

HONG KONG VETERANS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

MANITOBA BRANCH
PO BOX 381
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2004

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President's Report

Today is November 30th and just thirty-one more days to the end of the year. I wish you a Merry Christmas and a very Happy and Prosperous New Year with good health to everyone.

At the Canadian Veterans Association advisory council meeting held in Saskatoon in October 2003, I learned of our government's agreement to extend the benefits of the Veteran's Independence Program services to include the partners of all veterans, who were in receipt of these benefits at the time of their passing. The agreement was dated June 18th 2003. Since that time the Council has been successful in having the date pushed back to September 1, 1990. Now any spouse or common-law partner of a veteran who was receiving VIP services at the time of the veteran's death, if it occurred after September

1, 1990, may apply to have the services reinstated. Payments are not retroactive but will begin from the time of the application approval.

October was a busy month with a number of meetings including the trip to Saskatoon. While in Saskatoon I met with David Martin who is living in the Veteran's Village. Dave is on oxygen and in a wheelchair but he tells me that he is well cared for and sends his regards to everyone. The Peacekeepers Dinner and Dance was held on October 18th and was attended by Al & Carol Hadley, Bridget MacDougall, Lucy Yestrau, Juliet Lafortune and I. October 25th was our own reunion successfully coordinated by Juliet and our Commemorative members. It was a pleasure for me to see and talk to the vets that attended. Our evening began with the Colour Party marching on the Colours, escorted by six Winnipeg Grenadier cadets and three of their Officers. Everyone enjoyed the music, food and prizes. The Joint Veterans Council meeting held at Rockwood ANA Vets on October 29th was the last meeting of the month for us.

November brought another round of meetings. A candle light service, November 5 at Canadian Veterans Association started Veteran's week for Juliet and I. The War Amps Annual Dinner and Dance was held at the Holiday Inn Airport West on November 7th. This event was held in a smaller ballroom than the one we use. A discussion was held about the possibility of using this room for our Reunion but it was decided to be too small. Along with the Colour Party, Juliet and I attended and laid our wreath at the November 11th service at the Convention Centre. We were please to see Fred Wright, Grant

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Shepard and their good wives at the Service. Fred is feeling better now as is Tommy Dewar, I talked to Tommy on the phone the other day and he is able to walk around home with the aid of his walker. Fred Poitras is in Deer Lodge Centre recovering nicely from his broken hip as reported by Pam Heinrichs, Freddie's daughter.

November 18th at Rockwood ANA Vets, we attended another meeting of the Joint Veterans Council where Juliet and I were invited to attend the installation of the incoming officers for the Korean Veterans on November 27th. At this installation I was asked to be the installing officer by John Gillis. I felt very honoured to be asked to perform this duty for them. November 22 was the Commemorative Association meeting at St. James Legion. The last meeting for November was on the 29th at my residence to develop a plan for the HK Vet Monument.

As you can see Juliet and I have had a busy schedule. As I don't drive anymore, I rely on Juliet to assist me in attending these meetings and events. Her unstinting loyalty and devotion to our Association and myself, I truly appreciate. The only thing Juliet objects to (but not too strongly) is when I introduce her as my grandmother. This is because she looks after me better than a grandmother and for this I am very thankful. Thank you Juliet.

Well it is time to put this report in the mail to Carol and hopefully I haven't missed anything. May the wind always be at your back, may you have a smooth road to travel and I wish you all the best.

Sincerely & in comradeship
George N. Peterson

Hong Kong Veterans' Commemorative Association

Hi to everyone!

We held our HK Reunion Dinner & Dance October 25th with 144 people attending. We were very happy to see 10 veterans and their families. We need more families out to support this event. The music venue changed this year with a music man instead of a band

but it was well received by everyone. We welcomed out of town guests from BC and Ontario. Thank you to the volunteers who help to make this a great night Carol Hadley, Pat Maltman, Linda Sloan, Bridget Macdougall, Bev Rowden, Lucy Yestrau, Connie Mitchell, if I forgot any I'm so sorry.

George and I attended many functions as he wrote in his report and I was pleased to be in his company.

The HKVCA will be having elections in 2004. We are asking for nominations (see the enclosed sheet). However, both the person who nominates and the one who agrees to run, **must** be a regular member in good standing with paid up membership. The positions are as follows - Regional Director, Deputy Director, Secretary, and Treasurer. At present the following people hold the positions of Regional Director - Juliet Lafortune, Deputy Director - Vacant, Secretary - Carol Hadley, and Treasurer - Barry Mitchell. Nominations are to come back with a short bio of the person and to be in by Jan. 26/04. Ballots will go out in March newsletter to be back by April 23/04. Results will go out June newsletter. The following people have agreed to help with the elections - Gordon Shields - Elections Officer, Pat Maltman & George Peterson - Scrutineers, Patricia Bale - Validator. The present Directors have agreed to run again.

