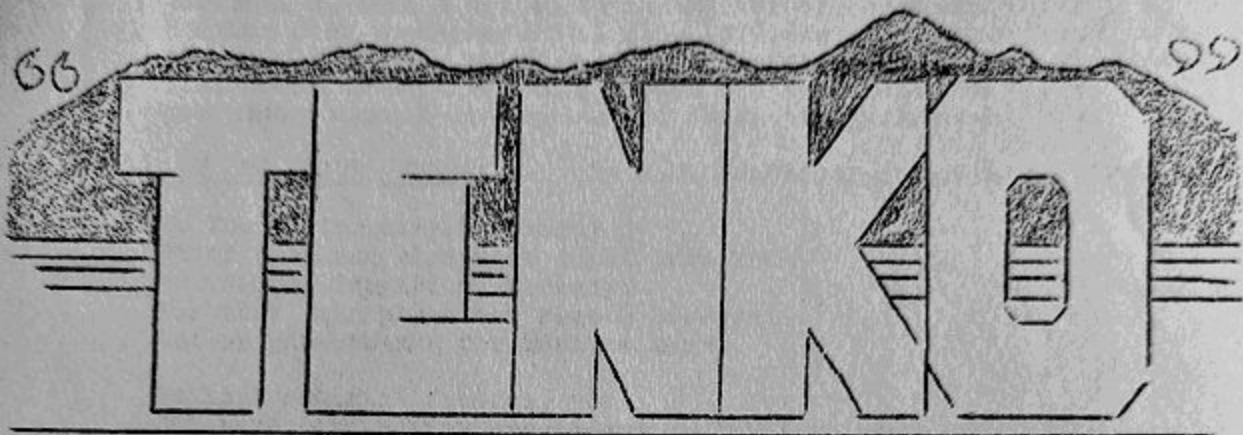


1981



VOLUME 1:3

FROM A HONGKONG VETERAN TO HIS FELLOW
HONGKONG VETERANS IN FRIENDSHIP.

an independent, unaffiliated and
non-profit magazine published
solely for the enjoyment of former
Hongkong POW's, wives and friends.

In the last issue of the TENKO - SUMMER 1981 - we reprinted two verses of an untitled poem by J.F. MacGregor, written in Shumshuipo, from a Letter to the Editor of the South China Morning Post, Hongkong of 11 June 1979. We have since found the complete poem, which we are pleased to offer to our readers. They comprise the remaining verses and feel that they carry the same poignant message as the first two published.

LET US GIVE THANKS

by J.F. MacGregor, Shumshuipo, 17/3/42

We fought for simple liberty
Which brethren elsewhere still preserve
For Homes, Tradition, Decency,
For that fair place our hearts deserve.
Let us give thanks for what we serve.

We lost material freedom, yet
Our smug complacency was teased
Into oblivion, so let
Us never overrate the cost.
Let us give thanks for what we have lost.

The captives in the flesh, no doors
Can make our flights of fancy cease
Nor bar the dreams we sail to shores
Which know no other than peace.
Let us give thanks for their release.

We find new beauty in the skies,
New shades to color joy and pain,
Our eyes shall paint a Paradise
On canvas latterly drab and plain.
Let us give thanks for what we gain.

THE TENKO

Publisher/Editor: John Fonseca
Printed at: 796 Adiron Avenue
Coquitlam, B.C.
Canada V3J 4K2

WE'RE PICKING UP THE SLACK

The demise of the Roll Call, ceasing publication after the Winter 1980 edition, left us with the deepest feeling of regret at the possibility that posterity would have no further record of what surviving Hongkong Veterans have been doing, how they have been faring or what the years will bring, after over three decades since the end of World War II on August 15, 1945.

The Roll Call's acceptance by the Canadian War Museum, through the kind offices of Mr. L.F. Murray, its Chief Curator, saw the Museum carrying every edition of that magazine since its inception in 1977 until the Winter 1980 edition.

We are sublimely elated and deeply moved and gratified to advise our readers that a letter from Mr. Murray has reached us, belatedly due to the postal strike, which ensures that this magazine - The TENKO - will step into the breach left open by the now defunct Roll Call, and that it will continue to keep the memory of Hongkong Veterans alive in the records of the Canadian War Museum, for all the world to read.

Copy of Mr. Murray's letter follows:

Dear Mr. Fonseca:

Thank you for the copy of Volume 1, No. 1(1981) of TENKO.

We are sorry to hear of your differences with the Hongkong veterans association. Nevertheless, we are glad to receive TENKO and any other material relating to Hongkong for reference and research purposes.

A copy of the museum guidebook is enclosed with our compliments. A special exhibition on Hongkong is scheduled for October 25 (1981).

Sincerely yours,

L.F. Murray
 Chief Curator

The Summer 1981 (Vol:1:2) has since been forwarded as has a copy of this Fall 1981 (Vol: 1:3) edition. We need your help to let those who come after us, know what being a Hongkong Veteran is all about.

1981 NATIONAL CONVENTION-REUNION AT CALGARY, ALBERTA

The 1981 National Convention of the Hongkong Veterans Association of Canada, held in Calgary, Sept. 9-13, proved, from our informed sources, both uneventful and un-momentous and can be considered a thing of the past, leaving veterans free to set their sights on the next Convention scheduled to take place in Montreal in 1983. Details and dates to come later.

There appears to be no change in the make-up of the Executive Council with Lloyd Doull remaining President for a second term and which, taking all things into account, should be greeted with relief, gratification and merits our sincere congratulations.

With that pillar of reliability, Ken Gaudin, at his right hand, ready and able to put the pieces together, Hongkong Veterans may rest assured that the Association is in very good hands for another term.

Attendance is estimated at about 200, with about 70 veterans and the remainder made up of wives, invited guests and friends. No figures, however, have been available.

Heading the list of VIPs present, are Messrs. Allan Solomon, Chairman of the Canadian Pensions Commission; R. Dutras (Pension Review Board); His Honour, Mayor of the City of Calgary; a Minister of the Alberta Government; all Branch Presidents, with the exception of Frank Harding of Manitoba, unable to attend due to illness in the family and for whom Charlie Atkinson acted as substitute, Verne Murphy, Chief Information Officer, DVA, Ottawa; Mrs Kathleen Porteous, widow of the late George Porteous, ex-Lt-Governor of the Province of Saskatchewan, from Saskatoon and Sister Kay Christie, from Toronto, who never misses any of our Conventions, amongst others.

