



# Seasons Greetings

HONG KONG VETERANS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

QUEBEC-MARITIMES BRANCH

DECEMBER 1993

Banjo Gossip

Newsletter 1.2

Bamboo Telegraph

This time of the year brings unpleasant memories to all of us, but I hope that in spite of the recollection of those grim times of so many years ago, you and your loved ones have a happy, healthy, and prosperous Christmas and a New Year full of hope and cheer.

## EDITORIAL

In this letter I hope you'll permit me a little editorial comment. I feel very strongly about the awarding of the Defence Medal to us Hong Kong Vets. If you disagree with my views, I'd like to hear from you.

After some fifty years the Canadian Government agrees that we did, in fact, defend Britain in World War II. "C" Force, the Royal Rifles of Canada, the Winnipeg Grenadiers, and Brigade Headquarters were the first Canadians in action as a unit in the war.

We had been in Newfoundland and Jamaica, both British colonies then, on garrison duty. In fact, survivors of the famous German battleship, Bismarck, sunk by the British Navy, were brought to our military hospital in St. John's in 1941. The Grenadiers were guarding German prisoners of war in Jamaica.

Then we went to DEFEND the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong, the outcome of which is known to all. Was this not the defence of Britain? Why were we denied the medal with a dozen lame excuses when others with less exposure to action were awarded the medal as a matter of course? It rankles.

I have sent for and I have received my medal, (mind you we had to apply for it after fifty years, and just before a federal election, too) and I shall wear it with pride, because I know I deserve it, but I cannot forgive successive Canadian Governments from 1945 to the present which denied me the honour. A pox on all their houses!



## EXECUTIVE MEETING

Our pre-Christmas meeting was held as usual in the home of President Denzil on November 20. On the evening before Betty prepared and served a delicious turkey dinner.

At the meeting on Saturday the following executive members were present: Denzil Firth, Reggie Law, Arnold Ross, Richard Keays, Henry Lyons, Oswald Clark, Joe Bujold, Harold Englehart, Lawrence Rattie, and Phil Doddridge.

Our bank balance is in good shape due in large part to the many donations we have received in memory of Brigadier J.H. Price. Lawrence reported 223 member paid up to that date. Ozzie Clark was appointed chairman of the nominating committee in preparation for the elections to be held at our next Annual General Meeting in 1994. Mrs. Yolande Ross (Raymond) was appointed Life Member. At our meeting in Pointe Claire the Executive was given the mandate to choose the time and place for the 1994 reunion. The Executive decided on Keddy's Motel in Fredericton, NB for the reunion in 1994. Dick Keays and Arnold Ross volunteered and were appointed as organizers of the reunion.

## 1994 REUNION

Dick Keays, Arnold Ross, and yours truly met at Keddy's Motel in Fredericton last Friday, December 3, to discuss the reunion with the manager of the hotel. Accommodations are good, dining room, restaurant, bar, swimming pool, lots of parking space, and friendly staff. More information will be forthcoming in my newsletter early in the new year. I think everyone should enjoy the spot..

## DONATIONS TO THE BRANCH

It has long been a feature of this newsletter to name those of you who support the Branch by donating money to keep the ball rolling. To you we extend sincere thanks. We try to use it wisely. In the last newsletter I forgot to mention two contributors in memory of departed loved ones. They are Mrs. Mavis Frost in memory of husband Kenneth, and Mrs. Catherine Irving in memory of Wayne Remington. Sorry, ladies. Other donations as reported by Lawrence are as follows: Mrs. Audrey Murray in memory of husband Matthew, Mrs. Ruth Frenette in memory of husband Joseph, Angus MacMillan in memory of Brig. J.H.Price.

## MORE DONATIONS

Charles Thompson, Paul Dallain, John Lebel, Richard Mann, Weston Mann, Edward Campbellton, Stanley Wright, Thomas Jones, Ray Sauson, Gerard Bisson, Delphis Berthelot, Martin Banfill, Elmer Dennison, Edwin Rodrigues, Harold Heath, Jean Lanime, Leandre Leblanc, Murray Carr, Douglas Martin, J. Ralston Hardy, Algee Pelletier, Frederick Day, James Darrah, Donald Dainard, Marcel Ouellet, Everest Lawrence, John Kaine, William Bradley, William Ladds, Fred Chapman, Samuel Disensi, Grant Stoddard, Leslie Stickles, Alfred Mills, Robert Bourget, James Guthrie, Lawrence Henderson, Robert Jessop,



Wilmer Cyr, Clarence Hunt, Robert MacNaughton, Bert Comeau, Morgan Davies, L.T.S Doull, Mrs Evelyn Hachey, Mrs. Agatha St. Onge, Mrs. Angele Jessop, Mrs. Alice Gallie, Mrs. Dorothy Lockhart, Mrs. Willa Allen, Mrs. Ruth Labillois, Mrs. May Pryce, Mrs. Celia Smith, Mrs. Sadie Willett, Mrs. Inez Kelso, Mrs. Eva Lebreton Mrs Florence Drover, Mrs. Irene Clark, Mrs Stella Parkes, Mrs. Betty Cameron, Mrs. Marie Ange Pitre, Mrs. Louise Coleman, Mrs. Dorothy Coleman, Mrs. Barbara Strang, Mrs. Florence Hawke, Mrs. Claris Phillips.

