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1979

THE

ROLL CALL

HONGKONG VETERANS ASSOC^N OF CANADA.



*BRITISH COLUMBIA BRANCH
MAGAZINE*

15 AUGUST 1945

A DAY TO REMEMBER

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

WITH SUMMER DOG-DAYS ON THE WAIN, REFLECT ON
THE HARVEST OF AUTUMN AND BE CONTENT.

THE ART OF CONTENTMENT IS THE ART OF FEELING
THAT LIFE IS GOOD - AT LEAST FOR THE DAY,
OR THE HOUR. THE SOURCES OF THIS FEELING ARE
USUALLY THE SIMPLEST. BEST REGARDS

BOB MANCHESTER, PRESIDENT
BRITISH COLUMBIA BRANCH



ROLL CALL

HONGKONG VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA - BRITISH COLUMBIA BRANCH

VOL: 3:3

THE ROLL CALL

FALL 1979

PAGE 1

A NEW PRESIDENT IS ELECTED

High point of interest at any of our Conventions is usually the Election of Officers to the National Council and this Convention in Winnipeg, did not differ from any of the others, except that Charlie Brady's five-term reign as President ended September 14.

The results of the election are as follows:

NATIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

President: Lloyd Doull(Q/M) elected over incumbent Charles Brady.

Vice-President: John Stroud(Ont). Incumbent Bert Delbridge(Man) did not run

Sec/Treasurer: Ken Gaudin(Q/M) re-elected.

Chairman, Veterans Trust Fund: John Stroud(Ont.) re-elected.

Chairman, Awards Committee: Lionel M. Speller(B.C.) elected by acclamation.

The first of three General Meetings was called Thursday afternoon and was confined to reading the Minutes of our 1977 Convention and reports of the various Branch Activities since then by the respective Branch Presidents.

This was carried over to part of Friday's morning session and was followed by general discussion of New Business which included the Ontario Branch's proposed unofficial trip to the Far East, timed to coincide with the Association's Official Pilgrimage to Hongkong in 1980, confirmed as such by the Government of Canada, and which triggered some heated exchanges from the floor.

A motion from B.C.'s Bill Laidlaw, proposing that the term of office of National President be limited to two years at the end of which period, he be replaced by another Branch President, to be served in rotation. This, (continued on Page 17)

THE NATIONAL CONVENTION 1979

The National Convention 1979 which also celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the outbreak of World War II, and fittingly held in Winnipeg, home of the Grenadiers, blew both hot and cold as if the weather had something to do with it all.

An excellent turn-out of membership from all Branches, saw a total of 160 registering and with the addition of wives and friends, saw the total attendance at the banquet hosted by the Government of Manitoba on Saturday, September 15, reach the 428 mark.

Officially, Opening Day was Wednesday, 12 September with activities confined to registration and a golf tournament. For some reason however, a special meeting was called to receive the report from the Constitution Revision Committee at 2:00 p.m. that afternoon. The fact that there wasn't anyone from that Committee in Winnipeg at that time and that Lionel Speller of B.C. was the only member, coming in directly from the airport and well after the Meeting had started, resulted in a postponement of any further discussions until later in 1980.

By Wednesday evening, all rooms reserved at the North Star Inn were occupied with an overflow going to the St Regis across the street on Smith and other late-comers at the Holiday Inn down the road apiece.

Thursday morning saw the Council meeting in camera and after the lunch break, the first of three General Meetings was called. A separate report on Convention Business will be found, commencing in the adjacent column.

In the meanwhile, a 30 to 40 k.p.h. wind with a chilling drizzle, reduced attendance at the special tour of the (continued on Page 15)

EDITORIAL

It was about this time of year, thirty four years ago, that the survivors of the Battle of Hongkong began to trickle back to joyful reunions with waiting families and friends and attempted to pick up the threads so abruptly severed when they were shipped overseas to meet with a Destiny from which many failed to return.

That joy and happiness was also tinged by a sense of loss of close friends and comrades who were left out there on some foreign land, pathos and sympathy for their grieving families and, in some instances, for their own kin. This year - as in years past and those to come - we look back at this time at what was and is the greatest experience of our lives and wonder what it was all about.

History has repeatedly shown us that veterans who went off to fight another nation's war, became instant heroes first and foremost; merely a name in a casualty list published by the media of the day next; and then, following their return home and it was all over and safe once more, put on a shelf to eventually become "forgotten men".

We in Canada, have been infinitely more fortunate in our lot because of the characteristic sense of responsibility and understanding that is a national trait of Canadians in general, and have been recipients of the fruits of that understanding to the extent that it has placed us in an enviable position in comparison with veterans elsewhere. But it is also the result of our own efforts and persistence.

There can be no denying veterans appreciate the work done on their behalf by their representatives or harbor any intentions of detracting from same. But what veterans have gained is the result of a combined action comprising veterans voicing their needs, their representatives acting on same and goodwill and desire of those in power to have these needs implemented to fact; no one individual should be prepared to claim, or be credited with, the responsibility for it all.

To most veterans the benefits gained is a right and not a reward - a right earned by blood, sweat and tears - and acknowledge this with appreciation, only as such.

MENE MENE TEKEL UPHARSIN

(The handwriting on the wall)

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

The Roll Call went to press too early to include the results of the Federal Elections of last May. This hopefully, although belatedly, will serve to render our extending welcome and congratulations to the Hon. Allan McKinnon, of B.C., in assuming the offices of Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs (from Mr. Daniel MacDonald) acceptable.

To Mr. MacDonald our sincere thanks for his efforts to enhance the cause of Hongkong Veterans whilst in office and our best wishes for the future.

To the Hon. Allan McKinnon, we offer total support, co-operation and assistance, even to the exercising of our right for constructive criticism which could help towards improving the lot of veterans who, now on the threshold of entering into their seventies, need improvements in care facilities more than ever before.

The Roll Call will be observing his efforts towards this end with all interest and attention, and offer our best wishes for a successful term in office.

HE WILL ALWAYS BE WITH US

This is not so much an eulogy as it is a farewell to a man whom I had known for only two years, but who to me, epitomizes all that has been and can be, said about good companionship. It was at Edmonton in 1977 that he graciously proffered his hand to me in friendship and which I was pleased and proud to grasp and until his passing, a bond of mutual respect and affection had grown and flourished between us until it was so suddenly and grievously broken off.