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EDITORIAL

Thirty-six years ago, just about this time of year, those who survived the Battle of Hongkong and the subsequent four years as POWs, started back on the long journey home. They returned in twos, threes and in groups by air, sea and finally by train to a welcome of mingled joy, shock and relief from anxiously awaiting wives, families, relatives and friends.

Joy that loved ones had survived, shock at their physical condition and relief that there would be no more praying, hoping or waiting.

Although some returned in fairly good shape, the emaciated condition of the majority needed no recounting of the terrible sufferings they had undergone. All, without exception, bore and will bear, the mental scars of those forty-four months to their graves.

The years, since their return, have also taken their toll, and now as the remnants reach and pass the sixty year mark, more and more are the effects of their incarceration beginning to show. During period between the 1975 National Convention and June 1981, we have, through both the Roll Call and TENKO, recorded the passing of 131 fellow Hongkong Veterans - and they are only those we have been informed of.

We confess that we find no joy in writing this, but consider that it is timely and necessary at this late day and age, that we feel for, act toward and work together to ensure that the story and memory of "that special breed of men" will never be forgotten and, hopefully, what they went through will never be permitted to happen again.

Towards this end, and until something better comes along, we can think of no better or simpler way of keeping in touch with your fellow veterans than through the pages of the TENKO and we urge you to send in your application for inclusion in its mailing list without further delay for, as the saying goes, 'no man is an island' and time is marching on too rapidly for anyone of us to prove it isn't so!

JOHN

A WORD FROM YOUR EDITOR

The delay in the mailing of this issue of the TENKO is due entirely to our belief that what happened at the National Convention in Calgary on 9-13 September is, and will be, of interest to Hongkong Veterans who were unable to attend.

In this regard, printing of sections reserved for the report on same, was held over until that report was received, edited and then inserted. So if you have fretted over the tardiness in delivery, please pardon us for the inconvenience. So now you know!!

RECEIVED WITH THANKS

The TENKO has not published a list of names of donors since it saw the light of day, because a number of our supporters have requested that their letters, together with donations, not be published.

We must, however, acknowledge all the donations so generously and sincerely sent us to help with the production of this magazine and are, therefore, enclosing your individual receipt in this issue, with our grateful thanks and appreciation.

To all our supporters, we think you will share our pleasure when we inform you that not only have your donations enabled the publication of the first three editions of the TENKO - Spring, Summer and Fall 1981 - but also the purchase of printing machinery to replace the ones returned to the B.C. Branch.

Most rewarding of all, however, is that it still leaves enough in the 'kitty' to ensure publication into 1982. Ain't it fantastic?

Once again, to all of you who have made this possible, thank you so very much. We'll do our best not to disappoint you. To do so, however, we sure need your help. Any time you feel you would like to say something to, ask about or just offer for the interest and information of your fellow veterans, individually or collectively, please don't hesitate to write in. That's what we're here for and the TENKO is all about.

OUR PADRE'S DIARY * Rev. U. Laite (By kind permission Mrs. Sally Laite)

In the morning we have rice with a little sugar and milk - one tin of milk, with water, shared between thirty-six men. At noon, we get one or two small slices of bread with tea, and for supper, more rice with, may be, a very poor rank grade of fish. Just recently we had Squid with the rice. One can imagine my thoughts when I remembered that, as a boy, I jigged thousands of them for bait or fertilizer. Last night we had a treat of rice and gravy made from a little meat, with a few peas. Cigarettes are scarce in camp now. Yesterday I was given one, and after our meal mentioned above, Major Hook, who sleeps near me, said: "Now if we had a cigarette!". I produced mine and Major Hook, Major Hodgkinson and Capt Terry, shared it with me.

Today three of our men were taken to Bowen Road Hospital for special treatment. We have had an average of upwards of thirty men in our prison hospital since coming here.

The Quartermaster and I threw added interest into our hut, two days ago, by introducing the Ouija Board. We play it by placing the letters of the alphabet in a circle on a smooth table and with our fingers on a tumbler, have it move all over the place contacting certain letters which formed into words to answer our questions. First questions to be asked were: "Do our home folk know about us?" YES. "How did they know?" BY JAPANESE POLICE RADIO TO OTTAWA. "When shall we get out of here?" MAY. "When Home?" JUNE. "How do we travel?" Canadian Line etc, etc. One of the interesting questions asked later was: "What are our people doing about us?" SENDING FOOD AND CLOTHING. "How are our people?" WELL. WORRIED. Officers from the Colonel down played the tumbler, for amusement of course.

The weather is still cold but a bit warmer than for the past weeks. If we had better food we would prefer the cold as flies are very numerous as soon as the sun shines, and in our weakened condition, we think of cholera, Malari-a, Typhus etc. But no one is downhearted. We still crack jokes about what we are going to eat when we get home and how we shall eat all the left-overs at home. Some of us plan to go to Cafeterias so we can overload our trays. I imagine that Grayson would like to visit such a place with me. Every day I think of Vancouver, Moncton, Halifax and the old home and wonder how all are. Mar 5th: The day is very bright with the Sun shining and little wind from the North. Most of us are in lighter garments, and many of us have changed our clothes and instituted our first search for lice. Many of the men located numbers, while three or four of our officers have also found some in their clothes. I have yet to find my first. These body lice are the means of giving on Typhus, and so we hope by keeping free of lice to be also free of this disease.

Our meals - evening - have been a bit heavier of late, and we are without the gnawing pains of hunger to-day. We ate ducks eggs for the first time on the 2nd. Each man was given two, but few of us got beyond the first. It was not "fresh" by any means, and the second was more than enough even for hungry men. One egg was dated, or numbered, 1909. We couldn't get the taste of the first out of our mouth, and the smell off our hands, for hours, even though we cleaned teeth and hands. We were fortunate yesterday and had two fairly good eggs. I really enjoyed them.

Beginning on Sunday last (Mar:1st) we had communion at 1130 as well as at 0800 hrs. There were a hundred men who received communion at these services. From the first many of our men showed keen interest and at last evening's service, we had 85 present. We hope to keep these services going during our internment. We are very happy in the service together.

Organized games are held every day in the square, if weather is suitable, and are keenly enjoyed by participants and onlookers. A game of baseball is in progress now.

(To be continued in next issue)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear John: Enclosing money for my new donation to your very good magazine. I enjoyed it very much - nice to hear about all the boys.

I'm feeling good and enjoying the Arizona weather until 27 April, after which date we'll be back in Beausejour Man.

