

HONG KONG VETERANS' ASSOCIATION  
QUEBEC MARITIMES BRANCH  
MARCH, 1996

BANJO GOSSIP NEWSLETTER 3.3 BAMBOO TELEGRAPH

I'm afraid that this letter will be full of excuses and pleas for tolerance, the reason for which I shall presently explain. Edwina and I went to Victoria on January 15 to spend a month with our Hong Kong friends. Everything went well and we were enjoying ourselves immensely until February 5, when Edwina came down with a heart attack. She was rushed to the Victoria General Hospital by ambulance and spent eight days in intensive care. When she recovered enough to come back to our little apartment in the Capri Motel, we then had to extend our stay until March 8, to give her time to prepare for the day-long flight back home. That, however, is not the end of the story. On Sunday morning, March 17 she suffered an angina attack, and as I write this she is in the local hospital in intensive care. What next? I'm trying to cope and praying that everything will turn out all right.

Edwina and I are overwhelmed by the outpouring of good wishes from all of our Hong Kong friends. The cards, telephone calls, and letters from across Canada and from vacationers in Florida helped us through a very difficult few weeks. In Victoria, friends there sent flowers and get-well cards, further proof of the closeness of members of our organization and the affection we hold for each other.

It's strange that the opening notes of Angus McRitchie's last newsletter should bear a message similar to this letter. Angus' wife is also on the sick list. According to his last letter they also received a flood of good wishes from Hong Kong friends. A great comfort in difficult times.

#### REUNION, 1996

Before Denzil died, his daughter, Carolyn Albright, who lives in Dartmouth, NS, suggested that we hold our 1996 Reunion in the Halifax area. After the unfortunate loss of her father, Carolyn insisted on going ahead with the reunion. With the help of friends she has got things well under way. She has sent me a box of brochures, etc., to include in this mailing. This fact, among others, will result in an abbreviated letter this time. Briefly, the reunion will be in Dartmouth, NS, on August 9, 10, and 11. A tentative schedule of events, sent to me by Carolyn, is enclosed herewith. Please keep it along with the hotel card, whether you plan at this point to go or not. There will be more information in my June letter.

#### LOST TRAILS

Mrs. Hazel Bishop's last newsletter was returned. Can anyone help me find her new address?

## BIOKIE

A few of our members have been in and out of the hospital. I'll report on those I have news of. Glenford Gregoire was in hospital, but is now at home; Charlie Campbell suffered a stroke and is presently in the extended care pavillion of the local hospital, undergoing speech therapy. Wife Hazel sees some improvement; Henry Lyons had surgery to correct an anurism problem. He is now at home and feeling better; since I started this letter the day before yesterday, my wife, Edwina has gone to the Hotel Dieu Hospital in Quebec City for further treatment; Dick Keays is at home after a stroke and seems to be coping; I haven't heard news of Hectorine Law recently. Reg's wife is having lung problems; Laurie MacKay is also having lung problems. I have no doubt missed some but will try to do better next time.

## LAST POST

René Charron died in Orléans, Ontario. René was a sergeant in the Corps of Military Staff Clerks. He was 82. Mildred McFawn, wife of Lewis, died in Fredericton. Trudy Nicol died in Campbellton, predeceased by husband Noble, Mme Benoit Boulanger died in Percé, Québec.

Len Burchall, whom many of you will remember from P.O.W camp in Japan, died since my last letter was sent. Burchall was dubbed "The Saviour of Ceylon" because he stayed around and risked capture to report that the Japanese fleet was headed toward India.

## DONATIONS

Annie Dissing, Sadie Willett

Lloyd Doull, John Roussel, Renaud Côté, Leandre Leblanc, Walter Grey, George MacDonell, Francis Yeadon, Laurie MacKay, Morgan Davies, Phil Doddridge  
In memorium

Richard and Isabel Keays in memory of Trudy Nicol

Brinky Murray in memory of Denzil Firth

## CORRESPONDENCE

I have received quite a bit of mail, but in the interest of keeping this to two pages, because of the other enclosures, I'll just list the names : Flash Clayton, Muriel McDavid, Alfred Mills, Joyce Harmon, Beth Pollock, Hazel Breakey, Alex Archibald, Jean Graw, Harold Englehart, Bill Bradley, Barbara Henderson, Daniel Charron, Morgan Davies, Lionel Hurd, Glenford Gregoire, Charlie Brady, Laurie MacKay.

That's it for now. Bob Baker sent me a bunch of pension tables which I'll enclose if there is room. Sorry about this short letter, but I know you'll understand. I'll do better next time.

Until next time be good to each other and may God bless.

Philip

### POST SCRIPT TO NEWSLETTER 3.3

#### VIDEOS OF CEREMONIES IN OTTAWA, 1995

I have the latest instructions regarding the purchase of the Videos of the ceremonies at Ottawa last summer. Instead of two separate videos, eg, one of the Medal ceremony and one of the Cenotaph ceremony, Derrill Henderson has put them both on one cassette and it will cost you \$15.00 total, tax, packaging, and mailing included. Please send a cheque for fifteen dollars (\$15.00) to: Derrill Henderson, 75 Priam Way, Nepean, Ontario, K2H 8S7.

#### COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE

The organization of sons and daughters of HK Veterans is going well under the leadership of Derrill Henderson and Lora Wachtendorf. Darrell has prepared a progress report on their activities and their success to date. This will soon be mailed to you from Derrill. When you receive it, please see that it gets as wide a circulation as possible among sons and daughters and other relatives of HK Veterans who would be willing to lend a hand.

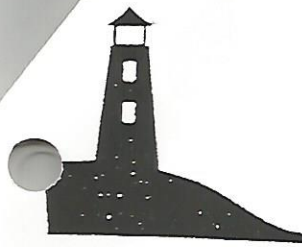
#### FAR EAST PILGRIMAGE 1995

National President Roger was a special guest on the pilgrimage to the Far East last fall. He delivered a moving address at each of the cemeteries that the group visited, and, as usual, held the Hong Kong Veterans' banner high. Some of his comments on the trip are as follows: "As a member of the official Government Delegation, I was treated as being first among equals." "The Hong Kong Veterans' Associations' concerns were dealt with in positive terms and in timely fashion." "I was thoroughly impressed with the degree of respect and deference shown to Hong Kong Veterans (and to the memory of those who lost their lives) by all veterans in the official party as well as all others in the official delegation." "Nothing was spared in making the Remembrance Ceremonies at Sai Wan, Stanley, and Hodagoya cemeteries the solemn occasions befitting the 50th anniversary of the end of hostilities in that area."

#### AND FINALLY

I hope that this will be the final word in this horribly disjointed letter. I hope you will be able to understand all that I have tried to put across. I plead Edwina's sickness, the backlog of mail on my desk after my absence, and a bloody sore arm that I can only blame on old age and riotous living. Better days ahead.

Philip



# NOVA SCOTIA



## HONG KONG VETERAN'S ASSOCIATION OF CANADA QUEBEC MARITIMES BRANCH - 1996 CONVENTION

August 9-11, 1996

Report: March 14, 1996

PLACE: Keddy's Motor Inn  
9 Braemer Drive, Dartmouth, NS B2Y 3H6  
Tel: (902) 469-0331 Fax: (902) 466-6324

Toll free registration: 1-800 561-7666:

A block of rooms have been reserved. Must book rooms by August 1. The cost per room is \$80, not including taxes. For early arrivals, rooms will be available from 1:00 pm, August 9.

### AGENDA:

- Friday:
- 1) morning & afternoon: Registration
  - 2) afternoon: Tour of Halifax Citadel & Military Museum including special Hong Kong display, and private reception
  - 3) evening: Dinner and Dance
- Saturday:
- 1) morning: General Meeting  
Tour of Halifax, with 1 hr shopping at Historic Properties in Downtown Halifax
  - 2) afternoon: Remembrance Service @ Cenotaph near Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth
  - 3) afternoon: Reception @ Somme Branch #31 Legion (opportunity to tour museum)
  - 4) evening: Dinner and Dance
- Sunday
- 1) morning: Coffee in Hospitality room
  - 2) morning & afternoon: Tour of Peggys Cove if sufficient interest

(Details and schedules to be included in registration package)



## *Dartmouth/Halifax*

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**DIRECTIONS TO KEDDY'S INN**  
(COMING FROM TRURO, HALIFAX AIRPORT ETC)

1. GET/STAY ON RTE 102 SOUTH (CONSIDER AIRPORT INTERCHANGE 0.0KM)  
(APROXIMATELY 27 KM FROM INTERCHANGE TO HOTEL)
2. @ 10 KM TAKE LEFT FORK IN ROAD FOLLOWING OVERHEAD SIGN WHICH SAYS "DARTMOUTH, HALIFAX VIA BRIDGES"  
(NOW ON ROUTE 118 SOUTH)
3. @ 24 KM KEEP TO YOUR LEFT FOLLOWING THE SIGN "EASTERN SHORE/MIC MAC ROTARY"
4. IN 500 METERS (AT 24.5 KM) EXIT ON RIGHT, FOLLOWING SIGN WHICH SAYS "MIC MAC ROTARY, EASTERN SHORE"  
(NOW ON ROUTE 111 SOUTH)
5. STAY IN EITHER OF THE 2 RIGHT TRAFFIC LANES, GOING PAST MIC MAC MALL ON YOUR RIGHT
6. TAKE EXIT 6A "WAVERLEY, BRAEMAR DRIVE, PRINCE ALBERT DRIVE"
7. ONCE IN EXIT, GET IN LEFT LANE, COME TO SET OF LIGHTS, AND TURN LEFT ONTO PRINCE ALBERT ROAD
8. SEE KEDDY'S ON YOUR LEFT, TURN LEFT INTO PARKING LOT AND PROCEED AROUND TO FRONT OF HOTEL

Truro

