

THE ROLL CALL
796 ADIRON AVENUE
COQUITLAM, B.C.
CANADA V3J 4K2

1980

VOL.: 4:2

THE

ROLL CALL



HONGKONG VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA.

Mrs. Alice Davis,
1538, Logan Avenue
Winnipeg, Man.
R3E 1S3



BRITISH COLUMBIA BRANCH
MAGAZINE

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

TO ALL B. C. BRANCH MEMBERS , WIVES , AND FAMILIES,
AND TO ALL HONGKONG VETERANS AND OUR FRIENDS
ELSEWHERE, BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY , ENJOYABLE
AND SAFE SUMMER IN 1980.

* * * * *

U N T I L Y O U D O

by S/Sgt Harry MacNaughton

What have you done today,lad,
As you made the rounds of the Camp.
Did the light of desire really shine
As bright as Aladdin's lamp.

Did you stop to say a word or two
To the chap whose face was long;
Did you bring a sparkle to his eyes
And leave in his heart a song.

Did you drop in where the sickly lay
Did you bring them hope and cheer
That soon they'd be with loved ones,
that the end was very near.

Did you say "hello" in passing by
The halt, the lame and the blind,
Did you make it seem a duty
Not attempt at being kind.

Did you with patience listen
To someone's "ups and downs"
Did you tell him that a smile or two
Are better far than frowns.

If you've done these things, my lad,
You too, can wear a smile
That will start you off tomorrow
To do the things worth while.

THE ROLL CALL

HONGKONG VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA - BRITISH COLUMBIA BRANCH

VOLUME 4: 2

SUMMER 1980

PAGE 1

ANOTHER "FIRST" FOR US

To the laurels already earned by this magazine, including its presence amongst official records in the Canadian War Museum's reference library, we are now honoured and privileged to add what we consider the most authentic and complete on-the-spot account of Hongkong and what it was like back in 1941-45, by any one individual. It is the Diary of the late Padre Uriah Laite M.C., D.D. a Man of God and a Man of Peace, who was suddenly injected into the centre of the carnage of war and the desperate days which followed within the confines of a Japanese POW camp.

The Diary, compiled from day to day, is written by hand, clandestinely, in secrecy and at the risk of physical harm, if not possible execution, if it had been found by the Japanese, is characteristic of the man himself. There was no rancour, hate or vengefulness and completely selfless. Compared to other fictionalised versions by various authors who weren't even there, it is, to our minds, unimpeachable and history in itself.

We are deeply and gratefully indebted to our Padre's beloved widow, Sally, for permission to put it into print for the very first time ever, for benefit of all Hongkong Veterans and it is with immense pride that we record it for posterity in tribute to our esteemed friend and comrade, Padre Uriah Laite.

We also find this, his story, exemplary of what a Hongkong Veteran is - a part of a unique and splendid body of men (here too, we include their wives and families who also suffered in their patient waiting) who endured an ordeal few can ever hope to match.

To say that we should be proud, will be the biggest understatement of all time.

(Please turn to Page 3 for the first instalment of this serialised version.)

B.C. BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING-REUNION

The first of two Branch Annual Meetings and Reunions, at the Biltmore Hotel, Vancouver, on 15 March 1980, proved both rewarding and disappointing at the same time.

It was rewarding in the sense that the usual happy and sociable get-together crowd, so characteristic of our gatherings, were in attendance and enjoyed the substantial half-chicken dinner, complete with trimmings, that was served (enough to see some 'doggy bags' being in evidence!), and disappointing in that a much smaller number managed to make it. That horrid flu' bug and the possibility of more snow falling, can be blamed for it.

Emphasizing the good-fellowship that continues to flourish between Hongkong veterans throughout the land, there were from outside the Vancouver area: the Len Seaborns from Neepawa, Man.; Frank Petch (Blue River); Paul Luchka (Hope); Harry White (Okanagan Falls) and Joe Rafferty (Vedder Crossing). From the Island came the Bob Manchesters, Lionel Spellers, Ernie Hodgins (party of 6), Walter Jenkins, Gerry Mabley, Gerry Stewart and John Leeson.

Our Reunions will not be complete without our friends from south of the border and this time, we welcomed the Harold Pages, Don Galloways, Ralph Whaleys and Bill Darnold, all from Washington.

The business meeting discussed a number of important decisions to be made amongst which were:

1. That Bob Manchester takes to Winnipeg end of June, a reiteration of B.C. Branch's stand against any attempt to revive treating POW compensation separate from existing pensions. This will be at the National Council Meeting scheduled for June 27 through 29.
 2. Cost of trip by B.C. Branch delegate will be borne by the Branch. It was revealed that, hitherto, our President
- (continued on Page 2)

EDITORIAL

A reader asked: Was the editorial in our last issue regarding the continued receipt of the Roll Call by all B.C. Branch members be confirmed, necessary?

We believe it was. There were a number who had not acknowledged in any way at all - not even a peep over the phone - that they had ever received our magazine ever since it was first mailed to them three years ago, or indicated that they'd even read it. The editorial appeared to be the easiest and simplest way of finding out.

We are proud to announce response was so immediate and overwhelmingly gratifying that we feel we can afford to overlook the few who have yet to return their coupons. We hope they will do so, or even phone or write in as soon as possible.

It was never our intention to start a drive for funds (Sure sounded like one for damsure!ED). However, the spate of cheques accompanying returned coupons showing both encouragement and generosity, are hereby gratefully acknowledged and are as equally welcomed as the spirit in which they were offered. To be also included in our thanks are the spontaneous donations from paid subscribers from outside B.C.

The thought that this, our Roll Call, does fill a gap and is being greeted with so much warmth and appreciation makes it so very worthy of our working our butts off to provide those who have given us such continued and terrific support, with entertaining and relaxing reading.

To the others, however, we are certainly not prepared to do so if the Roll Call is being consigned to the garbage can, ignored and unread, together with the junk mail. To them, we reserve the right to delete their names from our mailing list without further notice.

So there you have it!

TO ALL OUR READERS:

The ROLL CALL welcomes the opportunity to wish: that our lovely ladies had a very happy and rewarding Mother's Day on May 11; that our men will have an equally enjoyable Father's Day, June 15 and that ALL of you have a great and contentment filled summer in 1980.

OUR WARMEST CONGRATS AND THANKS

TO OUR COMRADES AND THE PEOPLE OF QUEBEC FOR ADMINISTERING THAT DEVASTATING 'COUP DE GRACE' TO A DASTARDLY ATTEMPT TO DESTROY THIS OUR CANADA, FOR WHICH WE ALL PAID SO DEARLY TO KEEP, ON 20 MAY 1980.

THERE WAS NEVER ANY DOUBT THAT YOU WOULD WIN, AND WILL KEEP ON WINNING OVER THAT YOUTHFUL RABBLE WHICH HAD LITTLE, IF ANYTHING, TO DO WITH THE BUILDING OF THIS GREAT COUNTRY.

"IL-Y-EN A PEU QUI SONT AUSSI BIEN QUE TOI !! BONNE CHANCE ! JOHN

A WORD FROM YOUR EDITOR

Staying one jump ahead of anyone of our readers who might think of, but hasn't yet, commenting that there are too many letters to the editor being published, we offer the following:

We continue to do so because, in the first place, they are interesting, they are appreciated, they serve to - more often than not - provide sources for continuity and expansion (the mention of names, places or events triggering others to write in) and, if that isn't enough, these letters, at the very least, let their buddies and friends know that they're still around and very much alive.