Mesa, Arizona Richard C. Wilson

Dick: the dry and hot weather down there must have helped getting your pins back into shape, and am sure glad for you. Many thanks for kind words and the donation. Both addresses have been entered into our files. Re the cutting on U.S. Vets Administration you sent me, I hesitate to reprint same as some smart aleck back East might get ideas, with disastrous results to our fellows. John

Hello John: Received your magazine last week. I wrote Ken Johnson about the Roll Call etc. I am sending money in this letter for a donation and I would like you to put me on your mailing list and let me know in advance when to pay dues or subscriptions to your paper. Keep up the good work, John. Your old friend,

Winnipeg, Man. Pat Dalzell

Paddy: The TENKO goes to any Hongkong Veteran who applies for it FREE. There are no dues or subscriptions asked for. We, however, sure appreciate the thought which prompted your donation and which helps us keep going. Next time I get to Winnipeg, it'll be my turn to pay for the beer! Good luck and good health. John.

Dear John: Enclosed a cheque for the TENKO. Thank you for sending us the first issue. We enjoyed it very much and look forward to more of the same. Keep up the good work, John.

Thunder Bay, Ont. Alex Prairie

A 'many thanks' doesn't seem enough, but is offered in all sincerity. God bless both you and Mary and please keep in touch. John

Dear John: I was shocked and amazed to hear of your resignation from the Hongkong Association and of the termination of the Roll Call. I know that I will miss it and the rest of our comrades out there will too. It was nice to know what the rest of the guys are doing and last but not least, of the comrades who have gone to their last tenko. Our numbers grow less and less every year and very soon in the future we will be a small paragraph in the history books and a forgotten memory. We of all people who went through so much together and in our declining years should be drawing closer together. I do hope the rest of the boys will support the TENKO.

Enclosed you will find a small donation to the TENKO. It is not very much for now but to help it get off the ground and I am sure it will. You have done a hell of a good job on the Roll Call and I don't think it will be any different with this one. Wishing you well,

Duncan, B.C. H. T. Davis (Rocky)

Rocky(Herb!): It isn't the amount that counts but the thought and your letter with enclosure is deeply appreciated. I trust you've received the last issue of the Tenko wherein I mentioned your retirement. Now that you've more time on your hands, do spare some to write in. John

Dear Johnny: Back again from the "Valley of the Sun" and all set to face the perils of the winter (last Sunday's snowfall-April 12). Sure good to hear from you again and thanks for the phone call. We will have to arrange for another get-together soon. No baby-sitting this time around. We had a wonderful visit with Diane and "Michael" for a week recently. He sure is a going concern now (13 months). Had a great meeting with seven of the fellows in Mesa in March. Small donation enclosed to further your great work and will endeavour to see you soon again.

White Rock, B.C. Harry Creedon
Sure would welcome a call from you.
Kiss Helen for me and thanks. John

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (cont. from Page 4)

Dear John: Hope this donation will help keep the paper coming as I have sure enjoyed every one of them and have saved them all so the younger generation can have them to enjoy in the future.

Please register my name in mailing list of the TENKO magazine and mail to the above address.

All is well and hope this finds you both in good health. Best regards,

Penticton, B.C. Esther LaPointe

Esther dear, great to hear from you and must confess your support was not unexpected. Too bad the re-union in your lovely country in October was postponed for I visualised both you, Maurice and the gang in the Okanagan not only looking forward to but getting involved in the preparations right up to your necks. God Bless. John

Dear John: Sorry, I did not get around to sending you something sooner..but one keeps putting it off. Laziness I suppose; however, I prefer to think of my shortcomings as: avitaminosis, residual effects of beri-beri, dysentery, pellagra, Hongkong feet, malaria, not to mention hang-nails!

Good luck in your new venture. So far "TENKO" seems to come up to scratch.

North Vancouver, B.C. Ev Lawrence

Ev: I'm getting to feel that you are one great big lovable bluff and that you can shake off them there shortcomings mentioned above, at will. Many thanks for your support and bestest to both Norma and yourself. John.

Dear John: I'm wondering if you got that list I sent you? Will you let me know? Sure enjoyed the new TENKO. Keep up the goodwork. I've heard some nice comments and I'll be writing you from time to time. As ever.

Cobourg, Ontario Glen & Kay Mann

Greetings and salutations to you two lovely people. Sure enjoyed your last visit and let's do it again soon. Yes, I got that list but the changeover left me in a quandary. Our bestest. John

Dear John: I haven't got much time to write, but will wish you the best of luck in your new venture.

Transcona, Man. Ozzie Collett

Ozzie, all that matters is that you found enough time to send it in and it makes me feel nice and warm inside. Many thanks and let's have more whenever you can. John.

Dear John: Helen and I enjoyed TENKO very much and are returning our registration slip. Also enclosing a little 'something' to help with the costs or whatever.

Haven't been too well for sometime now. I guess when one passes "39" a person can expect to slow down a little. Hate to, but I guess one has to. Oh Well!

Hope you are well and the family beautiful. We send our love and best wishes. Hope to see you in Calgary. Best regards to all.

Phoenix, Arizona Helen & Ford Martyn

Methinks you are much better than Jack Benny! Last time I saw you, you must have been a "40-plus" (around the mid-riff, I mean) Joke!! Sorry I won't see you in Calgary, but you can tell me all about your personal experiences there afterwards. In the meantime, take care, both of you and have fun. John.

Dear John: Thank you for your copy of "TENKO" which I received some time ago. I am sorry to hear about the trouble which you were involved in, but I appreciate the efforts that you expended in compiling your magazine. Well, John, enough has been said and I can't afford a lawsuit. Use this small cheque as you see fit.

Winnipeg, Man. Cliff Matthews

Cliff, you need have no fear of lawsuits. You, and so many others, have only supported that which is true and at the same time, exercised your right to freedom of speech. We're the guys wearing "white hats" and no amount of bluster and bombast will change it. John

WELL, SOMEONE HAS SAID IT!

Dear John:

I feel I must express my feeling of shock on the directive that came from your association regarding the small magazine you publish. To think that a great many of your "army buddies" did not survive in fighting to stamp out such a stranglehold on the rights of an individual to subscribe to or read any magazine or paper that arrives at their home by the mails without some organization making a comment that it be returned to the sender, sends chills up my back bone. The final outcome of a person's private mail is for them and then alone to decide what happens to it. Whether they wish to read it or throw it out, is for the receiver to decide on that one.

