

THE

ROLL CALL

HONGKONG VETERANS ASSOC^N OF CANADA.



*BRITISH COLUMBIA BRANCH
MAGAZINE*



THE 12th of August . 19 77

AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA

On behalf of the people of British Columbia, I send warm congratulations to the producers of *The Roll Call* on publication of this first issue. The magazine will serve to reinforce the powerful link that binds together the Hongkong Veterans of Canada. I am confident that it will draw even closer together those who shared those years of heroic endurance in the service of our country. To the veterans and their families, I wish much happiness may come through this medium of communication with those who proudly share the memory of that historic experience. Your fellow British Columbians salute you!

W.S. Bennett

Lieutenant-Governor.

THE BAMBOO
PIER
S. S. PO.



A BRITISH COLUMBIA BRANCH PUBLICATION

VOL: 1 : 1

third quarter 1977

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THE DEDICATION

Though a couple of thousand miles from where they were originally based, men from both the Winnipeg Grenadiers and the Royal Rifles of Canada make up the bulk of membership in the British Columbia Branch of the Hongkong Veterans of Canada. They, together with addition of men from other Allied Units who were also there in the ill-fated defence of Hongkong, have formed one of the most energetic and progressive veteran branches in Canada.

Little can be said in praise of the B. C. Branch without mention of the great dedication of a handful of men in whose hands the build-up, continuity and the expansion of the group rests.

Currently and well to the forefront of these giants, are stalwarts like Bob Manchester, Bill Laidlaw, Tony Grimston (since retired after ten years meritorious service) and last but by no way least, Lionel Speller, Secretary, organiser, factotum and father-confessor to men from all corners of the earth who own a share of that one great bond, that of having fought shoulder to shoulder in that desperate and hopeless defence of Hongkong, and in the trials and tribulations of those four terrible years that followed, as prisoners-of-war.

It is to them, to those who have gone from us and to those still with us who, in spite of physical handicaps, continue to do their bit for Canada, that the ROLL CALL is proudly dedicated.

Its purpose is to offer thanks, to provide information, strengthen the bonds of friendship and trust between friend and comrade and, above all, revive happy memories and the realisation of what they did back there in Hongkong in 1941 has not and never will be forgotten.

A BIG "FIRST" MARKS 1977 NAT'L CONVENTION IN EDMONTON

If any additional reason is required by the Northern, Alberta and Saskatchewan Branch to support their claim that the 1977 National Convention of the Hongkong Veterans Association of Canada was the best one ever held, they have only to add that "first", the presence of two - repeat two - Lieutenant-Governors and their gracious ladies, sitting at the head table at the same time, a feature unparalleled in the history of veterans conventions.

We hope this report covering some of the many activities during the Convention will provide interesting reading to all those members who regretfully, were unable to get away to attend.

First and foremost, we wish to offer our thanks and congratulations to Sam Kravinchuk, President of the Northern, Alberta and Saskatchewan Branch, originator and the driving force behind the intricate and arduous task of planning and arranging the Convention and, who, in spite of the disability which confined him to a wheel-chair, was in attendance throughout the four days it lasted. Also to the Howard Donnellys as well, who pinched hit for Sam and who
(continued on Page 5)

BACK TO HONGKONG IN 1980

An official announcement was made at the Convention that there will be another Pilgrimage to Hongkong in 1980, only three years hence.

Arrangements will once again be in the capable hands of Pete Lousier and if he comes up with another one of his well planned tours, the 1980 trip is assured of success.

So, gang, how's about getting a large size piggy bank and start filling now?

EDITORIAL

The Roll Call has been in the back of our minds for quite some time, and it jelled into positive action during the 1977 Nat'l Convention when it became evident that the spirit of camaraderie was as strong, in fact, stronger than ever amongst those who helped or were helped by fellow P.O.s during the dark days of 1941 - 1945.

The men, some of whom were mere boys then, displayed avid interest as to who was doing what and where across this land of ours, and as a result of this interest, we offer with some trepidation and a lot of pride, this, the first issue of the Roll Call to our friends and comrades.

Although it originates in British Columbia, we would like to feel that it expresses the views of all veterans in Western Canada, and so invite members and branches in the four provinces and the territories to participate.

Understandably, limitations of distance and time precludes anything more ambitious for the present.

Eastern Canada already has its magazine, based in Toronto and with which we hope eventually, to enter into some form of interchange of news and views of mutual interest and benefit to veterans across the country.

