

WASURERU-NAI

“Never Forget”

Volume 6, Number 1

April 2004

NEWSLETTER OF THE HONG KONG VETERANS' COMMEMORATIVE ASSOCIATION

THANK YOU VICTORIA- ON TO OTTAWA!!

We begin with sincere thanks to the organizers of the wonderful Reunion/Convention held in Victoria last August. Of the many highlights, surely the most impressive was the attendance of 44 Hong Kong veterans, some of whom came from as far away as the Gaspé region of Quebec and from the Maritime provinces. Federal Minister the Hon. David Anderson, son of a Hong Kong veteran, attended the memorial service. See the reports of the President and the B.C. Regional Director for more details.

And now...

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CONVENTION 2005-OTTAWA



Your Nation's Capital awaits you! The Ontario Region welcomes you. The hotel for the 2005 Convention is the Lord Elgin, one of Ottawa's most prestigious hotels, constructed in 1941. This newly renovated hotel located in the heart of the city, a stone's throw from the National War Memorial, has a history with Hong Kong veterans. It is here that some of those assigned to the "C" Force stayed while waiting for the troop train from Quebec City to pass through. It is here that the Executive of the newly formed H.K.V.A. stayed as they presented their briefs to the government for better pensions for their members. It is here that Harry Atkinson stayed every trip he made to Ottawa fighting one battle or another for his comrades.

Arrangements have been made to hold the two major meals just across the street at the National Arts Centre.

The room chosen is overlooking the famous Rideau Canal, one of Canada's national historic sites. Make your plans now to join us to honour our veterans on the 60th anniversary of V-J Day.

The city has much to offer. The events listed below are just a sample of what there is to see in Ottawa in the summer:

Changing of the Guard: 10:00 AM daily on Parliament Hill (a short walk from the Lord Elgin), weather permitting. The Parade begins at the Cartier Square Drill Hall at 9:30 AM; interpretive presentation on the ceremony at 9:45 on Parliament Hill.

Parliament Hill Sound and Light Show: This spectacular show is offered at dusk, three-to-four times weekly. The fantastic performance provides a free, entertaining late-night activity on one of the most breathtaking sites in Canada. The spirit of Canada is revealed through captivating music, shimmering lights and stunning giant projections on the Parliament Buildings.

Parliament Hill--tour of Centre Block: Confederation Hall, The House of Commons and Senate chambers, the Peace Tower, and the Memorial Chamber honouring Canada's war dead, including those who died at Hong Kong.

Parliament Hill--tour of East Block: The East Block is the only building on Parliament Hill to have survived in original condition, and includes Sir John A. Macdonald's office and former office of the Governor General.

Rideau Hall ("Government House"), official residence of the Governor General of Canada: Summertime activities include guided tours of the residence, gardens and grounds, free outdoor concerts (usually on Sunday afternoons and some weekday evenings;

RCMP Musical Ride Visitors Centre, Rockcliffe : Daily, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Plus: boat tours, bus tours, walking tours, and, we hope, tours of the new Canadian War Museum, now under construction and scheduled for opening in the spring of 2005.

Please assist us in planning events that you would enjoy. **Take a moment** to let us know what interests you from this list. **Drop us a note** at the HKVCA mailing address: Suite 164, 1 Stafford Road, Ottawa, Ontario, K2H 1B9, **OR**, email the Newsletter editor (ian.doull@pc.gc.ca), who will forward messages to the organizers.

President's Message

Greetings everyone:

As this is the first National communication since the beginning of the year, I wish you all a belated Happy New Year and wish that good health and much happiness surround you always.

We had a busy year in 2003 with the National Convention in Victoria that was very successful and thoroughly enjoyed by all who were able to attend. Congratulations to the BC members under the coordination of Lionel Speller, Linda Stewart and Murray Doull. I congratulate the Regions on their successful mini-reunions - this effort helps to keep the 'family' close together.

At the Convention last year several initiatives were begun. A review of the Bylaws was suggested to clarify and develop some policies and procedures to aid us in a unified direction. To date we have adopted some innovative policies to support our members and our financial processes. A National Monument concept is being developed in committee, under George Peterson and Juliet Lafortune. We hope to have more on this in the very near future. Fundraising for our struggling National coffers has Ron Maguire busy with some ideas and hopefully we will

soon have a package of unique ideas for everyone to consider. Our voice was added to the veterans' as we supported the War Amps recommendation to have the VIP given to the widows who received it prior to the death of their spouses. We are pleased to say that this was accomplished prior to year-end.

Some ongoing projects are our grave markers and veterans' books. Our wish is to have the distinctive marker on all our departed veteran's graves as recognition and honour of their sacrifices. The books that are written by our veterans are testimony to the trials that they endured for their Country and for our freedom. The books are a wonderful resource for the education of our youth; especially in conjunction with the curriculum developed in British Columbia and Ontario. We need to encourage our educators to tell the story of our unique Canadian soldiers and these resources will help them accomplish this. In Manitoba our Education Committee made a presentation to Social Science teachers at their Fall conference and encouraged them to use our resources in their classrooms. We are in the process of developing resource containers (with books, videos, pictures, maps, etc.) to loan to schools to use with this curriculum.

Some of our veterans and I have given some assistance to Gilbert Reid, writer and assistant producer of "For King and Country", a TV series about WWII that will feature the Battle of Hong Kong in one of the episodes. This production will air in November on the History Channel.