The lives of surviving POW's will never be the same again due to the trauma of those years in captivity under such dreadful conditions, and a small magazine that is sent out to keep the men up to date on their other comrades is to me a wonderful thing and I imagine most of the people who receive it feel the way I do about it. I still seem to think that what I read about the magazine being returned to the sender "a bad dream I had" rather than the hard cold fact that it was in reality, an attempt to repress your liberties.

John, if you "chose" Canada, as the country you wish to live in the rest of your life, I would say you have a head full of wisdom. Please find enclosed a donation to be used in the publication of your magazine (no matter what its name is)!!

If you wish to publish all or part of this letter in your magazine or if you wish to consider it a private letter from me to you, is for you to decide.

NAME WITHHELD

Dear author, the above has so much wisdom and common sense that I had to take its last para literally and did both! Publication of TENKO is repayment of a debt of gratitude for what Canada, especially my fellow veterans, has given me and mine and I'll keep on paying it as long as I am able to.

THE FONZ

AN INVITATION - CAMPING FACILITIES

To those of our readers and supporters who, either retired or on vacation, are thinking of coming out to the Coast by trailer or motorhome, for a visit, you are welcome to use our back garden with light, power, toilet and shower, seclusion yet near three shopping malls and good company (ours!!) all available for FREE.

We have space for three to four units, are within 15 miles from Vancouver's City Centre and if you haven't met me personally, it really doesn't matter. Just write to advise and drive right in. NO PETS. John

LEST WE BE SUSPECT!

In order to dispel any thought that we try to sweep anything disadvantageous to us, by hiding brickbats, under the carpet, we publish the following letter received recently:

Dear John: I sent you a P.M.O. for my subscription to the(TENKO)magazine. So far all I have receive only the 1st issue. Where are my other issues, or is this a gimmick to receive subscriptions and not deliver. Would appreciate a reply. Name withheld.

Since the above was dated 23 May 1981- two weeks before the second edition was due to be mailed, we had no other alternative but to reply as follows:

.. Enclosed please find cheque for \$10.00 being refund of the P.M.O. you sent and which was deemed to be an unsolicited voluntary donation and not a 'subscription' as your letter of 23 May 1981 expressed it to be. We also advise that your application for inclusion in mailing list of "TENKO" readers is hereby rejected.

JOHN FONSECA
Editor, The TENKO

In addition, with regard to the "Return to Sender" fiasco, we have finally received one copy of the last issue -Vol: 1:2, from a local member (B.C.) who, since he has not displayed any interest for the past four years, can be written off with no sense of loss. And that, my friends, is it! That's all there is!!

HITHER AND YON WITH FONZ

Got a long distance call from the Martyns, Tiny and Helen, all the way from Phoenix, Arizona and they've been visiting Ottawa end of May thru early June. They'd dropped in at the Canadian War Museum there and enjoyed meeting with its Chief Curator, Mr. L.F. Murray, who kindly showed them around. Tiny presented the museum with, not only his prized little diary of POW days, but also, a couple of pannikins and a hand-carved pair of chopsticks of genuine Shumshuipo window sash wood which should be the only honest to goodness SSPo chopsticks (circa 1942) in all of Canada!! Mr. Murray will welcome anything he can get from 'them thar days' from any HK Veteran, as he hopes to have a special display section reserved strictly for mementos from the boys who were there. So how's about delving into the old chest up in the attic, and help him out?

Early morning radio news listeners in B.C. -Hongkong Veterans that is -received an unpleasant shock about the middle of June, when the insensitive voice of the broadcaster announced that one, Alfred Shayler, aged 65, of East 13th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C., had been killed in a car accident the night before.

The news brought on a spate of phone calls from all over the Lower Mainland and the Island, so great in fact, that both Alfie and Olga refused to answer the phone and let it ring. It was, however, another instance of similarity of names and location. Alfie, thank heavens, was very much alive and kicking, and he tells us that he intends to stay that way !!

We deeply regret to advise receipt of a report that Ken McCulley, Winnipeg Branch, residing in Portage le Prairie is not fairing too well healthwise. We sincerely hope and pray that it isn't as serious as what we hear and that he'll be back on the road to a complete recovery by the time this edition goes out.

So Sorry, Gang! the proposed B.C. Branch Reunion which we reported in our last issue, scheduled for October in Penticton in beautiful Okanagan Valley, has, we are informed, been postponed to sometime next year. The rescheduling is due to its proximity to the National Convention in Calgary in September 9-13 (about a month later) thereby making it difficult for Hongkong Veterans, both physically and financially, to attend both functions.

Received an unexpected but most delightfully welcomed phone call from Mrs Kathleen Porteous, Saskatoon, who on reading the last issue of the TENKO, advised that she has since become again a grandmother. This time to a lovely young girl-child who has been named ERIN and for which we offer our heartiest congratulations. To your Editor, however, in spite of 'Erin' being a truly beautiful name, she'll always remain "QUITSY"!!

We are informed that Ed and Lorna Shayler (Alfie's brother), came out of Calgary in July. We understand that they are looking for to settle on the Island or perhaps in the Okanagan (where there is a daughter). It will be nice if they do, as apart from Alfie and Olga and John, Ed will have Jack Davies (Island) and Tom Mulvaney, Chuck Bradbury, Derek Rix, John Beaton and your Editor, all on the Mainland and all of whom were with him at Sendai 2 until the show was over, to keep him company.

Heard tell that footage of the Hongkong Veterans Association of Canada official "Pilgrimage to Hongkong 1980" was broadcasted in B.C. early July over CBC's "Medicine" show. Didn't see it myself, but my informant tells me that it apparently was produced in Winnipeg CBC studios and that Charlie Atkinson's name was prominently mentioned. As one who has made the transition from a 'sexy senior citizen' to a mere O.A.P. I know were getting older. But wotinel has our Hongkong Pilgrimage to do with 'Medicine'!!

AND MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Johnny: We were shocked and sorry to read of the events you described in the first issue of "TENKO". We hope the passage of time - a very short time at most - will serve to smooth the ruffled waters and all will be as it was. There are simply too few of us left for anything of this sort to come between brothers.

In the meantime, use the enclosed. It is too little, but it may help to keep the TENKO going.

In December, Audrey went into Tacoma General Hospital for an operation. When she had recovered, I went into the Madigan Army Medical Center for an operation. (Actually it was more of a job for a plumber than a doctor. I believe that all they did was run a Roto-Rooter, through my plumbing to ream out all the stoppages!) Anyway, we are both back on our feet now and returned to full duty, as of the end of this month.

Just in case you don't get the word I'm enclosing a copy of our latest Washington newsletter. We hope all is well with you. So have fun, keep healthy and be careful.