Any first attempt possesses its quota of errors, omissions and its faults - if one looks for them. We do not expect this first issue to be any different from others. However, we have tried to the best of our ability to avoid mistakes and, no one can ask for more.

So here it is, friends and comrades for what it is worth. We hope you will enjoy it. Good or bad - as if we didn't know! - drop us a line and tell us what you think and how we can improve on it.

SHUM SHUI PO GEMS J. Oswald
Seldom have so many lived for so long on so little! (Sorry, Winnie)

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Comrades:

It is with a great deal of pride and excitement that I write these few lines of greeting. This is our first attempt to share with you the many and varied memorable things past and present. This initial publication is a free sample of what is to come.

It is hoped by this method, we can correspond with you on light and serious matters, and you, in turn, can help by responding with your news and ideas. We hope to go to press on a quarterly basis.

You will appreciate that any such an endeavour might cost money, and in this regard, we may in future have to levy a small charge for subscriptions, much depends on your response.

Please let us know if you like what you see - send us your bouquets and brickbats - we think it is a happy, healthy outlet and we wish to continue.

Our very best to you all. Comrades at Arms.

Bob Manchester, Pres.
B. C. Branch

B. C. BRANCH NEWS

Travelling all the way from distant places to attend the Convention in Edmonton were:

Lieut. Art and Muriel Campbell from Long Beach, Cal.; Frank and Ena Conkey drove up from San Diego, Cal.; Wally Norman from Gainesville, Georgia and the D'Amours, Rolly, Evoynne, John and Mona, from Blind Bay, Arizona.

All these good people are members of the B.C. Branch. Good show!

The B.C. Branch and membership offer special thanks also to the Royal Canadian Legion, the Army, Navy and Air Force Clubs and the War Amputations Branch, all of Edmonton, for their terrific support and hospitality.

The next B.C. Branch Meeting will be held in Victoria, B.C. on or about 1st October. Our Newsletter will be out in September, with all details.

Marion Morriss, our little fireball redhead, returned home from Edmonton only to be admitted to hospital with a heart attack. She's home now, resting comfortably and Bill doesn't like housekeeping either!

Capt. Don Philip, W.G. is in serious condition at the Royal Jubilee Hospital with a heart condition also.

Earl "Mousey" Mawson, the Grenadiers No. 9 specialist, is in the Memorial Pavilion as a permanent guest now. We all wish them speedy recovery.

The membership will greet news of the passing of Brigadier Wells Bishop with deep and sincere regret. It was only a few months ago, February this year, that the Brigadier visited B.C. and attended our Annual Meeting and Dance at the Astor Motor Hotel in Burnaby.

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Editor: John Fonseca, 796 Adiron Ave., Coquitlam, B.C. V3j 4K2

LEST WE FORGET

Comrades who have passed on since the 1975 Convention and time of going to press:-

ALBERTA

B. Caldwell

BRITISH COLUMBIA

R. McGavin
A. Sissons
S. Varco
George Grant
Ken McClelland
E. St. Germaine
H. Souza
G. Trist (Col.)
A. (Pete) McTier
C. (Doc) Savage
John Humnicky
J. (Pop) Wharf
Mario da Roza
H. de Sa
R. (Guy) Faulkner

ONTARIO

Kalle (Big Amp)
R. Bevan
H. Berry
H. Fehr
G. Cyr
A. Black (Lt.)
M. Hebert
C. Innes
E. Curtis

IN U.S.A.

K. Clarkson

MANITOBA

C. Linklater
R. Smithson
G. Zacharko
L. Brazeau
J. Clark
W. Dooley
R. Fowler
W. Gladue
T. Haskayne
B. Helbren
S. Olsen
W. Paul
P. Gregg
F. Sadova

QUEBEC

P. Lebreton
E. Davidson
R. Lapalme
A. Flowers
R. D'Avignon
W. Bishop (Brig.)

THE MARITIMES

D. MacDonald
J. Russell
J. Vibert
J. Boudreau

SASKATCHEWAN

P. Mondor
J. Sellers

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

YOUR SUPPORT ESSENTIAL

The Convention in Edmonton provided us with the backboneto this issue. There is and has been much to write about. In future, however, we will have to get along with whatever we can glean from our readers and supporters. Stories, anecdotes, jokes, cartoons or articles dealing with veterans affairs or problems are solicited.

Every HK Vet went thru his own Hell over there. So your sufferings are also his. Please try not to put the knife into an old wound and keep it on the light and airy side. Ed.

