

the HONG KONG Veteran



Vol. I. No. 5.

September, 1952.

Winnipeg.

WE NEED A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION.

(2)

We firmly believe our basic interests can best be served as a Hong Kong Veteran's Association, within the main stream of the Canadian

Legion. To lose our identity for the sake of affiliation however, would gain us nothing. First establish our own National Organization, this would at least enable us to

survive the possible disagreements on policy and other conditions. Not otherwise. There are no limits to building our membership rolls in Canada, there are excellent reasons why we should establish Hong Kong

Veteran contacts in other countries. The possibilities of reaching agreements with other POW Associations regarding affiliation will

help broaden the basis of National Organization. The question of whether to remain a small social group in the light of the possibilities that now exist.

Also in the point of view of our needs. Not from the angle of what our disability is worth according to a Government Price List. But rather from the more human point of view.

THE EDITORS.

NOTICE.

A

Regular Monthly Membership Meeting will take place, Tuesday, Sept : 23, 8.p.m. at 194 Main.

HELP US, TO DO BETTER?

Last week I met a non-member on the street, during our conversation he asked me this question. "What is the Association doing in 1952, it has'nt done before"?

This kind of stuck in my crop, and having been on your Executive for the past three years: I'm going to try and answer it, by giving you our four main gains of the current year 1952; at the same time avoiding comparisons between past and present, and without citing dry statistics. 1) The biggest and most important decision by your association was publishing the paper in which you will read this letter. It entailed a lot of work and time, and our editorial board is to be congratulated on the issues, so far. With the promise of bigger and better things to come. I believe this will mean a lot to all HK vets. The main purpose in our minds, is to create a medium through which our grievances and troubles can be brought to the forefront and remedies sought for these matters. Then again, this is our only means of direct contact with those HK vets, we cannot see and talk to. These papers are being sent now from one coast to another, and are receiving an enthusiastic

reception everywhere. 2) The big item on every HK. vets mind these days, I know is POW pay. Gosh knows we all can use it, and during the current year we have and still are exerting every effort possible to put this money in your pocket. I know we have'nt been able to be in Ottawa, with our Eastern Associations in Committee meeting etc, but we have giving them our complete backing in every way, and this has added a big voice in the matter; and one must remember, both the Eastern Associations doing most of the fighting carry the name of the HK vets in Canada.

3) On Sept: 12. We are having a big Re-Union, according to the advanced sales of tickets, we believe we are going to have a real success.

This Reunion is a innovation we have began in the current year and we believe and hope will continue for years to come.

4) The membership of your Association is gradually climbing higher and each meeting sees new faces. The current year has shown a large increase, but we keep on the look-out for more and more.

Well, guess I've rambled on long enough and likely I've bored you plenty; but I do not want the fellows (P. II.)

OTTAWA REPORT NO. 2.

On October 5th.1951.Four members of the Executive of The Hong Kong Veterans Association (Quebec Branch) Colon Standish, Pres: F. G. Power, Legal Advisor: Ray Stoddard; E.E. Denison, and three members of the Toronto branch, Pres: C.A. Clark, R. Pellor, Secretary; and John Stroud, Treasurer, made representations to the following Departments at Ottawa:

1) Commission on War Claims

In August of this year the Government appointed the Rt. Hon. J.L. Ilsley, Chief Justice of Nova Scotia, and former Minister of Justice and Finance during and after the war, commissioner to inquire into war claims arising out of World War II. Our meeting was arranged for 10: a.m. in the Supreme Court Building. Mr. A. Napier of the Department of State, who was at the meeting, introduced the delegates to Mr. Ilsley. A representative from the Department of Veterans Affairs was also present at the meeting.

Your representatives, (Mr F. G. Power as chief spokesman) presented your case of claim against the Japanese Government for ill - treatment of POWs, in the form of lack of food, shelter, clothing

and brutal treatment.

Mr. Ilsley gave us a very good hearing and it was felt that the Government would recognize that we have a just claim. The chief claim put forward was the dollar a day claim for each day we were POW's. We were given an opportunity to describe the conditions under which we existed and the kinds of treatment we received.

2) TREATMENT SERVICES.

Brig. W.P. Warner, Director of Treatment Services, gave us a very sympathetic hearing and informed us that in addition to Treatment Instruction Letter No. 7. Dated March 28th .1951. He had issued the following letter on August 23rd, 1951.

"Your Attention is drawn to Treatment Instruction Letter No. 7. Dated March 28th, 1951. It is understood that any of the above seeking treatment under the provisions of this Treatment Instruction Letter should if there is any evidence whatsoever pointing to the possible presence of Avitaminosis be referred to the PME. Pension Medical Examiner as to whether entitlement and or pension should be awarded."