Gig Harbor, Wash. Jack & Audrey Brady

Between friends nothing is 'too little'. As it is, knowing what a double operation across the border sets one back, I wish you didn't do it and feel so very embarrassed. We both pray that Audrey is fully recovered and rid of the trouble permanently. As for you, I went through the same thing last year and found making like Aquarius, no little joke. Anyway I feel you're tough enough to walk away from it all smiling, for aren't you the guy what shot an iguana and then ate it? John

THINK OF THE MONTH

The way prices for a four-pack Purex (or similar) product keeps spiralling upwards, perhaps it is time for us to give serious consideration to drastic curtailment of eating habits, even to stopping input altogether, and in so doing, eliminate output!

Think on it, friend!

Dear John: Sorry about the 'Aggro' and so sad when ex-FEPOWs are involved, but one has principles and standards to live up to.

Had a stack of 'bumph' from Bill Laidlaw today about a holiday in Canada, so, who knows, I may see you one day. I wish you good luck and God Bless.

Harlow, Essex

Alan J. Wood

Many thanks for your letter and the enclosure, Alan. Hope you will give serious thought to visiting this bit of the world. Although we haven't met yet, I look forward to doing so and would consider it a privilege to show you around my bailiwick and wherever. Please don't fail to advise should you decide. Meanwhile, KLAHOWYA! John

Dear John: Received the TENKO and as usual enjoyed it very much, I hope this note finds you in good health and still carry on the good work. I know that all Hongkong Vets I come in contact with are all behind you 100 percent.

I will not bore you with that nasty business in Las Vegas, however, myself and many others will always keep it in the back of our minds. So enough said for the present.

I am feeling quite well now and hope I can stay that way for a few years yet. Enclosed there is a donation which will help you in carrying on the good work as Publisher/Editor of 'TENKO'. All the best, as ever.

Surrey, B.C.

Gerry McKnight

Thank you very much, Gerry. Your letter is so indicative and makes one feel so good to be a part of that very 'special breed of men'. I am so glad too, to hear that you're recovering so well and join you in hoping that it'll remain so for aye. Our best to both you and Jean. John.

MAILING OF THIS ISSUE DELAYED

In order to include a report on the National Convention 1981 in Calgary, 9 - 12 September 1981, mailing of this issue will be put back a week.

AND MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear John: Another 'dear John' letter-one which has been put off far too long.

You are doing a great job on your paper- no matter what name it goes under. I am sure that I am the only one who hasn't let you know (Not quite Alice dear, but it sure makes me feel like I'm a 'SOMEBODY'!!).

I read it with interest and though I have met very few of the Hongkong people(my own fault) I recognise some of the names that Tom used to mention. The late Padre Laite was one whom he held in high esteem, as I can see all you others do too. I met Mrs Laite just once - a beautiful person.

Don't fully understand the problem that caused all the fuss, but it sounds to me that 'our John' is still up there fighting. That was when I first heard your name - a letter to the SUN (can't remember what the subject was now) and simply had to congratulate someone who was willing to stand up and be counted.

Am making out the small cheque in your name. I am sure you'll know what to do with it(No rotten humour intended!). Take care and keep up the good work and if you know of any widows out here, perhaps we could get in touch.

Maple Ridge, B.C. Alice Weir

Alice dear, that was a lovely letter to receive. The letter to the Sun was a call to Hongkong Veterans to get-together and celebrate the 25th Anniversary of our release from POW camps, back in 1970 (before I joined the Association). You wrote me expressing your regrets that Tom could not attend as he was ailing, but sent both your good wishes. I still have your letter. Had a lovely reunion with over thirty attending. Regrettably since then a number have been called and have joined Tom. They include Eddie St Germaine Scotty Temple and Earl Vermette -all Grenadiers and Mario Roza, Henry Sa, Ernie Coulson and Henry Souza(HKVDC). Also regrettably I know of no widow residing in your area at present, but will try and keep trying. Marion Varcoe over at Clearbrook is about the nearest one to you. Luv. John

Dear John: I sure hate to see a thing like this happen for it is from things like this that the whole Association could break up. I sure like the magazine and what it means to me. It is the best idea that came along since the war, so I'm sending along a donation to help you keep going.

If the Association decide to keep the Roll Call going, that will really foul things up, for there isn't room for two.

Well, John, there is no use in dawdling on the bad side of things, for a person just makes himself feel bad. I want to wish you every success in keeping things going for I would be the loser if they fail.

Blue River, B.C. Frank Petch

Frank, I agree with you whole-heartedly that the Association must never break up. I feel that it is the greatest thing that the Hongkong Veteran has. However, so long as there are individuals whose behaviour towards his fellow veterans brings discredit to the members, branches or the Association itself, that danger exists.

One of the reasons for the existence of the TENKO, free of censorship and/or control, is to ensure that such things do not occur. Thank you for uplift your letter has given me. John.

Dear John: Received your TENKO magazine and we were very sorry to hear of your forced resignation, but, John, there comes a time when one can no longer "bow three times and face the East!" sometimes, a change is as good as a rest.

We are delighted that you are continuing to edit and publish TENKO, thus keeping old tried and true comrades informed of what is going on. In TENKO you mentioned "Cam Maddess" haven't heard about Cam for a good many years-give him our best - also Andy Harvie, an old buddy of mine, is now living in B.C. Best regards to all.

Las Vegas, Nevada Roger & Mona Zane
With support like that, howinel can I go wrong. Thanks for the enclosure
Keep well, healthy and happy. John

THE SHUMSHUIPO STORY (continued)

In the meantime, within the Camp, the Catholic congregation, swelled by the arrival of the Canadian contingent from North Point, started work in forming a 40-voice choir, which included men from all denominations under the leadership of a member of the Royal Rifles, reputed to have been involved in with choirs in Quebec. (Anyone know his name?).

This was not accomplished without much hard work, including study of the liturgy in Latin, numerous choir practices and the ritual of the Mass itself. But all the work paid off, and it wasn't long before Father Green, SJ, proudly officiated at the first, of many to follow, full choral mass in all its glorious solemnity to which was added the desperate search for solace by men equally desperately in need for same.

But it had, of course, its lighter moments. The noises that came, during choir practices from men who were more familiar with "Bless 'em all", "Roll Me Over" and "Mares Eat Oats" than the multi-voiced Gregorian chant, had to be heard to believe! And then there was Benjy (true name Benjamin), a Hongkong Volunteer of the Jewish faith, who denying himself entry into the Chapel, was, nevertheless determined to be a part of it all, and whilst the choir was giving its all with the "Christie Eleison", the "Gloria" and the "Pater Noster" inside, Benjy would march outside and around the building singing "Maria da Fonte" (a battle hymn of the Portuguese revolution he'd learned from the boys of No. 5 MG Coy, HKVDC) at the top of his voice.