Padre Uriah Laite, M.C., D.D., at 83 years of age, began to show signs of fading away early this summer and as one of many, I, who'd found it a privilege deeply appreciated and moreover, enjoyed, to be in the company of both him and dear Sally, was forced to watch his fading with deep but silent concern and apprehension.

Of him, to stay with the usual trite expressions of his being a good, kind and compassionate man, is not enough. To those who were accorded the privilege of entering into that inner circle closest to him, "CHUM" as he was affectionately known, had the ability to create friendship and respect at first meeting.

What made him so lovable also, was his innate cheerfulness, sharp wit, his keen sense of humour and that most human of all traits, a dependency upon the companionship of people. Here, and standing tallest and strongest amongst those around him in spite of her frailty, was his wife Sally. It was a beautiful thing to watch the two arrange their own lives to suit and complement each other. When we add a natural friendliness and the fact that he was a scholar and a gentleman at all times, a much clearer picture of this man's Man of Peace is revealed.

We, who shared the trials of the Battle of Hongkong and the years after in prison camps, will mourn his passing.

But I really believe that our Padre wouldn't like that as much as he would appreciate us feeling, whenever we gather together and quietly speak of old times, that he is in our midst. In spirit perhaps, but still in our midst as he always used to be.

Rest well in peace, Chum, for you've sure earned every moment of it!

LEST WE FORGET

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

DAVIDSON, Alvin	Quebec
GIGNAC, Louis	N.B.
HACHEY, Dean	Quebec
HAMELIN, Alfred	Manitoba
LAITE, Uriah(Padre)	B.C.
PAGE, Henry	Ontario
REID, John A.G.(Capt)	B.C.
YOUNGS, Clarence	Ontario

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

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

IMPRESSIVE FINAL RITES

The final rites, prior to his internment in Oceanview Cemetery, Burnaby, for our friend and comrade, Padre U. Laite, M.C., D.D. was held on 15 August 1979 at the West Burnaby United Church, Burnaby, of which he was the founding Minister, was a truly impressive and solemn one with the church filled to capacity with mourning friends.

Members of the B.C. Branch of the Hongkong Veterans Association in the persons of Messrs. R. Manchester (Pres), L. Speller (Sec.), W. Laidlaw, C.O. Woods, W. Morris and H. White (Okanagan Falls) were his pall-bearers, and the Canadian Legion, Branch 48, whose padre the Rev. Laite was at the time of his demise, provided the 'colour guard'.

Padre Laite, born in Newfoundland in 1896, served as a Minister of the United Church at various locations in B.C. and Ontario before he retired in Burnaby. He went to Hongkong in 1941 as Chaplain of the Grenadiers and was awarded the Military Cross for Valour under fire. Upon his return after 44 months as a POW and following a visit to the Mritimes, he came out to B.C. where he and Sally, his widow, celebrated their 50 wedding anniversary.

He is survived by his widow, Sally; son, Grayson; daughter, Florence (Mrs. Dave Hughes), six grand-children and five great-grand-children.

His last official act as B.C. Branch Padre was to administer the Blessing to our new Branch Flag in Victoria, B.C. on 30 September 1978.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hi John: Sorry to have let my subscription slip away, but I didn't realize time had gone so fast since I was last talking to you in Victoria last October. Next time give me a little reminder, aye?

Please find enclosed my cheque which in part, is for my subscription.

Winnipeg, Man. T.J. Dewar

Never doubted that you'd remember. All of them do. Many thanks for the extra and I'll say in person come September.

Dear John: Yes thank you. I received the Roll Call in Mesa and we both enjoy reading about all peoples.

Last summer I sent you a book made up, with pictures drawn and poems, by the fellows in Hongkong. Did you receive this? As I did not register it I have been wondering about it. If you answer this will you let me know when I pay my dues- I have forgotten -getting old!

No. I didn't run into Harry Creedon. Do you know what Park he was in in Mesa? Will not know for a while if I will be going to the Convention. Will let you know. For now, take care.

Beausejours, Man. Dick Wilson

Dick: Yes, you're fully paid up plus. Thank you, I've got your book and it is in safe keeping. Sure hope you can make it to Winnipeg. God Bless. John

Dear Sir: The Canadian War Museum (CWM) has recently seen a copy of your most interesting publication, "The Roll Call" relating to Canadian Hongkong P.O.W's. The museum would like to acquire a set for its reference library if possible. What arrangements can be made to have the CWM placed on your mailing list?

The CWM is most anxious to obtain for its military reference collection artifacts relating to the incarceration of yourself and your military brothers.

Please accept the enclosed booklets with this museum's compliments.

Ottawa, Ont. L. F. Murray
Chief Curator

A complete set was forwarded with much pleasure and pride, with subsequent issues to follow. ED.

Dear John: Never thought I'd be writing a 'Dear John' letter (ha!ha!).

Nick and I enjoyed your answering our letter as much as we enjoy receiving the "Roll Call", also the news from the Victoria Hongkong Vets News Bulletins.

You folks in Victoria and area have so much going for you with all the wonderful people who contribute to your paper and get out to meetings etc. (Not only from B.C. but they're from all over. ED). I think B.C. has the cream of the crop. Cannot blame veterans for going West after their Army years and the rotten weather we have 'speaking especially for Manitoba.

Don't worry about my mentioning that Nick's name was spelt wrong with the inmates of Camp 3D. Just wanted to let you know. It was not a complaint.

Yes, Nick agrees though he may be getting older, he intends to be around for many years to come despite the fact the doctors seem to have their own opinion. I guess he feels it took him so long to collect his Veterans pension, he is determined, at just turning 60, he will show them he is going to collect his Old Age pension.

I passed along all my old copies of the "Roll Call" to widows hoping that they in turn will pass them along and maybe a few folks will realize for the money, it's the "newsiest" paper on the market for the price.

Bye for now and all the best to you in the future. Looking forward to our June copy of the "Roll Call".

Winnipeg, Man. Frances Zytaruk

Frances: It's this kind of "participation" that makes the Roll Call as interesting as it is. So long as you all, dear readers, keep writing in, we won't ever have to look back. John

Hello John: I was looking over my Roll Call and found 8 of them. Kind of threw me for a minute.