To mention just one or two cases in point, are the lists of POWs in various camps in Japan, especially 3*D, which resulted in a number of letters drawing our attention to the fact that the writers were also there. To them we say, "please be patient. The names of all 3-D residents will be published eventually. We have the official list."

Again, the "OZARK" story. First mentioned by Gordie Sissons, it continued with the foto from Bill Achtymikhuk, a further photo from Bill Laidlaw (he wasn't on board) and the info that our Nat'l President Lloyd Doull and his brother, Llewelyn, also returned to Canada on board her.

So, please bear with us. As we said, they are all interesting, appreciated and serve to bring the gang, what is left of it, closer together. And they sure help fill the pages! John.

OUR PADRE'S DIARY

Rev:U.Laite,M.C.

(Author's Note: 'Diaries had to be written without much detail because we were very often subject to search which could have meant (and did in some cases) confiscation of papers and a trip to Japanese Headquarters for questions and for beatings, etc.

Written by hand in camp and saved from prying eyes of searchers and copied by friends.

Signed: U. Laite, M.C.

H/Capt & Chaplain

Winnipeg Grenadiers

1941-1945.)

D I A R Y

of

H/Capt. U., Laite

Prisoner of War in Hongkong

December 1941 - August 1945

Oct.27th:1941.Left Vancouver with Force "C" for Hongkong but sailed under sealed orders.

Oct:31st. Pte Schrage of R.R.C.died on board - buried at sea.

Nov:2nd. At Honolulu.

Nov.4th. Submarine sighted.

Nov.5th.Crossed International Date Line (lost a day).

Nov.6th. Lecture by Brig. J.K.Lawson.

Nov.8th. Ship's guns fired in practice.

Lecture by Capt. Dennison.

Nov.11th. Lecture by Capt.E.E.Dennison.

Nov.13th. Nearing Philippines.Funeral of Awatea seaman.Blackout lifted at night. Lt.Young put on mock broadcast.

Nov.14th. Manila-Confined to ship-U.S.

A. Chaplain on board. Re-fuelling and water-Escort "Danae"-Blackout again enforced.Major Linden lectured.

Nov.16th,Sunday. Arrived at Kowloon.Met by planes and M.T.Bs. Docked at 8:30

a.m. and disembarked at noon.Men confined to barracks until 1800 hrs on Nov

19th.I spent two days at Peninsular Hotel and on the 18th rejoined my unit at Shamshuipo Camp-Hankow Barracks.

Nov.18th. Cable from Halifax from Stan.

Nov.23rd. First Sunday Church Parade.

315 men at Church.Subject-"Spiritual Reserves" Matt:25.Lt Parks in charge.

Nov.28th.Designated H.K.I.B.(Hong Kong Infantry Brigade) and responsible for the defence of Hongkong.The other forces(British) designated Kowloon Infantry Brigade.

Nov.29th. Cable from Home -3677 West 19,Vancouver.

Nov.30th. Sunday Parade. Subject:More than conquerors" Rom:8:37.Major Hook in charge.

Dec.2nd. Cable to Florence.

Dec.3rd. Attended meeting of Committee "Service Section" Y.M.C.A.

Dec.4th. Visited twenty men in hospital.Attended lecture at China Fleet Club,by British Colonel from Ministry of Information, on War Conditions.

Dec.6th. Visited C.A.M.Hospital-25 VD patients.Visited Bowen Road Hospital -60 patients.Special interview with three in a group and one alone.Black-out.

Dec.7th. Church Parade. Over 200 present.Text: Ezekiel 2:1. Sudden call to man positions on Hongkong Island.Evening-Kai Tak airport bombed(??ED).

Dec.8th. War began. Planes overhead at 8 a.m. and our Hankow and Nanking Barracks bombed. Two Canadian casualties. Later in day took truckload of supplies to Wan Chai Gap where our headquarters established.

Dec.9th. The last plane of China National Airways came to Hongkong and returned. Late in afternoon D Coy. of W.G. came to Kowloon.

Dec.10th-18th. Spent time at H.Q. and at different Co:H.Q. Serious shelling and bombing daily but military personnel sustained no losses.

Outstanding Events-HongKong Battle

Dec.11th.Evacuation of Kowloon Mainland.

Dec.12th. Complete occupation of Kowloon Mainland by Japanese(Except Devil's Peak).

Dec.13th. Japanese ask for surrender of Hongkong.

Dec.16th.Heaviest air-raid of war on Aberdeen.

Dec.18th. Japanese againask for surrender of Hongkong. Attempted first landing but were repulsed.

Dec.18th-19th. Night landings of Japanese on Island, and first British prisoners taken.

Dec 13th. Visited D Co: on return from New Territories with Maj.Trist.

(To be continued next issue)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear John: Enclosed please find cheque which will renew my subscription for the Roll Call and the remainder can be put to any use you wish. Please convey my best wishes to all Hongkong Vets, the best of everything in 1980.

Since our last correspondence we have lost Padre Laite. I feel deeply sorry as I had numerous talks with Padre Laite during our captivity, sometimes under severe conditions. I didn't know Padre Laite until I met him in prison camp, and of course, when I found out he was a Newfoundlander our ties seemed to be more concrete. I never met Mrs Laite, but if you happen to meet her sometime please pass along my sincere sympathies. Padre Laite was born in a small community about 20 or 25 miles from where I live. It was through a dear friend of his that I started to receive the Roll Call.

I would appreciate it very much if you could send the Roll Call to Bob Durdle who is a HK POW. Bob and I spent quite some time in North Point Camp until we were both shipped to different parts of Japan. Bob was wounded before Christmas 1941 and he spent a few days in hospital at the time the Japanese killed patients in their beds besides raping and killing the nurses.

I read the Roll Call from cover to cover and wish to say that it's a beautiful job. My congratulations to all who have a part in its production.

I find the Miigata story quite interesting; naturally I would as I spent quite a few months there. I hope Bob says something about the band that played there. I think the music we tried to play helped a little as regards the morale in the camp.

I also read about the Jubilee Buildings. I worked there, together with a chap named Squires, under Dr Crawford, who I think may be living in B.C. But that is another story to be told at a later date. Best wishes.

Clareville, Nfld. Fred Drover

Sure good to hear from your area. You too are a part of the Roll Call, so keep in touch. Thanks and God Bless.

Dear John: I don't know how one can longingly wait for the next issue of The Roll Call to be received so that the print can be eagerly devoured and on the other hand conveniently forget that everything has its price. I am a prime example - anyway the enclosed should put me in better standing for a while.

So many good things have been said about your magazine, that it is repetitious for me to say anything but that if we ever needed a way to keep us together and in close contact, the Roll Call is the answer.

Keep up the splendid work and we'll keep up by waiting in anticipation of the next issue.

Portage la Prairie Angus McRitchie

That is one lovely thought, lovely in its warm sincerity. My Dad used to say 'Everyone needs an occasional pat on the pate or a rap on the rear!' I have received so many of the former from you good people that we have dispensed with the "Preventive Therapy" treatment for swelled headiness! Thank you so very much. John

Dear John: Enclosed please find M.O. for subscription to the Roll Call. We enjoy the magazine very much, so keep up the good work. Best regards to all.

Las Vegas, Nevada Roger J. Zane

Thanks, Roger. But it's too much so with your permission I'll drop the remainder into the Kitty. Chimo, John

Dear John: Please find cheque enclosed to renew my 1980 subscription for the Roll Call plus a little extra.