The fact that he was generally off-key and his pronunciation of words of an unfamiliar tongue sheer murder, didn't faze Benjy one little bit and, because Benjy had been shell-shocked in the Battle of Hongkong, no one stopped him in his rounds, even though our practices were interrupted by gurgles, grins and guffaws when Benjy matched the choir's crescendos by letting out with extra gusto.

Out on the playing field in front of Jubilee Building, the Canadians, led by Len Corrigan, clashed against a team comprising the cream of Hongkong

softballers, which included such stars as the Gosano, Leonard, and Fowler brothers and others from the now defunct Hongkong Softball League. There were also other games going on such as cricket, soccer and even lawn bowls but playing on sand pitch soon wore out all the soccer and cricket balls we had and the best Henselite bowls assumed shapes that only luck was required and skill went out the door. In addition, with the departure of drafts to Japan and deteriorating health and physical condition of those left behind, soon saw these activities peter out and eventually dropped altogether.

Their places were taken by less exhausting types of relaxation the main ones being music and the theatre. By then also, a large quantity of musical instruments were permitted to enter into the Camp and Njal Bardal, an accomplished guitarist, spent time teaching would be strummers how to get nice sounds out of an odd shaped wooden box with six strings to it. Doc Albert Rodrigues was one of his most avid pupils.

Over at the theatre, Sonia Caranda (Sonny Castro) became an established star and favourite. But this did not detract from the rest of the "ladies" - all of whom came from the ranks of the two Portuguese Coys, HKVDC. These included Tony Alves, Eddie Noronha, Joaquinho and Xavier (forget first names of the last two).

Leading men included Zinho Gosano, now a priest in Queenstown, New Zealand, and the trio from A Coy. HKVDC, Gardner, Mitchell and Thompson. The second is reported to be on the Executive of the HK FEPOW Association in Hongkong to-day, and the late Guy Falconer(?).

The first big stage show "Cafe Casanova" was produced, followed by "La Cigane" and the a string of other equally entertaining productions. The string band gave way to a full sized orchestra and the property and costuming sections were developed into highly efficient and near professional standards. We cannot omit mention of Nanelli Baptista, artist par excellence, who painted all our scenery.

(to be continued next issue)

HITHER AND YON (continued)

Harry Creedon tells of returning to the green, green grass of his hometown, Souris, Manitoba (about 26 miles SW of Brandon) to participate in the celebration of its 100th Anniversary early this summer, and to meet the old gang once more.

With the thermometer hovering around 105 Fahr, we imagine chilled amber joy juice flowed freely as the old folks at home welcomed the prodigals back after years of absence. Excepting for the fact that Helen wasn't feeling well at the time, Harry says that it was one swell party.

Re that bit about my being an oyster lovin' Yorkshireman in our last issue, a delicious sounding reader phoned in to ask if I'd be interested in joining her-eating oysters in the raw! I was all for it until she added: "The oysters, I mean!"

Elsa observes: "Forget about making like a sexy senior citizen! At your age you're just another dirty old man on Fantasy Island!" Aw heck!

Hear tell that Tony Grimston has been appointed Treasurer of the British Columbia Branch, replacing Jack Davies who retired last spring. I am sure his return to the post will be welcomed by the membership. Tony did an outstanding job, holding that position for ten odd years, before he retired from office coupla three years back.

We regret to report the passing of Alfred McIntyre, B. Coy, Winnipeg Grenadiers, in Vancouver 6 July 1981. Internment was on 8 July 1981 and amongst those attending was Tom Mulvaney.

Although Alfred was listed as a member of the B.C. Branch, his address was listed as unknown. We now find that he'd been working out at the George Centre out in New Westminster, for a period of time prior to his death.

We will remember him....

Sometime back (in the Roll Call) we advised that the Frank Conkeys, who have been residents of San Diego, Cal. for quite some time, had indicated that they'd become homesick for a sight of God's Country and were planning to pull up stakes and returning to Canada permanently. Well, we've been waiting for news of the moving but hadn't received any until just recently. Through our underground grapevine, we are surprised to learn that they've settled down in Calgary! Can't say 'welcome Home', Frank, but do say: 'Welcome back!' How's about dropping us a line?

From the FEPOW FORUM the official magazine of the FEPOW Club, London, England, we learn of the 1981 National Ex-POW Reunion which will take place in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia from the 14th to 18th October 1981. We now hear that our good friends, Harold and Virginia Page, from Buckley, Wash. who are regular visitors to B.C. Branch do's, are intending to make the trip 'down under' not only to meet the gang but also acting in Harold's capacity as International Co-ordinator AMEXPOW. The west wind from Vancouver Island now also, brings whispers that Bob and Edna Manchester have been asking around about suitable clothing for Australia at this time of year. Don't really know, but it'll be springtime there in October, I theenk!

Latest from the Okanagan is that Cliff and Pauline Newcomb will be hopping into the ol' wagon and head for 100-mile House to attend wedding of a member of the Clan and from there, come down to the Lower Mainland - Surrey - for another family fiesta. With the family growing both older and larger progressively, purty soon Cliff won't have to attend HK Vets Reunions any more. He will be ina position to hold an All-Newcomb one and be assured that it'll be a sell-out crowd attending.

Have fun, you two and when you get down here, give us a call!

THAT MESSY METRIC MESS

As one who is not only getting older but better in appreciating the comfortable and neat ways of them good old days, I view with growing irritation the sorry mess the "metric system" is causing you, me and the guy down the street.

For one, received a colourful and highly decorative map of B.C. which, except for one thing, would be perfect for the wall of my den. The exception was that the pride of our Rockies, Mt Robson, had been summarily reduced in height to a mere 3,890 metres, give or take a millimetre or two, instead of that impressive 12,972 feet British Columbians have so long and proudly informed awestruck tourists, it is.

Again a department store's catalogue provides my wife with bed sheeting measurements in cms(?) but matching drapery in ins, and all on the same page yet!!

Our producers of canned milk go laughing all the way to the bank to deposit the extra skim-off on the new sized cans, contents of which now reads 385 ml, a far cry from that good old 16 oz (454 ml), and adds insult to injury by jacking up the price 300% instead of reducing it!

