

1979

Vol.: 3: 2

THE

ROLL CALL

HONGKONG VETERANS ASSOC^N OF CANADA.



*BRITISH COLUMBIA BRANCH
MAGAZINE*

Mother's-Father's DAYS

13 MAY

17 JUNE

THE ROLL CALL TAKES GREAT PLEASURE IN EXTENDING TO
ALL OUR MOTHERS AND FATHERS OUR VERY BEST WISHES FOR
VERY HAPPY AND REWARDING DAYS OF CELEBRATION.

* * * * *

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

SUMMER THOUGHTS

FROLIC FUN AND SUMMER SUN
THE FAST APPROACHING SEASON,
ENJOY EACH DAY IN ROLICKING GAY,
WITHOUT A THOUGHT TO REASON.
THE THINGS THAT COMES TO "HIM WHO WAITS"
IN THAT PROMISED PROVERBIAL SURETY,
ARE CERTAINLY WRINKLES, AND MAYBE A CANE,
ARTHRITIS, AND SOCIAL SECURITY.



ROLL CALL

HONGKONG VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA - BRITISH COLUMBIA BRANCH

VOL; 3:2

S U M M E R 1 9 7 9

PAGE 1

OUR 1979 EXECUTIVE

It was with great relief and gratification that members greeted President Bob Manchester's decision to stand for re-nomination after earlier indicating his intention to step down. This was clearly demonstrated by his being re-elected President, unanimously and uncontested, at our General Meeting on 28 April 1979.

The Vice-Presidency, up for grabs following Bill Laidlaw's withdrawal from nomination for personal reasons, was filled by Gerry Gerrard who, being no stranger to executive ranks, will ensure the well-being of veterans to be continued.

Equally gratifying was the re-election of our popular Secretary, Lionel Speller, whose tremendous input and total dedication is, and always has been, the axis around which the smooth functioning of the B.C. Branch revolves and the continuation of which the membership depend so much upon.

And finally, incumbent Jack Davies, re-elected Treasurer, remains in charge of our cash and, even if he did publicly express intentions of taking a trip to Rotorua (wherein that is!) we are assured that the caretaking of our funds is in good hands.

We take great pleasure in offering our thanks and congratulations to our retiring Executive for an excellent inning just concluded and a sincere welcome, with the assurance of our full and complete support to the new Executive, together with our very best good wishes.

To permit inclusion of coverage of our National Convention in Winnipeg, readers are advised that distribution of our next edition (Fall 1979) will be delayed until end of September 1979.

EXCELLENT TURN-OUT AT OUR RE-UNION

Could be the Spring or it could have been wider publicity, but whatever it was, it resulted in one of the largest turn-outs of members at B.C.'s Branch 1979 Annual Meeting and Dinner Dance in years.

All in all, there were 52 present at the business session and 113 at the dance which followed the dinner at Astor Hotel on 28 April 1979.

They came from all over Western Canada and, with our friends from Washington State's AMEXPOW, by their coming, they added much towards the success of the re-union.

From Manitoba, came Sec/Treas. Sid Vale, Art and Doreen Lousier and Frank Harding, from Winnipeg. Eric Anderson discarded his hip-waders and Emerson town before the Red River flood engulfed it. But cheer up, Eric. It'll all go away!

Northern Alberta was well represented by Branch President Howard and Clara Donnelly and Stan Van Koughnett out of Hardisty, and all the way from Coronach, Sask. we welcomed again good old George Price. He never misses any of our gatherings.

There was also a strong contingent from the Island which, apart from our Executive and their respected ladies, included, amongst others, the Gerry Mableys, Walter Jenkins' and Ralph Ingram from Victoria area and it was good to see Bert and Merle Broadfoot and Ed Jennings (Campbell River) as well as Mrs. Lori Berzenski and friend, Wilma Twidale, both from Lantzville.

Although the parallel convention in Oregon reduced the size of the group from south of the border, we were signally honoured by the presence of Washington's chief executive Cmdr. George and Margaret Fernandes, and
(continued on Page 10)

EDITORIAL

We are informed that fears have been expressed in regard to what has been written or permitted to be written and published within these pages could, potentially, create waves and threaten to cause disunity amongst members of the Hongkong Veterans Association.

As far as a threat to unity is concerned, it is felt that never has unity amongst Hongkong Veterans across the nation and beyond, been given such a boost than since the publication of the Roll Call. This is substantiated by the overwhelming expressions of unsolicited appreciation offered by readers and subscribers from all areas in Canada as well as from far away places on this earth.

No magazine can continue to exist without an occasional injection of "ZING!" but - and this is not addressed to the 99.99% of its readers who like it as it is - if there are any who wish a change of style or content resulting in the Roll Call offering only tasteless pap for fear of lacerating egos, we say this: Since its inception-eight issues and over thirty hundred copies ago - we have received one - and only one - Letter to the Editor in criticism. This we feel constitutes a record which we are justifiably proud of.

There, therefore, appears to be no good or valid reason for a change nor do we intend to effect any such change - except for improvement. If we can succeed in showing someone the light, thereby aiding the cause of veterans, we will not hesitate to do or say so.

Your Editor seeks no reward, recognition or status. The Roll Call was, and is, an attempt to repay a debt of gratitude for the warm friendships, kindnesses and help extended to him and his, by Canadians, especially Hongkong Veterans, since the family emigrated to Canada 22 years ago. The Roll Call is the result. Nothing more.

We like what we are doing, we sure like what our readers are saying and we will continue to try and interest, amuse and provide food for thought for our readers and, most of all, bridge that communication gap that has existed for quite some time between Hongkong veterans.

WE ALSO HAD----

DINK
RHUMBA
ARTISTS

FLEA CIRCUS



JUMPIN' BEANS

K
U
R
A!

COLLEGE YELL



TENDERFEET

AND IN FACT, ALMOST
EVERYTHING, EXCEPT

OUR MILITARY BEARING

THE HON. DANIEL J. MACDONALD

The Roll Call wishes to express our deep concern and to extend to the Hon. Daniel Macdonald, Minister of Veterans Affairs, our best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery from the ailment which necessitated his admittance into the intensive care unit of the hospital in Charlottetown.

Although we have, on occasions, seen fit to exercise our right to fair and, hopefully, constructive comment in regard to his office, we have always respected and admired the man for his courage and fortitude.

We take this opportunity, in all sincerity, to wish him well.

THE ROLL CALL

* * * * *

I THANK THEE, GOD ...

On this my 83rd birthday it is quite natural for me to open my door of memory and have comrades of the past share my Thankfulness with them. Here it is in the words of another expressing my thoughts as my feeble words, because of my recent illness, will not permit. Accept it and share it as my tribute today:

"I thank Thee, God, that I have lived In this great world and known its many joys; the song of birds, the strong sweet scent of hay. Hills and the lonely heather-covered moors, music at night, and moonlight on the sea; the beat of waves and wild white spray, flung high in ecstasy.

The faithful eyes of dogs and treasured books. The love of kin and fellowship of friends, and all that makes life dear and beautiful.

I thank Thee, too, that there has come to me a little sorrow and, sometimes, defeat, a little heartache and the loneliness that comes with parting, and the word: "Goodbye".

Dawn breaking after weary hours of pain when I discovered that night's gloom must yield and morning light break through to me again.

Because of these and other blessings poured unasked upon my wondering head, because I KNOW that there is yet to come an even richer and more glorious life, and most of all, because Thine only Son once sacrificed life's Loveliness for me -

I thank Thee, God, that I have lived"
May 28, 1896 - May 28, 1979

Uriah Laite, M.C., D.D.
(Padre)

The hand of friendship that this good and great man and his wife, has extended to me and mine, is something many have sought for and yet failed to find in a lifetime.

