You know all we would like to say.

This is to help with the Roll Call. Thanks a million.

West Vancouver, B.C. Janet and Ern.

You two dears. You make me blush and the blush coupled with my natural pigmentation, turns me to a bright orange. I am truly Sunkist! Johnnie

Dear Ed: The Roll Call started out good and gets better every issue. As you may have noticed this is not a Dear John letter, but there is a great error in the first instalment of the Niigata story. We certainly and definitely did NOT ALL want to go to Japan and I proved then and there it was not automatically compulsory.

It was a chilly drizzly day as Canadians lined up alphabetically, backed up against the curb for roll call. Before my name was called, several cripples had been 'kurraged!!' down the road a few yards. My immediate thoughts were there is an angle here that should be explored. They are either going to shoot the cripples or feed them better and one idea appealed to me as much as the other.

When I was called, I moved with slow shuffling steps straight to the cripples and, with a blanket over my shoulders, stood huddled amongst them not daring to so much as glance over my shoulders. It was quiet for it seemed like an eternity before the next name was called. I have always said I would not walk across the road to go to Japan then and have no desire to do so now.

Your "WHO DAT?" picture is Prairie from "B" Coy, W.G. As for the Peterson twins, one is at Kelowna as Tommy Marsh told me a couple of months ago when we had a bash together up there. Happy days to all.

Art (Handle Bars) Ferrall
Vancouver, B.C.

Art, I don't think the 'error' was an intentional one but rather to stick to our wish to keep it light and humorous. I don't believe anyone wanted to go! Sorry, our WHO DAT? comrade is none other than Gerry Mabley and the 'fundush' goes to Ken Bell, Thunder Bay, Ontario. ED.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (continued)

Dear John dear: At last I am emerging as if from a dark tunnel. The light of day is revivifying and especially as I work in my garden, I remember the colorful occasions and the interesting people I met through my husband, George.

Just a year ago today, there was a splendid happening. We were in London to have a private audience with Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, in Buckingham Palace. It was memorable, of course, and especially so because the Queen chatted naturally and in a friendly manner. Her gracious gentleman and lady-in-waiting and aides in gold braid, had coached us well on the few points of protocol so that we felt assured. George presented her with an Oath of Loyalty from the City of Regina containing an invitation to visit the city in 1978 on the occasion of Regina's 75th birthday, to which she acceded later. In fact, she and Prince Philip will be visiting Saskatchewan prior to attending the Games in Edmonton in July.

The Roll Call, Spring 1978 is really super. How I do appreciate the coverage and the attention you have given to the name Porteous. How sensitive and thoughtful for you to have included the poem by Harry MacNaughton as a finish for "Tribute". Thank you very much indeed.

Kathleen Porteous
Saskatoon, Sask.

Kathleen dear, How very happy we all are for you. Will always remember our meeting in Edmonton with glowing pleasure and growing affection. John

Dear John: After reading the last edition of Roll Call, I was quite pleased with the many interesting articles it contained. It is well worth the price and more.

While reading the list of the Oeyama Camp, of which I was a participant, I noticed a few that were not mentioned. Herbie Hull, Jack Wharf, George Townsend, Bill Adams, Lewicki, Ernie Smith and last but not least, our good friend and my old buddy, Art Lousier. I believe that there are a few more but at the present time, I can't put a name to them. The reason I remember these is because I worked as an orderly in the hospital for four months where these buddies were patients.
(continued top of next column)

Herbie Hull passed away and so did George Townsend, both while I was on duty. Keep up the good work, John, and I hope to see you sometime in the near future.

Best regards to all,
Cumberland, B.C. Reg Smith

Sure appreciate your writing in and your generous donation. You'll find most of those named in our additional list herein, with the exception of Herb Hull and Ernie Smith (wre there three Smiths at Oeyama?). Chimo! John

Dear Sir: I wish to thank you most warmly for your letter of June 6, and for sending me therewith two copies of the Roll Call, as published by the British Columbia Branch of the Hongkong Veterans Association of Canada. I am honoured that I shall receive your publication regularly and I welcome this opportunity of keeping in touch with the members of your Branch.

I also want to thank you for your kind words concerning my efforts on behalf of veterans. It is a shame that it takes so long to win the gains our veterans deserve, but it is good that persistence seems to pay. Appreciation such as yours, and I am happy to tell you that many veterans do express their appreciation, encourages me to keep battling away, and that is precisely what I shall do.

It was most thoughtful of you to write as you did on page two of the Summer 1978 issue of the Roll Call. The sympathy and understanding of one's friends is a very real help in a time of bereavement. I have been almost overcome by the vast number who have sent me their condolences, and it means a great deal to me to hear from you and your fellow-members in this way.

With kindest regards and best wishes.

Ottawa, Ont. Stanley Knowles.

An anonymous joker sent this in:

"Our Ed's name is Johnnie Fonseca
Who thinks he's one heckuva necker,
But the truth is, however,
He shows a white feather
To any girl who dares him to mecker!"

A fundushi is his upon identifying himself, after which I will cheerfully totally and permanently eliminate him!
ED.

WELL, SOMEBODY'S GOT TO SAY IT

A CP report from Ottawa, published in the Vancouver Sun, 2 June 1978 entitled "TREATY CLAIMS LAW REVOKED - Gov't Closes Books On War With Japan" caught my eye and, because it concerned Hongkong Veterans and being considered, in some quarters, as a stirrer of that which our estimable P.M. terms a doubled-syllable "BUNK!", I continued to read. The following excerpts are passed on to our readers for what they are worth:

"The department (Finance) served notice this week that it has just closed the books on claims against Japan under the Treaty of Peace (Japan) Act of 1952.

Under the peace treaty Japan agreed to compensate Canadian and other Allied governments for lost property, mistreatment of prisoners and injury or death of civilians.

The government then passed the money on to people affected or their relatives..."