It was great to see you at the 1979 Convention in Winnipeg. My wife and I thoroughly enjoy reading the Roll Call. Please keep up the good work.

Thunder Bay, Ont. Alex Prairie

Meeting you and all the guys and gals was a privilege I looked forward to with much pleasure and anticipation and I wasn't disappointed one bit. The 'little extra' truly generous.

MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear John: Thank you for your letter of February 18, plus Roll Call which I received a few days later. The Roll Call, as usual, was very interesting, particularly the article on Sendai 2. I have often wondered what happened to Ninomiya, Ozawa and Wakamatsu. In fact until I read your article, I had forgotten two of the names; Wakamatsu's name I will remember if I live to be 100. I still bear a couple of scars that will never allow me to forget him.

I know you're very busy, John, but would it be possible to get a copy of the deposition you received from Jack Christensen. I would be most interested in reading it.

Thank you for your information regarding your March Annual Meeting, but I'm afraid I won't be able to make it this time. Duty calls me back to Winnipeg.

Yesterday (Feb. 25) was our election meeting, it should have been last December, but had to be postponed. Howard is back as President & Treasurer and yours truly is Secretary.

I have a feeling that I owe the Roll Call some money but am not sure, so I enclose a cheque to be on the safe side. (Syd: You're good until 1989. ED)

Hope all is well with you and yours, John. You say you feel that you will be a crotchety old 'basket!' when you reach your 70th milestone. Not to worry I have been one of those for years, and still have 9 years to go before I reach 70! Kindest regards to all.

Edmonton, Alta. Sid Vale

Nize guy, nize letter 'n nize getting it. Congrats to both you and Howard. Didn't realize your membership was 17 in all. Greetings from all of us. John.

Dear John: Enclosed is my donation to the Roll Call. I enjoy it very much and would be sorry to miss getting a copy. You do a great job. Many thanks:

Maple Ridge, B.C. Ernie Whitfield.

Kind of sentiment any editor feel warm all over. Thanks for the thought and your generosity. Hope all is O.K., sure missed you at our Reunion. John.

Thanks, Tom. You never fail. John →

Dear John: Don't think I ever had the pleasure of meeting you in my travels. Lionel can tell you all about me and it probably will not be all good.

I do enjoy the Roll Call and get a kick out of some of the things that bring back memories.

I wrote to Speller. I am sorry to hear he is having eye trouble.

I note in the magazine you refer to Mike Melkowski. Mike is as well as can be expected and living at the Byng Hotel in Cranbrook. Dube (Rollie) is also around, I see him once in a while. I enclose a cheque for my membership and a bit to aid the cause. Best to you. Yours fraternally,

Cranbrook, B.C. Hank Mayberry.

I'd heard that you intended to come down for our Reunion and was looking forward to meeting you. Dam snow sure came at an inopportune time. Your due has been passed on to Lionel and you will be getting your card pretty soon. Re Mike. Thanks for the info. He is one of those holding themselves incommunicado!

John

Dear Sir: Gordon is sending you cheque to keep the Roll Call going. He was very sick all summer, the doctor didn't know what the matter was. Gordon thinks it was beri-beri or a sunstroke and was so sick I didn't think he was going to live, for a few days.

He is back to normal now. He lost so much weight (down to 122 lbs) but has gained some of it back, weighs 140 lbs and has gained his strength back. He could hardly walk.

So let's keep the magazine going! Sincerely,

Okanagan Falls, B.C. Mrs. Gordon Clark.

This is great news to all Gordie's comrades and friends. Deeply regret both his illness and the goshawful time you must have had. Sincerely glad he's well on the road to recovery and to ask him to keep it up. We sure appreciate his generosity. John

Dear John: Please find enclosed my cheque plus a little extra for my subscription to the Roll Call. Keep up the good work.

Reston, Manitoba Tom Forsyth

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

As expected, I was asked: "What are your thoughts on the Quebec Referendum?"

If I was an ordinary editor whose livelihood depends upon his adherence to his paper's policies, I would probably say: "No comment." But, as one very proud un-hyphenated Canadian closely involved with a magazine which caters to Hongkong Veterans of many origins, races and creeds, whose intentions are, and always will be, to promote understanding and good fellowship across the land, my over-riding thought is that it is imperative that we, all Hongkong Veterans, go all out to preserve this Canada for which we (the Royal Rifles of Quebec and the Winnipeg Grenadiers made up of Canadians from all over the nation) fought, died or suffered side by side, from being dismembered by what is nothing more than a hollow sham of an excuse and a smoke screen invented by a desperate government to hide its inefficiency and inability to govern by preying upon the emotions of its people in promoting the false and groundless premise that Quebec's culture and language is in danger of being eroded and/or emasculated.

To me, the words "culture" and "society" are both meaningless abstracts coined by people suffering from a complex which demands recognition to survive. I have as little desire or interest to erode or acquire the culture or language of Leveque's Quebec as I have for those of Vancouver's Chinatown, the Ukrainian communities of the Prairies or Toronto's Little Italy.

To Leveque I say this: You have my assurance that your brand of culture is in no danger from me. On the other hand - in view of the fact that preserving one's culture is a two-way street - keep yours where it belongs - At Home.

Out West, it is of no utter use, except to pamper to one's ego, and the sad reality is that no matter what the outcome of the vote on May 20 may be, the end result, in Quebec, will be a festering sore where families, friends, neighbours and co-workers will be divided and will bear the scars of an emotional decision that will take decades, if ever, to heal.

THE FONZ

REMEMBER "OUR SONYA" - 2

No matter what anyone says: For the moment, she was for REAL!

DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED

Donations from the following, received by your Editor since 1 Feb. 1980, are hereby acknowledged with deepest and sincerest thanks:

Angus McRitchie	Dave Adams
Roger Zane	Len March
Alex Prairie	Ken Cambon
Ernie Whitfield	C.S.Pau
Gordon Clark	T.O. Jacobsen
Hank Mayberry	W.A. Rodgers
Sid Vale	Bill Derhak
John Campbell	R.J. Grant
Mrs. Sally Laite	Cliff Newcomb
Bill Laidlaw	Frank Conkey
Jack Christensen	Scotty Adams
Art Baty	Ken Porter
Jim Thom	Tom Sinclair
Reg Kerr	C.M. Victor
Richard Maze	Murray Brown
Derek Rix	Arnold Porter
Joe W. Walton	Don McPherson (V.W.)
Bob Utech	Charlie Woods
Duncan Benton	Carlos Arnulphy (HK)
Richard Wilson	

In addition to the above, we have been notified that a second list of donations, forwarded to Secretary Lionel Speller on Vancouver Island, is being included in our Branch Newsletter (Page 13). To you too, we offer our grateful thanks.

Did anyone yet tell you that you're one great bunch of fellers? If not, remember I'm the guy what dunit first!

CAMP 3-D ROSTER(Japanese listing)

In reply to a number of letters advising that the writers were also at 3-D, the following explanation will, we trust, prove satisfactory. The list was compiled by the Japanese with personnel from the Royal Rifles recorded first and the Grenadiers following. The 500 POWs were divided into ten groups of 50 men per group. The first six groups comprised members of the Royal Rifles, and the remaining four, Grenadiers. A few errors may be found, but what can one expect when it was typed on the same 'bumph' paper we prized so dearly! So, have patience. Your name'll come up if not now, sometime later. John.