It has been a privilege and an honour to hear him call us "friend" and our only and deep regret is that so much time passed before this gift came our way.

My family, and I feel certain all members of our Association, joins me in wishing both Padre and dear Sally:
MANY, MANY MORE HAPPY RETURNS OF THE DAY
John

" LEST WE FORGET "

It is with sorrow and regret that we report the passing of the following comrades:

JAMIE FOWLER	MANITOBA
FRED KYRYLUK	MANITOBA
LEYTON LOCKHART	NEW BRUNSWICK
WILLIAM PIGGOTT	MANITOBA

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

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

OMORI'S FATHER BRAUN

Mrs. Audrey Brady, wife of Jack Brady, former Commander of Washington State AMEXPOW Association and who, we sincerely hope, will continue as one of our contributors, writes:

" You fellows who were in Omori with Father Braun will be glad to know that he is still active, albeit in a wheelchair -- and he's only 88! I spoke with him on February 20th (1979). The sisters at the home had some trouble finding him, which shows how well he gets around.

His voice is as strong as ever and his wit as keen. When asked if he ever had a drink any more, he said: "Of, course - holy water. Every night before I retire, they give me a shot of Irish Holy Water to help me sleep.

Father Braun spends one day each week at a parochial school in Phoenix (Ariz.?) and still performs weddings and baptisms. He does admit to a lapse of memory at times and explains it thus: "God takes our memory away when we get old so we can forget the sins of our youth."

His address is: Sacred Heart Home, 1110 N. 16th St. Phoenix, Ariz. 85006, in case you wish to write to this remarkable man. You probably won't get a reply from him, but he does enjoy hearing from his old friends."

Audrey.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear John: I don't want you to get too swell-headed over the fine job you're doing on Roll Call but I don't see how it can be avoided. Congratulations - you have a natural flair for it and a zest that's contagious.

The Roll Call seems to flourish and grow - could be because it serves a real need - acting as a kind of depot for so many across the land and overseas - and probably coming at a time in men's lives when they've done their running and hustling - earning their bread, raising families, etc., and are now at a more serene and contemplative stage in which they can look back at their lives in full perspective and assess the Hongkong experience as the most intense and dramatic period they've passed through.

Enclosed is a little contribution to help keep Roll Call rolling. Looking forward to joining you soon! Regards to Speller and the boys. All the best.

St. Laurent, Will (Ally) Allister
Quebec.

After which, t'hell wid every second Thursday's therapy. Sure like your style and could sure use it when you do come out thisaway. John

Hi John: Please find cheque for 1979 subscription to the Roll Call. Why do B.C. members not have to pay?

Its a good magazine for us Hongkong Vets and well worth the price.

Keep it coming, it is the best unifier we have ever had.

Vedder Crossing Joe Rafferty
B.C.

Joe: Thanks. It's letters like yours that makes it what it is. John

Dear John: Enclosed please find my renewal subscription for Roll Call.

We enjoy reading the Roll Call. It brings us more up to date on the happenings across the country. Thanks a lot for your work.

Winnipegosis, Man. Robert Utech

Many thanks Bob. Your enjoyment is our reward. God Bless. John

Dear Sir: While on vacation in Florida this winter, I received a copy of the Roll Call from "Flash" Clayton, who received it from Ted Barlow, both Hongkong Veterans, who are wintering in the south.

I am desirous of receiving a copy of this bulletin on a regular basis and would like to know what the subscription rate is. Will you also let me know what the branch dues are.

While on our trip, I was walking around the motel parking lot when I saw a licence plate which read "EX-POW" and on enquiring at the motel office, was able to locate the person to whom the car belonged.

This veteran was Forrest Dreger, of Hiles, Wisconsin, who was a prisoner in Bataan and Corregidor, and he was very interested in receiving any news about the Canadian POWs. We have also agreed to exchange newsletters, and I would like to send him a copy of the Roll Call, as I thought it was a very interesting magazine.

I was a prisoner at Niigata, Japan and worked as a laborer in a steel foundry at Rinko (spelling isn't right but it sounded like that) for almost two years after spending some time in Hongkong. I was on the same trip to Niigata as Bob Manchester.

My wife and I attended the convention in Victoria when the Branch hosted their last convention for the cross-Canada members and we enjoyed it very much.

Good luck in your efforts to keep the POWs together and in your publication of the Roll Call.

Cobourg, Ont. Glenford Mann

Now that both you and Forrest have joined Flash and Ted on our mailing list, welcome aboard to this happy family. Keep in touch. John

Dear John: Enclosed is a cheque hoping it will help defray expenses.

I really enjoyed reading it as it brings back many memories, some sad and some funny episodes.

I'm pleased to know through the Roll Call that Alf Shayler, Thomas S. Forsyth, Gordon Wheatcroft, Gerry McKnight, Derek Rix and many others are still around. Hope they are well.

Dugald Manitoba Marcien Lafortune

MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear John: It was good to get the latest "Roll Call" the first in 1979. At the same time it reminded me to send in my subscription fees and I am enclosing a cheque to cover not only my own but one to be sent to: Don Aitken, Hendersonville, North Carolina, U.S.A.

Don was the company clerk for "B" Company of the Grenadiers and has been a resident in North Carolina for many years. As for the excess, put it to use in a very worthwhile cause - The Roll Call.

At the same time I am enclosing an interview with Len Seaborn which appeared in the December 21, 1978, issue of the Neepawa Press, Len's hometown. Len is an original of "B" Company of the Grenadiers and was with the writer at Oeyama in Japan. This is a very good article and anyone who knows him can recognize Len's innate common sense, I think you could use this or extracts therefrom to good advantage.

Just to cheer all you Banana-belt blokes up, this has been the second coldest winter in Winnipeg this century, only beaten by that one of 1935-36. As I write there is still plenty of snow on the ground and the possibility of more to come. So laugh, you clowns, laugh!

Please give my best to Aub Flegg and any of the rest of the boys, especially one, J.C. Davies, Esq. I was really glad to see Jack in Edmonton and look forward to seeing a lot from the coast in Winnipeg this year.

Keep up the good work.

Winnipeg, Man. Ken Porter

Ken: Always welcome your letters. It is this type of informal down-to-earth chit-chat that makes the Roll Call tick. Also many thanks for your very generous infusion into the 'kitty'.

Dear John: Enclosed please find cheque to cover my subscription to the Roll Call. The balance is for the pot.

I enjoy the magazine immensely. It is good to hear about and from so many of our comrades whom we inadvertently lose contact with over the years.

Please continue to publish those stories about the various camps.

Keep up the good work.

Winnipeg, Man. W.H.(Bill) Savage
Bill, Glad you enjoy it and many thanks for your generous support. John

Dear Editor: As a former 'resident' of Oeyama Camp, Japan, I was extremely interested in receiving some cuttings about this place from my old naval buddy Tom Quilliam, who lives in Cornwall. He has kept in touch with a number of Canadian exPOWs, and I do receive news from him.

He didn't know until recently that I was part of the Oeyama crowd. The cuttings he has sent are from the Roll Call - Spring 1978 (page 13-14); Fall 1978 (page 7-8) and Winter 1978 (page not known but containing a list of camp inmates). Reading the names brought back many memories, and I hastily dived for my battered old notebook - not used for many years - to see what other names I could find. (The names you sent have all been published with many in the Summer 1978 issue which you didn't get. ED)

I have also a list of American POWs and some British names, but it was impossible to record everyone who was there. For a time after the war I wrote to some ex-campmates, but addresses changed so much that we tended to lose contact.