Pondering on this important -to all Hongkong Veterans - announcement, I asked myself:

How did the Finance Department arrive at the decision to "close the books", and did they consult with the Minister of Veterans Affairs, the D.V.A. or the 'people most affected' the Hongkong Veterans, prior to reaching that decision and if not, why not?

Has there been an accounting to show that every cent of the money Japan paid for mistreatment of prisoners was passed on to the Hongkong Veterans (or their relatives) and to them only, and completely unassociated with pensions, which come from tax revenue?

What is also puzzling, was the timing of the closure. It followed so swiftly on the heels of Johnnie Stroud's jaunt to Florida, to consult with American counterparts in regard to instituting further claims for mistreatment and forced labour of POWs by Japan, that it smacks of not being entirely coincidental.

It has succeeded in 'torpedoing' any further action from Stroud and the shucking of the responsibility for any further involvement and the tearing up of the Treaty by the Government, is surprising as the Treaty provided the only logical and official vehicle for further claims to cover what medical

(continued in next column)

researchers call 'the POW Syndrome' - complications brought on by mistreatment in prison camps - which are still surfacing, even now, as the years take their toll causing physical and mental suffering and premature deaths on a scale higher than prisoners in any other theatre of World War II. It also amazes because the tab will be picked up by the Japanese Government and it will not cost Canada one red cent!

Wouldn't it be a scream if the Americans do succeed in getting the extra compensation they seek and which all Far Eastern POWs so richly deserve? I wonder what those cretins in the Finance Department will say and/or do in that event?

THE FONZ

SOMEBODY ELSE SAYS IT TOO!

The Americans "God Bless Them" have done us a favour by not wanting to include Canadian POW's in their claim against the Japanese Government. I say we should now do ourselves a favour and drop the matter completely.

If it is going to cost \$50.00 per man just to research the feasibility of making a claim, my advice would be to donate the \$50.00 to the H.K.V. Association, where the money would be better spent, and certainly show more concrete results. We still have 50¢ a day coming to us on a previous maltreatment award, if we can't get that, how in the hell can we expect to get \$10,000 per man out of the Japanese Government?

It is my honest opinion that our time and effort would be better spent in going after the 100% pension across the board, for all Hongkong Veterans. (This paragraph is going to John Stroud, and I hope to see it printed in the next issue of the Canadian Veterans News.)

THE ROLL CALL: A quarterly magazine sponsored by the British Columbia Branch of the Hongkong Veterans of Canada
Editor: John Fonseca

796 Adiron Avenue, Coquitlam, BC
V3J 4K2

and: on Vancouver Island,
c/o Lionel Speller, 3628 Saanich Road,
Victoria, B.C. V8X 1X3

"BANGO" AT DI-HATCH, OMINE, FUKUOKA

Thanks to a terrific feat of remembering, we have here a list of names of men at Di-Hatch, Omine, near Nagasaki. Must have been pretty damn close to the drop of the second atomic bomb! So, How about a story, gang? Courtesy: Ken Bell.

GRENADIERS:

Andrews, ..(Bertil)
Arsenault, Al
Bell, Ken
Bennett, Art
Caldwell, Bert
Chaboyer, Dave +
Chaboyer, Wilf
Coates, Bob
Contois, Alex
Coutts, George
Cox, ...
Danielson, Henry
Dunseath, Dan
Evans, Dave
Fortin, Alex
Gold, Stan
Grantham, Ed
Guy, Alex (?)
Hallada, George
Hanna, Lloyd
Harris, A.J.
Harris, Frank
Hobson, Ed
McShane, "Mert"
Michelko, ...
Militaire, Hank
Murray, Jim
Nobis, Roger
Orr, Bud
Poquet, Andy
Pottinger, Roy
Small, Walter
Treswick, Joe
Weibe, Elmer
Windsor, Cecil (Red)

ROYAL RIFLES

Baker, Harold
Billson, Howrad
Blank, ... +
Brophy, ...
Caine, Johnny
Caine, Ursel
Campbell, ... +
Cambellton, Eddie
Carr, Murray
Chennell, Buck +
Cole, Tex
Coul, Blair
Coul, Jack
Currier, Arnold
D'Avignon, Maurice

ROYAL RIFLES(cont)

Delaine, Charlie
Delrosby, ...
Dorion, #106
Drouin, Raymond
Ebdon, Frank
Fitzpatrick, ... +
Fletcher, Charlie
Galloway, Bill
Hawkes, Bill
Henderson, Lorne
Henry, Tommy
Hunt, Hector (*
Hunt, ... (Bros.
Hunt, ... ()
Jagard, ...
Jessop, Al
Jessop, Bob
Jondreau, Laurier
Lancour, Walter
Macomb, ...
McDonald, Lorne +
McPherson, Bruce
Mayhew, Ritchie
Mossman, Earl
Murphy, Leo
Murray, ... +
Ouellet, ...
Palmer, George
Parks, Walter
Pollock, ...
Robinson, Cliff
Shalala, John
Sheppard, Sgt/Maj
Southgate, Mark
Stickles, ... Sgt
Turcotte, ..(Arnpr)
Wardell, Curly
Willett, Isaac
Willett, Percy
**Horswell, George

Also, 12 British Regulars headed by Major Robertson, RAMC, and 3 U.S.A.M.C. headed by Major Smith, from Florida. The other two Americans were Bob Evans and Ken Waller, both from California.