Group No. 4

Walton, J.	Cyr, T.
Wyrwas, F.A.	Firlotte, J.
Soper, G.A.	Francis, E.
Kelly, F.	Gray, H.
Bilodeau, A.W.	Killoram, J.
Clayton, R.	Labillois, E.
Clark, O.	Lancaster, R.
Kerrigan, C.	MacIver, G.
Ladds, E.	McNaughton, R.
Goodenough, M.	Mann, C.M.
Henderson, W/	Pappas, W.
Jones, T.	Salter, H.
Labrecque, E.	Sunstrom, G.
Bennett, E.I.	Tremly, R.
LaChance, G.	Ward, H.
MacIver, H.	Wing, P.
Ampi, K.	Young, W.
Bannister, K.	Law, R.
Batley, E.	Adams, D.H.(D.M.?)
Boulanger, B.	Chambers, D.
Boujold, L.	Metallic, P.
Butler, G.P.	Rowen, A.
Chesser, C.	Wilson, E.J.
Comeau, M.	Graves, A.
Cyr, L.	Adams, L.L.

(Dave Adams: Is yo' is or is yo' aint the D.H. Adams listed above. Canadian official list has nine(9) Adams' but no "D.H.", so I assume this must be you - Cpl Adams, D.H.)

DEMAND ITEMS (Japanese Regulations)

1. Always in good spirit and cheerful.
 2. Accomplish honestly in all matters.
 3. Do your work tensely.
- (and a wag added underneath:
ALL BENJO USERS TAKE NOTE !)

B.C. BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING (cont.)

had hitherto steadfastly refused to accept remuneration for trips on Branch business. He will not be permitted to do so this time.

3. A motion to amend the Constitution (if such was necessary) to permit our Secretary to take over duties of the treasurer, (due to retirement of Jack Davies) until our next election meeting in the fall, in order to permit him (Lionel) to hold both offices at the same time. This, of course, was subject to Lionel's acceptance. Moved by Gerry Mabley and carried.

4. Advice was received from Mrs. Lori Berzenski, widow of our late comrade Nick Berzenski, that her husband had bequeathed the sum of Can\$1,000.00 to the Branch for disposition as it saw fit.

The meeting then adjourned after a reminder from our Secretary to the effect that all Hongkong Veterans, qualified for either Disability or WVA pensions, are entitled to eyes, ears and dental treatment, and a vote of thanks to our comrades from out of the area and friends from south of the border for their welcomed presence.

INAUGURATION OF NEW AMEXPOW CHAPTER

Answering to a call from our President Bob Manchester, Bill and Bev Laidlaw drove south to attend the inauguration of the Fourth Corner Chapter of Washington State AMEXPOW Inc. at Bellingham, Sunday, 18 May 1980, as B.C. Branch's representatives.

The ceremony, held at the Odd Fellows Inn, Bellingham, was simple but solemn, with about 40 members, wives and guests in attendance. Officers of the new Chapter are: Cmdr Harold Pope; Vice-Cmdr: Al Willis and Adj: M/s Myrtle Bruland.

Honoured guests, aside from Washington State and National AMEXPOW officials, included Senator Goltz (Wash.), Reg Collins (Australian FEPOW ex-River Kwai inmate) and Hongkong Veteran Bill Laidlaw.

For Bill 'n Bev it was also a happy reunion with our good friends the Pages, Fernandes, Morgans, Galloways and others.

THE SHUMSHUIPO STORY (Part III)

Once things settled down, a splurge of activity appeared from High Command, presumably an effort to boost sagging morale. This resulted in orders being issued with abandon, stupidity and lack of thought so characteristic of Top Brass, for all other ranks to indulge in P.T. exercises, work parties within the camp and most probably, suggestions to the Japanese that work parties outside the camp would do a lot of good. What appeared to have totally escaped their consideration was that men who for months, had been existing on a diet of plain soggy or burnt rice, and nothing else, were in no physical condition for them kinds of goings on!

The Japanese, who never had prisoners of war in such quantity, and who would have never thought of it, latched on to the idea with delight and gusto, and thus, the work parties to Kai Tak was born, followed by foodstuff transportation from the warehouses in Kowloon for the Japanese soldiery and, just for the heck of it, moving 150-kilo bombs and shells from one spot to another in the Telegraph Bay area on the Island.

We digress to point out, that barring a very few hardy young officers, few if any, of these same Top Brass deigned to participate in the activities. We assumed that the mental exercise indulged in thinking up these anti-boredom ideas plus the strutting around, swinging little 'swagger' canes was all that was needed to keep their morale functioning. Of course, receipt of Yen 33.00 per month (for officers only) from the Japanese, which went towards cleaning out the shelves of that little canteen we had in the camp, also helped!

For some reason or other, your author must have been considered a 'jack of many trades'. He went through all the various camp work details, from the nullah cleaning detail to the Sweet Violet gang removing contents of the main "benjo" hut. Then it was on to Kai Tak and the pulling down of the hill which were scaring the Jap pilots clean out of their respective fundushis, as it lay directly in the path of the approach to landing tarmac.

In between Kaitak, spent a couple of days at Telegraph Bay moving bombs and such like. The only pleasant memory I have of that expedition was that one fine day, in winter, we were permitted to go for a swim in the bay. Most of us, hot and sweating from our labours, were soon off the pier and into the frigid water and in the raw. This wasn't at all smart, as it was the season for jelly-bugs, and the discomfort one felt at some of the spots they elected to sting, you wouldn't believe! The last straw, however, was my visit to the warehouses. Instead of being selected to transport sake, cigarettes or toilet paper from the warehouses to the trucks, I had to be in the rice detail! This was something again. You backed to a stack of bags of rice (2 cwts- 224 lbs each) and two men placed the bag on to your back and from then on you're on your own to travel about 100 feet to the trucks which were to cart them away.

I carried ten bags that day and they tell me that it was the funniest thing they'd ever saw. One 224 lb bag of rice on two short legs of a runty 120-pounder making like Foster Brooks. I feel that dull aching pain up to today.

Spent the next three days S.I.Q. and decided that come hell or high water, no more work parties for me. So, with low cunning and deliberate intention of a-swinging the lead, I offered my services as a cleaner-upper at the HKVDC cook-house. Old Busty Bowers was the head-man then and if you knew him and how much he detested a dirty cook-house, you'll not wonder how I got the job.

From then on, life in camp was a snap for me. I progressed from floor cleaner to rice-boiler cleaner, then to assistant to Joe Horowitz, whose speciality was preparation of the "Green Horror" and whom, from the way he prepared the damned stuff, I always secretly believed to be a sadistic bum but a likeable chap all the same. From there I became a cook! and immediately attained seniority with the rest - I also became a CROOK!

Upon re-reading this, I regret that memory is playing tricks again and I am going too fast and apologise for same. There are the arrival of the Canadians from North Point and also the first bombing raid on Standard Oil installation just across the way from Shumshuipo. These'll come next.

HITHER AND YON WITH FONZ

Got a phone call from Cliff Matthews the result of which saw him and Elsie dropping in for a few minutes, but which lasted for over two hours and was so much enjoyed that we had them over for supper the next night, in order to continue where we'd left off. They'd been visiting relatives in B. C. and were on their way back to Winnipeg a couple of days later. This was in early March and their schedule prevented attendance at our Annual Reunion. Both, however, sends greetings to all B.C. Branch members.