The bit about Kawakita was interesting. I had heard the story of his arrest and trial, and was rather surprised to find that the swine was still around. I am sure your lads will do all they can to stop him "coming back".

I was captured in Hongkong, whilst serving in the Navy (what there was left of it!) along with a few buddies who still keep in touch. After a spell at North Point, Shumshuipo and Argyle Street, I was in the second draft to Oeyama, arriving just after Christmas 1943. Came back to the U.K. via Yokohama, Manila, Vancouver thence by train to Halifax and on to Southampton on the "Ile de France".

Of course it was a long time ago and those of us who are left have changed a lot. But I would appreciate it if you would give my very best wishes to all (or any) who may remember.. Reg.J. Coite.. known to all as "JAN".

Manchester, England Reg.J.Coite

Jan: Sure appreciate your writing in and trust you will keep on doing so. From all of us here to all of you over there: "Takusan yoroshi yasume" and all the very best. John

WELL, SOMEBODY'S GOT TO SAY IT

The editorial in this issue has caused the taking of a dispassionate inward look by the other of my two personalities which all Geminis are said to be blessed, or otherwise, with, with the result that in view of our constant aim to improve upon quality of content of this magazine, there is some truth in what it says.

Improvement requires new ideas, new approaches and viewpoints and, with this in mind, we feel consideration should be given to either ensuring a back-up in case of emergencies, or the transfer of editorship into younger and more capable hands in order to permit us to look at it from a fresh angle.

In support of this, your Editor who as an ex-HKVDC volunteer and neither a Grenadier nor Royal Rifles member, did not enjoy the close and intimate comradeship with members of the two regiments before, during or in the years following the return to Canada, of World War II and has, therefore, been somewhat handicapped in his ability to understand and appreciate personalities of individuals to record in proper perspective, thoughts and feelings so vital and essential to good and interesting reading.

Secondly, accepting the fact that an editor cannot please everyone all the time, there may be someone who has better ideas as to how the Roll Call can be improved upon. Having had a most rewarding and enjoyable tour of duty, your Editor will be perfectly happy to relinquish the reins and let someone else 'have a go' at it, and should someone take us up on this invitation, it is recommended that the take-over becomes effective January 1980 to permit time for preparation and planning.

Your comments and suggestions are cordially invited. Whatever results from this, this invitation will stand on record as having been made.

THE ROLL CALL: Sponsored by the B.C. Branch of the Hongkong Veterans Association of Canada.
Editor: John Fonseca, 796 Adiron Ave. Coquitlam, B.C. V3J 4K2; on the Island c/o L. Speller, 3628 Saanich Road, Victoria, B.C. V8X 1X3

" F L E A S I " by Gerald Beard

(Adapted, with apologies, from that classic poem "TREES" Sendai 2,1945)

To think that I should ever see,
A thing as lively as a flea.
A flea whose hungry mouth is pressed
Against a 'furyo's' boney breast,
A flea that hides from God all day,
And in the night comes out to prey.

A flea who may in summer dare,
To nest its youngsters in your hair.
Across my bosom he has lain
A thousand brothers in his train.
Poems are made by fools like me,
God only knows what made a flea?

(Courtesy: T.R. Ingram, Victoria, V.I.)

D.V.A. NEWS RELEASES

26/2/79: The Minister of Veterans affairs announced that there will be an official Canadian delegation at the commemoration of the 35th anniversary of D-Day landings in Normandy. The delegation will include commanders and survivors of units which participated in the landings as well as representatives of RCN, RCAF, Royal Canadian Legion and N.C. Veterans Association.

Main event will be ceremony at Beny-Sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery 6 June - date of the 1944 invasion. The delegation will also attend similar British and American ceremonies to be held elsewhere along the beaches.

30/3/79: Patrick Joseph Flynn, 57, of Kitchener, Ont. was appointed CPC Commissioner. Born in County Cork, Ireland and an MP 1974 thru 1979, he served with the RCN Volunteer Reserve 1940-45.

14/5/79: 246.5 acres in London, Ont. transferred by the Government to the Province, is to become the site of the Veterans Western Counties Wing and Psychiatric Institute. A new 290-bed chronic care facility, federally financed, with priority for veterans, will be built on this parcel of land, with the southern portion to be dedicated as parkland in memory of Canada's veterans.

BANGO AT CAMP 3-D (Kawasaki-Terumi)

Lionel Speller handed me a sheaf of eight sheets of paper not unlike the bumph provided us by our captors back when, which dog-eared and yellowed by age, can be considered a priceless and historically valuable piece for any Canadian War Museum. It is the official roster of Camp 3-D (Kawasaki or Terumi) prepared by the Japanese and contains names, rank and unit of the 500 who were there.

Space does not permit publication of the entire list in one issue of this magazine; we therefore, will do so in groups as notated on the sheets.

We thank all who have submitted lists of names which we have already published, those who have since sent in more (as yet unpublished) and acknowledge their co-operation and support with deep appreciation.

Capt. Reid, J.A.G.	Flannagan, J.A.
Shore, L.W.	Frenette, J.C.
Henderson, H.W.	Glendenning, H.E.
Thomson, J.B.	Grimshaw, G.
Brown, A.H.	Hachey, D.W.
Clarkson, K.H.	Hand, J.H.
Mulcahy, P.F.	Hickie, J.S.
Pollock, C.J.W.	Innes, E.S.
Roberts, M.	Lawrence, B.
Addie, K.	LeBreton, F.F.P.
Gaudin, K.M.	Levitt, J.
Moore, M.	McKinnon, N.W.
Pitre, R.	McColm, F.
Robson, A.T.	O'Leary, L.W.
Findlay, G.K.	Olson, E.
Jewers, A.E.	Olsson, C.
Adams, C.	Pollock, C.
Arthur, J.	Pollock, K.A.
Bujold, J.J.	Ross, R.
Culleton, E.	Smith, J.H.
Davidson, A.J.	Therriault, O.
Delaney, A.H.	Laxon, K.
Duplassie, H.P.	Gray, W.S.
Elslinger, A.	Lucas, T.S.
Fehr, V.O.	Chicoine, H.

Possibility of transfers to other camps in Japan must be taken into consideration. For example: The above has Cpl K.M. Gaudin at 3-D and in another list we have Ken Gaudin at Niigata. We know that only one K.M. Gaudin (Rfn-RRR) went to Hongkong and is officially listed as a POW.

If you are reading this, Ken, is you is or is you ain't both of them?

MORE NAMES FROM CAMP 5-B-NIIGATA

The following are more names of men at Niigata to be added to the list previously published. To extract these from the letter written by Tom Forsyth rendered the letter itself an almost unreadable and disconnected jumble. Many of his comments, however, are too interesting to omit and so, we have taken the liberty of putting them together elsewhere in these pages.

Arseneau, Ed	Gelley, Tony
Dube (Dubay?)	McCarthy, Cecil
Ebert, George	McLeod, Bob
Fidler, Ray	Millar, Herb
Friesen, Ike	Mitchell, Alex
Furey, Joe	Ryman, Fred
Gard, Jim	Shupe, C.S.

Ward, T.L.