Anyway, I better get my dues in or no more good reading. Please note new address. That's right I did it! Enclosed cheque for a year and put balance in the pot.

Vancouver, B.C. Stan Van Koughnett
Thanks and sure glad to have you with us, Stan! JOHN.

MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear John: Hoping these few lines find you and yours in the best of health.

Just came in from our Legion of which I am a very active member and was greeted by your letter and two editions of the Roll Call.

I first read your Roll Call in Florida where we spend the winter and our close neighbour is that stalwart HK Vet and his wife, Ted and Oda Barlow. I enjoyed the magazine so much that I immediately wrote a letter to Lionel Speller with a cheque for the Roll Call. Jessie and I really enjoy same. There was some mix-up and later I wrote Lionel another letter and through him I received two Roll Calls and thanks to you, we are up to date.

Jess and I went to Hongkong, Thailand and Japan in 1973 and 75 and in 1975 we were fortunate enough to meet many new people among whom were Janet and Ernie Coulson, and we had some great times together. Jessie is going to write Janet and in the meantime, give both of them our regards.

We will be at the re-union in Winnipeg and travel with the Barlows and hope to meet you there and also the Coulsons and also many of the Winnipegers I have not seen since we left the camp in Yokohama.

Will look forward to receiving the Roll Call as it is very informative and brings back many memories. Keep up the good work, thanks for your trouble. God Bless.

Flash and Jess Clayton
Brechtin, Ontario

Eagerly looking forward to meeting all you lovely people. The mix-up occurred when your copies went to Buchin(?) Ont instead of Brechin. So Sorry! John.

Dear John: We read the Roll Call with much pleasure yesterday.

So now I am published internationally! Wow! Thanks for including my article on Father Braun.

I am sorry we didn't get to the last re-union. Jack and I had a commitment in California at that time and made it our vacation as well. We do hope to see you both in the fall. Love,

Audrey and Jack Brady

Gig Harbor, Wash.

The article deserves much more. Hope you had a fine vacation, but we sure missed you two. JOHN

Dear Sir: I have often wondered if the Roll Call would like to see and publish some of the verses and such from the following books which I have in my possession, just as long as I get them back in the same condition. They are: Ballads of the Grenadiers by W.E. Jeffery, which he wrote in Jamaica 1940 and "Shadow Lights of Shumshuipo"-Hongkong" by Staff Sgt. H.P. Macnaughton. Should you want to see them and take all or part of each for your publication, I will gladly send them to you personally, and after you are finished with them, I would sure appreciate getting them back again. Please let me know if you care to see them.

Thank you for your real good Roll Call booklet. I really enjoy reading it always. See you at the Convention. Here is a wee bit towards a further subscription and the rest for the old pot.

William Derhak

Winnipeg, Manitoba

Thanks for your kind offer. Would very much like to see "Ballads" by W.E. Jeffery. I have the late Harry MacNaughton's "Shadows". Sure appreciate your generosity. Address change noted. See you at the Convention and suggest you bring the book. Editor

Dear John:

We are always glad to get the Roll Call and enjoy it very much. Enclosed is a cheque for my subscription and the rest is for whatever. Sincerely

Winnipeg, Man.

Martha Adams

Martha dear, with this kind of "Dear John" letters from you and all the others I've received, got enough to put to rout the guy who invented the fallacy that "Dear John" letters generally mean tears. Please convey to Fred my very bestest. John.

CORN OF THE MONTH

"I know a place where women don't wear anything but a string of beads once in a while!"

"Where?"

"Around their necks, stupid!"

A nurse is a PANHANDLER !!

WELL, SOMEBODY'S GOT TO SAY IT

Although we deeply regret starting our new Minister of Veterans Affairs, Mr. Allan McKinnon's term of office on a critical note, we are nevertheless forced to express our dismay and surprise at the suddenness of his decision to go ahead with the DVA's move from Ottawa to Charlottetown, P.E.I. (Ref: News Release 13 June 1979)

Page 3967 of Hansard on 8 March 1979 reports Mr. McKinnon, then a member of the Opposition, commenting on a speech by Mr. Hal Herbert on 7 March, 1977 (Hansard page 3725), as having said:

.. "That is a very clear indication of what is going to happen to the DVA which, let us remember, is here for the benefit of veterans, not for the benefit of government, not for the benefit of the mayor of Charlottetown and not for the benefit of the minister. It is in existence for the benefit of veterans."

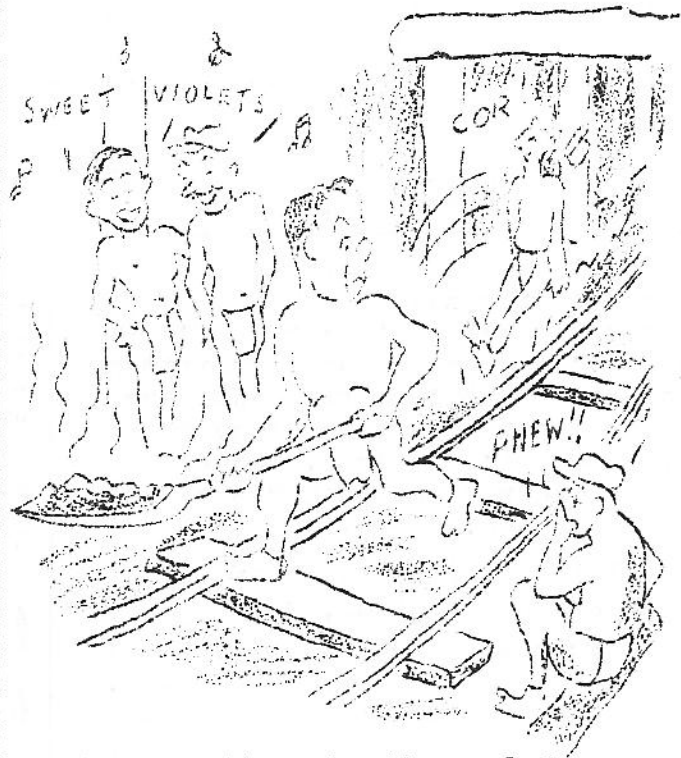
And further down: .. "Yet at this precise time, the minister (Mr. Daniel MacDonald) decided to shatter the department and send the pieces that survived to Charlottetown. God only knows how many thousands of cases they will be behind as a result of such a move...!"