" R I C E "
by J.F.MacGregor

We hear of great victories won in the West,
And dream of release and those we love best.
We swallow with joy, most incredible tales
And it's hardly a wonder we go off the rails
And illusions are shattered in less than a

trice,

When somebody mentions that bloody word RICE!

We scrounge in the muck heaps for brushes and
pails,

Our life is an ill-fated scramble for nails,
Our Senior Officers wrangle in vain with the
Nips who have nothing to show but disdain.
But no matter how heavily loaded the dice,
The fruit of defeat is undoubtedly - RICE!

We seize what we can everyday through the wire
And the troops get the best from the 'ladies
for hire'.

T'is a rare sight indeed to see live brigadi-
ers,
Grabbing buns through the bars, like Regent
Park bears.

But such gluttony cannot be labelled a vice
When we know that the only alternative's RICE!

Some Colonels and Majors and Subalterns too,
Reverse the procedure we've seen at the Zoo.
And some live on memories prior to the Blitz
Of epicurean repasts held at the Ritz.

But whether our manners are nasty or nice,
It's a quid to a farthing, the answer is RICE!

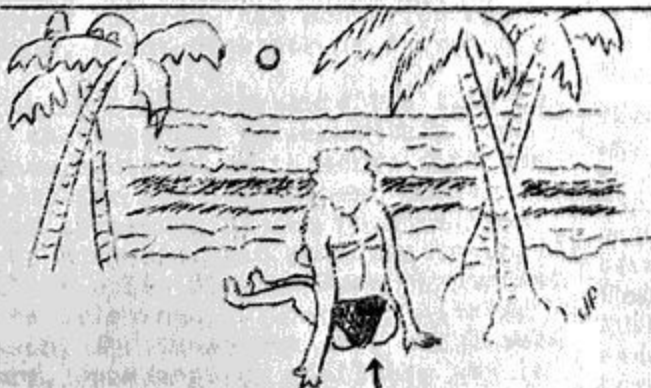
We've no blankets, no clothes and we sleep on
the floor,

We have scarcely a window to close and no
doors

And a problem most weighty for someone to
solve,

Is how to maintain some hygienic resolve.
But who gives a hoot for the menace of lice?
As long as those b.....s keep giving us RICE

OUR ASININE ARTIST was asked to illustrate:
" The Bermuda Triangle "



and he came up with this!

HITHER AND YON WITH THE
FRACTURED FONZ

To Sam -the Man-Kravinchuk for
a job beautifully executed, for
his steadfastness of purpose and
most of all, for a lotta guts.
Here is my hand!

The irrepressible Mulvaneys who
attached themselves unofficially
to the Lt-Governor's welcoming
line at Friday's Cocktail Hour,
and greeted guests with unusual
dignity!

Damn near gave 'Oor Bob my own
standing ovation for the way he
torpedoed the attempt to ram
through nominations. We're sure
proud of you!

The Minister of Vets Affairs
spluttering in his drink during
Johnnie's rendition of: " Mary,
and her ritto ramb!"

Padre Laite and the Rev. Barnett
sitting cool, calm and collected
as vets engaged in heated and
somewhat caustic debate with
gusto and abandon.

Liked the way Lloyd Doull, Pres:
Quebec-Maritime Branch, handled
potentially explosive situations
whilst chairing Friday's meet-
ings. He's a good man, Charlie
Brown!

The boo-boo which saw Minister
of Finance demoted to Veterans
Affairs or was it t'other way
around? But heck, it was only
on a menu.

Really happy to see Manitoba's
Bert Delbridge elected as Vice-
President to the Nat'l Execut-
ive. Heartiest congrats, Bert.

The opened door to Room 1808
where the Gus Bitzers held their
court and a drink and good com-
pany could always be found. I
calls that hospitality plus.

And finally, the indisputable
fact that the most beautiful
women in the world are found
right here in Canada.

THE 1977 NAT'L..continued from Page 1

spared no pains to see that visiting delegates were comfortable.

The 150 rooms reserved at the magnificent Chateau Lacombe for veterans, were fully occupied by the time the Convention was officially opened July 15, with an overflow finding accommodations at the MacDonald Hotel around the corner. We can't help a feeling of some pride in announcing that the B.C. contingent was the largest present. Not by much, but still the largest.

Thursday, July 14, was spent in registration and orientation both within and without the hotel. It wasn't long before visiting veterans and their wives were settled in their quarters, location of the liquor store pin-pointed, the exchange of room numbers with other veterans completed and, following a meal and a shower to remove travel stains, the business of room-hopping began in earnest.