Speaking of phone calls, was talking to Sally Laite t'other morning and as usual we tied up the lines for some time. Much we had to talk about and Sally wishes to express her regrets that she was unable to attend our Reunion, but adds, "the boys will understand." During the course of our confab, she asked about about various B. C. Vets, two of whom were Cliff Newcomb and Frank Conkey, of the Okanagan and San Diego, Cal., respectively. Half an hour after we hung up, the postman dropped two letters into our mailbox. Yeah! You guessed it! One was from Frank and the other from Cliff. Now tell me that dear Sally is not "fey".

The Creedon's - Harry and Helen- are back in God's Country, arriving here from Mesa, Arizona, shortly after our Reunion. Helen, passing on the 4-day drive back, flew in. But Harry didn't come it alone. He got Doug Morrison, visiting that part of the world, to keep him company on the road back by car. No, it wasn't because of the rain or floods down there that brought them back. It just happened to be time to return. In any case, Harry says their trailer-home was 29 feet above peak-flood level and they suffered no harm.

THE ROLL CALL: Sponsored by the B.C. Branch, HK Veterans Assoc. of Canada.
Editor: John Fonseca
Mainland: 796 Adiron Ave, Coquitlam, B.C.
V3J 4K2. Vancouver Island: c/o Lionel Speller, 3628 Saanich Rd. Victoria, B.C.
V8X 1X3

On the subject of floods, we see that the waters at Port Hope, Ontario came pretty close to where our comrade, Glenford Mann, lives, in Cobourg. If my map is accurate, you can stand on Glenford's sun porch and watch the pretty girls walking down Main Street in Port Hope. Fortunately, Glenford, you're not built as close to the ground as I am, for you could get cold and wet in the most embarrassing of all spots!

Was happy to get a long distance call from Tom Sinclair, out Lockport, Manitoba way. Interested in reading our piece on transfer of Veterans' Hospitals in Alberta, from federal to provincial jurisdiction, Tom informs us that Deer Lodge in Winnipeg, remains the only federal operated veterans hospital in Western Canada. How long it'll remain so, is anybody's guess. What we'd like to know is what the situation is east of Manitoba. We've heard that nursing type homes for veterans have been in operation or are being planned for P.E.I., Nova Scotia and Quebec. 'Pears like us Westerners are too tough to merit that kind of consideration. Aw! What the hell? We didn't even have to vote in that last election!

The phone rang t'other day and it was Albert Rheault, from Redditt, Ontario (near Thunder Bay) calling to say: Hello! to your Editor. He and Pat were visiting relatives out Chilliwack way and took in the Island's Bouchart Gardens, Long Beach and points in between. They tell me though it rained most of the time, they had a ball (Sorry, you Islanders. Should have said: 'precipitated!'). On their return to the Mainland, we arranged to meet and what a goshawful pleasant session it turned out to be! In spite of two coronary attacks and an open heart operation, Al's in the pink. Incidentally, you guys what brag about your 76 x 120 ft lots, Al and Pat's kitchen window looks out on a 135 acre BACK GARDEN!!

My old man told me: You can tell all the lies you want! So long as it is in humour and that no one is hurt!

AND MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Fons: I enclose the slip requesting continuance of your really admirable "Roll Call" and congratulations too on its continued success. I have never been very sure whether it is required or customary for B.C. members of HKVA to contribute towards its continuance, but anyway I am glad to enclose a small donation for that laudable purpose.

Since I can never get a substitute for my job, I'm afraid I can't get to the Meeting next week despite it being comparatively near at hand, as I've already told Lionel when I paid my dues, but once this job goes I am finally retiring (Thank God! - Seven days a week, year in and year out, is a bit of a burden for my ageing and venerable frame!) and then I plan to be more in the swim of things, at least as far as the Mainland is concerned. Kelowna was my last attendance, some years ago. (Don't you think I deserve to be slapped in the face with a wet fundoshi?)

Two small points: (a) Perhaps it would be possible, sometime, to list in the Roll Call the current members of HKVA with their locations? I've never seen such a list since the issue of that booklet at the 1970 Convention in Toronto. (b) I hope the Management will get around to listing me as "T.P." and not "J" Jackson. No doubt there are many worthy Jacksons bearing the appellation "J" (Jeremiah; Jereboam; Justin; John; etc) but yours truly has always gone under the handle of:-

Langley, B.C. Thomas P. Jackson

Tom: Three things to say. (1) Many thanks for the above and enclosure. (2) Wish you a happy well-earned retirement. (3) Re 'the wet fundoshi'! No, you don't! As my friend, Watanabe, would observe: "Sayonara!" which literally means: Since it must be so!

Regarding list of B.C. Members, this is difficult for the following reasons: Some members do not wish it; changes of addresses are such that it makes it hard to keep track and finally, our limited space prevents us from doing so.

Jumpin' Jehoshat! So Sorry! Change of nomenclature noted. John

NOTICE: Donations to the Roll Call are purely voluntary. John

Dear John: Just a little note and a small donation to let you know how much I enjoy the Roll Call. Best to all.

Maple Ridge, B.C. John L. Campbell

Many thanks, hope you're all settled in your new quarters. Keep in touch.

Dear John: I enjoy reading the Roll Call very much. Kay Christie was talking about this fellow "Kahoots". I know him personally. He has relatives here in Winnipegosis. Kohut is a Ukrainian name and that's why it is pronounced 'KAHOOT'!

If you see Bob Manchester sometime give him my best regards.

I never did leave Shumshuipo. I was in the hospital side of the camp most of the time - I mean in and out of hospital. Even now I don't leave home too far. My legs are gone on me.

Anyway, keep up the good work.

Winnipegosis, Manitoba Robert Utech

So Sorry about the legs, Bob. But you are in good company. We've got Alfie Shayler, Fred Mack and many others having trouble with their pins. Even I can't run from the gals as fast as I used to. They catch me easily now!

John: I usually send Lionel a donation when I renew my membership each year. This will give you a few stamps and keep up the good work.

Vancouver, B.C. Duncan A.W. Benton

Sure appreciate the thought. Bestest to you and Dorothy. God Bless. John

Dear John: I just can't remember when my dues to the Roll Call have been paid up to, so here's making sure that all is O.K. for sure - keep it rolling gang - I really enjoy reading it every time I get it. Say hello to all the gang out there, especially Bob Manchester - my Sergeant. Best regards to all - good luck and good health - such as it is - keep on rolling along - never say die - I won't!

Winnipeg, Manitoba Bill Derhak
Couldn't say it better myself. John

AND YET MORE LETTERS

Dear John: I enjoy your magazine very much. I especially like the stories concerning the trip home. I was in the shipyards and the coalmine also, but had a much different trip home.

When we landed back in Tokyo, they split up the Grenadiers and R.Rifles and took all but around sixty Grenadiers away and I never saw them again. The remainder of us were taken to the waterfront, dumped into a boat and taken out to a battleship (USS "IOWA") in the harbour. Spent a couple of days there and then boarded a B29 and Guam was our first stop. Spent a week there in a Navy Hospital and the darn nurses hijacked nearly every souvenir we had. We were then loaded on another B29 and took off for Honolulu. Spent a couple of days there and were then loaded into two planes and took off for Frisco where we landed on a nice rainy morning.

That was when our troubles began. We got into two busses, and the lady driving the one I was in, got lost and dumped us off on a ferry which was supposed to take us some place- and it sure did! The first stop at an island with a big sign ALCATRAZ on it! We were some worried for a while, but they only put off the mail and not us. Then they dropped us on another island with a big army camp on it called Ft. McDowell. We were not expected there, so we were put into a barrack room with beds but no bedding.