Congratulations to the new executive in **Ontario Region** for 2004 - they are: Regional Director - Pat Turcotte, 1st Deputy Director - Mike Babin, Regional Secretary - Lori Smith, Regional Treasurer - Sandi Cameron. Best wishes are extended to David Murray, Past Regional Director for all his time and effort.

We welcome the newly formed Region for **Alberta-Saskatchewan** and congratulate the new executive for 2004 - they are: Regional Director - Gail Richoz, 1st Deputy Director - Mary McAuley, 2nd Deputy Director - David Coleman, Regional Secretary - Norma Fuchs, Regional Treasurer - Daniel Sakamoto.

We now have representation in all Provinces of Canada and our goal is to increase membership by 10% each year. We would also like to have a family member, for each of our 1975 members of 'C' Force, as members of our wonderful association. We encourage you to spread the word of our association through modes of recognition, like the membership decal on your car window, or our crest on your blazer. Take every opportunity to discuss our association with family and friends and encourage their membership participation. It was through a similar type of conversation that I have been asked to make presentations at my church, to a group of retirees from work in November last year and I will be doing it again in April to another such group. I applaud all our members who are taking the initiative in their own communities by speaking to interest groups and laying wreaths. Please let us know of your activities so that we can mention it in a "Volunteer" column of our newsletter.

Until next time, Best Wishes

Carol Hadley

Treasurer's Report

"Dues and Views"

It is certainly a pleasure to bring greetings to all members of the HK Commemorative Association in my first year as your National Treasurer.

While the main purpose of my job is to chase after your membership dues and document them properly when I do receive them, I also get to examine some of the programs which are underway in the Regions as part of their fundraising and fulfillment of their mission. This little bit of insight gives me an opportunity to view our organization as a truly national endeavour and to appreciate the unique approach each Region takes with their programs and activities.

I feel our principal objective is one of communication—to get the message out about the Defense of Hong Kong, what it meant to Canada and Canadians, about our Veterans, about our Association and about our programs. We have an important story to tell about a critical time in history and I think we are making excellent headway through the development of teaching aids, curriculum advice and the

distribution of books, notices and videos.

We also need to keep our own people informed and to accomplish this, most of our Regions send out a comprehensive newsletter a few times each year. This national newsletter has been distributed on more of an irregular basis but it remains the only way we are able to reach all our membership at the same time. For that reason alone, it is an important tool in our communication and we encourage you to contact us with your opinions and ideas that would be of national interest.

And of course all this takes money. With membership dues being our primary source of income I urge you to be diligent in submitting your fees to your local Treasurer with serious consideration being given to a small (or not so small) donation. I also suggest that you can keep yourself truly well informed by subscribing to newsletters which originate from Regions other than where you live. To do this, just let us know which Region is your Prime one where you wish to pay full membership and then for just \$5.00, you can get on the newsletter mailing list from another Region of your choice.

I don't want to confuse matters, but we must know your main or Prime Region for the purpose of assessing dues and for sending ballots for national or regional elections. The token fee for newsletters would be well worth your while and you would be kept up-to-date on all events from coast to coast.

Thanks to everyone for supporting the Hong Kong Veterans' Commemorative Association. You belong to a strong, active organization with representation in every Province in Canada. We are always looking for ways to strengthen your association financially and your thoughts or suggestions would be welcome. I look forward to your comments and wish you well until next time.

Barry Mitchell
National Treasurer

REGION/BRANCH NEWS

British Columbia Region

The August 2003 National Convention in Victoria has come and gone. It is now etched into our collective

memories forever. Since this is the first national newsletter since the event, we want to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved. On behalf of Lionel Speller, B.C. President of the Hong Kong Veterans and on behalf of the BC members of the Commemorative Association, we wish to extend our heartfelt appreciation to all who came to the Convention and made it so memorable.

We wish to thank the many volunteers and the Convention Committee members most earnestly for their ommitment to the 2003 HKVA - HKVCA Victoria National Convention. We will not name all of the volunteers for fear of missing one. But, we would like to acknowledge our Committee members for their many hours of devoted service. They are: Larry Stebbe (HK Vet, Winnipeg Grenadiers), Gerry Gerrard (HK Vet, Royal Canadian Corps of Signals), Fiona Hyslop (daughter of Dr. James W. Anderson, British Royal Army Medical Corps), Harvelyn McInnis (daughter of Kenneth G. Baird, Winnipeg Grenadiers), Cory Turner (daughter of Dick [Richard T.] Johnson, Winnipeg Grenadiers), Murray Doull (son of Bill Doull, Royal Rifles of Canada), Gwen Day (daughter of Bertram Gilbert, Royal Rifles of Canada, and myself, Linda Stewart (daughter of Clifford Carpenter, Winnipeg Grenadiers).

It has been our special privilege to serve on the 2003 National Convention Committee. We thank you all for allowing us this experience.

Take good care of each other. Until we meet again.
Sincerely,

Linda Stewart

2003 Convention Chair
BC Regional Director, HKVCA

Manitoba Region

Hello to all. Well, we know spring is just around the corner. I was looking in my backyard the other day and saw some of my tulips starting to come up. What a great sight that was to see!

As you must know by now, we, in Manitoba, are trying to prepare a few proposals for the monument. We are receiving ideas from members of the

HK's and HKVCA's. We are taking this all into consideration. Our mission here is to please the Veterans. Isn't this what it is all about? We, as HKVCA members are their legs. We are to work along with the Vets, not just what we want to see. It would be greatly appreciated by the monument committee if you would poll the Veterans in your area and email the suggestions to me at (jlafortune@hkvca.ca).