MORE NAMES FROM OEYAMA

Prompt and fantastic response from a number of readers, to whom I must offer sincere thanks and name them: Bill Achtymichuk (Vernon, B.C.), Ken Porter & Cliff Carpenter (both from Winnipeg, Man) and Ken Johnston (Vancouver, B.C.) enables publication of the following additions to our previous list of POWs at Oeyama in our Summer 1978 issue:

Arbor, Jack	Jonason, Ed +
Archibald, J.	Kennedy, Stan
Arsenych, Paul	Krohn, ...
Aubert, Jack	LaPlante, ...
Batten, Jack +	Lavallee, Fred
Bazinet, Joe +	Lawson, Harry
Belcourt, George	Lewicki, B.
Bergen, Ed	Lousier, Art
Blanchard, ...	McFarland, Ernie
Brazeau, Lucien +	McFarlane, Spanky
Bross, Carl	Mack, Arthur
Brown, F.	McClelland, K.
Cameron, D.H.	Mellis, S.
Cameron, Harry	Merritt, George
Carpenter, Cliff	Miller, H.
Clark, Arlis	Mitchell, George
Clark, Gordon	Mondor, Albert +
Cole, Ed	Montroy, George
Colville, Alex	Olason, John +
Cuthill, T.	Oomen, Dick +
Dann, Milton	Orr, Jackie
Delorme, George +	Osadchuk, Mike
Delorme, Joe	Page, H.H.
DeVlieger, Alex	Pageot, Leo +
Draho, Ed	Patterson, ...
Draho, Emil	Pleu, ... +
Durrant, M. +	Popel, John
Durrant, P.	Proulx, ...
Emo, George	Rees, Ralph, +
English, Fred	Riddoch, Reg
Favel, Alex	Runnells, O.J.
Forsberg, ... +	Savage, Bill
Fostey, Bill	Smith, Bill +
Fowler, R. +	Townsend, George +
Gladue, Bill	Turner, Bob +
Haddad, Mike	Van Damme, Marcel
Hardy, Jack	Weir, Tom +
Helbren, Bob	Wharf, "Pop"
Hollingsworth, Gord	Williams, P. +
Jackson, Art	Winram, Hartley +
Johnson, Ed +	Wrigley, Earl
Johnston, Ken	Zaharachuk, ...
Johnston, Lloyd	

The above 85 names added to the 46 we listed previously, totals only 131. We believe that there are many more to come and hope that our readers will help in bringing the roster up to date. Shore, would appreciate your help. ED

ON COMRADESHIP AND CONCERN

Mel Keyworth sends this which demonstrates the comradeship and concern existing between POWs and the forces which liberated us back in 1945.

" TO THE FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR IN
JAPAN NIIGATA August 16 1945

Hearty success in your approaching liberation which will occur tomorrow in conjunction with the landing of airborne troops of the U.S. Army near Tokyo. The Marines and Navy will follow shortly into Tokyo Bay. So it looks like there'll be a hot time along the Ginza any minute now. We hope the contents of this package will aid in making your last few hours behind the walls most pleasant.

Some of us out here like to tell ourselves that it's been a tough war and we've had it rugged. But we know that you are really the ones who have made the sacrifices and we humbly doff our white hats in admiration and respect.

Accept our deep gratitude for the deeds you have performed and the sufferings you have endured in hastening this day before final and complete victory.

This package was dropped by a U.S. Navy torpedo plane flying from the deck of the aircraft carrier USS Lexington (the Blue Ghost). These goods were gathered by the photographers of the "LEX" and they are also doing the dropping - may our aim be straight and true. We wish you the best of luck and a speedy return to good old stateside, the land of milk and honey.

When you reach the end of your journey and the excitement has passed away sufficiently for you to find the time - we would be very glad to have a letter from any or all of you.

We expect to be around these parts for a while and we'd like to know how things are going with you.

Signed: DON WAGNER, Squadron V.F. 47
U.S.S. Lexington

List of photographers: J.R. Smith (Burlington, Ind), R.T. Bailey (Bakersfield, Cal), W. Carson Poe, Jr (Omaha, Neb), C.S. Zglstra (Pella, Iowa), Dave Evans (Elizabeth, Penn), E.C. Pidgeon (St. Louis, Mo), John R. Victory (Washington, D.C.), James A. Lawless (Bremerton, Wash), D.E. Tenney (Pittsburgh, Pa), D.J. Connally (Rochester, N.Y.), E.N. Skidmore (E. Lansing, Mich) and R.F. Codger of Waltham, Mass. "

Mel informs us that he wrote to each of the above to thank them individually. ED

B. C. BRANCH REUNION

The following important detailed information has been condensed from the notice on our Annual Reunion which is to be found on Page 1 of this issue:

ANNUAL REUNION

Date: Saturday, 30 September 1945

Place: The Imperial Inn, 1961 Douglas Street, Victoria, B.C.

Times: Meeting (Hospitality Room) 2:30
Cocktail Hour 5:30
Dinner 6:30
Entertainment 9:00

(All sharp and after lunch)

Rates:

Dinner:	\$7.50 per head	
Rooms: Single:		\$20.00
Double Bed		22.00
Twin Beds		24.00

Reservations must be made immediately. First come - first served. Deposit is required in advance. Send cheque to Secretary, Lionel Speller, 3628 Saanich Road, Victoria, B.C. V8X 1X3.

Free parking, swimming pool, color TV, Beer and Cocktail lounge, Dining Room and Coffee Shop all under one roof, and located in City Centre.

Lots of surprises and Special Events and we want you there to join us in honouring our ex-Imperial and Hongkong Volunteer Defence Corps members, and to welcome a number of very special guests. BE SURE TO BE THERE!

Executive Committee: Bob Manchester, Bill Laidlaw, Jack Davies, Lionel C. Speller and Aubrey Flegg.

A WORD FROM YOUR EDITOR

I, as the Editor of the Roll Call, wish to inform that ignorant and insolent boor who had the effrontery to tell me in the presence of a number of prominent members and their respected wives, that the Roll Call, amongst other things, is a "rag", thereby casting a slur on all who contribute, subscribe to and helped making it the popular magazine it is, that I could crucify him within these columns if I so desired.

In keeping with a promise to maintain unity amongst members, I, however, will refrain from doing so and instead, offer for his consideration, the saying: "where ignorance is bliss, it is folly to be wise." even though, I doubt that he'll ever see the point. JOHN

REMEMBER WHEN ...?

the men, on arriving at Guam after the liberation, were taken to hospital from the hospital ship "Marigold" and how that night, after 'lights out' the nurses, hearing unusual noises coming from the wards, rushed in to find most of the ex-prisoners sleeping on the floor.