The estimated expenditure of a colossal 30 millions (excluding over-runs which is to be expected) important as it is, is not so tragic and devastating as the inconvenience of such a move to disabled and wheel-chair veterans or to the 79.5% members of the staff who don't want to move but are now forced to or else.

What stuns is the reaching of a decision to carry on with a move which he, Mr. McKinnon, only two months before, had decried and ridiculed.

What we would like to know is: WHY? and also, why examine only departmental plans and projects yet ignoring veterans' protests and recommendations?

Someone should remind the Minister of his own utterings: " .. the DVA is here for the benefit of veterans..etc etc.." and NOT for the mayor of Charlottetown nor that region's unemployment problems or economic stability. There are other federal departments responsible to see to that! Please to reconsider, Mr. Minister.

INCIDENT AT HIDARI-NI, SENDAI 2

Rapid transit waste disposal ?

IT HAPPENS EVERY DAY ?

Monday, 16 July 1979, I was privileged to escort my friend Padre Laite to Shaughnessey Hospital for treatment in the Dermatology Wing. I picked him up at his residence in Burnaby at 9:00 a.m. and drove the 15 odd miles in order to be there well before the appointed time of 10:00 a.m. stipulated. We arrived early enough to permit me to sit the Padre at the entrance lounge, go park the car and walk back over a city block and then guide my friend who is 83 and suffers from weakened eyesight, a further two city blocks inside the hospital to Dermatology where we found a dozen patients already waiting. Following treatment, we had to walk another two city blocks to have his prescription filled and all this in torrid and debilitating heat (the temperature that day hovered around 30 to 32 degree centigrade). We left the hospital after 1:00 p.m. - almost four hours later - with a bottle of pills and some tablets which diluted in water was for external application.

Ask me Mr. Minister, what I could do for veterans care facilities with those 30 millions! Please ask me!!

BANGO AT CAMP 3-D

The following are names of POWs in 3-D, submitted by Ed Toews and James Archibald, to whom we are pleased to offer our thanks and appreciation for their help and support.

Although these names probably have been, or are being or will eventually be, duplicated in the original Japanese official Camp list provided by our Secretary, Lionel Speller, they are published because of the fine effort entailed in the preparation of these lists by our contributors.

ARCHIBALD, James	KITT, John
BELL, Bill	LEACH, Reg
BILL, Ashton (?)	MCMILLAN, Jim
BOGARD, Peter	MAHR, Bing (?)
BOULETTE, Bill	MILLOY, John
CHILDS, Wally	MOORE, Bill
COCHRANE, Chas	MULROONEY, Quentin
CURRIE, Dick	NEUFELD, Ben (Frank)
DAME, Dusty	O'LEARY, Lloyd
DARRAGH, Speed	RICHARD, E. (J.F.L.)
DAVIDSON, Alvin	RICHARDS, Sgt (?)
DAVIS, Rocky	STEPHENS, John
DUPLAGA, Stan	STEWART, Jim
ELSLIGER, Fred	STODDARD, Ray
GREGG, Peter	TODD, John
JEFFERY, Bill	TOEWS, Ed
POLLOCK, Kirk	TRICK, Dick

The three (BILL, MAHR and RICHARDS, Sgt) are not listed in the Official Nominal Roll issued by Ottawa and are therefore, presumed to be of some other unit from the Allied Forces.

GROUP TWO AT CAMP 3-D (Japanese list)

Hachey, G	Cardin, W.
Aitkin, E.C.	Campbell, C.G.
Durdle, R.	Chamberlain, R.
Lawlis, P.	Cole, B.T.
Wright, S.W.	Cyr, W.
Allan, W.H.	Dainard, D.B.
Stoddard, R.	Demers, E.
Mulrooney, Q.	Ewing, K.F.
Russell, A.J.	Fredette, H.
Cochrane, C.	Gregoire, G.R.
Maloney, Eric	Graham, A.G.
Alley, R.D.	Hamilton, S.
Archibald, J.	Jiggins, G F.
Arseneau, A.	Joseph, A.
Arseneault, S.	Keays, R.
Bourget, E.	Lake, G.M.
Brown, M.	Lamb, P.W.
Beattie, K.	Lawrence, J.W.E.

(continued next column)

GROUP TWO AT 3-D (continued)

Labell, J.	Provencher, J.
MacDonald, E.L.	Perreault, I.
McFawn, L.R.	Rattie, L.
Meredith, E.J.	Richard, J.
Myers, C.G.	Robertson, D.
Murray, M.W.	Roy, A.
Pattingale, J.R.	Ross, E.

Groups 1 thru 6 are listed as members of the Royal Rifles, while those from 7 thru 10 are from the Winnipeg Grenadiers. We can expect and must accept an occasional error or misspelt name. ED

TO CAPT. JOHN A.G. REID *IN MEMORIAM*

The passing of Capt John Reid on July 7, 1979 in Vancouver, will be mourned by all Hongkong Veterans, especially the men who were with him at Camp 3-D Japan, and we deem it fitting that this tribute to him should be placed in the midst of the names of POWs (a small part) who were there with him.

Capt Reid enjoyed the trust and admiration of all who were at Camp 3-D. Our National Secretary, Ken Gaudin, writes of having not only his left leg saved from amputation thru the scraping of his shin-bone without any anaesthetic, whilst Ken was being held down by Johnny Matheson and Sonny Veal, by Capt Reid, but probably his life as well.

From this source, as well as from all others, John Reid receives unstinted praise and respect for his selflessness and devotion to the wellbeing of the POWs at 3-D.

What distinguishes him from other Canadian Officers who went to Hongkong and survived the years as POWs, is that he was the ONLY Canadian Officer to be transferred to Japan. He went with the 500 or more members of the Grenadiers and Royal Rifles from Hongkong to Camp 3-D (Terumi) as its Commanding Officer.

Because of failure to maintain regular contact - due to his lengthy illness - his demise came as a distinct and sorrowful shock.

"MAY HE REST IN PEACE"
We will miss him, but we will remember him.

OUR PLACE IN THE SUN

The request from Mr. Murray, the Chief Curator of Canadian War Museum, for a complete set of the Roll Call, for inclusion in the Museum's reference library, came as a very pleasant and heart-warming surprise(see Letter to the Editor).