Late arrivals were informed of the location of the two hospitality rooms, one on the 23rd floor for early arrivals and, later in the afternoon, another on the 21st floor, where every kind of refreshment imaginable was being dispensed for the asking. It was western hospitality to the nth degree and, we are sure proud of you, Alberta!

Friday, July 15: Following the official opening of the Convention by Charlie Brady, Nat'l President, and the day's General Meeting sessions, the Ladies of the host branch welcomed and entertained guests on the distaff side to a Wine and Cheese Party in the Main Lounge. This was followed by a Cocktail Hour hosted by Veteran, His Honour, George Porteous, Lieut-Governor of Saskatchewan.

With their usual disregard for time tables, the veterans extended this hour to three hours so as to merge with the time set for the Banquet and Social evening sponsored by the Cosmopolitan Club of Edmonton, and sat down to an excellent split Cornish Rock dinner and all the trimmings, followed by dancing and then, for those who were still ambulatory, room-hopping until the sky in the east turned gray.

THIRTY YEARS AGO

Hongkong, April 25(Reuters)-Prisoners in Stanley Jail here were said today to have foiled an attempted jail break by Canadian-born Japanese Kanoe Inouye, a native of Kamloops, B.C., sentenced to death for high treason.

Police neither confirmed nor denied a circumstantial account of the attempt which said the prisoner-under sentence since April 22 - had overpowered a European warder. He seized the warder's revolver, it was said, but, when he attempted to shoot his way out, other prisoners came to the official's assistance

(Inouye is our 'Villain of Shum Shui-po' better known as 'The Kamloops Kid' - BL)

Extract from cutting Winnipeg paper by courtesy of Bill Laidlaw, Vancouver BC

THE 1977 NAT'L (continued)

Saturday, July 16: With all the excitement and brou-ha-ha seen during Friday's meetings apparently dispelled by the celebrations the night before, attendance was markedly smaller and delegates much more subdued. The result was a rapid conclusion of business and cancellation of the afternoon session.

This permitted sight-seeing, catching up on lost sleep or whatever, and for many, a visit to Edmonton's magnificent Montgomery Hall of the Royal Legion, which welcomed all veterans with open arms.

Once again the Cocktail Hour, sponsored by hosting Alberta, began at 6:00 p.m. and lasted until time for the Government of Alberta's Banquet and Dance, at which, due to the addition of many friends and guests invited by veterans, the crowd was noticeably larger than that of the previous evening.

There were nearly 400 veterans, wives and friends at their tables when the head table guests were piped in and it was a proud moment for Sam Kravinchuk and all veterans present, for that matter, to see two Lieutenant-Governors, Their Honours, Ralph Steinhaur of Alberta, and George Porteous of Saskatchewan and their gracious ladies lead the parade to the dais, followed by the
(continued on Page 8)

WELL, SOMEBODY'S GOT TO SAY IT ...

I know a man who insists on inserting words from a foreign or dead language into his speech and this annoys me because I can't determine if he is paying me an undeserved compliment, or merely blowing his own horn at my expense.

But this practice doesn't anger me half as much as the guy who delivers a speech in two languages in tandem. Especially when it is to an audience from across the country which has been communicating quite happily and with no difficulty at all, in the only language accepted everywhere as the international medium of communication and termed "English" only for want of a better name.

It angers because it suggests a difference between peoples of this great land when none exists in the hearts of all Canadians, irrespective of origin. And it angers because I consider it damned impertinent and insolent for anyone to decide for me, without my asking, what language I should use or listen to.

IGNORANCE IMPLIED

But most of all, it angers me because it implies that one particular group in this conglomerate that is Canada, is too ignorant and backward to understand the language spoken and understood all over the world. Why, dammit, even the lowly rickshaw coolie of Asia understands it!

There is, thank goodness, a solution to all this razz-ma-tazz. One so simple, even a guy like me can think up. Let us now and forthwith, eliminate both official languages - English and French - and replace them with one only. The Canadian language.

It is the one we have been using for over a century, the one we have added to, misspelled, altered, amended and bastardized to such an extent that everyone - especially the English - will be happy to see the name changed.

This will totally eliminate boredom brought on by repetition, waste of valuable time which can be utilised for more useful purposes and the pathetic sight of some egoist trying to impress and failing miserably. After which ponderous thought, who's got the liniment? I've just dislocated my spine trying to pat me on the back!