We are still working on getting involved with the Museum of Humanities. The content will be mostly articles and books on our Vets. Pat Maltman and I are planning on organizing a Ladies Luncheon (wives, widows, daughters, sisters etc.) will be invited. Our elections will take place shortly and you will be notified of the results.

Well, I must take leave as there are things to be attended to - so take care.

Juliet Lafortune
Regional Director

Ontario Region

Hello from Ontario! A great deal has happened in the Ontario Region since the last National Newsletter.

Our first Regional Election was held last fall, with all of the positions on the Executive being assumed by different individuals. The new Regional Director is Pat Turcotte, from Mississauga, the new Secretary is Lori Smith, from London, and the new Treasurer is Sandi Cameron, from Ottawa. Just recently the Executive was expanded by one with the addition of the position of Deputy Regional Director. This role has been assumed by Mike Babin, from Toronto, whom we're very pleased to welcome. He has already provided valuable input to the several tasks we have on hand at this point in time.

Lori Smith and Sandi Cameron have spent a great deal of time working on the Policies and Procedures we want to follow regarding the membership and the Executive itself. Their contributions have been much appreciated. In addition, we have added one more person to the team. Janis Jennings, of Sarnia, has agreed to become Membership Liaison, thus freeing up Sandi Cameron for her very busy role as Treasurer. Not that Lori Smith is very far behind, with her several jobs as Secretary, Membership Chair and Area Rep. for South Western Ontario. We're hoping that someone in her

area will want to volunteer to relieve her as Area Rep. There are only so many hours in the day!

One of our main thrusts this year is to continue the get-togethers established last October 18th when we held our First Annual Mini-Reunion in London, Ontario. All who attended agreed that we should continue the tradition, with the result that we are now in the planning stages of our 2nd Annual Mini-Reunion which will be held in late September or early October. Mike Babin has very kindly agreed to be Chairperson for the event. The Reunion Committee, including Sylvia Mason and Randall Ross, is currently in the process of reviewing the choices of dates and locations with the Executive, and will report to the General Joint meeting of the HKVA and HKVCA being held in Toronto on May 1st. At that meeting the date and location will be decided, and members present, if they wish to do so, will have the opportunity to volunteer in some way for the Reunion in the fall. We hope to see a lot of Ontario members at this preliminary meeting so that we can make the 2nd Annual Mini-Reunion an enjoyable time for everyone. **The Toronto meeting will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 22, 1240 Woodbine Avenue (at Mortimer) at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 1st.** We've moved the meeting to Saturday to accommodate those who have been unable to attend a mid-day meeting in the past because of work schedules. As usual, those attending (especially the ladies) are encouraged to bring a contribution to the tasty lunch which has traditionally followed such meetings.

Another of our ongoing projects is the Ten Lessons, titled, as you know, *Canada in Hong Kong: 1941 "1945 The Forgotten Heroes*. Two hundred copies of the Ten Lessons are now in circulation. In November of 2002 we were able to introduce the Lessons to at least 250 teachers at the OHASSTA (Ontario History and Social Science Teachers Association) Conference through a display of Hong Kong materials, and by sketches of the Ten Lessons which were still in the process of being written by Nick Brune. In 2003, at our second November OHASSTA Conference, Nick Brune and George MacDonell held a very successful workshop discussing not only the Ten Lessons, but George's book, *One Soldier's Story*, as well. The next phase will involve approaching School Boards with the object of having teachers on their staffs treat the Ten Lessons as a pilot

project, thereby giving us an opportunity to familiarize more teachers with the material. We understand that some HKVCA members, and others who have bought the Ten Lessons, have teenagers who have taken the lessons to school, and offered their teachers the possibility of making some use of them in the classroom. If you know of anyone who has done so, we'd be very interested in getting feedback from those teachers as to how the students responded to their use. Thus Ontario HKVCA members, and others, would have the opportunity to assist our cause as well. We are convinced, through reactions from teachers who have already seen the lessons, that the Lessons would be a valuable tool in the teaching of the Canadian role in World War II.

Our Newsletter continues to play a major part in our keeping in touch with our members, and, we're finding that the Bulletins that Sandi Cameron inaugurated, and Janis Jennings is continuing to put out, have helped immeasurably when we want to get information to as many members as we can in a short time. We also have our Area Reps to be our connection to the persons in the six different regions. Ron McGuire in North East, Maureen Dwyer-Kline in Central and South East, Lori Smith in South West, Leon Sokalski in West Central and Randall Ross in the Greater Toronto Area. We're still looking to fill the Area Rep. spot in the North, so anyone reading this who might be interested, just get in touch with any member of the Executive to volunteer. It is important that there be a contact, particularly in the North.

As one of our special projects, we are continuing to ask members to consider donating a wreath to their own community through the local Legion in honour of our Hong Kong veterans. We feel that this is an important way to make the public aware of the Hong Kong story. As we have also said, we want to put new wreaths in each of the six areas across the province to further the cause. As an Executive, we have pledged to arrange for wreaths ourselves whenever one of our veterans passes away, and, there are already three families of veterans who will have a wreath dedicated in their husband or father's name in 2004 as we lost, in Ontario, Philip Lawlis, RRC, Gord Hutchinson, RRC, and Wendell Thompson, RRC. Their families, if they so wish, may help us decide the community

which would be the most logical place for this new wreath, and they may also choose to lay the wreath if they are able to do so. We believe that this is a fitting "thank you" from the HKVCA organization in Ontario. This plan exists in addition to the member-sponsored wreaths which have been made possible through donations to the "Spirit of the Torch" Fund. There were four such wreaths in the province in 2003.