In addition, the following are other Allied POWs who shared the trials and tribulations of that camp:

U.S. Forces

Maj. Fellows, F.E.	Honshul, Robert
Capt. Parker, Jack	Kirkpatrick, H.J.
Arfuso, Frankie	Krupp, Russell
Bates, Wendell	Loxley, R.W.
Beaver, Harold	Malone, Bob
Blea, Johnnie	McMinn, George
Bond, Robert	Middleton, Edward
Callahan, James	Lavato, Henry
Cartwright, Wilbur	Palmer, Alonzo S.
Cox, Marlin	Putas, Michael
Dillon, Charles	Quintero, Joseph
Dixon, George	Reynolds, Arthur
Earnest, John	Tenorio, Pedro
Filko, Joe	Treskon, Stephen
Francis, George	Vara, Henry
Garley, Reuben	Wheeler, William
Gilewitch, Michael	
Hackmeier, Daniel	<u>British</u>
Hale, Howard	Wallace, - (R.E)
Hartley, Edward	Kerr, Archie
Hawentor, George	

DUTCH

Boelaarts, Harry	Kukler, Alex
Donders, Karl	Ostmeier, Nick
Drost, W.B.R.	Van Wilsem, J.R.C.
Koster, Andy	Vermeulen, Peter

U.S. Civilians from Wake Island

Ike Elliot (Peoria, Ill), Ray Forsythe (Boise, Idaho).

Australia: Quinn, Noel (R.A.A.F.)

(Courtesy Bob Manchester/Tom Forsyth)

THE SENDAI STORY - CONCLUSION

In addition, swarms of small craft, LCVs, LCTs and what have you, moved about the surface of the bay, serving as communicating links between ships and the shore. In the air, hundreds of helicopters served the same purpose whilst over it all, U.S. Navy fighters patrolled the sky affording a protective blanket for any eventualities.

We didn't have time to grasp all this for the train drew into the station in Tokyo and the first thing we heard was a full U.S. Marine Band playing us in. As the train creaked to a halt, forty or fifty of the most beautiful women in the world - after four years of enforced celibacy every woman was beautiful - appeared at the windows of the car to dole out chocolate bars, cigarettes, gum and even kisses! Some of our men had to be forcibly prevented from dragging the girls, they were either WAACs, WAVES or WAAFs, in through the windows. But they were good sports and took it all in fun.

But this wasn't all of it. As we de-trained, smiling G.I.s directed us towards the Welcoming Line - eighteen U.S. Army top brass, no-one with less than two star on his collar. I wouldn't be surprised if General McArthur was there himself - and each offered a warm handshake, words of welcome and appreciation for our having stuck it out. I sure felt like I was "SOMEBODY!!".

More smiling G.I.s directed us to a line of trucks waiting outside the station and we were told to hop on the first one being loaded. The ride to the docks (I believe it was Yokosuka) was short and sweet. We arrived outside a huge converted warehouse and following de-trucking, were told to discard everything but our personal effects. We, who had saved and kept anything and everything we could lay our hands on for four years, even to empty tins, shoe-tops and bits of string, couldn't believe it! But were convinced that it was necessary and so reluctantly added our two bits to the mountain of brand new clothing and equipment that grew outside the warehouse. I managed to get away retaining my guitar, the parachutes, duffle coat and my precious tea-carrier.

We were then queued up outside a door and asked to follow the arrows and printed instructions above them on the makeshift walls which turned the warehouse into a maze and, for a starter, handed a tray and served a meal, with seconds and thirds if desired, which just about drove us crazy by the variety and quantity offered.

After the meal and continuing to follow the arrows, which led us into another passage at the end of which a G.I. handed each of us a cake of soap and a small bath(hand) towel, we were told to strip, were DDT'd, showered and still in the raw, stacked our personal belongings for collection later and still following the arrows, entered a large open space to suddenly face about thirty or forty tables behind which sat an equal number of smiling nurses. They had good reason to smile. Every man as soon as he saw them, immediately squatted and tried to cover up as much as he could with the hand towel!!

Once the embarrassment passed, we provided the nurses with our name, rank, regimental number, unit and place of our mobilisation. This information was placed on a card and hung around our necks. Then followed medical inspection by a team of doctors in sequence. Heart, lung, pressure, eyes, ears, nose and throat, blood test, X-Ray, teeth and what have you were examined by separate doctors, with each making his notation on the card as he ended his test.

With this over, we were outfitted with two complete sets of new uniforms, again from boots up; allowed ten minutes each to send messages home; permitted to return to collect our personal belongings from where we'd stashed them and finally, end up in another huge area where again toiletries, candy, cigarettes, etc., were served by a bevy of beautiful young WAACs, for registration.

We didn't have long to wait. The PA system blared instructions for all whose card(still around our necks) bore a certain letter of the alphabet - ours was "B" - to muster outside and before we realised it, were on an LCT threading its way among the warships on Tokyo Bay and bound for the trans-

(continued on Page 17)

HITHER AND YON WITH THE FONZ

Immensely relieved to report that our Padre Uriah Laite is in excellent shape in spite of his 83 years(28th May) and his recent illness and, although hampered by the attendant ills of most octogenarians, still enjoys keen powers of wit and observation. He tells of a recent visit to Victoria's Empr-ess Hotel where some ladies wore their "coming out" gowns at dinner and added that all that was required was a cough to have them 'come out!! Padre, how could you?

The editorial in our last issue - re veterans in isolated areas - caught the eye and interest of an officer of our local DVA and he phoned in to advise that he is working on a possible solution to keeping in touch with our members in out of way locations and, when completed, hopes to present same to the authorities for consideration and putting into operation. Nice of him and many thanks.

Mrs. Audrey Brady's (of Gig Harbor, Wash) article "LIVING WITH A FEPOW" which was published in our Winter 1978 issue was picked up and reprinted in the May 1979 edition of the Manchester & District (England) FEPOW FOCUS magazine. We are sure glad to see that our appreciation is being endorsed and confirmed overseas. Congrats and a big thank you Audrey.

The membership will be glad to learn that Ernie Coulson, ex-HKVDC, now in his mid-seventies and one of the original group of Hongkong Veterans who nursed the B.C. Branch into being back in the late forties, is recovering slowly but steadily after having suffered a serious attack mid-March. It was a question of 'touch and go' at Lion's Gate Hospital for a couple of days, but he refused, in his own inimitable way, to go under. We wish him a complete and speedy recovery and also, to you, Janet, from a truly harrowing session.

Speaking of our 'Lost Brigade', Cece Fines returned home after wintering in California's liquid sunshine. Welcome back, Cece. What's this report about your being in 'dock'? You sure looked good at the annual "do".

And speaking of veterans wintering south of the border, methinks we should give some thought to starting a branch at Mesa, Arizona. We know of the Harry Creedons, Richard C. Wilsons and Art Lousiers being there at that city and Chick Queery down the road apiece (in Phoenix). Wonder what it is that makes the region so popular? Could be the easy availability of Texas Long Grain Rice just across the state-line?

Fred Mack dropped in to visit, bringing a complete official nominal roll of Canadian POWs in Hongkong as was listed by Ottawa in 1945. It consisted of 39 pages totalling 1459 names together with other details. Together with it, Fred also brought the official listing of "C" Force dead as of July 1, 1945, numbering 512 with details of cause of deaths, dates and other information. This list is of priceless help to us and we are deeply grateful for it. Thank you very much, Fred.

In a follow-up letter from Glenford Mann (Cobourg, Ont.), who, together with Forrest Dreger (Hiles, Wisconsin) we welcome as new subscribers, he informs us that he has been advised by Charlie Chesser, RRC, from Campbelltown, N.B. of the passing of Leyton Lockhart, RRC. Our condolences are extended to Leyton's family and friends.

The mysterious disappearance of two pages of photos of our September 1978 Dinner-Dance thus preventing publication in our Winter 1978 edition, has finally been solved. A substitute for the young lady, who normally very ably and efficiently prepares the electronic stencils for us, and on leave, put our originals in an envelope and then promptly forgot about them.