We put in two weeks there and were finally rescued by a Red Cross bloke we'd put the bum on for some smokes. It was finally over, but for the train ride to Vancouver, and on home.

If you can find someone with a good memory who also made that four-week trip, Yokohama to Vancouver, it would make a darn good story in itself.

Blue River, B.C. Frank Petch

Although you didn't say so, I believe you were up in 3-D together with Ray Stodgell, Art Munn and Jack Hodgkinson. Sure enjoyed meeting you at our last Reunion. Have a nice summer. John.

PRESCRIPTION from Dr. Ken Cambon, M.D.
Cheque - to be taken internally with a tall drink - stat(?). Ken (Van. B.C.)
Last word a stumper so took it standing and ended up horizontally. Thanks, Doc!

Dear Johnnie: I was very happy to receive your most interesting letter of January 21, giving me all the news of your activities since you moved your family from Hongkong to British Columbia in 1957.

On receipt of your letter accompanied by Vol: 3;3 and 3;4 of the Roll Call, I hastened to send them around, so that everyone who knew you would know of your wonderful work. I have had a hard time getting the Roll Call and your letter back which accounts for the three month delay in answering your letter.

Please let me have a list of the documents you have received from Jack Christensen via Anatole Zaitzeff. I will then know if I still have anything here that would be of interest to you. Anyway, I am sending you under separate cover a copy of "A Record of the Actions of the HKVDC". You will find herewith a cheque as my subscription to your magazine ROLL CALL.

Warmest regards and very best wishes to you and yours.

Hongkong Carlos Arnulphy

Carlos, getting your letter sure made my day. See you've lost all coal-dust from out of your hair, but still have those bi-ceps from shovelling! For anyone nearing the 80 mark you sure look great. Re cheque, many thanks, but you're much too generous. John

Dear John: What "Rice Chomper" in his right mind would not be interested in the Roll Call? I for one look forward to receiving it.

Enclosed is a small contro for the cause. Keep up the good work.

May be moving back to "God's Country" this fall. The exchange on Candn money increasing costs of everything in the good U.S. of A. are gradually fading out climatic advantages of living here. See you later this year.

San Diego, Cal. Frank Conkey

Sure looking forward to seeing you again. Elsa and I had such a wonderful time crossing over to Victoria with you two the last time you were up, we are happily looking forward to another (and more) reunions closer to home. Please advise date of arrival. John

B.C. BRANCH NEWSLETTER

IMPORTANT: Your Branch delegate, either Bob Manchester, President, or his appointee, will be attending our National Council Meeting in Winnipeg, 27-29 June. If you have any beefs, suggestions or whathaveyou, to help the Association prosper and progress, let's hear from you, NOW!

DUES: Don't forget your dues for 1980 \$10.00 per member per year. If your wife hasn't received her card yet, please write to the Secretary.

BRANCH DONATIONS: The following donations will be made by B.C. Branch for the year 1980: Heart Fund; Cancer Fund; Arthritic Society; Salvation Army; St. Vincent de Paul; Lions Crippled Childrens; Diabetic Society; Colonist Xmas Fund; CKNW Orphans Fund and CJOR Xmas Fund. This year, our donations are presented in memory of Comrade Nick Berzenski, Lantzville, B.C. who passed away last year, and of Padre Uriah Laite, M.C., D. D. who left us in November 1980.

OBITS: Richard Dame (Arizona) W.G.; and Russell Woodrich, Deltona, Florida (RRC) Deepest Sympathies and condolences are extended to their families.

VISITING B.C. Our best "gladtoseeya's" are offered to the following who were in B.C. recently: Mrs. Hazel Bishop from Sawyerville, Quebec; Len and Allison Seaborn, Neepawa, Man.; Art & Doreen Lousier (Winnipeg, Man.); Don & Hilda Nelson (Calgary, Alta); Al & Pat Rheault (Redditt, Ont.) and Cliff 'n Elsie Matthews (Winnipeg, Man.). Welcome to to Major Gary and Pepper Anloff from Carmel, Cal.

SICK LIST: It is with much concern and regret that we report that a number of comrades or wives of comrades have not been well recently. Concern is still being felt for George McCarthy (Sgt) of Vancouver, who suffered a stroke; Mrs. Cora McLeod (Dan's wife) who has been ill for some time; Mrs Annie Oomen, in the Royal Columbian with back problems, and only recently (May 14) Edna, popular Branch's First Lady, who has been hospitalized in Victoria and under examination for possible minor coronary ills. To all we offer our sincerest wishes for complete and speedy recovery. To Comrades Lionel Speller and Bill Laidlaw, both of whom spent a few days in dock, we're sure glad to have the two of you back. (cont.next column)

THANK YOU! Elsa Fonseca wishes to express her warm appreciation for all the kind messages and good wishes received following her recent surgery and to advise that all goes well. She adds that all that's required now is to get rid of that pesky husband of hers!

Mrs. Sally Laite also wishes to be remembered to all the gang.

REMINDER: Please send in your Change of Address if you move. Don't forget your new 'Postal Code', or it takes 3 or 4 days longer to get here. For those in the States, it takes from 10 to 13 days longer to get to Victoria.

Lionel Speller, Secretary

ONTARIO BRANCH NEWS

General Meeting: Our next meeting will be held, Tuesday, May 27th, 1980 at the R.C. Legion Hall, Branch #22, 8:00 p.m. **AMEXPOW 1980 Nat'l Convention** will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada, 20-24 July 1980, at the Union Plaza Hotel, 1 Main Street. Registration on Sunday, July 20, at 1:00 p.m. Herman E. Molen advises all Hongkong Veterans, wives and friends will be most welcome at the Convention.

R.C. LEGION DOMINION CONVENTION: At Penticton, B.C. June 8 thru 15, 1980. George Soper, our V/Pres. and his wife will be attending as delegates from Branch 22, R.C. Legion, Toronto. Ont. **Spring Dance 1980:** On 12 April 1980 at Branch #22, R.C. Legion. Over 120 Veterans, wives, families and widows and friends in attendance. Ted Musgrove and wife, Dorothy, President, Nat'l POW Assoc. (E.T.) and members of his Association, with their wives also attended. Thanks to Leo Cyr, Chairman, Entertainment and his aides for a great evening.

Donations: We acknowledge with thanks and gratitude, donations from the following: Rev. J. Barnett, Ed Bujold, Thomas Lucas, Bill Campbell and Ron Inche. **Dues:** There are still a number of members who have not sent in their 1980 dues of \$15.00. Our Sec/Treas: would appreciate receiving your dues before the Summer break.

REMEMBER - NO DUES - NO NEWS

(continued on Page 13)

BRANCH NEWSLETTERS (cont:from Page 12)ONTARIO BRANCH (continued)Coming Events:

National Council Meeting-June 27-29, 1980 at the Birchwood Inn, Portage Ave. Winnipeg Manitoba.

Warriors Day Parade-August 16, 1980 at the C.N.E., Toronto, Ont.

1980 Corn Roast- tentatively September 6th or 13th (to be confirmed) at Barlow Ranch, R.R.#1, Gilford, Ont.

Canadian Corps Assoc: 36th Annual Pilgrimage to honour U.S. Service Men and Women who paid the supreme sacrifice, Sat: June 21, 1980 in Niagara Falls, Ont. Parade assembly at 2:30 p.m. C.C.A. Club 4233 Hickson Ave., Niagara Falls, Ont.