There is a new approach to Membership in the province this year. A number of HKVCA members will have received, by the time you read this, a "Friendly Reminder" letter re looking after their membership dues. **This does not apply, of course, to veterans and widows.** Those members who do receive that letter are urged to look after their membership as soon as possible because they will not be receiving further services, including the June Newsletter, if they haven't managed to take care of things by the cut-off date. We do want everyone to continue supporting the HKVCA in Ontario, but we really do need those Membership dues in order to continue our work.

After an unusual and unsettling winter in many parts of the country, spring does seem to be on the way. May there be much good weather in the months ahead!! John Stroud urges all veterans to get the special licence plates that have now been issued. They feature the word "VETERAN", and have a poppy showing on the plate as well. Applications can be picked up at Ontario Licence Bureaus. They should then be sent, with an accompanying \$5.00, to the special committee at the local Legion. The veterans then take their old licence plates and their ownership to the Licence Bureau. Happy driving!!

Best wishes to the Regions across the country for all of 2004!

Cheers!

Pat Turcotte,
Regional Director, Ontario HKVCA

Quebec Region

Greetings from Quebec Region!

Hope you all had a nice Christmas and winter season. Spring is around the corner and will be easier for all. Here in Quebec all is well. Due to the severe weather we experienced this winter, visits were a bit limited but nevertheless a contact with our

members was maintained. A few of our veterans and widows were under the weather but things are now looking better.

Quebec region will be lending a helping hand and participating where ever possible in the opening of the Baie-des-Chaleurs Museum in July. The organizing committee for our Reunion to be held in Granby, August 19-22, 2004 is fast at work. Invitation kits will be mailed to all QC members with the March newsletter. An invitation to all members of the HKVA and HKVCA is extended. If you are interested in joining your QC Comrades and friends at their reunion just give me a call and will see that you receive an invitation. Tel.: 450-375-7439 or e-mail:

lucette.mailloux.m@svmpatico.ca

The HKVCA Executive Committee is at work for the welfare of our Veterans and Widows.

Hope to see many of you in Granby, next August.
Lucette M.Muir
QC Regional Director

Quebec-Maritimes Branch

A newsletter from the Quebec-Maritimes Branch is in the offing, but the call is out for a contribution to WASURERUNAI, soon to be in your mailbox. So here is mine.

We have lost more of our comrades and their faithful spouses, and supporters of the Association since we last gathered together. I leave it to our faithful HKVCA executives to record their passing. **We will remember them.**

A week ago I had a long and interesting telephone conversation with Lloyd Doull. Apart from myself, Lloyd is the last living National President of the Hong Kong Veterans Association. Lloyd and I were in "D" Company of the Royal Rifles, and we have known each other since 1940. Sixty-four years. You can imagine the inaccuracies that were exchanged! That's a long time! He and Peggy, Ian's parents, are doing pretty well, although age, is creeping up, as with all of us. Lloyd has a plaque which he wishes to donate to our Museum. I'll hold him to that promise!

Speaking of our Museum, I am delighted to report that, due to the generosity and interest of our friends, mostly Hong Kong Veterans and their families, we have been able to make significant progress in the preparation of our

building, to the extent that, after a few years of agonizing over the problems, we will have an opening in early July of 2004. We want all our supporters to be there to help us celebrate!

THE MEMORY PROJECT

The Memory Project an initiative of the Dominion Institute, is an organization whose aim is to bring to the attention of younger generations, the contribution of Canadians in service to Canada. Ed Shayler, HK Vet, is a member of the Memory project. His interest is a program of visits to schools to inform students of what their forefathers did in past wars. I'll not say more at this point for fear of stating some inaccuracies. Perhaps Ed will say something in this newsletter. If you would like to contact Ed, his address is Mr. Edward Shayler, 189 Edgeridge Terrace, Calgary, AB, T3A 6C1. His e-mail address is: shayler@shaw.ca. I'm sure he would like to hear from you.

BOOKS

By this time many of us have received and read Tony Banham's book, "Not the Slightest Chance". It is pricey, but Chapters is now offering it for about twenty bucks less than I paid for it. It is the most detailed account of the Battle of Hong Kong that I have ever read. Tony lives in Hong Kong. His research for the book lasted over a span of ten years. He reports events day by day, and in some cases, hour by hour. For me, it answered many questions, reaffirmed some opinions, cleared up some misconceptions, and taught me some of the history and geography of Hong Kong and the New Territories. I recommend it.

MEMORIES

I have recently been contacted by a Canadian of Chinese extraction, now living in the United States, who was interested in learning something about the treatment of the Chinese population during the period of occupation by the Japanese. His parents were children living in Hong Kong at the time, and apparently they did not tell him anything about how they had been treated. I mention this here to illustrate the resurgence of interest in World War II and the Korean War. More books are coming out, younger people are becoming involved in research. In the same vein, I think Carol will be mentioning the efforts of Irene Payne, who wishes to receive stories of veterans for a

book she will publish.