We are pleased to be able to have the photos reproduced and included in this issue's back pages. For those who may be curious, the headings on both pages have been deleted with correction fluid as they are still out-dated. So Sorry for the inconvenience. ED

B.C. BRANCH NEWSLETTER APRIL 1979

Two new DVA offices have been opened in B.C. to give better service to veterans. In Penticton, 246 Martin St. V2A 5K3 and in Prince George, 550 Victoria St. V2L 2J9. Phone numbers not available at this time.

Sterling silver Ladies Brooches - Maple Leaf and HK Crests \$20.00 each. Ideal for your lady. Order from Lionel Speller.

Last chance to get your War Medals. Apply to: Canadian Forces Records Centre, Records Centre Annex, Tunneys Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A0N3, sending full name, Regimental number, correct address and code. Cost reasonable. Hongkong Pilgrimage 1980. Those who plan to go please write to: Art Lousier 505 Stalker Bay, Winnipeg, Man. R2G 0C9

OBITS: Bill Piggott and Jim Fowler of Manitoba Branch. Sincere sympathy to their families and friends. Our Branch members are very grateful to Mrs. Lori Berzenski, her friends and relatives. Her special request 'In lieu of flowers' to send donations to our Branch has enriched our Welfare Fund by \$250.00. A great big thank you, Lori. God Bless.

Veterans Minister, Daniel J. MacDonald is in intensive care (chest pains) in Ottawa. Get Well cards have been sent on behalf of our members.

Howard Donnelly reports that Sam Kravinchuk is holding his own up in Edmonton and has every intention of being in Winnipeg for the National Convention in September.

Branch Presidents: Lloyd Doull, John Stroud, Bert Delbridge, Howard Donnelly and Don Nelson, together with National President Charles Brady, all send Best Wishes to the B.C. Branch.

Speedy and complete recovery wishes are extended to Bud Orr, Ernie Coulson, Len Mulvaney, Fred Mack, Alfie Shayler from B.C. Bill Ashton and Harry Cameron of Manitoba. Take good care and all the best.

DUES: For 1979 are coming in slowly. We thank you for your continued support. Many have sent in donations also and we of the Executive are most appreciative. Dues are still \$10.00 per year. Roll Call is free to paid-up members in B.C.

Lionel Speller
Secretary

EXCELLENT TURN-OUT..(Cont.from Page1)

old friends Hershel 'n Pat Boushey. With them came first-timers George and Flo Smathers and Ed 'n Jean Perry to our gathering and we hope that it'll not be the last.

Although most of those attending came, naturally from Vancouver and vicinity, there were a large number of welcomed faces from the Interior and the Valley. We were sure happy to greet Maurice and Esther LaPointe (Penticton), Ed and Mel Toews (Osoyoos), Frank Petch (Blue River) and Paul Luchka (Hope). The Fraser Valley was also well in the picture with: Frank Browne, Bill Hall and Murray Brown all from Chilliwack and Joe Rafferty (Vedder Crossing). Closer to home, Claude Corbett and Harry Creedon (just back from Arizona!) came in from White Rock.

There were so many present that we must apologize for missing mention of everyone. A few, however, whom we haven't seen for some time, deserve special mention. They were: our dear widows, Mrs. Annie Oomen and Mrs. Barb Hooper; Charlie Woods, Keith Burton, Gerry McKnight, Andy Nairn, Charlie Andrews and good old Tony Neault, sporting a brand new pair of hip joints and going as good as ever.

It was a most enjoyable show, with music, provided by Brian Knott (Jim Archibald's son-in-law) and his trio particularly suitable for aging bones. If anyone should be looking for flaws, the catering could have been improved upon. Although the food was good, it was apparent that the new management at the Astor had no idea of how much a bunch of hungry Hongkong Veterans can put away at any one given time.

To Aubrey and Olive Flegg goes our "first star" for having organised a most successful and entertaining 'DO'.

To those lovely people who, considered as 'regulars', missed this reunion because of health and other reasons, we - to put it simply -
MISSED YOU ALL VERY MUCH !
Get well quickly and God Bless you.

AND YET MORE LETTERS ...

Dear John: Please find enclosed a small amount to ensure that my subscription for the Roll Call is kept up to date.

The balance should be to buy a couple of drinks at your next meeting!

Winnipeg, Man. Cliff Matthews

Cliff: There was more'n enough for a couple so I matched them with a couple for you too, 'n aftersh d'eighthsh, Ish sheenk nobodish, butsch nobodish gosh frendsh like myshelfsh! Tanksh!

Dear Sir: First of all many thanks for a wonderful paper. My husband and I enjoy it each time it comes out and feel a great job is done by all in contributing material etc. I am sure a lot of old friendships will be built just by hearing news of the "good(?) old days!"

First off, I am writing this to request a change of address since Nick's health is not improving, we must make the move from a home to an apartment.

Then on Page 14 of your Spring 1979 Roll Call- names from Camp 3D - you have my husband's name (we think) down as Zataruk, Mike. Since he says he came after Zacharko, who was a great buddy of his, he knows there was no other but Nick Zytaruk.

I realise that's not an easy name for people writing in to remember the spelling of, so thought I would bring it to your attention.

We think folks should be proud to receive a paper such as the Roll Call and we wish at this time to send a small donation- no requests (haiha!) for your future endeavours.

Winnipeg, Man Mrs Frances Zytaruk

That was sweet! Hope I can thank you in person in September's Convention. "So Sorry" about the misspelling, I should have caught it. Bless you, John.

Dear John: Please find enclosed money order for the renewal of Roll Call for 1979.

I sure enjoy the Roll Call as it jogs my memories of the past.

Winnipeg, Man R.J. "Duke" Dukelow

Duke, sure appreciate your continued support. See you in September. John

Dear Fonseca: I am going to type this as my left-hand writing is not too good.

We are both well but I will be 80 at the end of this year and my knees are causing me trouble.

I remember I once reproved you for using the word 'lousy' in the office. All I can say about the winter here is that it was 'lousy!' Snow, very severe frost which killed some of the shrubs and now rain. (April 1979. Ed)

The following may interest you: I lived on Vancouver Island from 1922 to 1926. Drove my own truck for the first two years doing short hauls on the Saanich peninsula. Had a contract with a feed store in Sidney and also delivered lumber from the sawmill. I then was captain of the SS Cascade, an automobile ferry running between Brentwood and Mill Bay across the Saanich inlet. This cut out the Malahat drive which, in those days, was a very bad and dangerous road. (It still is!)

One day on the ferry, met a Captain Hillman, coast inspector for the Chinese Maritime Customs. He persuaded me to go to Shanghai and join the Custom's cruisers, which I did, but as I was not given a contract I resigned and joined the Shanghai Water-Works. (We met and worked there together from 1933-1938. ED)

I was called back to the Navy 1939, and after a spell in the Consulate, went to sea in H.M.S. Durban and then got command of the M.T.B.s in Hong-kong. Lost my right arm in a collision on 1st April 1941 and after just over two months off, assumed command of the H.M.S. Cicala. She was sunk by Jap bombers.

Was sent to Queen Mary, Naval and Rosary Hill hospitals and then to the North Point Camp. Back to Bowen Road then to Shumshuipo, to Argyle Street and back to Shumshuipo. After the surrender I was sent to Manila and from there to Esquimalt via Pearl Harbour on USS Gasper, to a camp at Gordon Head. This was about three miles from where I used to live, so I was able to visit a lot of old friends.