(In case you have'nt seen Treatment Instruction Letter No. 7., a copy of it is (P.4.)

attached hereto (Page 6.) This Instruction Letter was issued as a result of your delegation visit to Ottawa in March, 1951.

3) Pension Commission.

A most satisfactory meeting was held with Brig. J. L. Melville, Chairman of the Pension Commission. His Chief Medical Advisor, Dr. Brown and another pension medical advisor, Dr. Richardson were also present. The Chairman obtained copies of files and personally reviewed the case of several POW's, with us. We emphasized our contention that all Ex-POW's should receive a pension for at least AVITAMINOSIS. He stated that any man who wished to be re-examined could be, if you want this re-examination, write to Colonel Standish Cockshire. Talk plenty to the medical examiner and tell him all your complaints. They can't give a full report if you don't tell everything. Since our meeting with the Chairman, he has issued the following instructions to his Chief Medical Examiner, Dr. Brown, in part,:

3/ "When an ex-POW reports to the PME (Pensions Medical Examiner) Special attention should be directed towards his complaints and examination, and, where indicated----- reference should be made for Specialist's examination.

4) "Where, following complaint and examination by PME, it is considered advisable to request admission to hospital for observation and diagnosis, there should be no hesitation whatsoever in authorizing such admission - under Class IB!"

4) Casualty Rehabilitation.

A very satisfactory meeting was also held with Mr. R.W. Abraham, Director of Casualty Rehabilitation and Mr. Parliament, Director-General of Veterans Affairs. A man is supposed to be receiving 50% pension before he is registered with this service. However, these gentlemen agreed to register all ex-HK POW's. This means that their Welfare Officer will investigate the rehabilitation conditions of all our men either through their files or by personal visit. Where circumstances permit, and the case warrants it, the man could be retrained for a new occupation.

5) Department of Veterans Affairs.

Major-General E.L.M. Burns, Deputy-Minister for Veterans Affairs, also gave your representatives a very sympathetic hearing, he assured us that his department was assisting our case in every way it could to the

Commission on War Claims.

Your delegation and Executive feels that the heads of all departments are very sympathetic to our cause and are giving every service that they possibly can, as a direct result of our delegation to Ottawa; our medical treatment services have improved a very great deal, many men are receiving pensions who had'nt previously received them and many men have had their pensions increased. Another result of this last interview with Brig. Warner is that he, himself, personally, is investigating on treatment being given to former POW's, in Quebec and New Brunswick.

Let us know what your beefs and complaints are. Something will be done about them:

Executive Committee
H.K.P.O.W. Association
of Canada, Quebec Branch

LETTER TO EDITOR.

Congratulations to the editors for the August copy of the H.K.Vet. It was very good. The same to Roy Robinson for his "How about It"?

It would be nice to read articles from the boys who are away from the city especially. What do you say?

Send us your opinions, jokes views, rumours (God bless them, they kept us alive longer than the rice.) We'll print anything with reason. I met Angus McRitchie about a month ago and he told me he'd send some jokes in for the paper. Of course, he has to have them dry-cleaned first. Fellows are writing in all the time with some fine opinions of the paper and organization. Let's hear from the rest of you. If you like us, tell us. If you don't, maybe we can talk you out of it: We heard from Ed Tows awhile ago. I understand that the War Department is trying to get his recipe for those North Point buns. Don't give in Ed. Nobody but a POW deserves them.

Well, send in your articles men. We have to stick together these days to keep that roof over our heads, we are going to need it for television aerials! Forgive the corn and let's hear from you.

Hank Miron.

A recommendation by your Editorial Committee that "Free Copies to mailed to New HKV contacts only, was endorsed by the Association at its last meeting. This does not include The Ladies Auxiliary.

COPY.

To Senior Treatment Medical
Officers. Ottawa, March 28, 1951.

Special Arrangements for Examination and Treatment for
Hong Kong Prisoners of War. File No. 3-53 (DGTS)

Treatment Instruction Letter 7-1951.

(1) There is a growing amount of medical evidence that the deficient diet upon which the Hong Kong Prisoners of war lived for so long has produced an organic lesion of the central nervous system. This lesion, in the advanced stages symptoms which are not accompanied by any demonstrable organic signs. It is still probable that these symptoms have an organic basis, even though it cannot be shown clinically.

(2) In order that there be complete fairness in dealing with this group of veterans, the following will be observed scrupulously:

(A) Any Hong Kong Prisoners of War presenting himself at D.V.A. treatment institution must be examined by a doctor who will determine whether he should be admitted for observation or treatment, or not. The veteran shall be given every benefit of the doubt and any symptoms or conditions which he may present that his POW experiences would entitle him to admission for observation and treatment. If the veteran so desires, he may write the S.T.M.O. of the district in which he resides requesting an appointment with the appropriate treatment doctor.