Thanks to the support and interest of our readers, created by their own stories, articles and news items and their thoughtfulness in passing their copies on to other veterans and friends who are unacquainted with the fact that the Roll Call exists, we have and are, enjoying growing expansion across the nation and elsewhere as well.

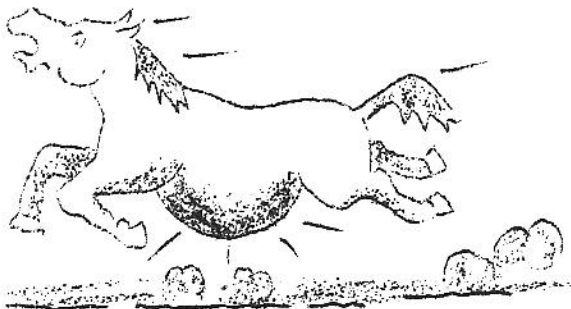
It appears that the War Museum obtained a copy in this very manner and its almost immediate indication of interest and reaction should make all of us immensely pleased and proud. We have a place in posterity!

The Roll Call was happy to furnish the Museum with a complete bound set of 1978 editions together with the first two issues for 1979. Due to the demand exceeding the number printed for the 4th Quarter 1977 edition which left us with only one official copy for our records, we did not send either of our first two(1977) issues with the above.

We are pleased, however, to advise that thanks to the kind generosity of Bill Laidlaw, who presented us with his own copy, we have since forwarded both 1977 issues and that the Museum has now an up to date and complete set in its possession, with all subsequent editions of the Roll Call to follow as they are published.

We are sure proud of all of you. Together, we have come a long way.

OUR ASININE ARTIST was asked to illustrate: "A Galloping Inflation"



and came up with this!!

" I F " (Shumshuipo version)

By Sid Varcoe

In a previous issue, we published the original poem by Rudyard Kipling. To all Hongkong Veterans this version should, although in a different sense, pack the same kind of wallop. ED.

IF you can sell your bread when those
 around you,
Are eating theirs and having got your
 fag,
Restrain yourself when these same bums
 surround you
And have the guts to mooch you for a
 drag.
IF you can still maintain a sense of
 humor,
Despite mosquitoes, bedbugs, lice and
 flies;
IF you can swallow each succeeding
 rumor,
And hear New York's been bombed with-
 out surprise.
IF you can listen to a Sweeny number,
And think of home with no nostalgic
 ache;
IF you can slumber on your bed of
 lumber,
(Or read this kind of stuff and stay
 awake!)

IF you enjoy parades, and Keenan's
 bellow,
IF you can relish snake, and squid
 and such;
IF you can eat those duck eggs, ripe
 and mellow;
IF you believe the cooks aren't eat-
 ing much.
IF you can stand the taste of
 "Coronation",
(A local smoke composed of mouldy hay)

IF this existence fills you with
 elation
Because you're piling up a lot of pay
IF you would fain defer your home-
 ward journey,
IF you can gaily wash, deprived of
 soap;
You'll qualify as Nippon's prized
 internee,
And, furthermore, you'll be a corpse,
 I hope!

THE ROLL CALL: Sponsored by B.C.
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HITHER AND YON WITH THE FONZ

An illustration of how we help getting folks together is a phone call enquiring if the "Flash" Clayton mentioned in a Letter to the Editor from Glenford Mann of Cobourg, Ont., in our last issue, was the same Bob Clayton of Brechin, Ont. And now comes the punch. Glenford got his copy of the Roll Call from "Flash", who got his from Ted Barlow, who in turn got his from-damif-know! Pretty soon, if we carry on this way, we'll sure beat all hell out of 'chain letters'!

Another friend and comrade who has succumbed to the lure of B.C.'s balmy weather and climate, is Stan Van Koughnett who shook the ice particles of Hardisty, Alta., off his size 11 snowshoes to become a resident of Vancouver in May this year. We must admit the weather has played ball since his arrival. It's been absolutely great. Welcome to God's Country, Stan.

We are proud and pleased to advise that our list of contacts with prominent personalities in FEPOW organisations in the U.K. keeps on growing. First came Alan J. Wood of London FEPOW Club, then Reg Coite (he was with us in Oeyama), Treasurer of the Nat'l Federation of Far East POW Clubs & Associations U.K., then recently (in June) your Editor received a telephone call which resulted in a very interesting visit with Ted and Marjorie Coffey from Bantstead, Surrey. Ted, to give him his correct title is: Edward J. Coffey, MBE and Life Vice-President NFFCA, somehow obtained a copy of the Roll Call and being on a visit to Canada, decided to say "Hi!" (or its British equivalent) to your Ed. We got together over at Bill Laidlaw's near who Ted (and Marjorie) was staying with relatives. And shortly after that, another telephone call from Alex Bourne, Treas. of Birmingham FEPOW Club, resulted in them being taken for a ride to visit Simon Fraser U and the surrounding areas. I think both Alex and Nan enjoyed themselves. Anyway, I hope they did. One thing I am certain of is that Alex, sitting on top of Burnaby Mountain, ate every littee bit of that 'hot dog'!

Following up on Paddy Dalzell's Letter to the Editor printed elsewhere in these columns, we will be sending free copies to Deer Lodge for those who, unfortunately, will be there for an extended period. The Roll Call will be pleased to provide similar service to any hospital in Canada upon request together with submission of names of Hongkong Veterans confined there.

One thing we have always tried to avoid doing is 'brag'. We feel that the only thing about us that can be remotely connected with ego is satisfaction. The satisfaction which comes from knowing that what we do pleases people. Once in a while, however, we get a compliment so beautifully novel that we must share it with our readers. This, from a reader who we feel will prefer to be nameless, is one of them. We quote:

"I have often said in joke that I will live long enough to attend the LAST Hongkong Veterans' Convention, all by myself. If that should be the case, I hope to read the announcement of that Convention in your Roll Call written by you."

Friend, what more can I ask or say, except that come hell 'n high water I hope to be there to write it!

We are pleased to offer our congratulations and best wishes to the Ontario Branch for their new magazine, The Bamboo News, which replaces the defunct Canadian Veterans News, the first issue - Spring 1979 - of which, through the kind courtesy of Wally Grey, Secretary/Treasurer, Ontario Branch, reached us recently.

Because of coverage of an area which The Roll Call seldom penetrates into - officialdom - all Hongkong Veterans are now offered news and information of a variety to suit all tastes.