MILITARY MUSEUM

Things have gone well this winter. The basement has been finished and we have started to work upstairs, on the main floor which will hold the displays. We have not yet received the grant promised by the Quebec Government which will be used to engage a museologist. If that is not forthcoming in time, we plan to make a temporary display to meet our commitment to have an official opening in early July. To date, all the funds we have received are donations from friends far and wide. Without you the progress we have made would not have been possible. We have also had help from about twenty volunteers. We are deeply grateful.

DOCUMENTARY

There will be yet another documentary film on the battle of Hong Kong. I was contacted by two people who suggested that I may be asked to be interviewed, and may be asked to accompany them to Hong Kong for the filming. They didn't phone back. In the meantime I had decided not to go because I didn't look forward to the long, tiresome flight. The film crew did arrive in Hong Kong, however, but I don't know if they took any interviewee with them. They didn't have the courtesy to tell me.

That will be enough rambling for this time. In parting, let me wish everyone good health and good fortune until we meet again.

Be good to each other and may God bless.

Philip

THE MEMORY PROJECT

President Carol Hadley has voiced concern that the Memory Project, administered by the Dominion Institute, may be in jeopardy due to funding cutbacks by the federal government. As described in the October 2002 issue of *WASURERU-NAI*, the Project seeks to preserve the stories of veterans and peacekeepers by preparing curriculum-based booklets and videos on wartime experiences, and by training veteran volunteers to speak directly to school students. Ed Shayler (WG) of Calgary is just one of the Hong Kong veterans who have participated to date. A copy of Ed's correspondence with the Institute, and his letter to the Prime Minister of Canada, are reprinted at the end of this newsletter. Carol

asks that as many of us as possible also express our concern over possible cuts to this worthwhile project by writing to members of Parliament, and by soliciting other HKVCA members and HK veterans to likewise express support.

BOOK CORNER

News Flash - We have acquired a good number of overrun copies of Carl Vincent's book, "*No Reason Why*". This book, long out of print, has been called the best book written about Canada's involvement in the defence of Hong Kong. It covers the background of the regiments; the politics involved; the battle; years of imprisonment; and the return to Canada. No library on the subject on Hong Kong is complete without this book! It is a hard-cover edition but without a dust jacket. The price for this book is \$35.00 plus postage (see below).

As you all know, Canada Post saw fit to raise their prices again last January. **It is getting so the postage is a large percentage of the total cost!** Shipping postage cost for those living east of Quebec for the average book is now \$7.85. For Quebec and Ontario, it is \$ 7.15. For Manitoba and Saskatchewan, it is \$7.85; and, for Alberta west, it is \$ 8.95. **Please add the appropriate postage** when ordering books.

Books on hand - In addition to No Reason Why, we have:
The Royal Rifles of Canada in Hong Kong 1941-1945

Written by Grant Garneau (now a retired Judge in New Brunswick), this was the first publication to cover the political reasoning in sending troops to Hong Kong. Coming from the Eastern Townships of Quebec, the first-hand accounts available were from RRC's, thus the concentration on the Royal Rifles. Written in two major parts, the 1st Battalion of the Royal Rifles and the Fight to Survive, there are 436 pages in total. Book cost is \$50.20, postage included (this is the only book we sell with postage included).

Guest of Hirohito - by Kenneth Cambon. The story of the war as seen and

experienced by one who may well have been the youngest soldier in "C" Force (with so many having lied about their age to enlist, we may never know who actually was the youngest). Book cost is \$20.00 plus postage.

17 Days Until Christmas - by Leo Berard
A career soldier who transferred to the Winnipeg Grenadiers, Sgt. Berard has produced what many deem is the best book written from the Winnipeg Grenadier's experience. An interesting read for all, and if you have a relative that was in the Grenadiers in Hong Kong, this book is a must. Book cost is \$20.00 plus postage.

One Soldier's Story - by George MacDonell
If you have teenagers whom you feel should know about what their counterparts went through as a soldier during WWII, this is the book to get. It has been widely placed in High Schools in Ontario as reference material for the High School course developed by the Ontario Region. There are only four copies left from this printing, so get your order in fast - first come first served. Book cost is \$20.00 plus postage.

Slaves of the Rising Sun - Video - As seen on the History channel last fall, several of our Hong Kong veterans are interviewed in this production. A good learning video for those new to the Battle of Hong Kong and who wish to hear it from the veterans firsthand. Video cost is \$10.00 plus postage.

All books and videos may be ordered by sending a cheque to:
H.K.V.C.A.
Suite 164,
1 Stafford Road
Ottawa, ON K2H 1B9

BOOK REVIEW

"Not the Slightest Chance" by Tony Banham

I have been asked on several occasions about this book. I cannot give it a high rating. I find it very sparse on

Canadian involvement in the defence of Hong Kong, and personally was very disappointed with this book. The "hype" prior to its availability gave rise to unrealized expectations.

Mr. Banham is a historian, and one born after the episode in history about which he writes. As such, he places more value on the "official records" than the personal experience as remembered by the veterans. In this regard, the chronological layout of activities is very well done. I only found one statement in the entire book that I can challenge - he has Capt Lionel Hurd as a Grenadier instead of a Royal Rifle.

I was disappointed with Mr. Banham in that he expresses distain for all the books written by the veterans, by all Canadians in fact with the exception of two; Long Nights Journey into Day by Charles Roland (indeed a very sound book dealing the medical problems experienced by our vets); and Desperate Siege by Ted Ferguson, a not so creditable publication. The story goes that two veterans of Hong Kong who liked to imbibe, found themselves in Mexico without funds to get home. Along came Ted Ferguson, a writer, and after paying for a round or two, decided he had the material for a good book. He interviewed these two HK vets, went home and did some research to round out the presentation, and had his works published. More than one of our veterans have commented on the embellishments added by our two "happy" HK vets to what actually happened.