And what will become of our long accepted lumber standards: the 2 x 4s; 4 x 4s; 6s; 8s; etc., or the 4' x 8' wall panelling, gyproc sheet and by the same token, room height, window frame and door sizes, shelving et al, is anybody's guess.

Imagine being over at Empire Stadium and over the wildly encouraging roar from the stands, hear Jim Robson yelp "There goes Larry Keys on a draw play! He's at the 18.08 metre line- the 27.9 metre line and gets to the 37.12 m mark before Big Jim Helton pulls him down! Wait! They're bringing the ball back to the 35.78 M mark, and he'll be short of a first down by 77 millimetres!! SHEESH!!

A friend, 30 years younger and two feet taller, solaces me with: "Once you get over 65 your body begins to shrink, and you get shorter as you get older." I'll buy that, but when suddenly I am informed by someone in Ottawa that I am 1.62 m tall instead

of a respectable 5' 5", I get into a wildest fantasy of going over to the ISLAND and displacing Horve Villachaise amongst all those dolls, only to be let down when I find that he's a good 22 cms shorter nor I!

But most devastating of all to me is the possibility of meeting a pretty and generously endowed sweet young thing who will coyly confess to vital statistics of: 95 - 60 - 90 instead of the illuminating and soul-satisfying 38 -24 -36 of dem good old days!

The whole idea it appears is being promoted by a bunch of experts who, even with the aid of pocket calculators, are only able to divide and/or multiply by 10 and nothing else. One wonders when, or if ever, they will sit down and try to calculate just how many man-hours, in dollars and cents worth, you, I, the man down the road and the rest of Canada have already spent in converting from the way we were into 'metric', tack on man-hours in converting celsius to fahrenheit and when they (if ever) arrive at a figure, send me a cheque for 10% for the original thought!

THE "TENKO"

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AND YET MORE LETTERS

Dear John: My wife and I hope you are over that stupid misunderstanding and become a full fledged member again as we miss you at all the functions. Good luck and we'll hope to see you soon. Keep the TENKO coming and good luck in future publications.

Vancouver, B.C. Bill & Edith Rodgers

I miss both of you, as well as all the gang, too. Seeing as how they've cancelled the Okanagan do, perhaps we'll get together next spring. John

Dear John: Although I have not met you personally, I feel that I can still address this letter to you on a first name basis since you are a Hongkong veteran and one of us, regardless of whether or not you are a member of a branch.

I am sorry to have delayed writing to send notification that I wish to remain on the mailing list for your new magazine, "Tenko". However, better late than never.

It is indeed unfortunate that after all these years of endeavoring to come together as a close knit family, we are still subject to separations through disagreements between members or between branches. If what I have read in your first volume is indeed correct (The Las Vegas disconnection), I think you have taken the proper stand. If it was me, I don't see how I could back off either and walk tall (no reflection on your height).

The way I see it, the newsletter was conceived in order to bring all Hongkong veterans together by obtaining or circulating news of the members so that we all know where one another is and how they are faring. This was accomplished quite successfully during the tenure of the Roll Call. Now, from what I understand, it is to start up again. However, I feel that by having your magazine divorced entirely from branch jurisdiction, it should eliminate the bickering that can come between the branches and the branch representatives by simply not having them divulged and use the space for more worthwhile items, such

"Here and There" or "Where are they now?" and personal reflections from subscribers.

I have enjoyed every minute of reading the Roll Call, and if your magazine "TENKO" (a fitting substitute name) continues to get the same support from those who were receiving the Roll Call, and from that I mean those outside of the B.C. Branch, then it should work with every bit of the success it has enjoyed in the past.

I am enclosing my donation to your new magazine and wish you every success in this new venture.

Portage la Prairie
Manitoba

Angus McRitchie

You, Angus, are not only a sportsman and a gentleman, but a most understanding person whose thoughts run parallel to mine. My 'divorcing' myself was for the reasons you mention and although the penalty was foregoing the close and friendly contact with so many of my former fellow members, I have been more than amply repaid by so many like you who recognise what I am trying to do and have not hesitated to say so. For all this, thank you. John. (P.S. Wish I could write like you and look forward to more in the future).

Dear John: Was very glad to learn via the "Tenko" that you have been able to shake hands with the B.C. Executives and all differences are now laid aside never to be re-opened.

I shall enjoy continuing to receive your paper "Tenko" and in that way keep in touch with all our members and their doings.

Keep up the good work John and good luck in the future. Am enclosing a little something towards the cost of paper etc., can't do much for fatigue but you are contributing that anyway!

Okanagan Falls, B.C. Harry White

You're right that I'm glad we shook hands, but wrong about 're-opening'. So long as no apology is offered to the B.C. Branch and its members by he who started it all, it won't be forgotten. Thanks and God Bless. John

"C" FORCE NOMINAL ROLL (CANADIAN POWs in the Far East) 1941 - 1945.(cont'd)