THE FONZ

LIONEL SPELLER, M.M., C.C.M.,

and I have something in common and because of this, for one, I write this little piece on him whether he likes it or not. A second reason is that both Lionel and Ida are good (I theenk!) friends who will be celebrating their 25th Wedding Anniversary this month, and early or belatedly, the Roll Call wishes them many, many more happy years to come.

Born in Saanich, he went to Mount View High. He enlisted in 1941 with the Ordnance Corps, transferred to Signals Corps and, as a Despatch Rider, was awarded the Military Medal for "Courage and Devotion to Duty Above and Beyond the Ordinary". in Hongkong. After four years a P.O.W. he returned to join the DVA in 1948, and except for a short stint as driver to the late Charles Banks, Lt-Governor of B.C., has been with DVA ever since.

He was awarded Canada's Centennial Medal in 1967, for his work on behalf of veterans and, amongst other interests, was on the Executive of DVA Employees Association for 13 years, and President for three.

Space prevents further eulogizing but before closing, I must state that he has one big fault. He's a better man than I!!

Oh yeah, what have we in common? Well, we are both not big men, physically that is - but then, neither are DIAMONDS.

WESTERN CANADA BRANCH NEWSNORTHERN-ALBERTA-SASKATCHEWAN BRANCH
NEWS LETTER

To:
Hongkong Members & Associate Members.

Our branch wishes to express to everyone our sincere appreciation for your assistance in making our efforts during our Convention the success it was. Without the help of our Branches, our get-together would not have much meaning or effect.

A special mention to the following:-
Bob Manchester, George Porteous, John Fonseca, Walter and Dora Jenkins, Sid Vale, Phyllis and Frank Brown, Ike Friesen, Roy Walton, Harry White, Padre Laite, Rev. Barnett and the many others too numerous to mention.

Although our bills are not in at this time, we feel very safe in saying our Branch will still be in the Black when our final accounting is completed.

We would like to take the opportunity at this time to thank those branches who offered financial assistance and to assure them our Branch will be able to meet all expenditures, but thanks for the generous offers.

We were afraid Sam might experience a setback after the show was over, however, it appears to be the opposite. He seems better now than at any time since January, and sends to all his thanks and regards.

Howard G. Donnelly,
Secty/Treasurer,
N.-Alberta-Saskatchewan Branch

We are all truly delighted to hear Sam is well, and on the road to recovery. Perhaps we need more conventions in Edmonton? ED.

Howard also enclosed copies of congratulatory letters from the following:
The Hon. Daniel MacDonald, Minister of Veterans Affairs, Ottawa.
Lionel Speller, B.C. Branch.
W. Sashaw, Veterans Affairs, Edmonton.
Kay Kristie, Hon. Member HKVA of Can.
Sid Vale, Manitoba Branch.
Jim Cowie, Travel Alberta, Edmonton.
and K.E. MacKell, Mgr. Chateau Lacombe.
(and he probably also heaved a big sigh of relief when it was all over!)

THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

This initial issue of the ROLL CALL will serve as a test of our capability to turn out a magazine which caters to all tastes - at least, that's what we are shooting for.

Should it meet with the favourable response we seek, we will then plan for a succession of expansions until such time as coverage of most of our reader's needs are effected.

For a start, there will be space allocated in our next issue for the following:-

1. Buy, Sell or Swap - no wives, please!
2. Women's Corner - Forgit it, you men!
3. S.S.Po Cooking Jamboree - For any vet who thinks he can cook. This should be good!

Collectors' Item = Thieves' market?

5. Bridge or Chess Problems. We'll need a full time contributor here. Any volunteers?

and anything else, within reason, our readers may think worthwhile. So, try me with your suggestions.

For the present, we hope to have our next issue in your hands before Christmas, in which case, the deadline for the receipt of articles or items is Friday, 2 December 1977 - in my hands. Any member of a Hongkong Veteran's family can write but here, some proof of authenticity will be required.

Finally, it must be clearly understood that all items submitted are subject to editing because of space, content or other reasons at our discretion as is customary, and that no explanation will be offered for such.

Mail submissions to:

John Fonseca, 796 Adiron Avenue,
Coquitlam, B.C. V3J 4K2

or
Lionel Speller, 3628 Saanich Road,
Victoria, B.C. V8X 1X3

Please insert: The Roll Call - below your return address.

All submissions will be retained by the publishers of the Roll Call.