We had a very progressive meeting about the Monument with George Peterson, Vince Lopata, Stan Lopata and myself. We will be passing on the information to the National Directors for comments. We are hoping to get this off the ground and completed by 2005.

Wishing you all the best in 2004 and Good Health, Luck, Happiness

Please call me if you have any comments or questions.

Juliet Lafortune, Manitoba Regional Director (ph. 338-3354)

Winnipeg Grenadier's Hong Kong Trust Fund

- Donna Remillard

The Winnipeg Grenadiers Hong Kong Trust Fund appreciate all donations that are received to meet the requests that are made annually by the issue of the Winnipeg Grenadiers Hong Kong veterans, for their higher education.

Cheques should be written to **Winnipeg Grenadier's Hong Kong Trust Fund** (not HKVA).

The Hong Kong Veterans' Association donates to this fund in memory of each deceased veteran member.

Contributions can be directed to: Donna Remillard at 303-740 Kenaston Boulevard, Winnipeg, MB R3N 1Y3 or phone her at (204) 489-0008.

Last Post

Joseph Hickey, E-30516, RRC died Nov. 09/03
Donat Bernier, E-30318, RRC died Nov. 17/03
James Darrah, G18585, RRC died Dec. 11/03

HKVCA

Madeleine Charron, widow of Rene Charron, HK Veteran died on Oct 26/03 in Vanier, Quebec.

Ethel Query, wife of Ed 'Chic' Query of Oliver BC died on Nov 27/03.

Marge Bronson, widow of Ray Bronson of Killarney, MB died on Dec 16/03.

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to all the families and friends.

"We will remember them"

Notes from Barry Mitchell,

Treasurer and Membership

Greetings to all members and friends of the Hong Kong Veterans' Commemorative

Association. I trust this finds everyone in good health or at least as good as can be expected. I haven't had any reason to complain myself and here's hoping I can say that throughout Winnipeg's long winter.

The mailbox has been somewhat quiet of late, but that's to be expected at this time of year. I was hoping to see a few more requests for pins, shirts, videos and the like from Barry's Emporium but most of you seem to have done all your shopping elsewhere. We were kept pretty busy throughout the fall shipping our ~~video July 25th, 2002~~ ~~video August 14, 2002~~ ~~video August 21, 2002~~ ~~video Sept. 9, 2002~~ members and we would like to encourage you to place an order for one or more of our attractive items.

One family in Manitoba who certainly availed themselves of our merchandise is the **Sinclair's of St. Andrews**. They placed the largest order we have received to date and I was pleased to meet some of them when I delivered the goods a couple of months ago. Similarly, **Margaret Falcon** (widow of Joseph Falcon) of **Winnipeg**, took the money she won from the Reunion Dinner Lucky Name Draw, and bought some Hong Kong Vets items as gifts for her family. Again, I had the pleasure of meeting Margaret when I was able to deliver the order.

Earlier this year, we received a nice card and cheque from **Lloyd O'Leary** of **Thunder Bay**, complete with his usual assortment of Irish jokes along with best wishes to all the Veterans. We also heard from **Joyce Sewell** of **Eriksdale, Manitoba** who tells us that her year has been very busy, what with a three week trip to Scandinavia where she toured Denmark, Norway and Sweden. Her e-mail tells us she spent quite a bit of time with a family in Sweden as that is where her grandparents came from and where she has now met more family members for the first time. Thank you for your contribution to the Association, Joyce.

I sincerely hope everyone found a Remembrance Day service to attend, at least those who choose to go out on that day. There are a lot of services in most of the larger centres and here in Winnipeg the major event

is at the Convention Centre where thousands pay their respects to those who served. The ceremony is most fitting and the Hong Kong Vets are well represented with a colour party and the laying of a wreath by George Peterson, accompanied by Juliet Lafortune. The various tributes are of course, appropriate, and I'm always pleased to see so many young people in the crowd. So much of what we are about is summed up on that day and I'm grateful that we have such a special recognition and in such a tasteful manner.