On the Move : Bill and Vickie Mayne are moving from Willowdale to Belleville, Ont. New address is: 28 Dunnett Blvd, Belleville, Ont. K8P 4M8.

Extracts from March 1980 Newsletter - received late for Spring 1980 issue.

Membership: A special welcome to new member David R. Miller (80 years old) who moved from Quebec to Burlington, Ont.

Obits: Word received and confirmed that HK Vets: Russell L. Woodrich of Deltona Florida and Richard Dame, Arizona, died during the past year. Deepest sympathies to their bereaved families.

Donations: Acknowledged with thanks from: B. Cadoret, J. Cook, Miss Kay Christie, Rev. J. Barnett, R. Grieves, W. Leggo, H. MacKnight, G. Masson, W. Mayne, J. Snively, H. Thornton, T. Wardell, Dr. W. Cunningham, A. Predergast.

NORTHERN ALBERTA-SASKATCHEWAN BRANCH

Last General Meeting held Feb. 24, 1980 at the Norwood Legion. Annual Election resulted as follows:

Immediate Past President-Sam Kravichuk
President & Treasurer-Howard Donnelly
Vice President - Howard Walker
Secretary - Sid Vale

Donations approved were \$100.00 to each of the following: N. Alta Crippled Children's Fund; Can. Cancer Society; Can. Heart Fund; Sir Arthur Pearson Assoc. of War Blind (Scholarship Fund). In addition \$250.00 bursaries were awarded to each of the following students: Wayne Donnelly, Margaret Aubert and Doreen Mondor.

(continued in next column)

N. Alta-Saskatchewan Branch (contued)

Our Ladies Auxiliary has assisted the Joint Services Branches with evenings of entertainment at the Veterans Home on two separate occasions. Our own Sam Ktavinchuk is still in the Veterans Home and sends regards to all. If you are in the area, drop in and see Sam. He will appreciate it.

Our congratulations to recently elected executive of the Manitoba Branch in particular, to new President Frank Harding. Manitoba Branch Annual Reunion is on October 11, 1980. If you are going to be in Winnipeg at that time, make plans to attend.

Correspondence from our Nat'l Council indicates Pres. Lloyd Doull is having no trouble making his presence known in the right places and to the right people in Ottawa. Thanks from all of us - we knew you could do it!

Sid Vale (Sec.)

Howard Donnelly (Pres)

MORE DONATIONS TO THE ROLL CALL

Advice has been received from Secretary Lionel Speller, that the following donations, for the Roll Call, has been sent directly to him. We offer our warmest thanks for the very generous expressions of support to:

Mrs. Amy Trist (UK)	Jack Stephens (US)
Mrs. Lori Berzenski (2)	Bill Mattson (US)
Mrs. Annie Oomen	Joe Galloway (US)
Tony A Carmo	Bill Overton (US)
Chuck Bradbury	Reg Leach
Andy Nairn	Murray Brown (2)
Reg Kerr (2)	Lt. Tom Blackwood
Bill Hall	Gordie Sissons
Frank Petch (2)	Nick Zytaruk
Duncan Rankine	Capt Bob Philip
Joe Randle	George McCarthy
Ed Toews	Hank Mayberry (2)
Paul Luchka	Capt Harry White
Louis Specht	and a welcome to
Harry Cameron	new subscriber:
Mrs Martha Adams	Art DeVillars of
Mrs Maude Keenan	Winnipeg, Man.
Art Lousier	
Gord Hollingsworth (US)	
Lt. Art Campbell (US)	
Frank Conkey (US) (2)	
G.D. McLellan (US)	

Brackets indicate double donations.

AND FROM YON TO THITHER..

Sometime ago I wrote about Tiny Martin and his family's involvement with the Grenadiers, a record which still stands as apparently no one can top it. Now here's another challenge and from B.C. yet! Cliff Newcomb writes from Kelowna and offers this to beat:

The Newcombs boast of 30 grand-children, 13 great-grand children and one great-great-grand daughter, scattered all over from Vancouver to Ottawa, and adds: "More to come!!" Is it a wonder, therefore, Bill Bennett keeps bragging about the provinces natural resources, particularly of those in his own bailiwick? Our heartiest congrats, Cliff. Don't know if I should add: Keep it up!

From St. Lambert, Quebec, our good friend, Ken Gaudin writes with this item on the Greenfield Park Legion, Branch 94, of which he is the only Hongkong Veteran of a membership of 400 in 1979. He mentions Lt. Jim Gilbert of the Royal Rifles and we quote:

"Lt. Jim Gilbert (R.R.C.) played a very active role in the Legion, rising to such prominence as First Vice-President of the Quebec Provincial Command. But about the time it seemed he would one day be elevated to the highest office that can be bestowed on a comrade, provincially speaking, the four years of incarceration began to take their toll. Gangrene set in and the Grim Reaper mercifully stepped in and said: "Enough".

Still a young man, with wife and family, it was sad, but Jim's name will live on, for Quebec Provincial Command, as a tribute to his memory, donated a trophy named the Jim Gilbert Trophy, to be awarded annually to the most progressive Branch in the province."

Ken, modestly, adds: "My Branch won it in 1979 for the seventh time!"

All we can say is: With you showing them the way the Hongkong Vets do it, we're not a bit surprised. Congrats and let's see you make it eight this year!

Rumours of a possible Post Office strike is making us nervous. We sincerely hope that such a thing will not occur, but if it should, please be patient. The Roll Call'll get to you, maybe late, but it'll get to you. John

A pair of popular comrades spent part April in dock here in B.C. Bill Laidlaw went into St Paul's in Vancouver, Sunday, April 20 and was out three days later. No! he didn't have his tonsils removed, but what they did to his sinus passage and the roof of his palate, left him all the colours of the rainbow. But it is not true that Bev welcomed his enforced silence!

Then on April 27, our Lionel trotted into Victoria General on the Island, for to get things done to his eyes - all same my Elsa - and was back home Thursday, May 1. 'Pears like he could not see too well in the dark with the lights out!

Both are back home and going strong again. Sure glad to have you back!

Sequel to that little bit in our last issue's Hither and yon-Spring 1980 - regarding the weather in Mesa, Arizona, we now hear that they'd had a bit of we experienced just before Christmas. To set the record straight, however, the story that Harry Creedon had made frantic requests for us to send down floatation boots and water-wings is totally untrue.

All he asked for was the name and address of my breast-stroking instructor!

Gordie Hollingsworth, Encino, Cal., USA requests that we correct his mailing address. The 'zip' code is incorrect. We now know why we haven't heard from him lately and why so many Cubans are trying to get here. They must have sent the Roll Call to Havana! So Sorry Gordie. Have passed the alteration to Lionel, who mails all Roll Call copies to destinations south of the border. Expect to hear from you when you get this one.

Last Mother's Day served to make me realise that I am fast approaching that thin line which separates a dirty old man from a senile retired dodo. Following the peck in acknowledgment she said: "That's nice. Just what I've wanted!" And then, after a lengthy pause: "When are you going to fill-er up??" I'd got her a jewellery box! With some women, you just can't win!

THOSE LONG VOYAGES HOME !

The following letters clearly demonstrates how much our readers have taken the Roll Call into their hearts and to make it the magazine we'd always hoped it to be - of, by and for Hongkong Veterans. Continuity was established by mention of the USS "OZARK" and one other un-named ship bringing home Canadian POWs from Japan. We sincerely hope more will come. Now it's my turn to say it: Keep up the good work, gang!.