They were put back to bed only to see the same thing recurring during the night with no explanations being offered.

It was the doctor who finally solved the mystery next day. The beds were too soft and the sheets too clean and because they'd become accustomed to the hard 'tatami' covered planking, the men couldn't get to sleep!

It was only after they'd been assured that the beds were good for them and it didn't matter about getting the sheets dirtied, that they did eventually sleep on them.

And then there was the POW who, throughout the 46 months, had dreamed, slept and lived hot cakes for breakfast and when he finally got them (on board the USS "Bracken" APA 82 in Tokyo Bay) he helped himself to two full breakfasts and topped them with an extra double stack of hot cakes and maple syrup (the navy 'man-size' six to a stack) following which, he collapsed and was taken straight to hospital, because his innards couldn't take it all!

Speaking of innards, on occasions at one camp in Japan, the plain rice diet was augmented by a bucket of what appeared to be the innards of some animal. Speculation as to what animal these came from was considerable, even to the wagering of precious cigarettes! Hogs, steer, horse, sheep and goats were popular guesses, but the favourites were steer and horse.

The arguments were dramatically settled when the next bucket was delivered and examined. They tell me there is no way the reproductive organs of a stallion can be mistaken for those of a bull! And I believe them! I really do!

The vote on whether to include them there parts in the stew was passed by 99.99%. The single dissenter explained that he wasn't squeamish. He just loved horses!!

The same spirit of comradeship and concern shared by men of the Allied Forces as related in the Sendai story, has been reported again.

A letter signed by the photographic unit on board the USS Lexington and dropped into Niigata on 26 August 1945 is reprinted elsewhere in this issue.

We have also received information that a similar letter offering greetings and encouragement by saying that it wouldn't be long now, was dropped into Ohashi on 25 August 1945. It was signed: Ensign F.W. Harrah, 2221 Newton Ave, Seattle, Wash.

Our informant includes the following anecdote. On 28 August 1945, when a flight of B 29s visited Ohashi to drop relief supplies, a heavily loaded parachute scored a direct hit on the 'benjo' which was occupied by John Hatton, of Belle Anse, Gaspé, P.Q., destroying whatever preoccupation our comrade had.

We are happy to report that no one suffered any physical injury. However, it is alleged that our friend, until he was taken aboard an evacuation ship in Tokyo Bay, kept ceaselessly whistling "Sweet Violets"!

Sid Vale, who re-visited North Point Camp, Hongkong on 3 August 1978, writes:

In 1942 I spent many hours looking through the fence from the inside, with hope and a silent prayer for an early release from the horrors of prison camp existence. Today we re-visited what is left of the old camp—two or three of the buildings, now used as storage sheds. The area is still enclosed by a high wire fence, securely locked, and this time we found it impossible to get in, and had to be content with the view from the outside.

Sitting in comfort aboard a C.P. Air 747 (a hot chicken dinner before me) on the return trip from Hongkong to Tokyo, I couldn't help but think back to my trip between the same two cities 36 years ago. That journey was made along with 300 live? bodies, crammed in the hold of a Japanese cargo ship, food was a bucket of rice lowered down on a rope, and fresh air was an open hatch (daylight hours only).

(Sid, representing the Grenadiers, was a member of the delegation, headed by the Minister of Veterans Affairs, which toured Korea, Japan and Hongkong in July)

NOW IT CAN BE TOLD - THE NIIGATA CAMP 5B (continued) by BOB MANCHESTER

Continuation of our pleasure cruise from Hongkong to Japan by way of Formosa, now known as Taiwan, the capital of which is Taipei. The fine little ship on which we travelled did not have modern equipment such as hot showers and toilets - it is recalled that the toilet facilities consisted of two toilet pails, one in the forward hold, the other in the aft hold - these were mainly used by the unfortunate ones who had dysentery and had a hard time holding out until the hatches were opened each morning. This neat little situation caused a good many more being sick than was necessary.

For those who could control their calls of nature, there was a toilet situated on the aft deck of the ship and to use this convenience meant running the gauntlet - you asked permission to go "Benjo" you were then required to move at quick time or you received the butt of a rifle for your slowness.

Gerry Mabley remembers that we were subjected to a special test for dysentery when we stopped at Taiwan. This little test involved a couple of Japanese Doctors and a Nurse who came aboard our ship. We were filed out on deck and the Medics proceeded to take samples of our stools by neatly inserting a glass tube into our rectums and placing the extracts in glass jars. This little exercise must have had some effect because the persons making the tests seemed to get a hell of a bang out of doing it - we had the reverse feeling - if your rear-end was not sore before, it certainly was afterwards.

There was a happier side to our stop-over, someone must have felt sorry for us because we had the opportunity to enjoy a shower - even though the water was salt and cold, we took some delight in being washed down by the deck hose. The stop also allowed for taking on some fresh food - we did have a slight change in diet - fresh water, rice and some vegetables were brought on - some say we had one good feed of Pork Stew?? There were also a few bags of onions which were stored at the aft of the ship, not too far from the outside toilet - some of the more enterprising members of our group were able to apply their skills and the Japs lost a few of their precious vegetables.

For myself, I remember our good comrade Len Mulvaney taking possession of a couple of these wonderful items of food - being the upstanding person we know him to be, he no doubt paid a fair price(???) for those gems. I do know that he shared one with me and a B.C. apple never tasted better!

Somehow after this stop, cigarettes seemed to become more plentiful - how this came about I am not too sure - but maybe some of the gang can fill in the details. Having enjoyed this breather, we were soon to learn there was no rest for the wicked.

Shortly after leaving Taiwan we had a submarine scare - it was a tense time for all concerned because we were caught like rats in a trap - all lights were extinguished, port holes and hatches were closed and sealed - our engines stopped and we waited for what seemed an eternity in our dark stinking holds!