Bridport, Dorset Cmdr. J.C. Boldero, DSC
England. RN (Ret'd)

THE NIIGATA STORY Bob Manchester

Too soon our dream of lollipops and marshmallows were shattered - in the middle of the night there was thumping and bumping, the glare of bright lights, some poor soul had missed his cue- an unpardonable sin had been committed. There are people who for reasons known only to themselves, must at sometime during the night awake to have a smoke. This is fine under normal circumstances, but to take this liberty in a crowded Japanese barrack is almost like signing your own death warrant.

In any event, some of the men felt the need for a smoke-so-not asking for direction, they soon found that the Nips method of the non-smoking cure was a sharp rap on the skull with a hard piece of wood. Needless to say this along with the fact that you had not had a smoke for some time, tended to make one very dizzy. We learned very quickly that one does not smoke inside buildings unless at all times one carries an ash tray- smoking is never permitted at night, regardless!

Intestinal Havoc

Another matter which we had not given too much thought to, was the eating of a large meal of strange food. This has a tendency to provoke great havoc in an empty stomach. When you jam unknown quantities into that cavity, results are usually a gathering of much water and gas which somehow must be relieved and if one does not know where to find the "BENJO" and they are in a hurry, any number of situations can and do occur. There were bodies jumping, running, stumbling over other bodies trying desperately to find the area of relief some made it, others did not. The night was filled with moans and groans, curses from guards and prisoners alike. Fortunate indeed were those who had control of body and soul, able to call it a day, to gracefully recline in the arms of Morpheus. The misery and confusion had just begun.

So ended the first night at the pleasure resort of Niigata! Morning arrived on the second day with a crash. This day was to be one of rest. We had been promised a holiday to become acquainted with our surroundings and the

many routines we would have to follow. First it was a matter of waking up, everyone felt like sleeping a bit longer after their long journey - this was not to be- the Japanese guards who had caused so much havoc during the night, decided to continue their game with new charges, these big strangers who had caused so much trouble for Japan. With much yelling and stomping, everyone was ordered up and out to be counted. It was our first experience of being counted.

The Japs could not count in English and we hadn't yet learned to count in Japanese, so there was a compromise- we were lined up in two neat rows - a little Nip guard with a big stick walked in front of the lines giving each man a sharp rap on the skull with his stick while counting to himself in Japanese. After the counting came the reporting procedure. The Camp Commandant, in his high boots, a big Samurai sword dragging behind him, was ushered into the compound where he climbed upon a box to issue his ultimatums.

He advised that being prisoners of Japan, our souls belonged to us but our bodies belonged to the Emperor. Providing we behaved ourselves and worked hard we would be well treated.

Japs take a dim view

Having seen all he wanted to see of us rabble, we were returned to our quarters for the first breakfast, again 'red rice' and Veg. But before we could eat we were expected to go through the routine of wash-up-cold water and cardboard basins- and as the night before, it was near to a riot with more heads being bashed about. After breakfast was put away most decided that as it was supposed to be a holiday, they would enjoy some extra sack-time. Not to be, apparently the Japs took a dim view of anyone wanting to rest so early in the day, and it was orders to clean up bunks. The bunk or bed consisted of a space, six by three feet of tatami matt, one blanket (if you were lucky) the clothes you stood in and a container to hold your rice and vegin. You could sit up but not lie down. No smoking, no eating no nothing. (To be continued next issue)



Re-elected! Lionel Speller(L) and Bob Manchester(R) who were returned to office as Secretary and President respectively.



Gerry Gerrard who has taken over the Vice-Presidency of our Branch and Mrs. Ev Gerrard



Honoured guest, Washington State's AMEXPOW Cmdr. George Fernandes with Mrs. Ida Speller and Bob Manchester.



Head Table guests: Mrs. Lori Berzenski and Manitoba's Hon. Sec/Treas: Sid Vale.



Some of those attending the Meeting: left: Charlie Woods, Sid Vale with American guests, Ed Perry and Cmdr. George Fernandes (behind Charlie) and right: Ernie Whitfield (partly obscured) and Gerry Mabley. That's Paul Luchka half hidden back of Gerry.



HONGKONG 1979

by Art Ferrall

I think Johnny had his head sat on once too often. The Japs introduced sake AFTER 1941. At that time we were drinking Jamaica rum whenever we could find where our officers stashed it. As for the 22 storey building, only the old buildings are so runty. Any self-respecting building in Hongkong today is from 30 to 40 storeys now. The highest I counted was 42 but there could have been higher. They are tearing down the mountains and filling up the sea and right away high-rise apartments sprout like mushrooms. Aberdeen Harbour bridge is only half built to Aplichau Island, a couple of big hills are gone and half a dozen highrises already half built.

Cripes! The sampans have inboard motors and the junks have diesels! Japanese diesels of course. A taxi driver philosopher said it best: "The Japs have Hongkong again!" I was up and down elevators in quite a few buildings and only saw one Otis elevator. The rest are Hitachi or Mishimachi or some such label. All heavy trucks are Nissan diesels.

Kowloon is being torn up at present while they are preparing for rapid transit, and rickshaws may only be seen at the Star Ferry to sit in and have your picture taken.

The Star ferries look familiar and so does the clock tower at the Kowloon terminal. Red taxies with light coloured tops are everywhere. Mostly Datsuns though some Toyotas. The next most popular seems to be an off-coloured white Mercedes. Traffic lights at dang near every corner and you cross with the light, brother, or you don't see the light again, ever. If you want a thrill, take a taxi from the ferry and go up Nathan Road in the middle of the day. Trucks, cars, crowds of people and other taxies all playing chicken, especially where transit construction has blocked off the road to cause a detour. Better than any roller-coaster, seldom less than 30 mph in and out between trucks. Yes, it is really relaxing. Yet I saw only three taxies with any dented fenders.

Everyone is dressed western style and all look quite healthy. Yet while talking to a student in a very nice playground that used to be the west end

of North Point Camp, he kept talking about the pressure of just living in Hongkong.

I had thought about going to Hongkong for a long time, but finally made up my mind over-night and so, off I went with no hotel reservations. At Kai Tak, I was introduced to a great racket. Every hotel is full: "...we have one luxury suite for one night." I took one at the New World. This hotel is still being built and when finished may well be the biggest in Hongkong or Kowloon, but I don't recommend it. That luxury suite is not as good or as nice as you would find in any self-respecting motel across the prairies. I arrived on Saturday night and walking around Sunday, got a room for three days at the Miramar starting Monday. At least it would give me a couple of days to look up old spots.

Watching TV Monday night and there was the old Jubilee buildings so I knew they were still there. Tuesday I walked up Nathan Road and over to Lai Chikok Road and found the remnants of Shum Shui Po. The Jubilee buildings, two Sergeants' Mess buildings, a couple of old huts and a few quonset structures, well fenced in, are now the Vietnam refugee camp. This Laichikok Road runs along the camp straight north. The south seawall is a good mile and a half north of where it used to be. In fact, all that is left of the bay is so small this same road spans it via a short bridge. Huge apartment buildings everywhere except north of the camp along the west seawall and there, there is an abbatoir, a couple of piers for scows and a few warehouses. I took pictures all around until on the way back, I saw a sign NO PICTURES OR SKETCHES - so I took a picture of that! My camera let me down though and a lot of pictures didn't turn out.

Wednesday I made another mistake. Paid a Kowloon taxi HK\$200 for the day to find North Point and Wanchai Gap. When we got to Hongkong (via the tunnel) I knew Hongkong better than he did and we didn't find either, but he knew the China Fleet Club. That Club is in the same place, but talk about filling up the sea! In front of the Club there used to be a road and the seawall. Now the seawall is a good city block, with a 42 storey building on it, farther out.