Dear John: Sorry to be so late - we were away March 12-April 3. Your welcome letter awaited us. Re Quebec-Maritimes Branch, I resigned as 'el Presidente'. Roger Cyr is new C.O. Regret there have been no Newsletter out over last four months.

Roll Call excellent- trust your good wife recovered to A-1. We await news on Mighty Mite Speller-have letter to answer.

John, I was in Niigata(Renko), my brother was at Shentetsu and on the OZARK - learned at Norfolk, Virginia Naval Base she was commissioned in 1944 and decommissioned in 1946. Many memories of that trip as we watched every ship on the horizon pass by and leave us trailing! Wish you and I could talk more on this subject.

There were incidents at Niigata also, beyond the tragic, that make Hogan's Heroes look like Keystone Cops!

My regards to Bob, Bill, Lionel and so many more stalwart B.C.ers. Do keep up the good work. Most sincerely

Drummondville, P.Q. Lloyd Doull

Lloyd: Elsa says "Thank you". Lionel came off surgery with flags flying 1st May. If you make the AMEXPOW Nat'l Convention, Las Vegas, Nevada July 21-23 1980, may see you there and talk. God Bless both of you. John

Dear Johnny: Please find enclosed my cheque to cover my subscription to the Roll Call, the balance to be used towards expenses.

I was very surprised to see the note from Bill Achtymichuk on the old USS OZARK. I remember her well and the trip from Guam to Frisco. There were quite a few Grenadiers on her. The crew certainly treated us well and went (continued next column)

beyond the call of duty to do so. Can remember a terrific crap game which flourished on the way home. Did not participate as I had the munificent sum of \$2.00 which the American Red Cross had given me in Guam! Incidentally this \$2.00 was deducted from my pay when I eventually got it!

Keep up the good work, Johnny, it is much appreciated. Regards to all in B.C.

Winnipeg, Man.

Ken Porter.

Sure admire your moral fortitude, Ken. I lost the entire 16 months wages in one roll of the dice at Sendai 2. The one consoling thought was that it was all in Japanese sen and not worth one dammit! Bestest. John

Dear John: At our get-together in Winnipeg I was very pleased to have the opportunity to speak to you and thank you for your effort on behalf of the Roll Call. I enclose a small cheque to renew my subscription and that of R.L. Leach in Burns Lake, when they run out. If R.L. beats me to the punch and sends in our subs ahead of me, then keep it and use it in any way you see fit, I only wish it could be more.

In reference to the upper left hand corner of Page 14 of the 'Spring 1980' edition. The name of the ship was the USS "CATRON". Paddy Keenan was aboard as was Bill Laidlaw. The U.S. prisoners aboard were survivors of the U.S. Cruiser "Houston". It was the "Houston" together with the Australian cruiser "Perth" which ran into the Japanese fleet off Java and both went down fighting after inflicting much damage to the enemy. The balance of the U.S. troops aboard were a battalion of U.S. Marines.

Somewhere in my papers I still have my mess card for eating on the "Catron", I saw it not too long ago and when I find it I will send it to you. Thank you for a most enjoyable magazine.

Lockport, Man.

Tom Sinclair

Good to talk to you again over the phone and thank you for your very generous support. Reg Leach does not require subscription payment as he is a B.C. Branch member. We hope to hear more of the "Catron" either from Bill or others aboard. Chimo! John.

LATE NEWS BRIEFS

DVA News Release of 1 May 1980, informs us that The Hon. Daniel MacDonald, the Minister of Vets Affairs, led an official Canadian delegation to the Netherlands May 2 thru 9, to observe(?) the 35th anniversary of the Liberation of Holland - completed on 5 May 1945, almost 11 months after D-Day - by the First Canadian Army. Accompanying him were two Canadian army commanders and one each, representative of the R.C. Navy and R.C. Air Force, R.C. Legion and National Council of Veterans Association.

The principal commemorative ceremony was held at the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery near Nijmegen in southern Holland, with other ceremonies at Canadian war cemeteries at Holten and Bergen op Zoom in Holland; Adegem, Belgium and at Reichswald Forest and Rheinberg, West Germany. There are more than 7,000 Canadians, who died during that campaign, buried in ten war cemeteries in the area.

* * * * *

S T O P P R E S S

It is with deep concern and distress that we received information that our dear friend, Edna Manchester, wife of our President, has been released from hospital and sent home, even though requiring open-heart surgery, to await her turn in the queue. Latest information is that her operation is scheduled to take place on 26 June 1980, over a month from date.

* * * * *

Our friend, The Hon. Stanley Knowles, NDP Member of Parliament from Winnipeg North Centre, set a new record when he attended the opening of Parliament 14 April, 1980. The 71-year old will be the first person in the Canadian political stage to have sat in thirteen different Parliaments.

A tireless champion for improved pensions for veterans and old age pensioners, he is also an accepted authority on parliamentary procedure. Although he states he has no plans for retiring as yet, he will be due, officially for retirement in 1983.

We believe it is safe to say that we sure as hell DON'T look forward to that date.

As a result of the notice in our last issue-Spring 1980 - there will be a group of members and wives driving down to Bellevue, Wash., to attend the 1980 Washington State Annual Convention and Reunion in that city on May 30-31, 1980, hosted by the American EXPW Inc., Washington State.

We wish also to inform all Hongkong Veterans that the AMEXPW will hold their National Convention (1980) in Las Vegas, Nevada, during 21-23 July 1980 (Hosted by Las Vegas 7-11 Chapter 1. Room Reservation Requests covering accommodations in six different hotels or inns in Las Vegas, together with rates and reservation cut-off dates are available to interested members on application to either Secretary Lionel Speller or your Editor. Please note that 'cut-off dates' when no more reservations will be accepted, range from June 15, 1980 to July 5, 1980.

Commander Joe Fernandes, Washington State AMEXPW extends a Welcome to all Hkong Veterans to attend. And don't forget the extra shirt!!

* * * * *

In view of the fact that it is now a certainty that President Bob Manchester will not be able to make the trip to Winnipeg, Man. on June 27-29, 1980 for the National Council Executive Meeting, because of Edna's scheduled operation, the Branch Executive will meet to elect a delegate to represent British Columbia Branch. As of time of going to press, we have no information as to when the Executive will meet nor who the delegate will be.

* * * * *

"SO SORRY" DEPARTMENT

We have a sheaf of letters for acknowledgment by publication, which are being withheld for lack of space this issue. They will, however, be included in our next- Fall 1980- edition. This, however, does not let you other guys off the hook. We want and need your letters more than ever. So don't stop!

* * * * *

DEM BUMPER STICKERS !WHAT'S THE RUSH!

It is better to be late at the Pearly Gate, than to arrive in Hell on time!

(Courtesy Mrs. Bev Laidlaw)

WHO DAT?

AND DIS?

AND DAT?



Top row: Here photo-quits for our readers! Centre left: US Marine Sgt. Walter in Florida (See page 12 for more on him). Bottom: Grenadiers at 1st Air 2 on 2nd Aug. 1945. Photo courtesy of Mr. Wilson. (If we are correct, they are: back row: Peterson, Wilson, Hollock, Peterson, English, J. McInnes, Jones, Bradley, A. J. King, Alder, Vale. Middle row: Givinsky, Madson, Ed Shaylor, Lt. Lomax, Front row: Devlin (back), ... (A. J.), ... (A. J.), and Mackay. Can you help identify the three nameless Grenadiers? There are 24 Grenadiers and 20 Royal Rifles there at Sendai 2. How's about a Rifles group photo?