My good friend, George McCarthy, tells me that had the ship been attacked none would have survived to tell any tales - apparently the Japanese had the area of the ship's ballast mined, the crew would have had time to leave the ship, fuses were triggered to go off afterwards, it would be just another incident of Allied Forces destroying their own people. Fortunately this did not happen.

Gerry Mabley believes that we first stopped at a place called MOJI before disembarking at OSAKA - once again to undergo the tortures of stool tests, to ensure we were not going to contaminate their beloved homeland. Our apparent time of arrival, some thirty five years ago, at Osaka was late evening. The group was split in half and our half entrained for Niigata at Midnight.

(to be continued in our next instalment)

Editor's Note: We would appreciate a recounting of anyone who left Shumshuipo on the same ship but were separated from the group that went to Niigata. Where did the second half, split at Osaka, go to and where did they end up at? ED

THE WAGER WHAT WASN'T

I have in my possession copy of a legal document drawn up at Shumshuipo on 2 August 1943, setting forth a wager between CSM Colin Alexander McFayden (party of the first part) and Pte. John Cecil Davies (party of the second part) whereby the POFP claimed that they'd all be free by 1 July 1944 and the POSP said: "NUTS".

Terms of wager was that at 12:30 p.m. on any week-day within the two weeks following return to Canada by the last of both parties, the loser will, solely by means of his proboscis (NOSE to you, Bub!) push, propel or cause to travel, one PEANUT, complete with shell and in its virgin state, the distance between two given points, to wit: corner of Hargrave Street and Portage Ave to corner of Donald Street and Portage Avenue on Portage Avenue (that portion immediately in front of Eaton's) in the City of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Signatures of both parties were affixed to said document in the presence of the late S/Sgt Harry MacNaughton and Sgt Ken Porter as witnesses.

All precautions were taken to prevent the peanut pusher to suffer grievous bodily harm even to permitting use of elbow and knee pads, steel-toed shoes and replaceable Elastoplast nose protectors as well as extra peanuts in the event of damage through mis-nosing!

The winner, Pte Jack Davies, last to return on 17 October 1945, was exuberantly expectant and, we are told, a person or persons unknown, aware of the terms of the wager, had made necessary preparations for the Press, TV and City Fathers to attend and Eaton's was to declare it a Dollar Forty Nine Day and distribute free 'goobers' to the thousands who were expected.

It was, however, all for naught. Our loser was alleged to have deliberately removed himself from the scene for three weeks and then surfaced to immediately claim that because the two-week time limit stipulated had expired, the wager was voided.

Jack Davies, both a winner and a loser, has but one consoling thought. He was right! But, up to this day, every time he meets up with one of Mr. Planter's world renowned products, he bursts into tears!

This, of course, is inadmissible because it is merely hearsay. However, we who know all about CSMs, understand.

"I F" By Rudyard Kipling

Found it in a dog-eared little book in Shumshuipo and it became, and still is, my teacher, Mentor and a guide to my way of life. I feel privileged to pass it on to those of you who may not have read it before.

IF you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs and blaming it on you;

IF you can trust yourself when all men doubt you, but make allowance for their doubting too;

IF you can wait and not be tired of waiting, or, being lied about, don't deal in lies, or being hated don't give way to hating, and yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise;

IF you can dream - and not make dreams your master;

IF you can think and not make thoughts your aim; IF you can meet with Triumph and Disaster and treat these two impostors just the same;

IF you can bear to hear the truths you've spoken twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools, or watch the things you gave your life to, broken, and stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools;

IF you can make one heap of all your winnings and risk it on one turn of pitch and toss, and lose, and start again at your beginnings, and never breathe a word about your loss;

IF you can force your heart and nerve and sinew to serve your turn long after they are gone, and so hold on when there is nothing in you except the Will which says to them: "Hold On!"

IF you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue, or walk with Kings - nor lose the common touch;

IF neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,

IF all men count with you, but none too much;

IF you can fill the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds' worth of distance run,

Yours is the Earth and all that's in it.
AND - which is more - you'll be a Man,
my son!

IMPORTANT

Contributors are reminded that Letters, articles, stories or whatever, should be mailed by 24 November 1978, for publication in our next (CHRISTMAS) issue. All Branch Secretaries please note.

PILGRIMAGE TO JAPAN, KOREA AND HONGKONG

by SID VALE

A Canadian delegation, led by the Honourable Daniel MacDonald, Minister of Veterans Affairs, remembered the War Dead of Hongkong in a wreath laying ceremony at Sai Wan Bay War Cemetery, Hongkong on August 1, 1978.

I had the honour of representing the Winnipeg Grenadiers at that ceremony, and along with Lawrence Rattie for the Royal Rifles of Canada, and Charles Brady representing the Hongkong Veterans Association of Canada, laid a wreath in remembrance of those who gave their lives during the Battle of Hongkong, and also those who died during the ensuing years as prisoners of war. Wreaths were also laid by the Minister of Veterans Affairs on behalf of the Canadian Government, Bill Mayne on behalf of the National Council of Veterans Associations, and Ed Coley, Dominion President of the Canadian Legion. Following the ceremony at Sai Wan Bay, the delegation then proceeded to Stanley Military Cemetery where a similar ceremony was performed.

Prior to the Hongkong ceremonies the delegation also remembered the Canadian War Dead of Hongkong, and the Canadian War Dead of Korea, in a wreath laying ceremony at the Yokohama Commonwealth War Cemetery, in Yokohama, Japan on July 25, 1978.

The main purpose of the Canadian delegation was to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the signing of the armistice ending the Korean War, July 27, 1953. This was done with a very impressive ceremony at the United Nations Cemetery in Pusan, Korea on July 27, 1978. The delegation comprised unit representatives of the Canadian Army, Royal Canadian Navy and Royal Canadian Air Force, who took part in the defence of South Korea from 1950 to 1953.

The following day the delegation proceeded to Seoul, Korea, where similar ceremonies were held at the site of the P.P.C.L.I. Memorial at Naechon, and the Commonwealth Memorial Cemetery at Kapyong.