It's dues paying time again, folks. Our mailbox is expecting to fill up each week in the New Year with your cheques for membership and maybe even a donation!! I'm afraid that we had to delete a few names from our mailing list for failure to pay the yearly dues, so don't let this happen to you!! It's only \$15.00 for 2004 for everyone other than Veterans and Widows. Please make your cheque out to HKVCA and perhaps you might include a few extra dollars to help with the cost of mailing you this newsletter four times a year. Our address is still P.O. Box 381, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2C 2H6. I look forward to hearing from you and seeing your expression of interest in the form of a nice note and cheque. Have a good rest-of-the-winter and I'll talk to you again in the spring.

Cheers,

Barry Mitchell

From the Editor

We are always pleased to hear from our members and I wish to pass on some recent contacts that I have received.

- Thank you to **Chic Query** for sending me the copy of Ethel's service – I wished more of us could have been with him.
- Thank you to **David Martin** for sharing the pictures of Remembrance Day and his wreath laying in Saskatoon. David looks pretty spry despite the scooter. He sends his best wishes to all the HK members. He keeps busy with swimming, cards and outings with his

family. We wish you continued good health David and all the Best to you and your family in 2004.

- **John Pollock** has had that terrible flu for the past 2 months which has limited his activities. It has been a long haul but we hope that his health improves for the new year.
- **Pearl and Don McPherson** sent a nice Christmas note with a copy of the news article on the Remembrance Day program. It was wonderful to see the vets; Aubrey Flegg, Will Allister and Don McPherson in BC on Peter Mansbridge show 'Remembrance Day Generations'. Pearl informed us of Don's sister Marge Bronson, widow of Ray Bronson, had passed away. Our condolences to the family.
- Christmas greetings from **Lloyd O'Leary** and some Irish humour (see below)
- Note from Larry Stebbe – he received a package addressed to Mrs. Pauline Maxwell (widow of Ralph Clifford Maxwell) in Transcona but we are unable to locate her – if any of her family would contact us we would like to give them the package.

Our **web site**, www.hkvca.ca, as always has generated great interest since our last newsletter.

The first interest was from grandson, Michael, of George Thomas Palmer, a Royal Rifle who served in Hong Kong. Michael has dedicated many hours and a ton of research to set up his web site. Please visit his website (www.geocities.com/canadianhongkongveteran/georgethomaspalmer.html) – it is most interesting and informative.

Another inquiry was from a reporter in Hong Kong, Sherry MN Lee, who wanted to generate interest in Hong Kong for a memorial for Gander. However as I explained to her, we wanted the plaques that were dedicated in the 2000 Pilgrimage in place first as they represent the valour of the men who fought and made

sacrifices there. Then if the Hong Kong people wish to honour Gander, we would certainly support this.

Some of the inquiries are from families looking for information on their relatives:

- Tracie is looking for information on her grandfather, **Andrew Harvie, WG**
- David Hughes is looking for information on his grandfather, **Sgt. Harold B. Hughes, RRC**
- Jo-anne is looking for information on her grandfather, **Pte George Ernest Smith, WG.**
- Karen is looking for information on William Alexander Rule Smith H41807 who died a POW in November 1942.

If anyone has information to pass on to these families, please forward the information to me if you don't have a computer and I will send it onto them.



Elections for HKVCA

The **Ontario Region** election results for 2004 are:

Regional Director – Pat Turcotte
Regional Secretary – Lori Smith
Regional Treasurer – Sandi Cameron
Past Regional Director – David Murray

The **Alberta/Saskatchewan Region** election results for 2004 are:

Regional Director – Gail Richoz
1st Deputy Director – Mary McAuley
2nd Deputy Director – David Coleman
Regional Secretary – Norma Fuchs
Regional Treasurer – Daniel Sakamoto

Congratulations to you all and we look forward to working with you in the coming year.



BOOKS! Continuing with a request for any books about the Battle of Hong Kong. I will list a few books that would help to establish a resource library. (Only the books marked * are available from the HKVCA)

- **This Soldier's Story** - George MacDonell *
- **No Reason Why** - Carl Vincent

■ **Desperate Siege: The Battle for Hong Kong** - Ted Ferguson

■ **The Royal Rifles of Canada in Hong Kong** -The Veterans *

■ **In Enemy Hands** - Daniel G. Dancocks

■ **A Handful of Rice** - William Allister

■ **Hostages to Fortune** - Tim Carew

■ **From Jamaica to Japan** - Thomas S. Forsyth

■ **17 Days Until Christmas** - Léo Paul Bérard *

■ **Where Life and Death Hold Hands** - William Allister

■ **Guests of Hirohito** - Ken Cambon

■ **Hell On Earth** - Dave McIntosh

■ **Diary of a Prisoner of War in Japan 1941-1945** - Georges "Blacky" Verrault

■ **"C" Force to Hong Kong; a Canadian Catastrophe** - Brereton Greenhous

■ **The Ruins of War** - Ko Tim Keung and Jason Wordie

■ **Not the Slightest Chance** - Tony Banham (see Amazon.ca as the price of this book has been reduced to \$58.94)

If anyone would like to donate any of these books, please mail the book(s) to our PO Box or contact me at (204) 837-6754 to make arrangements.