(to be continued in our next issue)

NEWSLETTERS FROM OTHER BRANCHES

MANITOBA BRANCH

GENERAL MEETING: The next General Meeting on 6 June 1979 at the Army & Navy Hall, Young Street.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: First, our apologies for the long lapse between newsletters. Winter holidays, plus preparations for the National "Anniversary" Convention, have kept the Executive very busy since the first of the year. Letters of invitation, and registration cards, plus a copy of the proposed convention agenda have now been mailed. A few changes in the agenda are possible, as we strive to assure that everyone has a good time while in Winnipeg. You are urged, once again, to return the registration cards to the hotel as soon as possible. For more information please contact Secretary Sid Vale (204)774-7332.

GRENADIER SCHOLARSHIP FUND: The following were granted scholarship awards for 1978: Debbie Baty (Univ. of Manitoba) \$500.00. Bursaries of \$300.00 each to Fred Hodgkinson and Patricia Simcoe. You are reminded that two \$500 scholarships are still available for first year students at U. of Manitoba and U. of Winnipeg. Applicants must be a descendant of a 1st Batt. Winnipeg Grenadiers who served in Hongkong. For more info contact Art Lousier, 505 Stalker Bay, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2G 0C9.

1978 Grey Cup Draw Winners:

1st Quarter-	Herb Millar	\$50.00
2nd Quarter-	G. Whettell	50.00
3rd Quarter-	Ken Bell	50.00
Final Score-	Bob Rawluk	200.00
Reverse	- Mrs. R. Juenke	50.00

MEMBERSHIPS: A Reminder that 1979 dues are payable. We thank those who have already paid their dues and a special thank you to those who have made donations to the Branch.

OBITS: It is with deep regret that we report the passing of the following comrades James Fowler, Fred Kyryluk and William Pigott (Manitoba); Earl Mawson, Nick Berzenski and Scotty Temple (B.C.); Terence Dwyer (Ontario). Our deepest sympathy to their widows and families and friends.

REMEMBER !! SEPTEMBER 12 thru 16!!
1979 National Convention at the North Star Inn, Winnipeg, Manitoba.
HELP US MAKE IT THE BEST EVER !!

ONTARIO BRANCH

GENERAL MEETING: Was held at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall Branch #22, April 24, 1979, in Toronto, Ont.

1979 NATIONAL CONVENTION: See special notice elsewhere in these pages.

OBITS: Mrs. Alice Rame (wife of Charles Rame, Toronto. Our deepest sympathies to the bereaved family.

D. V. A. A new branch office to serve veterans and dependents in South Metro Toronto was opened 13 March 1979. Vet Services for areas not covered by the above will continue at 4900 Yonge St. Willowdale, Ont. C.P.C. office remains at Sunnybrook Medical Centre, 2075 Bayview Ave., Toronto.

OTTAWA: Vets Affairs Minister Daniel MacDonald is in the Nat'l Defence Medical Centre intensive care unit. A "get well" card was sent from our Association.

AMERICAN EXPOW: 1979 National Convention is scheduled for 17-21 July 1979 at the Pittsburgh-Hilton, Pittsburgh, Pa.

CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE on December 1, 1979 at R.C. Legion Hall, Aurora, Ont.

DUES: Membership Dues are, in spite of increased costs, still \$10.00 per year. A number of our members are in arrears for past years. REMEMBER-NO DUES - NO NEWS.

P.O.W. COMPENSATION ACT: Your National Association in co-operation with Branches, is preparing a brief for presentation to DVA Minister that all former POWs of the Japanese receive the full 50% compensation under the Act plus their disability pension.

FOR SALE: We have the following articles for sale to HK Veterans:

Maple Leaf pins (silver) w/HK	\$7.00;
Key Chains (leather) w/HK	2.50
Charm Pins w/clasp and HK	1.50
HK Veterans crests (small)	1.50

CANADIAN VETERANS NEWS: Due to unforeseen circumstances, publication of our next edition will be delayed.

SICK BAY: Bill Overton, past Sec/Treasurer, has been ill at his Winter Estate in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. His wife, Della, reports that he is recovering nicely and should be back in Toronto by the end of April.

Apologies are offered for errors, omissions and editing necessitated by space limitations. EDITOR.

**BIENNIAL CONVENTION of the HONGKONG
VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA**

Host - Manitoba Branch
Northstar Inn - Winnipeg, Manitoba.
September 12 - 16, 1979

The Manitoba Branch is indeed proud to be hosting this particular convention, as September 1979 marks the 40th Anniversary of the outbreak of World War II.

Participation in actual combat for the Winnipeg Grenadiers, Royal Rifles of Canada and Brigade, which comprised "C" Force, was brief. However, the ensuing four years is a period in our lives which none of us will ever forget, mainly because the physical and mental after-effects will not allow us to forget. Out of that adversity a bond of comradeship was formed that still exists today, and has kept Hong Kong Veterans united from coast to coast.

The main purpose of our conventions, although a certain amount of business is a necessity, is to get together and renew "Old Friendships", and recall some of the good times we had together. Looking back over the years, each one of us can remember many humorous incidents that occurred, even in our bleakest days.

Last, but by no means least, we meet to remember those of our comrades who have passed away since 1945, and most of all, those who gave their lives in December 1941, so that we who are left can still gather together, where and when we wish, in a free society.

It is hoped that all Hongkong Veterans, and their wives, will take advantage of this opportunity to meet with old friends, and help make this the "1979 Anniversary Convention", one of the best ever. We would also like to extend an especially warm welcome to the Widows of Hongkong Veterans to be with us at this time.

In order to facilitate arrangements, and avoid disappointment, you are urged to mail the enclosed registration card as soon as possible. Any further inquiries may be forwarded to Box 381, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 2H6, or phone Sid Vale at (204)774-7332.

A.H. Delbridge
President

Sidney A. Vale
Secretary-Treasurer

PROPOSED AGENDA for the CONVENTION

Sept. 12 - Wednesday

Registration 2:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Golf Tournament 2:00 p.m. on

Sept. 13 - Thursday

Registration 10:00 a.m. - 8:00
Presidents Meeting 10:00 - 12:00 a.m.
Lunch Break 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.
General Meeting 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Tour (Ladies) 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Evening at Army, Navy
& Air Force Vets-Unit 1 8:00 p.m. on

Sept. 14 - Friday

Silver Slipper Breakfast
Sponsored by Winnipeg City 9:00 - 10 a.m.
General Meeting 10:00 - Noon
Lunch Break Noon - 2:00 p.m.
General Meeting 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Evening at Duke of
Kent Legion from 8:00 p.m.

Sept. 15 - Saturday

Assemble for Cenotaph Service 10 a.m.
Service 10:30 a.m.
General Meeting(?) 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Provincial Government Banquet
Cocktail Hour 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Dinner and Dance 7:00 p.m. - 12 a.m.

AN ECHO FROM THE PAST

Cmdr J.C. Boldero, DSC's Letter to the Editor requires comment. Cmdr Boldero was your Editor's supervisor at the Shanghai Waterworks in Shanghai from 1933 to 1938.

His terse: "she was sunk by Jap bombers.." hardly explained the magnificent roll that gallant and heroic little river gunboat, HMS Cicala, played in defence of Hongkong.

She kept the Japanese at bay in the Castlepeak area until crippled by artillery and air bombing. Crawling to Aberdeen for repairs, she went out once more to repel an attack on Pillbox 14 and Brick Hill by the Japanese from Deepwater Bay, until she was sunk in the Lamma Channel.