It was indeed an honour to be chosen to represent the Winnipeg Grenadiers as part of the Canadian delegation, and as a Hongkong Veteran I was most impressed with the ceremony at Sai Wan Bay. I was also very much impressed with the condition of all the grave sites we visited in Hongkong, Japan and Korea. Anyone who has relatives or friends buried in any of those sites can rest assured that everything possible is being done to see that they are well tended and cared for.

The day following the ceremonies at Sai Wan and Stanley, we were taken on a conducted tour of the battlefield sites and points of interest around Hongkong Island. Many familiar names were recalled during that tour: Wanchai Gap, Repulse Bay, Wongneichong, Aberdeen, Stanley and Tai Tam just to name a few. The population explosion since 1945 (500,000 in 1945 to 4,500,000 today) in a span of 37 years, has changed the terrain of the Island to such an extent that most places are no longer recognizable as we saw them during the Battle of Hongkong, but just the mention of the names brought back many memories.

A F F I D A V I T

I hereby swear that I shall not make any attempt to escape whilst I am a prisoner of The Imperial Japanese Army.

Dated this day of 17th year of Showa.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
HONGKONG PRISONERS OF WAR CAMP
HONG KONG

(Signed) _____

Dick Wilson, now at Beausejour, Manitoba, obviously didn't sign as he sent the original in, after keeping it safely for over thirty years. Remember this?



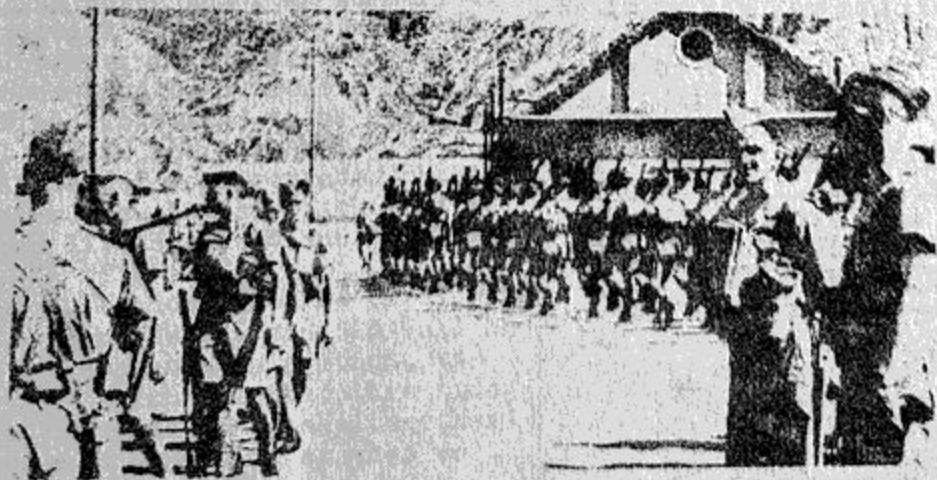
The left: How our wonder Padre U. Leite looked at the 1840s mummies shortly after W. Day.

The right: This "WHO DAT?" sweater is still around and in British Columbia.

Centre right: The prize 'fundushi' presented recently to Sid Vale, Lumbia, Ontario, our first "WHO DAT?" winner!

Bottom centre: Canadians marching to billets in Manchuipo after arrival at Yongkang in November 1941. Do you recognize anyone?

WHO DAT?



HONGKONG REVISITED Kay Christie

It was my good fortune to be included in the Hongkong Veterans who were part of the Canadian delegation accompanying the Minister of Veterans Affairs on his recent tour of Japan, Korea and Hongkong. Another Canadian Nursing Sister who had served in Korea, Mrs. Flora Dolan, was selected to attend and since we had known each other in Toronto in 1940-41, it was also a reunion for us.

The first ceremony was held in the British Commonwealth Cemetery, Hodogaya, near Yokohama, in a section where only our POWs sent from Hongkong to Japan are buried, and I had the honour of acting as wreath bearer for Mr. MacDonald who laid the wreath for Canada.

In Hongkong the first ceremony was held in Sai Wan cemetery where, again, I acted as wreath bearer. We then proceeded to Stanley Military cemetery where a smaller number of Canadians are buried and another service conducted. Names on some of the headstones in both cemeteries recalled Hongkong Veterans we had known on the "Awatea" or as patients in Bowen Road Hospital.

Like all military cemeteries I have seen, those we visited on this tour are located in lovely settings and are extremely well cared for. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission deserves our thanks and a great deal of credit for the manner in which these cemeteries are maintained, and I am sure it would be of considerable consolation to families who have members buried there.

On a tour of Hongkong, the Trade Commissioner there arranged for our members to visit the former British Military Hospital on Bowen Road. My summary of the inspection was that the hospital, like all of us, is 35 years older but we veterans have been treated more kindly by time. It ceased to be used as a hospital and is now a school. Our former Residence has been replaced by high-rise apartments. In short, the entire area bears little resemblance to what we knew.

I was proud to join Charlie Brady, Bill Mayne, Lawrence Rattie and Sid Vale in forming the Hongkong delegation, the best part of which was that this time all of us returned to Canada together and in as good condition as when we set out, July 21, 1978.

(Lack of space forced some editing. ED)

B. C. BRANCH NEWSLETTER

Our Branch continues to grow. Three new members have come to B.C. and we welcome them: Clarence "Cy" Stewart, Manitoba; Bob Warren, Montreal and Maj. Anatole Gormorsky, ex-HKVDC and U.N. Forces.

B.C. Branch representatives, Aubrey Flegg, Lionel Speller and John Fonseca were at the Bayshore Inn to welcome the Hongkong delegates back from their trip to Korea, Japan and Hongkong. We enjoyed the excellent dinner provided by the Manitoba Branch through Sid Vale. Sister Kay Christie, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Mayne, Chas. Brady, Sid Vale and Lawrence Rattie, along with Olive and Aubrey, Lionel and John chatted for an hour in the Rotunda until the 'jet lag' beckoned the delegates to bed.