PS - Tony Banham is writing another book about the Lisbon Maru (ship that was sunk by the allies but carried POWs going to Japan) If anyone knows of a survivor(s) that settled in Canada, please let us know.



The Memory Project

I would like to mention the Memory Project again as it is a worthwhile effort to benefit our future generations.

I would encourage the veterans and the widows to make a contribution to our history by relating your story so that future generations are aware of the effects of war. If you wish to visit the website

http://www.thememoryproject.com/dominion_in_dex.cfm you will see others who have made this contribution.



** **"Honour & Pride"** is a CD produced by **Cove Records Inc.**, with the assistance of our Padre - Rev. Gordon Shields, to assist anyone that is organizing a memorial or funeral

service for veterans. The CD has the correct order of service and music to enhance any event. There are 2 distributors for “**Honour and Pride**” now, Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command Kit-Shop, 359 Kent St., Ottawa, ON K2P 0R7 and McNally Robinson Booksellers at www.mcnallyrobinson.ca. The cost of the CD is \$25.00 plus taxes (and shipping and handling where applicable).

Remembrance Day 2003

Thank you to all who participated in a Remembrance Day Service. But as the FEPOW prayer goes:

***And we that are left grow old with the years,
Remembering the heartache, the pain and the tears,***

***Hoping and praying that never again
Man will sink to such sorrow and shame;
The price that was paid we will always
remember Every day - every month - not just in
November.***



Standing

-Peter Ewasiuk: Korean War Veterans Assoc. -
Arnold McDonell: Army, Navy, Air Force
Veterans Assoc. -Bob Wright: President,
Branch #3 Royal Canadian Legion
-Col (Retd) Ian Barnes: Chair, The RCA
Museum, CFB Shilo -John McNarry: President,
Commonwealth Air Training Plan Museum -
**Renate Christensen: Hong Kong Veterans
Assoc.** -Don McLean: Canadian Association of
Veterans in U.N. Peacekeeping

Sitting is Mayor Dave Burgess of Brandon MB.



John James, Darren Hyatt, Ontario Provincial Police (John's grandson) and 5-year-old Claire Hyatt, age 5 (John's great granddaughter) in Emo, ON.



David Martin November 11th 2003 in Saskatoon, SK.

A New Book on Japan

- Reviewed by Barry Mitchell

Gold Warriors: America's Secret Recovery of Yamashita's Gold

By Sterling Seagrave and Peggy Seagrave

A lengthy and comprehensive review of this new book is featured in the November 20 issue of London Review of Books. This intriguing thesis offers an explanation as to why there has been six decades of effort by the victims of the Nazi Holocaust to win compensation from German corporations for slave labour and to regain possession of works of art while Japan has given little to its victims while giving its own nationals around \$400 billion in compensation for war losses.

The book goes into considerable detail on the vast difference in US government policies towards the two countries whereby the

United States sought to apprehend all German war criminals and denazify German society while in stark contrast they sought to exonerate the Japanese Emperor and his relatives from any responsibility for the war. Most important, John Foster Dulles, President Truman's special envoy to Japan charged with ending the occupation, wrote the peace treaty of 1951 in such a way as most former POW's and civilian victims of Japan are prevented from obtaining any form of compensation from the Japanese Government or private Japanese corporations.

The explanation offered in the Seagrave's book for the divergent policies put forward by the United States towards postwar Germany and Japan is the sinister notion that once the US discovered the stupendous caches of Japanese war treasure, it was decided to keep the discoveries secret and to funnel the money into various slush funds to finance clandestine activities of the CIA. One reason offered for this policy was to maintain the price of gold and another to protect the reputation of the Japanese Emperor whose last commander in the Philippines, General Yamashita, was responsible for hiding most of the loot from years of pillage.

The authors seem to sense that they might have a credibility problem, and have therefore taken the unusual step of making available two CDs containing documents, maps and photographs assembled in the course of their research. This book is a long read but most rewarding to those who are intrigued with the scandal of 'Yamashita's gold'.