Contact with Cmdr Boldero was established through the good offices of N.F.F.C.A. Treasurer, Reg Coite of Manchester, England. Thanks, Reg.

SUMMER IS A-CUMMIN IN ...

By the end of June, invasion of privacy of parents and grandparents will, with the closure of schools for the summer, begin and the peace, quiet and tranquility of households disrupted for the next couple of months with possible detrimental effects to nerves and composure.

Being one of those fortunate (or otherwise) retirees without little feet pattering around or baby-sitting duties to prevent my pattering about the house and garden, summer is a time for open air, open shirts and the opening of properly chilled bottles of happy juice to interrupt the never ending task of keeping the old homestead neat and trim to one's own satisfaction.

Following a quick shower, comes the best time of the day when, with the good woman, one relaxes in the cool calm of an evening, enveloped in palate tickling aromas from the barbecue pit and the enjoyment of each other's company or that of good friends who may drop in.

Having arrived at the age when travelling abroad is an expensive and frustrating series of stops and starts in search of sights and sounds and experiencing amenities inferior to what we have available right here at home, we have little, if any, desire to stray away from Beautiful B.C. It is, of course, nice to watch a beautifully browned blonde (or brunette) in a bikini basking on a beach in Bermuda but, at my age, there is little difference between the real thing and the travel poster. Tho the spirit is willing, the flesh sure is weak and there is little I can do about it!

On this long week-end in May here in Coquitlam, with a cloudless sky above, a warm sun cooled by a fair breeze to render wearing of a cardigan just the thing, I look at the cherry trees above and note with pleasure that the fine weather in April has ensured us of a bumper crop of Queen Annes and Bings come July, with never a thought of the starlings and the robins who will reap most of the fruit to upset me.

It is a great day in a good life. Hell's Bells, I wish you could be here to share it with us!

THE SENDAI STORY (cont. from Page 8)

ort which was to take us away. If my memory serves me right, ours was the APA 82 - USS "Bracken".

Once on board, more smiling 'gobs' led us to our bunks below, helped us to store away our belongings and directed us to the after-deck. When we were all there, the P.A. blared and it was the Captain speaking. He, in the name of the U.S. Navy, welcomed us aboard but before going further, he'd a couple of orders for us - greeted with subdued groans and "here we go again!" - which were:

1. No cigarette butts to be thrown over the side as the ship was still on a war footing.
2. POWs were not to do any work whilst on board. (Loud cheers!)
3. Pantry and kitchen open 24-hours a day to all POWs (louder cheers!).
4. POWs had run of the ship excepting to radio, engine and ammunition rooms.
5. All dirty clothing to be collected laundered and returned by ship's personnel (more cheering) and that was it!

To our numbed minds it seemed as if all this took place in a matter of minutes. It seemed incredible that at about 11:00 a.m. we were at Sendai 2 over a 100 miles north of Tokyo and by 5:00 p.m. were comfortably settled on board the "Bracken", fed, cleaned, medically examined, re-outfitted and on our way home! Not only us, but a few thousands from other camps in Japan as well.

Sometime during the night, whilst I was dead to the world from excitement and exhaustion, the "Bracken" in company with a number of other transport and destroyer escort, sailed out of Tokyo Bay for Manila and eventually, HOME!

I felt cheated! I had a few choice words to offer as my SAYONARA to Japan!

With the conclusion of the above, it is our hope that our readers will help with stories of Oeyama, Kawasaki, Omori, Terumi and any other camp in Japan. We also hope to start a series on Shumshuipo, North Point and Argyle Street in later issues of Roll Call.

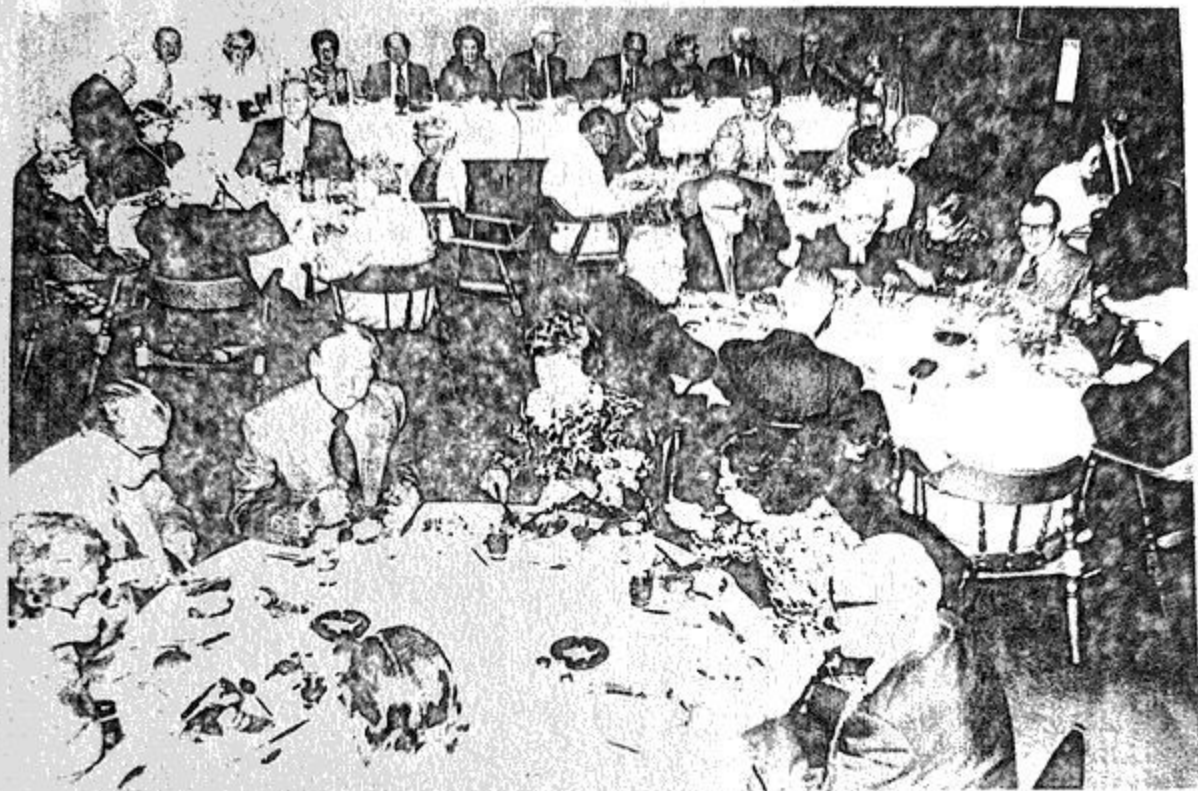


Padre U. Laite, assisted by Pres. Bob Manchester, blessing the flag donated to the B.C. Branch by Mrs. Eva Baillie at the Reunion in Victoria on 30th September 1978. Below left: Eva making the presentation.



Below: Lt. Col. Monty Truscott, who, with Mrs. Truscott, came from Dorset, England, was a guest speaker at the Reunion. Monty was also in Shumshuipo and was a survivor of the Lisbon Maru, torpedoed enroute to Japan from Hong Kong.





Above: Part of the large gathering at the reunion honouring ex-HKVDC members of the B.C. Branch in Victoria last September. Below left: Walter and Dora Jenkins and the "Appreciation" plaque awarded them the same evening and below right: John and Elsa Ronseca with the "Appreciation Award" presented to them at the Reunion.
(All photos by Ellis Shipman, Victoria)