Colonel "Monty" Truscott will be happy to renew friendships with such old buddies as: Ray Squires, Ted Kurluk, Gerry Gerrard, Mel Keyworth, Howie Naylor, Walter Jenkins, Bobbie Acton and others who remember him. Major Gormorsky will be anxious to see all his old ex-HKVDC comrades.

Earl Mawson celebrated his 82nd birthday last month. He'll be there come September 30th.

SICK CALL: Maj. Ernie Hodgkinson and Capt. Don Philip are both recovering nicely from their last operations. Bert Broadfoot is back at the wheel and recovering slowly. Jack Hay still suffering from a bad (WEE) knee. Larry and Marge Milord moved to Burnaby and we are happy to report that Scotty Temple is still going strong.

We thank the Fleggs, Olive and Aubrey, for the terrific P.R. job their are doing on the Mainland.

Some DUES are still due for 1978. \$10pa

DON'T FORGET: 30 September in Victoria

OUR ASININE ARTIST was asked to illustrate: CARRYING IT TOO FAR!



and he came up with this!

MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (continued from Page 4)

Dear John: Thank you for your very nice letter. I don't know whether I can do very much for you in the way of interesting anecdotes re POW camp(s) in Japan, but here goes anyway.

I was in the first draft that went to Japan in January 1943. There were 500 (approx.) men on that one, split I think, between Winnipeg Grenadiers and Quebec Royal Rifles along with some Brigade people.

We had Capt. J.A.G. Reid, Med. Officer with us and who could wish for a better one. Also the two R.S.Ms, Paddy Keenan and Les Shore, and quite a few members of the Band. The three McKnights were there, Elmer, Gerald and Mel, Doug Morrison, Harry Creedon, Red Morgan and probably more but memory fails me.

Buster Agerbok was there and my bunk mates on either side of me in section three were Jim Downey and Chick Query

Our camp was known as 3D (Yokohama, ED) and we were the very unwilling employees of the Nippon Kokkan shipyards.

A few more names: "Pop" Kerrigan, Bildeau, CSM Todd and, of course, my very good friend (still) Angus McRitchie.

We were there until late spring 1945 and were then shipped to Sendai where we stayed until we were freed. I am sorry to say that I am not good at remembering names, but I have given you some and I hope that this may stir up more from some of your other readers.

My very best wishes to you and may your efforts continue flourishing in good, good health.

Winnipeg, Man. John C. Matheson
P.S. One American that I remember, from Montana I think, Mike Palmer.

John, You're doing great. Many thanks. I am going to re-print the above names in the official 'Bango' list when I get more names, later.

A REMINDER - DUES

There are a number of membership dues for 1978 still outstanding. Members who have not yet done so, are requested to mail in same without delay, to:
the Secretary: Lionel Speller
3628 Saanich Road, Victoria, B.C.
V8X 1X3

Dear John: I recognised at first glance, the picture of Gerry Mabley in the last issue of Roll Call.

I have been trying to recall as many as I can, the names of the 200 Royal Rifles, Winnipeg Grenadiers and English troops sent from Shumshuipo in January 1943 to Di Go (#5 ?), later changed to Di Hatch (#87), Omine, Fukuoka District in Japan.

I have probably made many mistakes in the spelling of some of the names, but now that I am thirty five years older, my memory might be slipping a little!

We enjoy the ROLL CALL very much and wish you continued success. Sayonara!

Thunder Bay, Ont. J.K. (Ken) Bell

What a fantastic and magnificent job of remembering! Congrats and thank you very much. Wouldn't worry about spelling correctly. I can't spell ordinary words correctly let alone names. JOHN. The 'fundushi's yourn!

Dear John: Just got back from Vancouver. Sorry I did not contact you but time was of the essence. Did talk to Aubrey Flegg for a few minutes. Is there a reunion for B.C. in September in Victoria? Perhaps you could let me know dates, place, etc., and I will try to be there.

On my return Jack Hardy gave me a call and furnished a lot of names of fellows who had been at Oeyama. These were mainly from "C" Company and I have thrown in a few more. (See additional list for Oeyama on Page 7)

All the names listed were Grenadiers. There was one lone Rifleman, Archibald, J.

Would also like to mention two fine Doctors and gentlemen:
Surgeon Dr. Stenning, R.A.N. and Major Beadnall, R.A.M.C.

Have not yet got into the mood for an article but will do so. In the meantime, keep up the good work.

Winnipeg, Man. Ken Porter

Ken: I couldn't asked for better cooperation and support. I've incorporated your list with others received and look forward to your article as well as seeing you in Victoria come September 30. JOHN

NEWS FROM OTHER BRANCHESMANITOBA BRANCH :

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: It is hoped that you have all enjoyed a very pleasant summer, and now that the holidays are over are ready to get down to work again. We have a busy time ahead of us. As your Convention Chairman for the 1979 National Convention I remind you again that the dates are September 12-16, 1979, and the place is the North Star Inn, Winnipeg. We expect to meet again very soon with the hotel management, at which time we will be informed of the daily rates. This information will be passed on as soon as available.

ANNUAL MANITOBA BRANCH REUNION: October 14, 1978, at the International Inn, Winnipeg, Man. Tickets are now available and can be obtained by contacting Ike Friesen-475 6641; Roy Stodgell -222 6633; Sid Vale - 774 7332. Tickets are \$12.50 per person. Out of town members can obtain tickets by writing to Ike Friesen- 86 86 Fletcher Crescent, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 0L1.

WINNIPEG GRENADIER CADET CORPS: As mentioned in our last letter, it was proposed by the Manitoba Branch Council that the Branch should relinquish sponsorship of the Cadet Corps. We are pleased to report now that the Cadet Corps has been taken over by Unit No 1 of the Army, Navy, Air Force Veterans in Canada. It is felt by all concerned that the Army and Navy, being a much larger organization, can better serve the aims of the Corps, in leadership and training facilities. Something that we, as a smaller group, have found it difficult to maintain in recent years. A vote of thanks, on behalf of the branch, is extended to our good member Frank Harding, who has served as Liaison Officer with the Cadet Corps for more years than he cares to remember.