Humour

Father O'Malley rose from his bed. It was a fine spring day in his new parish in Ottawa. He walked to the window of his bedroom to get a deep breath of the beautiful day outside. He noticed a jackass lying dead in the middle of his front lawn. Not knowing whom to call, he telephoned the Prime Minister's Office for assistance and happened to get the Prime Minister.

"Bon jour. Dis is Jean Chretien, how might I help you?"

"And the best of the day to yourself, Jean. This is Father O'Malley at St. Brigid's. There is a jackass lying dead on my front lawn. Would ye be so kind as to send a couple of your lads over to take care of the matter?"

The Prime Minister, who considers himself to be quite a wit, replied with a smirk, "Well now, fodder. I always tot dat you people took care of the last rites!"

There was a silence for a moment before Father O'Malley replied. "Aye, that's true, but we are also obliged to notify the next of kin."

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"Is it proper for a man to profit from the mistakes of another?" a parishioner asked his minister.

"Definitely not," was the preacher's answer.

"Are you absolutely certain?"

"Yes, my son, absolutely."

"Okay. In that case, I wonder if you'd mind returning that \$25 I gave you after my wedding last year?"

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A woman was chatting with her next-door neighbour. "I feel really good today. I started out this morning with an act of unselfish generosity. I gave a five dollar bill to a bum."

"You gave a bum five whole dollars? That's a lot of money to just give away. What did your husband say about it?"

"Oh, he thought it was the proper thing to do. He said, 'Thanks.'"

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A man, fond of practical jokes, decided late one night to send his friend a collect telegram that read, "I am perfectly well."

A week later, the joker received a heavy parcel -- collect -- on which he had to pay considerable charges. Upon opening it, he found a big block of concrete that had this message, "This is the weight your telegram lifted from my mind."

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An Irish man has been at a pub all night drinking. The bartender finally says that the

bar is closed. So the man stands up to leave and falls flat on his face. He figures he'll crawl outside and get some fresh air and maybe that will sober him up. Once outside he stands up but to fall down again. He crawls home. Reaching the door he tries to stand up and yet again falls. He crawls through the door, u the stairs and tumbles into bed. He is soon asleep, only to awaken the next morning to the sound of his wife standing over him shouting: "So you've been out drinking again!" "How did you know?" he asks, his head hung in shame. "The pub called -- you left your damn wheelchair down there again."

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One beautiful December evening Huan Cho and his girlfriend Jung Lee were sitting by the side of the ocean. It was a romantic full moon, when Huan Cho said "Hey baby, let's play Weeweechu." "Oh no, not now, lets look at the moon" said Jung Lee. "Oh, c'mon baby, let's you and I play Weeweechu. I love you and it's the perfect time," Huan Cho Begged. "But I rather just hold your hand and watch the moon." "Please Jung Lee, just once play Weeweechu with me." Jung Lee looked at Huan Chi and said, "OK, we'll play Weeweechu." Huan Cho grabbed his guitar and they both sang..... "Weeweechu a Merry Christmas, Weeweechu a Merry Christmas, Weeweechu a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year." AND SO DO WE! **What did you think weeweechu was??**

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Thank you, to all of you who send me the notes and funny stories. The jokes serve a dual purpose as they brighten my day and I appreciate the contributions to share with the rest of the members. Keep up the good work!

Reminders

Monthly lunches have changed location to St. James Legion on Portage Ave. at NOON - 2nd Thursday of the month. Full accessibility available.

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***** Please make sure you are a paid up member in order to run or vote in the elections. Also please indicate if Manitoba is your primary membership or just for newsletters. Thank you. *****

*** * * ***

The Hong Kong Veterans' Commemorative Association address in Ottawa is: 1 Stafford Road, Ste.164, Nepean, ON, K2H 1B9.

Your HKVA Branch Council Phone Numbers - Keep Them Handy:

George Peterson, President	256-7174
Carol Hadley, Secrtry/Newsletter	837-6754
Barry Mitchell, Treasurer/Membership	269-1497
Juliet Lafortune, Social	338-3354
Terence Jackson, Memorials	452-1460
Phil Doddridge, Nat'l President	418-392- 5838

****PLEASE REMEMBER:**

**SEND US ANY ADDRESS CHANGES –
WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU
AND
CHEQUES FOR BARRY'S EMPORIUM
SHOULD BE
PAYABLE TO HKVCA ****

**Happy Holidays to all and
the Best of everything in 2004!**

Have a great day and be safe!