1977 Nat'l Convention (cont. from P.5)

Minister of Veterans Affairs, the Hon. Daniel MacDonald; Mr. Bill Diachuk, MLA representing the Premier of Alberta and the National Executive, Hongkong Veterans Association of Canada comprising presidents of all provincial branches and their respective ladies, together with dignitaries from local organisations.

Sam Kravinchuk, President of Northern-Alberta-Saskatchewan Branch, was greeted with a standing ovation as he was wheeled to the special table, reserved for him and members of his family, and which faced the head table.

After a soul-satisfying dinner of Prime Rib Roast of Alberta Beef, for which Albertans can be justifiably proud, 'Oor Bob Manchester, presiding, introduced the various speakers whose main theme was what happened some thirty or so years ago. It was felt that Bob did a bang-up job as Chairman. Good show!

The mood of sobriety which accompanied the speech-making was suddenly and irrevocably shattered by the appearance of a bare-footed (My! What big feet you got, Walter!) Japanese pedlar who kept dishing out souvenir clogs to all and sundry. Carried away by the excitement of the moment, someone leapt on to the floor and bawled: "TENKO!" The response was immediate and spontaneous and all of a sudden, there they were, lined up in a column of threes, every man jack who could get on the floor. The ensuing 'Kioskei!(Attention), Yasumei!(At ease) and final Kioskei! followed by "BANGO!" (Number!) received an instantaneous reply - and in Japanese too! Yes Sir! They remembered how to number in Japanese and you had to be there to understand why there were lumps in some throats.

Sunday, July 17: Assembly was called at 10:30 a.m. and shortly after, the hundreds of spectators, from the hotel as well as the city were treated to the soul-stirring sight of 160 veterans marching in perfect unison, with arms a-swinging, regimental flags flying and led by a pipe and drum band, the few hundred yards to the Cenotaph.

The service there was a solemn and silent one, with the silence broken only by the beautiful strains of the 'Lament'

played by the pipes and the sounding of the 'Last Post'.

Prayers were conducted by Padre Laite of B.C. and the Rev. Barnett of Ottawa. Wreaths were laid by His Honour, Lt. Governor Ralph Steinhaur of Alberta, His Honour, Lt-Governor George Porteous of Saskatchewan, Minister of Veterans Affairs, The Hon. Daniel MacDonald from Ottawa and Nat'l President Charles Brady for the Hongkong Veterans Association, amongst others.

One feature of the parade which deserves special mention was the presence of Sister Kay Christie, formerly of Bowen Road Hospital, Hongkong, who was made an Honorary Life Member of the Hongkong Veterans Association and who marched with the men in the parade.

The march back to the hotel and the dismissal of the parade saw the break-up of this memorable Convention. Good-byes and good wishes as well as addresses were exchanged between those who were leaving and those staying behind, and it was all over.

All in all, it was a great Convention. The only regrettable note, if any, was the total absence of TV cameras both at the Banquet and again at the Ceremony at the Cenotaph. It was felt that the presence of dignitaries of such prominence at a Convention of such importance called for full coverage and broadcast across the nation. Especially by C.B.C. if no one else.

CONVENTION ATTENDANCE FIGURES

The following are attendance by Branches, kindly furnished by Howard Donnelly of the hosting Alberta Branch:-

British Columbia	75
Quebec	40
Ontario	70
Manitoba	44
Saskatchewan	19
Alberta	49
Others	15

It should be mentioned that OTHERS came from such distant places as: Gainsville, Georgia; Fredericton, N.B.; Valpraiso, Indiana; Grand Falls, N.B.; N.W. Territories and Long Beach, San Diego and Encino, California. These include B.C. members: the Art Campbells, Frank Conkeys, Wally Norman and Rolly D'Amours (Arizona)

READERS' FORUM

Dear John:

We of the Manitoba Branch certainly commend your desire, and wish you every success, in your efforts to publish a Hongkong Veterans Magazine (Western).

Having just received the letter today (5 Aug), that you mailed to Bert Delbridge, I realize it is too late to submit any material for your first publication. However, it is hoped we can assist you, in this respect, in future publications.

I am now in the process of preparing our own Branch Newsletter, so will put in a plug on your behalf.

Please send copies to me at the above address.

Sid Vale,
Sec/Treas:

Shore will, Friend, and thanks for plug

Dear John:

Just received yours of July 23 yesterday, it just arrived from Winnipeg (?).