Thank you one and all. We'll try to manage it to the best of our ability. With Harold Englehart at the controls, have no fear!

#### LAST POST

The only deaths I have to report this time are Mrs. Edna Manchester, B.C. Branch and Frank Jiggins, reported to me by Glen Mann . Sincere condolences to Comrade Bob and to the family of Frank Jiggins. WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

#### BIOKI

Sister Kay Christie is still in Sunnybrooke Health Centre, Kilmour Wing, K1E, Room 29, 2079 Bayview Avenue, North York, ON, M4N 3N5. Send her a Christmas card. It will brighten her day. Lawrence Rattie tells me that Comrade Wilmer Cyr is on the sick list.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

I have heard from the following members: Kay Christie, who sends Christmas greetings to everyone, Roger Cyr, Lionel Speller, Lawrence Rattie, Glen Mann, Alice Pappas, Donald Dainard, and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Jones, Morgan Davies, John Levitt , Christmas cards from Charlie and Cecile Thompson, and Pat and Peirrette Poirier. Thank you all. I appreciate your remarks. Keep them coming. I'll try to implement your good recommendations.

#### DEFENCE MEDAL

Beside the veterans themselves, one of the the following is eligible to receive the medal on behalf of their dead relative: Widow, eldest living child, father, mother, eldest living brother or sister. I have supply of application forms. Please let me know if you need one and I'll send it to you immediately.

#### NEWSLETTER

There were some fifteen newsletters returned because they were wrongly addressed. If you know of anyone who has changed address, please let Lawrence or me know.

You will note a departure from the usual way of mailing the letter. The purpose is to save money. If enough of you disagree with sending the letter without an envelope, we'll go back to the envelope, but I have to tell you that sealing 325 envelopes requires a lot of licking!

Your executive tries its best to keep costs down, but I hope that everyone understands that apart from the physical strain on the old seventy plus

carcass, it does cost money to drive from 300 to 800 kilometers to make decisions that affect us all. Motels and gasoline are paid, but no meals are charged.

### PERSONALITIES

It is no doubt fitting to profile President Denzil in this first attempt to refresh your memories as to who manages your affairs. Denzil has been President since 1986. Before that he was secretary ,vice-president, and director. In spite of failing health at times he hung on and turned out the newsletter on a regular basis. For his service to his fellow veterans, he was awarded Life Membership and the Merit Award. Denzil continues to be active in many organizations in Quebec City, among them the Anglican Church of Canada and the Masonic Lodge. He doesn't brag about his good works, so I'm afraid I can't list all of them . Last September he was awarded the thirty-third degree in Freemasonry for his outstanding work in the order.

### SNOWBIRDS

I suppose they'll soon be on their way. Some of the regulars are Harold and Marg Englehart, Lawrence and Colleen Rattie, Roger and Lo Cyr, Flash and Jessie Clayton, Reg and Hectorine Law. Any others ? Lets wish them a good winter and a safe return in the spring.

### TRIVIA

William Archibald Spooner(1844-1930) was a teacher at Oxford university. You may have heard of "Spoonerisms", the habit of mixing up the first letters in two words so that Professor Spooner would probably have called me Dillip Foddridge. So Spooner, in dismissing a student from Oxford, is said to have told him, "You have deliberately tasted two worms and you can leave Oxford by the next town drain."

This one is attributed to Charlie McKenzie, whoever he is: Orest and Olga have been married for 30 years, but they haven't had a very happy time. All they do is fight, fight, fight. One day after a terrible argument Orest storms out of the house and goes to the garage. Olga follows to see what's up and sees Orest pointing a gun to his head. She begins to laugh. "What are you laughing at ?" says Orest. "You're next."

That's all for now, friends. I'll be getting another letter out, I hope, by mid-winter. Please write. Be good to each other and may God bless.

Sincerely



Phil Doddridge



YOUR EXECUTIVE

President Denzil Firth, 1304 Allard Ave. Ste Foy, Qc, G1W 3G4

Ist Vice. Oswald Clark, P.O. Box 212, Bury, Qc, J0B 1J0

2nd Vice Arnold Ross, P.O. Box 14, New Richmond, Qc, G0C 2B0

Treasurer, Harold Englehart, 4825 Beauchemin Rosemont, Qc H1T 1R7

Secretary Philip Doddridge, 365 rte Doddridge, New Richmond, Qc  
GOC 2B0

Membership Lawrence Rattie, 508 Thorncrest, Dorval, Qc H9P 2M6