(B) He will be admitted under Class 8 (d) if he has not entitlement under Class IA. He will be entitled to the benefits of Class 19 whereby he can receive travelling expenses and loss of wages up to \$7.50 a day while he is under treatment.

3) While it is true and quite understandably true that besides the existence of the probable organic lesion of the central nervous system, there is an emotional factor present in many of these veterans, this should not be the focal point for investigation, counselling and treatment. It should be understood that probably veterans who suffered for years from diets markedly deficient in vita-

mins have an organic lesion; it is felt that while the veteran is in hospital under investigation, that aspect of his investigation and treatment should be stressed rather than immediately putting him on the neuropsychiatric service.

(Signed) W.P. Warner, M.B.
Director-General of
Treatment Service.

P.R. 24177.

August 23. 1952.

REPORT OF MEETING HELD IN
SHERBROOKE, QUEBEC, FRIDAY.
AUGUST 15, 1952. SUBJECT: WAR
CLAIMS.

Because several of the clauses in the Report of the War Claims Advisory Commission were considered unfair to the Hong Kong POWs, and further, it was apparent considerable time would elapse before the War Claims Commission would act regarding the payment of Claims.

The Executive of your Association decided that some action must be taken immediately. As it was possible to arrange a meeting with the Hon. J.A. Blanchette, Deputy-Minister of National Defence, in Quebec, during the weekend of August 16th, 1952, we accepted the invitation of the Quebec branch to attend a meeting in Sherbrooke, P.Q. at 8.00 p.m. August 15th. It was impossible for the Winnipeg branch of the

Association to send a delegate to the meeting in Quebec. However, written authority to speak and act for them was sent to the Toronto delegate, and was duly presented to the Chairman, Major E. Denison at the meeting in Sherbrooke. The meeting started at 8.00 p.m. and the following delegates attended. Pres: Charles Clark, Walter Grey, Don MacIver, Lt. -Col: Welles Bishop, W.G. Billson, Major E. Denison, Colon Standish, Capt. L. Hurd, Cliff Royes.

Major E. Denison, who is Chairman of the Committee for War Claims of the Quebec branch, reported he had made no progress with the Director-of War Claims in a previous meeting in Ottawa.

He also read the following telegram from our legal representative, Frank G. Power, who was unable to attend this meeting.

Copy on Page 8.

8.

No 7 ck 328/326 7 extra
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FM Du Quebec Que 456pm
Aug 14

E.E.Denison
Lennoxville,Que

Regrets that I will be unable to attend association meeting. The report indicates that all living exPOWs will receive seventy five cents per day for period of internment at the outset and should no further money be forthcoming under article sixteen of the Japanese Peace Treaty and additional amount of twenty five cents per day will also be paid. Dependents deceased will also be entitled same. Dependents of POWs who died in camp being in receipt of a pension whose capitalized value exceeds the total maltreatment award will not be in receipt of this compensation. Discussion with Hon. Lapointe have indicated that the recommendations of this report will be carried out by the Government and that in fact provisions has already been made for the establishment of War Claims Commissions to handle the various claims. indications are that we will receive seventy-five cents per day awards before christmas. However, it would appear from page 93 of the report that individual claims will

have to be filled. I will seek further information with regard to this. Have heard it suggested that the association recommends one of its members to sit on the commission to be established. since our claims has already been decided upon it does not appear to me to be wise to ask for this. Further the duties of the commissioners will be such as to require the services of a person qualified to handle claims and adjudicate. with regard to the payment of the expenses of the War Claims commission these will be paid for by the Government and not the war claims fund. If there are any further points upon which I can get information or be of help I will be glad to do whatever I can. Happy Anniversary to All.

Frank G. Power,
10 Du Fort Street,
Quebec City.

720 pm Gr.

THE FOLLOWING DECISIONS WERE REACHED AT THE SHERBROOKE MEETING:

I) That we would meet the Hon J.A. Blanchette, Deputy-Minister of National Defence in Drummondville, P.Q., at 8.99 pm . August 16th, Saturday, and ask him to arrange a official meeting with the director of War Claims, Mr Alastair Napier, and that the director be instructed to receive our

2) That Major E. Denison and Chas. A. Clark would be the delegates to meet the Director of War Claims.

3) That we would press for an immediate interim payment of \$1,000,00.

4) That American citizens, or citizens of any country serving with the Canadian Army "C" Force, be entitled to equal payment of war claims and any further payment that might be forthcoming under Article 16 of the Japanese Peace Treaty.

5) That the same rate of interest be paid on all war claims. Reason - Whether a civilian or a company lost a business or property in Hong Kong or Japan, they are no worse off than a soldier POW who has lost his business in Canada through disability which was incurred in prison camp.