ROLL CALL: There will be no further free distribution of the Roll Call, so when you finish reading your copy pass it on to someone you know who has not subscribed, and at the same time urge them to become subscribers. The rates are still \$3.00 per year for 4 issues. Mail your subscriptions to:

John Fonseca, 796 Adiron Avenue,
Coquitlam, B.C. V3J 4K2

SID VALE
Secretary-Treasurer

ONTARIO BRANCH :

1979 NATIONAL CONVENTION: North Star Inn, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Sept. 12-16, '79
CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS (NATIONAL ASSOCIATION): Red Windsor of the Southern Alberta-Sask. Branch was elected Chairman at your 1977 Convention. He is very anxious to hear from the Committee Members that were elected. Also if any member has any suggestions, please send them to Red Windsor, 364 Edmund Heights, 1220- 8 Ave. N.E. Calgary, Alta T2E 0S6.

PENSIONS: Effective July 1st 1978; the basic rate of Pensions payable to Veterans disabled due to military service will be increased as follows:

	Current	New
100% d.p. Single	\$7,160.40	7,471.16
100% married with		
2 children	10,561.80	11,019.96

Widow's pension will be increased to \$5,603.37 from \$5,370.34. Similarly appropriate increases will be provided to those who qualify for Prisoner of War benefits.

35TH ANNIVERSARY PILGRIMAGE TO HONGKONG AND JAPAN 1980: Tentative dates now are: Departing on November 23, 1980 and Returning on December 14, 1980.

OBITUARIES: Robert Petra, Arvida, Quebec; Stanley Somerville, Sillery, Quebec; Jules Provencher, Chomey, Quebec. Our deepest sympathies to the bereaved families. It is with sadness that we announce the death of Mrs. Kravinchuk, wife of Sam Kravinchuk, President of Northern Alberta-Saskatchewan Branch, on June 8th. Our Vice-President, George Soper, who was in Edmonton, attending the Royal Canadian Legion Convention, was one of the many who gathered to pay their respects.

CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE: will be held on Saturday, December 2, 1978 at BRANCH #42, Royal Canadian Legion, Toronto. Turkey with all trimmings will be served.

SICK LIST: Percy Weaver is in "K" Wing and Jimmy Court is in D-2 Wing, Sunnybrook Hospital. George Horswell was in Toronto General Hospital where he had an operation on his heart, a by-pass which was successful.

The Branch wishes to acknowledge with many thanks donations received from the following: Howard Thornton, Gus Massen, Jim MacMillan and Larry Dowling.

HITHER AND YON WITH FONZ

The return of Jack Baillie's collection of news clippings recording the history of the Winnipeg Grenadiers from 1939 thru 1974, to Mrs. Eva Baillie, removes an important source of information for the Roll Call. It, however, is a loss which we gladly endorse as it is the intention of Eva to bestow this magnificent record to the National Museum in Ottawa, where it will be accessible to the general public of Canada. We take this opportunity to express our deep and grateful thanks to Mrs. Baillie for the generous loan of the collection for use by the Roll Call.

1978 appears to be an auspicious year for Hongkong Veterans to become grandpappies. The latest are: Tony Grimston, Ted Schultz, Walter Jenkins, Ken Hogarth, Dick Johnson, Ernie Hodkinson and Padre Uriah Laite. They, together with Bill Laidlaw (previously reported) are offered our heartiest congratulations. Someone whispered that Comrade K.R. Johnston also expects to join - or has since joined - the ranks and if this is so, to him too goes our best gratters. If this keeps up, I should have sufficient Corona-Coronas to tide me over Christmas and the New Year festivities.

A recent visitor to Vancouver to attend the International Students Union Convention at U.B.C., was ex-Shumshuipo resident, Sir Albert Rodrigues, HKVDC Medical Corps, who was knighted by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, some years back for his work whilst a POW in Shumshuipo and later as the Colony Medical Chief. I am informed that he was made an Honorary Life Member of the Winnipeg Grenadiers when he visited Winnipeg in the late 60's or early 70's. With him are his wife, Lady Cynthia and daughters Ann (Toronto) and Marie (Los Angeles). Welcome to B.C. 'Doc'!

MORE ON KAWAKITA: Ken Porter submits the following interesting true story: "Apropos of our friend (I use the word in its loosest sense!), the interpreter at Oeyama, here is a little sidelight affecting myself.

In the early 50's I was the Secretary-Treasurer of the Town of Winnipeg Beach a resort some 50 miles north of Winnipeg. One morning I was busily engaged

SHUMSHUIPO INFLATION FIGHTER

Take one Royal Leaf cigarette. Quarter it:



add two sheets 'bumph', halved diagonally, making four triangles: roll each triangle into a cone, insert one-quarter cigarette into open end, tamp and fold lip over:



Result: Four smokes and NO BUTTS!

in my office, when I walked the local RCMP Corporal, Percy McLachlan, accompanied by two well-dressed gentlemen. After the usual pleasantries, Percy told me these chaps would like my help in identifying an individual. After they had produced their I.D. cards, showing them to be FBI agents, much to my astonishment they held up a photo of our old pal, Kawakita. From the astounded look on my face, they knew that I had recognized him.

After confirming this with a few choice expletives not usually found in Webster, I made a deposition on his activities at Oeyama and swore to this in front of the local Postmaster. Upon being asked whether I would be prepared to go to California to testify at his trial, I said I would go to hell to do so. However, I was not called but my deposition was accepted as evidence. Subsequently, Kawakita received 20 years.

It has always been my understanding that shortly before his assassination, President Kennedy pardoned a number of prisoners. One of these were Kawakita but a condition of the pardon was that he be deported to Japan."

(We have more on that character, packing quite a punch. See our next issue (Winter 1978) for the story. ED)

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

Enjoy yourself! It's a damn sight later than you think!