Personally I like the idea of a quarterly news letter or magazine and would be interested in it as a news-letter to our members from the Branch. I enclose a few letters that you may wish to use re the Convention.

I also want to thank you again for your personal contribution to the convention

Howard G. Donnelly,
Secty/Treas.

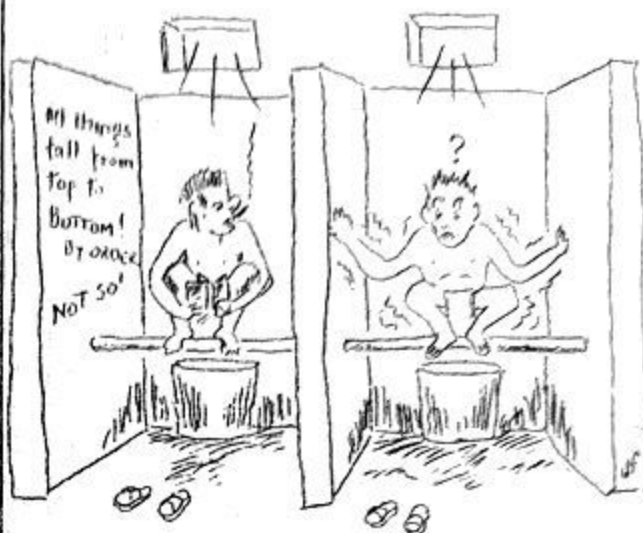
Northern-Alberta-Saskatchewan Branch

Aw, shucks, Howard, was nuttin!!

AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Publishers of the ROLL CALL wish to acknowledge with deep and sincere appreciation, the inspiring and encouraging message from His Honour, Col. The Hon. Walter Stewart Owen, Q.C., the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia, with his best wishes for the future success of this ambitious effort, and which we are honoured and privileged to reproduce on this issue's inside cover.

B.C. Branch, HK Veterans Assoc. Canada

THE PRO-AM(?)

It's really quite simple. Merely a question of balance and equilibrium!

AN APOLOGY

We offer our sincere apologies to our readers for not giving them an opportunity to write in for this first attempt to provide Hongkong Veterans in Western Canada with a means of keeping in touch with comrades and their families. The reason being that the ROLL CALL came into being so suddenly that it even surprised we, the publishers.

To those who enjoy this first issue, we wish to say thank you and that it could not have been possible without the terrific moral and physical encouragement received from our Branch Executive and others involved from its inception.

THE EDITOR

Greetings and Best Wishes to
HONGKONG VETERANS OF CANADA and to
THE ROLL CALL
Compliments of
BURMAH CASTROL CANADA LTD
Vancouver, B.C.





ROLL CALL

HONGKONG VETERANS ASSOC^N of CANADA

NOW IT CAN BE TOLD - NARUMI

Almost every prisoner of war either in Hongkong or later in Japan, kept a diary or written record of events. The stark realism and emotional crises one can read between the lines of many of these terse reports, deserve to be revealed for the first time. We are grateful to Comrade E.W. Coulson for permission to reprint the following:

NARUMI P.O.W. Camp situated at the village of Aramis approx 7 miles from Nagoya. Barrack room accommodation for 200 men, approx. size 152' x 22'. Rooms divided into four groups, each group having 50 men.

Camp opened on 7/1/44 with 400 British Regulars and HKVDC-200 of each; 181 Americans arriving on 6/8/44 and a further 18 on 27/8/44, bringing total strength of camp to 600. Included were two doctors, 1 RAF and 1 American Army Dr., 1 American officer and 1 American R.C. Chaplain. During our period 22 deaths. 11 regulars, 8 HKVDC, 2 killed by accident at work and 1 killed by the authorities through starvation as punishment.

We were allowed to write only 3 times in the 16 months and only 3 very small parcels of mail were received into Camp. Red Cross parcels were issued on 10/4/44, 24/12/44, 31/1/45 and a further parcel distributed generally from the kitchen. Daily work was on the outskirts of Nagoya at a locomotive factory. Behaviour of the camp staff towards us reasonable but the behaviour of the sentries and escorts that accompany us to and from our work was shocking, daily thrashings being part of the days programme, their favourite sport being to make one stand to attention whilst they took it in turns to knock one out, leather belts often used on one's face. The senior W.O. or N.C.O. i/c of the camp or working party, always punished as well as the

culprit. Towards the end of our stay in camp, after the bombing of Nagoya started, a perfect reign of terror commenced and the mental state of the men was terrible, beatings taking place for anything at all.