6) That consideration should be taken of the fact that wherever Canadian soldiers were killed his dependents are entitled to a pension. It is our considered opinion that pensions have no bearing on War Claims, and the proven dependents of any POW who was killed or died from maltreatment in prison camp, or since his return from captivity has since from a disease contracted in prison camp, or from the effects of maltreatment received in prison camp, is entitled

led to compensation without the means test. 7) The procedure of previous War Claims Commissions and their decisions should not necessarily be followed by the present War Claims Commission and that they be given instructions to act in expeditious as possible with full power to adjudicate POW claims without reference to any Government Department with the exception of the eligibility of the Claimant.

8) That the cost of representation to the different Government Departments regarding War Claims has been a very serious drain from the funds of the H.K.V. Association and Compensation should be allowed to this Association for cost of the representation re War Claims. 9) That should individual claims have to be filed from POWs that a member of the Hong Kong Veterans Association, an ex-Canadian POW and member of "C" Force, be a member of the War Claims Commission, not necessarily as a commissioner but in an advisory observer capacity.

10) That the fact that only partial payment was made in most cases for the loss of personal belongings and money, be brought to the attention of the Commission. The meeting adjourned at 1:30 a.m. (Page 10.)

Your delegate, Chas. A. Clark, Lt.-Col. Welles Bishop, Major E. Denison, met the Hon. J. A. Blanchette in Drummondville, Quebec, at 8 p.m. August 16th 1952.

The decisions of the meeting in Sherbrooke were fully discussed. Mr. Blanchette said he would do everything he could to arrange a official meeting with the Director of War Claims in Ottawa.

Your delegate Walter Grey - attended the unveiling of a War Memorial in East Angus, Quebec, at 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug, 17th, 1952, and we were notified there by Lt.-Col. Welles Bishop that a meeting -- with the Director of War Claims had been arranged in Ottawa for 2.00 p.m. Tuesday, August 19th.

We proceeded to Cookshire where a meeting was called by telephone in order to arrange for Major E. Denison to go to Ottawa with your delegate. On Monday, August 18th, 1952, we left for Ottawa, staying overnight in Montreal, arriving in Ottawa the next day. We met Mr. Alastair Napier, Director of War Claims in his office at 2.00 p.m. Over two hours of discussion followed, where the points of our decisions regarding War Claims were fully covered. This we learned: 1) That the members of

War Claims Commission had not yet been appointed.

2) That it was the opinion of the Director that no POW claims would be paid for at least 6 months.

3) That he had been instructed to receive our representations regarding any changes we wished to have made in the Report of the Advisory Commission.

4) He admitted that certain changes could be made if representations was made with -in the next 30 days.

5) All points of our brief were discussed with him, but he pointed out that no action could be taken until the War Claims Commission was appointed.

6) We were informed that probably representatives on the War Claims Commission would be from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and Dept: of National Defence. We suggested it would be only fair for us to know who they are, because possibly they might not be sympathetic to our claims.

7) Upon consultation with the Quebec and Winnipeg branches of the Hong Kong Veterans Association, a brief will be presented within the next two weeks.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF YOUR DELEGATE - CHARLES A. CLARK.

Where the claims of the Far East POW's, is already substantiated and (Page II.

recommended for expeditious payment by the Hon. Justice Ilsley. The Hong Kong Veteran's Association of Canada should use all means available to have an Order-in-Council passed authorizing a term payment to all POW's, entitled to receive War Claims compensation according to the recommendations made by the Hon: Justice Ilsley in his report.

That all branches of the Association consolidate their recommendations so that one brief, agreeable to all, can be forwarded to the Director of War Claims within the next three weeks.

We would like to point out that had your organization not had representatives on the spot to demand immediate action. Had the meeting in Quebec not been held, it is quite possible that a commission would have been appointed without our knowledge and without a chance of representation of our point of view. The findings of the Advisory-Commission would have been binding with-out appeal. Best Regards
Ray.W.Pellor,
Secretary Toronto Branch.

Regrets, All ads: Jokes and installments eliminated for more important information. Ed

Cont'd: from Page 2.

to think I'm claiming credit for your Executive alone, I'M not, this belongs to the Association as a whole, and I believe we can be justly proud of our achievements during the current year. My sincere hope is these achievements continue to increase. Now before closing I would like to thank you one and all for your co-operation in the past and hope you will continue to co-operate in the future.

Jerry Mabley.

HOW'S THE TEMPERATURE?.

According to our latest figures, our membership now stands at 55 fully paid up members, as compared to 27 this time last year. Not large figures by any means. But there is a difference, in 1951 we did not possess a mailing list, much less an accurate mailing list. To-day we are in direct contact by mail, with some 365 Hong Kong Veterans. This does not include bundles of the "HKV", which go North, South East and West.

Furthermore we have just recently received our One Hundredth and One subscription. In other words we in Winnipeg constitute the center of gravity for all HK veterans in the West.

ART MUNN.

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