I find that Mr Banham is guilty of the very bias that he accuses Canadian authors of having. It comes across that he feels that Canadians were only bit players in the battle of Hong Kong. If you are interested in Hong Kong totally from a historical viewpoint, then the book is worth reading. If you want to learn more about the role and experiences of Canadians, there is nothing new in this publication.

Example:
Chapters 1 & 2 - Background - General material presented in depth; nothing Canadian.
Chapter 3 - Loss of the Mainland - 43 pages - Winnipeg Grenadiers mentioned 7 times.
Chapter 4 - The Siege of the Island - 27 pages - Grenadiers mentioned once, Rifles 5 times.

Chapter 5 - The Invasion of the Island - 21 pages - Grenadiers 3 times; Rifles 9 times.
Chapter 6 - Forcing the Wong Nai Chung Gap - 49 pages - Grenadiers 21 times, Rifles 9 times.

Chapter 7 - The West Line and Stanley - 26 pages - Grenadiers 19 times; Rifles 32 times.

Chapter 8 - Week following the Fighting - 6 pages - Grenadiers twice; Rifles once.
In the total book, the men in Brigade HQ are mentioned but 14 times.

The book contains 294 pages, and with an average of 39 lines per page, the length in lines is roughly 11,000 lines. With a half dozen exceptions, most references to Canadians are one or two sentences long. The 122 "mentions" including the exceptions, calculates to about 275 lines of the book deals with Canadian forces, a mere .025 of the book.

As I mentioned above, I am extremely disappointed in the book. I wanted/expected to learn more about the experience of our fathers. Instead, the book, factual as it is, misses the "truth" of the Canadian soldier. When a soldier mentions using a Sten gun, Banham correct in that there were no Sten guns used in Hong Kong, he discards all the information from this soldier as unreliable. What he does not take into account is that the soldier in question, never saw an automatic weapon before landing in Hong Kong, and erroneously thought a Thompson was a Sten. This is probably due to all the press the Sten received from the British, at least in Canadian Press.

I must confess that I have my bias too. The action that saw two sections of my father's platoon wiped out with but two survivors (my dad being one) when they were brought in to cover the retreat of "C" Company from Mount Parker ("C" Company were out of ammunition); the action on the 19th of December that resulted in my father being wired together with Capt. Banfil, a doctor spared death when his advanced medical unit was wiped out, was limited to one sentence in the book, "*The Royal Rifles complete their withdrawal from Mount Parker and Tai Tam Gap to Stanley*" (Dec. 19th 1600 hrs).

The book is now priced less than when I bought it (I paid \$85.00 with

postage and handling), but unless you have a desire to learn the step by step approach of the Japanese, I cannot recommend this book.

Derrill Henderson

How A Sailor's Perspective Was Changed By A Soldier's Death

By Slt. Richard Pereira, *Lookout* contributor

(The following article originally appeared in The Lookout, the newspaper of Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt. It is reprinted here by kind permission of Lookout Editor Melissa Atkinson. The article is a touching reminder that members of today's Canadian armed forces continue to honour this country's veterans, in this case those who fell at Hong Kong.)

The following article was written by Slt Pereira who, with 11 others, visited a local cemetery in Hong Kong to pay their respects to 124 Canadians who lost their lives their during the Second World War.

The road leading to the Sai Wan Military Cemetery was closed as it was the Yeung Chung Festival, a national holiday where people go to visit the graves of deceased relatives. The area was crowded with people carrying flowers and incense bundles, and then there were the 11 of us, in our Canadian Navy uniforms carrying a box with our wreath in it. Needless to say we stood out a little.

We had been tasked, as the ship's junior officers under training and Ordinary Seamen under training, to conduct a wreath-laying ceremony at the Sai Wan Military Cemetery, home to 124 members of the Winnipeg Grenadiers. We walked down to the cemetery, which is nestled between a Buddhist, Muslim and Roman Catholic Cemetery. Even though all the other cemeteries were crowded with people, the war cemetery was deserted. The large, four-sided memorial serves as an entrance to the site, and is inscribed with the names of Commonwealth country members who died defending the island. After

surveying the area, I chose an appropriate area to lay the wreath, and ordered everyone to remove headdress so they could offer their own silent prayer. After replacing our headdress, OS Bouchard brought forth the wreath, and we marched together up to the foot of the monument, where I took the wreath from him and placed it at the foot of the large cross on the side facing the road. I stepped back and saluted, ordering OS Udholm to pipe the side on the boatswain call.

After dismissing the formation, we proceeded to where 124 members of the Winnipeg Grenadiers were buried, all in a large group. Although I knew that 124 Canadians were buried in the cemetery, I didn't quite grasp the concept of how many Canadians that is until I saw all 124 gravestones lined up together. I read the names and ages of the men buried there. What affected me more than the ages of the men, some as young as 18, were that many read only: "Here In Honour Lies A Soldier of World War Two (1939-1945) Of A Canadian Regiment. Known Unto God." Here were men who couldn't even be identified before being laid to rest. Here lies a son whose mother would never have solace, as she would never know what exactly happened to him. Here lies a father, whose children will never know his love. Here lies a hero, who sacrificed not only his life to save another country from invasion, but whose name is now lost to history. Having the opportunity to honour these dead proved to be a lesson in perspective for me.