We wish our contemporary veterans' publication continued success and good fortune.

Thought for the month:
Everyone likes to see a broad smile..
..especially if she smiles at him!!

B.C. BRANCH NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 1979

MEETING: Our next Branch Meeting will take place on Sarurday, October 20, 1979 at the Imperial Inn, 1961 Douglas St. Victoria, B.C.

Business- 2:30 p.m. Dinner-6:00 p.m.
Entertainment commencing 8:00 p.m.
All members are urged to attend as there will be subjects of importance to discuss as well as a report on the National Convention.

Thirty(30) rooms have been reserved at special rates and accommodations for over 100 seating at dinner, on a first come first served basis, booked.

Rates: \$22.50 per single
\$24.50 for double or twin beds
(tax, not included, at 5%)

OBITUARY; It is with deepest regret that we announce the passing of two of our valued comrades in recent months. They are:

Capt. J.A.G. Reid - 7 July 1979
Padre Uriah Laite - 12 August 1979

Sincerest condolences are offered to their families and friends. May they rest in Peace.

Recent visitors from out of province were: George and Dorothy Soper(Toronto); Len and Alison Seaborn(Neepawa) and Cecil(Red) Windsor(Calgary). Sure happy to have you visiting us, and hope you enjoyed your stay here.

We are pleased to report that once again, members of the Washington State American EX-POW Association will be attending our October Meeting. There is also an indication that our comrades from Manitoba and Alberta will be here too in attendance. All visitors are always welcome.

FOR SALE: HK Lapel Buttons ..\$5.00
Ladies Brooches(Ster.Silver)..\$20.00
Blazer Crests on order and will be ready for our October Meeting. Order now from Secretary Lionel Speller.

NOTE: Please let our Secretary know if you're coming for the October Meeting as soon as possible.

IN APPRECIATION: The Speller family wish to express sincere appreciation to all Hongkong Veterans who sent their condolences on the 'death of our Secretary's Mother who passed away on 9 August in Victoria (age:90 years). Five of her sons served in World War II and all returned home safely.

QUARTER CENTURY CLUB All B.C. Members who have been paid-up members for 25 years, are entitled to our Quarter Century Certificate. Please write the Secretary if you have not yet received yours or feel you're entitled to one.

IMPORTANT: All Hongkong Veterans are entitled to free eyeglasses and dental work(including dentures). If you have any problems, please contact: Dr. McMahan, Shaughnessey Hospital, Vancouver or Dr. McKewan at Victoria B.C. or your Secretary, Lionel Speller.

Best of Luck to all, enjoy your Fall 1979 and God Bless.

THE ROLL CALL; Normal distribution of the Roll Call will be delayed by about two weeks in order to include a report on the National Convention. Please do not fret. You'll get it! It continues to grow and we truly appreciate the generous donations. We hope and pray John's health remains good so he can continue to bring back fond memories to all our Hongkong Vets and families and friends.

A COINCIDENCE * BUT STILL STRANGE !

Trying to pick up the pieces following the shock of our Padre's passing, we ran into a strange sequence of coinciding dates deserving of mention: It was on August 15, 1924, that Padre Laite and Sally were wed.

It was on August 15, 1945, that our Padre shook off the yoke of captivity. It was on August 15, 1979, that Padre and Sally would have celebrated their 55th Anniversary.

It was on August 15, 1979, that he, instead, was interred.

NEWSLETTERS FROM OTHER BRANCHES

MANITOBA BRANCH * July 1979

President's Message: It is next to impossible for any branch to host a National Convention without the full co-operation of all other branches within the Association. We in Manitoba have certainly had that co-operation, and I would like to take this opportunity to offer a sincere Thank You to our other five branches for their assistance, whenever it has been asked for.

50-40-10 RAFFLE: This is a licensed raffle operated by the Manitoba Branch in order to raise funds to purchase comforts for our hospitalized members. Tickets have been mailed out to our entire membership. We ask you to return the stubs and money as soon as possible. If you are unable to sell the tickets we sent you, please return them to the branch.

BAMBOO NEWS: Congratulations to the Ontario Branch on an excellent first edition of their new veteran's magazine. With the Roll Call in the west, and the Bamboo News in the east, all Hongkong Veterans are assured of up-to-date happenings within the Association. From the Manitoba Branch our sincere thanks to the Roll Call, and the Bamboo News, for the complete and detailed coverage of the 1979 National "Anniversary" Convention.

B.C. BRANCH REUNION: April 28, 1979. Our congratulations to the B.C. Branch on a most successful reunion and a sincere thank you to the members and executive, for the warm hospitality shown to the four members from Manitoba who took part in the festivities.

OBITS: Alfred Hamelin, Winnipeg; Henry Page, Ontario; Dean Hachey, Quebec; Alvin Davidson, Quebec; Leighton Lockhart, N.B.; Clarence Youngs, Ontario. On behalf of the Manitoba Branch, our deepest sympathy to their families and friends.

DUES: Branch dues are still \$10.00. Thank you to those who are paid up and for the generous donations to the branch.

Bert Delbridge
President

Sid Vale
Sec:/Treasurer

ONTARIO BRANCH NEWS - JUNE 1979

Editor's Note: Notices to members of Coming Events have been deleted as these -General Meeting, National Convention, Q-M Branch Reunion and Warriors Day Parade had already taken place before the Roll Call went into press.

MEMBERSHIP: Again, a reminder that 1979 membership dues of \$10.00 are now due. Remember NO DUES - NO NEWS.

DONATIONS: We acknowledge with thanks and gratitude, donations this year from the following: W. Mayne; C. Pollock, J. Snively; R. Grieves; W. Leggo; J. Bjold; Mrs. M. Vanderveen; H. MacKnight; H. Thornton; C. F. Youngs (In Memory); J. MacMillan; T. Henry; L. Canivet; K. Pipher and M. Kowalchuk.

FEDERAL ELECTION NEWS: As a result of the Federal Election held on May 22, 1979, the Progressive Conservative Party was elected and Allan McKinnon was appointed the Minister of National Defence and Minister of Veterans Affairs. Congratulations to the Hon. Allan McKinnon (Victoria), our new Minister. We hope that the Hon. McKinnon can fill the shoes of the Hon. Daniel MacDonald, a most capable and devoted former Minister of Veterans Affairs. We hope the Hon. McKinnon, will in his wisdom, cancel the impending move of the Department of Veterans Affairs to Charlottetown, P.E.I. with a savings of over thirty million dollars.