Reveille 5:30 a.m., muster 5:40, breakfast 6:00. Leave for factory 7:15. All men jammed into two electric coaches. Start work 8:00. Break from noon until 12:45. Work until 5:p.m. in summer and 4 p.m. in winter. Arrive camp about 1 hour later. Meal at 6 p.m., muster parade 7:30 p.m. Lights out 8:00 p.m. Hot baths twice a week. Temperature in barrack rooms during winter below freezing. Two heating stoves only per barrack room. Fires stopped as punishment on slightest pretext.

Two issues of American comfort received. 1 American blanket and pajamas issued. Nip working suits and caps worn. Under penalty of collective punishment, sick in camp were not allowed to read, smoke (cigarettes not issued) or wear overcoats even during coldest weather. Monthly issue of one cake soap and toilet paper.

On 7/12/44 terrible earthquake in Nagoya, biggest shock since the big earthquake of Yokohama. Most frightening experience. Buildings, wiring etc. all down, railways out of order, had to march 9 miles home from factory. On 14 Jan 1945, camp bombed by error, very close shave for all of us. Camp badly shattered, broken windows and roofs, several men injured by flying fragments. One member of Nip staff killed

The report stopped short and it is assumed that as a result of the bombing the entire camp was moved to Toyama at short notice.

SO THEY REALLY SHELLED US...

Hidden away in the midst of various bits and pieces, cuttings etc., from Winnipeg and Vancouver papers dating back to 1941, handed to me for examination and possible use in the Roll Call, I came across a complete issue of Vancouver Sun's EXTRA, dated 14th August 1945 proclaiming the Surrender of Japan.

It is felt that this particular issue packs a large amount of value, sentimental if not material and wish to extend to Bill Laidlaw my thanks and deep appreciation for loan of same. Various items have been extracted and condensed which, it is hoped will provide interesting reading matter:

Although no mention was made of the Hongkong Veterans specific role in it and only a few photographs of British Columbia - nine in all - were included in the pages of this Extra, it is felt that Japan's surrender on that date, 14 August 1945, had a vital bearing on many of the lives of our veterans and hence this coverage.

First of all, to the best of our knowledge, the Hongkong Veterans did not of the surrender until the day after it happened, or in some instances, quite some time later. We, at Sendai 2, were only informed on the morning of August 15, 1945 and even then the Japanese Camp Commandant claimed that it was unofficial. Thanks to the insistence of Capt. Patrick Cmeyla, U.S. Army Medical Corps, and the only officer there the Japanese finally handed over the keys and cleared the camp area of all Japanese personnel by noon the same day.

One of the photographs showed Estevan Point, Vancouver Island, which, on 20 June 1942, came under fire from a Japanese submarine cruising off the B.C. coast. It was the only physical attack made on Canadian soil of World War II. Other than scaring the hell out of a couple of fishermen, no damage was done and no casualties reported.

Amongst the other photographs of B.C. were pictures of two of Canada's warships, the RCNS Prince Robert and the cruiser Uganda. The former will be remembered for its part as escort on the outward bound trip to Hongkong in 1941 and again in Hongkong after the surrender.

One interesting item was that the attempt to attack Canadian forests and towns by the use of fire balloons which were launched into the stratosphere in Japan as a final desperate gamble, actually reached their objective. A few were shot down over British Columbia by our Mosquito fighters and a few even reached the prairie provinces. Other than successfully crossing the Pacific, the balloons failed their original purpose and caused no damage.

Finally, great must have been the excitement in the offices of the Vancouver Sun as news of the surrender flashed in. We find one small news item, obviously a filler, and entitled "Japanese Get Excited Too!" duplicated on both Page 1 and Page 2!

So we all got excited! So what? It was all over!

P.O.W. Camp, Shumshuipo, 10/3/45.

Tho' ocean wide divide us
There'll come to me a time,
A welcome mental picture,
Of you, dear friend of mine.

Should you cross the deep blue sea,
And visit home of mine
There'll be a Royal Welcome,
A grand and glorious time.

Should fate decree it otherwise,
Just dip your pen and write
To show you still do cherish
The joy from friendship's light.

The above was written in the record album belonging to George Guterres, HK VDC, by Staff Sgt. Harry P. McNaughton, Winnipeg Grenadiers, then of 200 Nassau Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

If Harry's still around, perhaps he'll be happy to know that George is here in B.C. Should be a nice story there. ED