Eventually we headed back to the bus. As I walked away, I was thankful for the fact that I could walk away from that cemetery, and for the sacrifice of those who would never be able to. Judging by the remarks of my fellow shipmates, they had been equally touched by the experience.

(Ed. note: 283 Canadians are buried at Sai Wan, 108 of whom are unknown. A further 20 Canadians, one unknown, are buried at Stanley, most of whom died during the last days of the Battle for Hong Kong. At Yokohama, Japan, 137 Canadians are buried.)

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

As part of the memorial project I am gathering information on the Canadian participants in C Force. I am seeking lists of the soldiers who participated in the battle and were either killed, missing or taken prisoner. Currently the number everyone uses is 1975 participants in "C" Force. At present my database has 1979 participants verified from 4 different sources. If I include 4 names with no regimental numbers, then the count would be 1983. Although each source did not provide a complete listing, I was using the individual's regimental number (Service Number) for verification of duplication or persons missing from my listing. However, one source I read indicated that there were 1985 participants. So in order for us to insure everyone is accounted for, I need more information.

One source I have found very useful is the Department of National Defence Casualty Lists. These lists were published in local newspapers identifying the participants who were killed, missing or taken prisoner. The lists provided information such as unit, participant's name, regimental number, rank and next of kin including address. I have acquired Casualty List M-892 and 893 from The Winnipeg Grenadiers Regimental files. Although these lists provided all personnel returning to Canada, the ones I have are incomplete. These Casualty Lists were dated 10 September 1945. The other Casualty Listing, I am not sure of the exact numbering but would be around 175 to 178, dated: January 1942. These lists were obtained from newspaper clippings and only provided information on some Brigade staff and only Winnipeg Grenadiers. I do not have listings on The Royal Rifles of Canada for this period.

Some people have kept newspaper clippings detailing departure lists when the soldiers left for overseas, and casualty lists after the battle and when they returned home. I would appreciate if the people could make copies of these lists or scan them into their computer and forward them to Manitoba Branch of the HKVCA. Thank you

Vince Lopata.

IN MEMORIAM

* It is our sad duty, once again, to inform you of the deaths of the following Hong Kong Veterans and family members, deceased since the publication of the last newsletter. We offer our sincere condolences to the families of:

Paul Arsenych, WG
14 February 2004
Donat Bernier, RRC
17 November 2003
Gerard S. Bisson, RRC
5 September 2003
James Darrach, RRC
12 December 2003
Elmer Denison, RRC
13 April 2004
John Dorion, RRC
18 April 2004
Norman R. Henderson, RRC
30 August 2003
Joseph Hickey, RRC
9 November 2003
T. Gordon Hutchinson, RRC
19 January 2004
Alton Jewers, RRC
21 February 2004
Philip Lawless, RRC
10 January 2004
Wilbert Lester, RRC
19 September 2003
John McGreevy, RRC
25 March 2004
Wendell Thompson, RRC
13 February 2004
Sid Vale, WG
26 February 2004
Peter Wing, RRC

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

The following deaths have occurred within the greater "Hong Kong family:"

Irene Craig, wife of Bryce Craig, RRC
15 March 2004
Edward (Ted Farmer), Honourary
Lifetime Member,
HKVCA
20 March 2004
Doreen Mills, wife of Alfred Mills, RRC
13 February 2004
Vera Sinclair, widow of Thomas H.
Sinclair, WG
25 October 2003

SEEKING INFORMATION

My name is **Mason Macklem**, and I am the step-grandchild of Sidney Arthur Vale, who was a member of the Winnipeg Grenadiers from September 1939 to April 1946. He passed away recently and I am writing a webpage tribute to him. I was wondering if anyone here knew him, or had any information, stories or memories that I could include there. Please email me at mrmackle@cecm.sfu.ca or mail to - Mason Macklem, 703-3980 Carrigan Court, Burnaby, B.C., V3N 4S6

Irene Payne (irene.payne@btopenworld.com). I hope that you may be able to help me; I am compiling a series of books on WWII. These books are the personal memories and experiences of the men who served in WWII, I am looking for the memories and experiences from all WWII campaigns, I am also dedicating one of these books to prisoners of war, if you or a family member or any one you know served in any of these conflicts or served time in a POWs camp, and would like your story added to one of these books, I would love to hear from you. I have already completed one book on Normandy, which will be published this year.

Winnipeg Grenadiers - Hong Kong. We would like to know which comrade of Ed Shayler (WG) from Calgary (possibly Sid Varcoe) carved the plaque seen here:



"Prisoner of War Hong Kong 25 12 41".
This information is being sought by the

Red Cross woman stationed in Okinawa (1945) who was given it. This lady and her son, Dr. Scott Wolff, attended the Victoria reunion in August 2003. Contact: Scott Wolff, 4136 Minnesota Ave. Duluth, MN. 55802, USA (218) 722 - 3388. swolff@d.umn.edu. (And, please inform Ed Shayler and/or this newsletter).

Information or stories are required for the newest site that is in honour of **Charles Richard Trick**, Winnipeg Grenadier. -<http://members.shaw.ca/tricksweb/> - created by his son Jim Trick of Victoria, BC.

Information or stories are requested from grandson, Michael, of **George Thomas Palmer**, a Royal Rifle who served in Hong Kong. Please visit his website (www.geocities.com/canadianhongkongveteran/georgethomaspalmer.html) and take a moment to update his records if you are able.