John Stroud
President

Walter Grey
Sec/Treas.

The Roll Call and the B.C. Branch membership offer our deepest sympathies and condolences to our Secretary, Lionel Speller and his wife, Ida; to the Speller family and friends, in their sorrow following the loss of their beloved mother, Mrs. Melville Ormuz Speller, aged 90, who passed away August 9, 1979. She was a resident of Saanich, V.I. for 69 years. Predeceased by her husband, Alexander (1952) and son, Lewis (1974), she leaves six sons, a daughter, 19 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren; two brothers and three sisters.

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE

THE NIIGATA STORY by Bob Manchester

We sat and stared into space wondering what the next Act would be. By mid-morning there was a stirring of the Guards in the compound. Visitors had arrived in Camp. Very shortly we were introduced to one of our mentors, this man would plague the life out of many of us during the coming years, he was in all his Japanese finery, the "King of Rinko", better known as "Whiskers" because of his long flowing black beard, a beard of any size in Japan is a mark of distinction. He and his group of followers paraded through the barracks examining the prisoners in a manner much akin to the old slave traders. He was selecting the best for work in the Rinko coal yards. Work would begin the following day, our prospects of an easy touch were rapidly growing slimmer.

With much sucking in of breath and whistling through his teeth, Whiskers seemed quite pleased with the manpower he was about to inherit. After a few more conferences, it was agreed the prisoners would be broken into working groups.

There were to be three work details. "Rinko" the coal gang, to work in the coal yards; "Shintetso" would work in a steel foundry, and "Marutso" were assigned to working on the docks.

Of these three sections, "Rinko" seemed to fare the worst-they not only had the most sadistic of guards but their working conditions were deplorable. More casualties seemed to befall the Rinko group because their labour was the heaviest and they had little or no shelter from the elements.

In fairness to the other two groups, theirs was no picnic, but they did seem to have more breaks, with half decent guards and working conditions. It might be said that the Marutso gang was fortunate enough to have some access to foodstuff which they help relieve the Japs of, smuggling the stuff back to camp and sharing it with their less fortunate comrades.

It is recalled that the first day of work in Japan dawned bright and clear - there was a slight touch of frost in the air, early autumn was upon us. We tumbled out of our sacks at the first light of dawn, washed and dressed in the usual confusion, ate our "Red

Rice" and greens, then formed up into what was to be our regular working groups. Although we had been given registration numbers, there was no attempt to keep us in groups by number sequence. We believe old "Whiskers" had some influence because his group was the largest. After being formed up, the Riot Act was read to us by the Camp Commandant, First Lieutenant, Imperial Japanese Army, Masato Yoshida. He reminded us to work hard for Japan and we would be well treated; any one who 'goofed off' would feel the full wrath of Japanese punishment. He assured us that our 'souls' belonged to us, but our bodies belonged to Japan.

Orders were given to move and with catcalls and waves to our comrades, we paraded through the gates of the compound- Slave Labour was to begin in Japan. After about an hour's march, the Rinko gang came to a halt in the drab, bleak surroundings of mountains of coal. Standing in the centre of this dreary setting was "Whisker" and his retinue of guards. He was grinning like a well-fed cat apparently visualizing the glory he would gain through the efforts of this crew of slaves.

We were soon to be introduced to some of the nicest people in the form of our keepers, the guards who, for the next few years would treat us with the most respect and dignity - or so they wished us to believe!! There was happy-go-lucky Hasamoto-San, better known as "Liver Lips", a most delightful fellow, teacher of hard knocks. Katsuyasu Sato, "Slap Happy" and then we enjoyed the antics of the "Cowboy" and "Pegleg"; there were many more of these happy little beggars who all planned to make our stay in Japan a memorable one.

In short order, we were instructed by one of the guards on our duties and how to handle the tools of our trade. We had three choices: 1. We could wield a shovel, "Scoop"; 2. Carry baskets of coal on the "YaHo" pole, or we could "Push Car". None of these methods were a cinch, they all added up to back-breaking exhausting work.

(To be continued next issue)

AND YET MORE LETTERS

Dear John: Thought you would like to read about one of your buddies so I am sending you a cutting about Eddie Shayler. We received the Roll Call and Joe likes to read it. You sure made it a nice big book the last time.

I do hope you are all well there. We hear there are lots of fires in B.C. too. Are they near you? We have a lot here in Alberta. It's been so dry they can't keep ahead of them. Here we had 900 men out fighting fires and they say the lightning has been the cause. Although it has been dry, we sure did get a downpour last night and with hail too! It just poured with the wind blowing so hard that it blew the water down the road in sheets like a wall. But, the sun is shining again today and that's good! Well, there's not much news here just now, so I'll close leaving space for Joe who wants to say something too. Ivy. Dear John, We sure like to read the Roll Call and hope you can keep it going. How is the weather out your way. As I write this we are in for a wet spell. We had one here but it didn't hurt us as we are on high ground and a lot of sand, so the water don't stay around. Well I hope this finds you in good health. We are getting along pretty fair. All the best to you and yours. Joe.

Calgary, Alta. Ivy & Joe Walton

You two dears. Your letters always are welcomed. Thanks for sending me cutting of Ed. Altho the report didn't mention it, Ed was with me at Sendai 2, Japan. You two, take good care of yourselves.

Dear John: Many thanks for the Roll Call which Lionel so faithfully sends me each issue. It brings back many memories, and brings to mind names and faces that but for the Roll Call, would remain forgotten. The years take their toll.

To answer your question bottom of Page 7 last issue, re Camp 3-D. I am one and both of them, with this correction- I was not in Niigata. In the spring of 1945, I left 3-D, being transferred to Omori, where that great Canadian, Wing Commander Len Birchall was taking on all who would try to inflict unnecessary punishment on any fellow POWs, not only Canadians. After a short

visit there, I was among about twenty Canadians sent up into the mountains to Camp Suwa. Rough as it was, it was our good fortune to have Len Birchall with us, because he could instill that little bit of extra strength into those who would listen, the will to carry on for another day. What a tower of strength he was!