RANK	NAME	UNIT	RANK	NAME	UNIT
L/Cpl	Bogard, Peter	W.G.	Rfn	Burns, John F.	RRC
Rfn	Boissonneau, Adrien	RRC	Rfn	Burns, Peter C.	RRC
Rfn	Bolton, Edward C.	RRC	Pte	Burton, John E.	RCASC
Rfn	Bond, Eugene	RRC	Rfn	Burton, Woodburn K.	RRC
Pte	Booth, John	W.G.	Rfn	Butler, Gerard P.	RRC
Pte	Boreshewick, Alexander	W.G.	Rfn	Cadoret, Bruce	RRC
L/Cpl	Botterill, Jack	W.G.	Rfn	Calder, Vincent A.	RRC
Rfn	Boudreau, John G.D.	RRC	Rfn	Cambon, Kenneth	RRC
Rfn	Boudreau, John W.	RRC	Pte	Cameron, Donald M.	W.G.
Rfn	Boudreau, Robert A.A.	RRC	L/Cpl	Cameron, Floyd C.	RRC
Rfn	Boulanger, Benoit E.	RRC	Pte	Cameron, Harry D.	W.G.
Pte	Boulette, William G.	W.G.	Pte	Cameron, John I.P.	W.G.
Pte	Bourbonniere, Armand	W.G.	Pte	Cameron, Kenneth S.	RCOC
Pte	Bourbonniere, Hector	W.G.	Rfn	Campbell, Charlie G.	RRC
Rfn	Bourget, Ernest	RRC	Pte	Campbell, John H.	W.G.
Rfn	Bourget, Robert	RRC	Rfn	Campbell, John L.	RRC
Rfn	Bowerbank, Frank E.	RRC	Pte	Campbell, John W.	W.G.
Pte	Bowman, Herbert	W.G.	Pte	Campbell, Joseph	W.G.
Pte	Bowman, Robert	W.G.	Rfn	Campbell, Kenneth A.	RRC
S/Sgt	Boyd, Robert	W.G.	Pte	Campbell, Patrick	W.G.
Pte	Boyer, Joseph A.	W.G.	Rfn	Campbell, Ralph W.	RRC
Pte	Bradbury, Charles	W.G.	Rfn	Campbell, William R.	RRC
Cpl	Brady, Charles P.	RRC	L/Cpl	Campbelton, Edward A.	RRC
Pte	Brass, Raymond A.	W.G.	Pte	Canivet, Leslie M.	RCOC
Pte	Bratchell, John M.	W.G.	Rfn	Cardin, Waldorf	RRC
Pte	Brazeau, Lucien A.	W.G.	Pte	Cardinal, Charles J.	W.G.
L/Cpl	Brazel, Ervin A.	RRC	Rfn	Caron, Michel O.	RRC
COMS	Breakwell, Frank E.T.	W.G.	Pte	Carlton, Mervin J.	W.G.
Rfn	Briard, Alfred J.B.	RRC	L/Cpl	Carpenter, Clifford J.	W.G.
Rfn	Brine, Fred A.	RRC	Rfn	Carr, Ashton F.	RRC
Cpl	Britton, John	W.G.	Rfn	Carr, Murray G.	RRC
Pte	Broadfoot, Albert M.	W.G.	Pte	Carter, Alexander G.	W.G.
Pte	Bronson, Ray E.	W.G.	Pte	Carter, Lloyd G.	W.G.
Pte	Broome, Charles N.	W.G.	Rfn	Carter, Melbourne J.J.	RRC
Rfn	Brophy, Bernard	RRC	Cpl	Carter, Victor E.	W.G.
Sgt	Brown, Andrew H.	RRC	Pte	Caruso, John D.	W.G.
Pte	Brown, Frank	W.G.	Pte	Casper, Leo J.	W.G.
Rfn	Brown, Louis	RRC	Rfn	Castonguay, Bernard	RRC
Rfn	Brown, Murray B.	RRC	CSM	Cauldwell, Francis B.	W.G.
Pte	Brown, Murray S.	W.G.	Pte	Charboyer, Wilfrid	W.G.
Pte	Brunet, Lucien	CPC	Rfn	Chambers, Donald M.	RRC
Rfn	Buchanan, Hercules	RRC	Rfn	Chamberlain, Robert	RRC
Pte	Buck, Ernest	W.G.	Rfn	Chanell, Edward B.	RRC
Rfn	Buckley, George	RRC	Rfn	Chanell, George B.	RRC
L/Sgt	Budd, Arthur E.	W.G.	Rfn	Chanell, Bernard L.	RRC
Cpl	Budd, Chester	W.G.	Rfn	Chapados, Romain	RRC
Rfn	Bujold, John E.	RRC	Rfn	Chapman, Frederick O.	RRC
Rfn	Bujold, Joseph J.	RRC	Rfn	Chard, John F.	RRC
Rfn	Bujold, Ludovic	RRC	L/Cpl	Charron, Rene J.	RCASC
Rfn	Bujold, Paul	RRC	Pte	Chatwell, John W.	W.G.
L/Cpl	Burch, Alvin L.	W.G.	Rfn	Chenell, William R.	RRC
Pte	Burden, Sammel	W.G.	Rfn	Chesser, Charlie	RRC
Cpl	Burgess, Clarence E.	RCOC	Rfn	Chesser, Kenneth	RRC

(Continued in next column)

(To be continued in next edition)

1981 NATIONAL CONVENTION (cont)

Little of the business of the Meeting has been made available to this magazine. However, we have been informed that a decision not to perpetuate the Association, through accepting non-Hongkong Veterans as Associate Members, has been arrived at, and the Association will be permitted to run out its existence when there remain too few survivors to merit continuing. At which stage, all Association assets will be converted and donated to some charitable organisation.

Another news item which will be greeted with regret is that Mr Allan Solomon, Chairman of the CPC and a staunch friend to all Hongkong Veterans, has decided to pack it up and retire sometime in October this year. His ever well-intentioned counselling and support will be sorely missed.

The march to the Cenotaph for the Laying of Wreaths, an impressive feature of all Conventions, saw a 60-strong contingent, led by a pipe-band cover the seven-block march to the Cenotaph from the Palliser, the Blessing, the Laying of Wreaths and the "Lament" by Bill Maltman.

The march back was highlighted by the taking of the Salute by Messrs. Solomon and Dutras.

All in all, in spite of a disappointingly small attendance when compared to previous Conventions, it is understandable when age and physical factors are taken into account, it was an enjoyable reunion.

To the B.C. Branch goes the palm for having its members coming from the most far-flung corners of this continent. There was Wally Normand from Gainsville, Georgia, and from the other extremity, the Tiny Martyns from Phoenix, Arizona. Between these two and all the others sandwiched in B.C. members sure covered one lotta territory.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Apologies are offered for any errors, omissions or inaccuracies in the above. The report has been compiled from bits and pieces provided by various readers, in haste to enable going to press by this Wednesday, 16 September 1981.

LEST WE FORGET

It is with deep regrets that we report the passing of our comrade

ALFRED McINTYRE B.C.

Our sympathy and condolences are offered to his family and friends.

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

DVA NEWS RELEASE

GORDON S. DOUGLAS, Prairie Regional Director of Veterans Services Branch of Veterans Affairs, Canada, has been appointed Director-General of the Veterans Land Administration as of 1 October 1981.

He will replace Donald Keen who is retiring on that date.

Mr. Douglas served as a pilot with the Bomber Command, was wounded in 1941 and spent the remainder of the World War II as an instructor and testing officer at the Instrument Flying School.

He is a native of Kenora and joined the Department of Veterans Affairs after the war, in 1946.

Mr. Douglas worked for Veterans Affairs in Kingston, Ottawa, London and Vancouver, before being promoted to Prairie Regional Director, Veterans Services in Winnipeg, in 1978.

He will be working from Charlottetown, PEI at his new post.

THE POSTAL STRIKE

The recent postal strike appears to have either delayed or failed to deliver Summer 1981 edition of the TENKO to a number of our readers. If, by the time you receive this Fall issue and still have not received the Summer (Vol: 1:2) edition, please advise. There are a few extra copies of that edition available still. So Sorry! and thank you.

The Editor