Michael Palmer also writes:
Hello Hong Kong veterans. I am the grandson of George Thomas Palmer, a Hong Kong veteran. I am, currently, working on a project. My goal is to account for every Canadian POW name and their corresponding POW camp names in the Far East in WWII. I've already completed some Canadian camp rosters and these lists are located in the following web site:
www.geocities.com/canadianhongkongveteran/CanadianPOWs.html

I invite anyone to send me any Canadian POW and corresponding camp names applicable to this project. My contact information is: Michael Palmer, 47 Westridge Crescent, SW, Calgary, Alberta, T3H 5C9, 403-517-7145 (w), 403-276-9126 (h).

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Michael Palmer

From Don Penny (lpdpb@csolve.net) I have been doing research about my uncle, **Don Penny**, who was a POW in camp 3D and later at Sendai #1. If anyone remembers him or has information about

him I would appreciate hearing from you. Also, a number of books on the Hong Kong POW's have photos of the individual men with their prisoner numbers - obviously taken while in Japan. Does anyone know the source of these photos and/or where I might inquire about one of my uncle?

Re: Sgt Harold B Hughes RROC (EVAD_HUGHES@YAHOO.COM.AU) - I was wondering if anybody knew my grandfather **Sgt Harold Branscombe Hughes** of HQ coy Royal Rifles of Canada. He was last heard of defending Mt Parker Dec 19 1941. He is listed as KIA. If anybody knew him or has heard of what happened to him, please get in touch. Any help would be much appreciated.

Thank-you, David Hughes.

George Ernest Smith - Winnipeg Grenadiers - Private H/6910, from Jo-Anne (jgustaf@voyageur.ca). I am looking for any information on George Ernest Smith. He was my grandfather but I never had the chance to meet him. He was born in St. Francis Xavier, Manitoba and had attended St. John's College. He was hospitalized in Guam and was one of the two remaining Canadians to leave. My mother and I would love to receive any information about him, especially from anyone who might have known him. Thank you in advance.

Sandi Cameron is seeking information on her father, **Kenneth (Ken) Stanley Cameron**, RRC, who served with the HQ staff at Hong Kong. While a P.O.W. in Japan he participated in an act of sabotage in a shipyard, along with Charley Clark and possibly others. Please reply to:
sandicameron@rogers.com.

WEBSITES HONOURING C-FORCE VETERANS

Tony Banham's www.hongkongwardiary.com - On Oct 1 1942, the freighter Lisbon Maru was sunk by an American submarine. Unknown to the USN, it was carrying

British POWs from HK to Japan. Although no WG or RRoC personnel were involved, I would be grateful if any survivors of this incident who settled in Canada post-war would get in touch. Thanks.

In memory of Charles Richard Trick, Winnipeg Grenadier:
-<http://members.shaw.ca/tricksweb/>

George Thomas Palmer, a Royal Rifle: (www.geocities.com/canadianhongkongveteran/georgethomaspalmer.html)

Major Ernest Hodkinson DSO:
<http://ca.geocities.com/surfchops/index.html>

Major M.A. Parker:
<http://www.geocities.com/rcwpc/>

Staff Sergeant John "Jack" Laing:
<http://www.geocities.com/kkaiser61/laing.html>

Kenneth Cambon, M.D.:
<http://www.fourthmarinesband.com/cambon.htm>.

Phil Doddridge:
http://www.geocities.com/phil_doddridge/index.html

Please let us know if there are other sites dedicated to our Hong Kong Veterans.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

World War II veterans requiring institutional care for pensionable conditions: We are experiencing a number of cases where Veterans Affairs has relinquished its right regarding admissions for spouses of veterans presently in long-term care. A hotline is being established at the War Amps National Headquarters. Call **Verna Zadow at 1-800-465-2677, ext 231**. Please have the details regarding your case at hand. The information will be gathered for submission to a Parliamentary Committee.

Ron McGuire of Ottawa has developed a series of fundraising proposals for the HKVCA. They have been

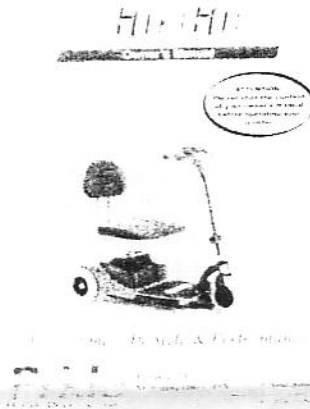
submitted to the National Executive for discussion.

Speaking of Ron McGuire, as space permits, we hope to reprint excerpts of Ron's article "The Postal History of Canada's World War II Hong Kong Field Force," which originally appeared in the 1982 edition of *Stampex Canada*.

The Naval and Military Museum at Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt is planning a display of the uniform and kit worn by C-Force during the Battle of Hong Kong. The museum newsletter notes that the battle was "...where the first Canadian soldiers were to see action in WWII and where Company Sergeant-Major John Osborn posthumously won the Victoria Cross." The museum, housed in the former Royal Navy hospital complex at Esquimalt, is within sight of the government gravings dock where HMCS *Prince Robert* landed C-Force survivors on their return home in 1945.

Ed Shalyer of Calgary has passed along

some information for those who have difficulty with long walks.



This device costs less than \$1,000, and is very light and compact (it comes apart in four pieces). For more information, the website is: <http://www.pridemobility.com/Products/Scooter/scoter.html>. The toll-free number is 1-800-800-8586.

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