It was with a great deal of regret that I heard of the passing of another for whom I have nothing but very fond memories, Capt (Doc) John Reid. He did so much for me personally, in all probability, saved my left leg and possibly my life, and always working against tremendous odds trying to save lives and lessen human suffering. He never seemed to tire, although we know he did. I have his Christmas Message of December 25, 1943 (to the men at 3-D) now faded with age but still legible. This is among my cherished souvenirs.

That is it, John. Good luck in all your endeavours. Kind regards.

St. Lambert, P.Q.

KEN GAUDIN

Sure appreciate your letter, enclosures and encouragement. Saving John Reid's Christmas Card for reproduction in our Winter issue. See you in Winnipeg. Meanwhile, God Bless. John

Dear John: I have been reading your Roll Call all last year and as you know, we were split up in different camps, with some never leaving Hong-kong. I travelled with Tugby and Harvey on that ill-fated ship and spent about 19 days in that hell-hole. It would be nice to know if any of the boys who were on that trip are still alive, for there are many things about it to remember.

I have been a Commissioner at Deer Lodge for the last couple of years and am also on the Executive, Sick Committee. We have three permanent patients here - Fred Adams, Bill Millar and R. Bennett. It would be nice to have some of the boys come in for a cup of coffee and talk of old times.

Sent two copies of Roll Call to Art Lyons in Emerson to cheer him during the flooding. Enclosed are subs with a little extra from both of us.

Winnipeg, Man.

Paddy Dalzell

Thanks, Paddy, I'll be seeing you. John.

THEY CAME BACK TO "JUNO"!!

On June 6, 1979, and 35 years after, forty-three Canadian veterans returned to the place where on June 6, 1944 they helped make history when the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division and 1st Parachute Battalion, together with their British and American allies, began the assault on Europe which was to mark the beginning of the end for Hitler's hordes. The D-Day landings in Normandy

They were part of the 59-strong official Canadian delegation which joined similar groups from Belgium, Britain, France, the Netherlands, Norway and the United States, to commemorate the 35th anniversary of D-Day.

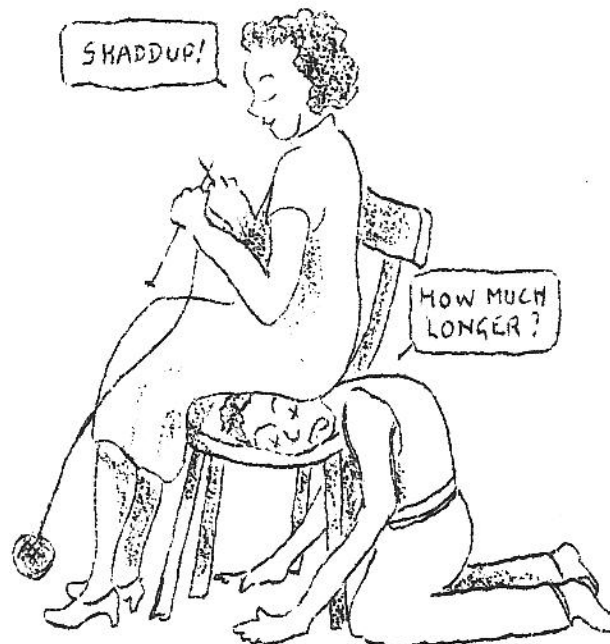
Allan McKinnon, Victoria, newly elected Minister of Veterans Affairs on May 22, because of his own swearing-in ceremony, was unable to make the trip. Instead, Ambassador Gerard Pelletier on his behalf, led the 16-man party which included representatives of the Parliament, Senate, Armed Forces and various veterans associations which made up the remainder of the delegation. With them went a group from DVA headed by B.R. Cormier, Director of Public Relations and were also joined by members of Canadian Forces (Europe) and the Canadian Regiment Band stationed overseas.

History books have told us a lot of the planning, logistics, strategy and the feverish preparations which went with the landings. History has also acquainted us with names like: "UTAH", "OMAHA", "GOLD", "JUNO" and "SWORD" beaches, where Americans, British and Canadians scrambled, fought, died and clawed their way to establish a beachhead and carried onwards to halt for the night (midnight June 6th 1944) some six miles deep in enemy territory.

But only they, these forty-three, can tell us what they felt when they went back last June, and wandered through Graye, Courseulles, Bernieres, St Aubin and Beny-sur-mer and as they stood in silent tribute to comrades and friends who didn't make it back, at cemeteries in Beny-sur-Mer, Courseulles, Bayeux, Bretteville and others.

Someday, perhaps, we will get one of them to give us his personal impressions of what it was like.

(Source: Courtesy Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Information, and acknowledged with thanks. ED)

THURSDAY, 12 JULY 1979

"Preventive Therapy" being applied to your Editor following receipt of the request from Canadian War Museum for the Roll Call's inclusion in the Museum's reference library.

IN GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We are pleased to offer our deep and grateful thanks to the following for their very generous donations to the Roll Call. The fact that they were spontaneous expressions of approval and completely unsolicited, makes them doubly valued.

These were received during period 10 February 1979 thru 3 August 1979 and were sent directly to the Editor and do not include those sent to our Branch Secretary, Lionel Speller.

F. Logan	Bill Savage
J.W. Leeson (2)	Cliff Matthews (2)
P. Legouarger	Fran Zytaruk (2)
Gord Sissons (2)	Charlie Woods
Art Ferrall (2)	Frank Brown
Joe Rafferty	George Gunson (2)
Joseph Walton (2)	Frank Harding
Tom Dewar	Stan Van Koughnett
Marcien Lafortune	J.H. Hardy
Ken Bell	Art Lousier
James Thom	R.M. Hall
Ken Porter (2)	William Derhak
Robert Dukelow	Martha Adams (2)
Len March (2)	Fred Reich
William Allister	Alex Bourne (UK)

(Figures in brackets indicate number of donations received).

NATIONAL CONVENTION 1979 (Continued)

Royal Mint in Winnipeg arranged for our ladies. It was reported, however, that a good number braved the elements in the hope of picking up a bar or two of that precious metal lying all over the shop, but this could not be authenticated.

That same evening, the Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans -Unit I - extended a royal welcome to Hongkong Vets and their wives, and there was much dancing and merrymaking by the large number there, extending into the small hours of Friday morning.

Friday's Silver Slipper Breakfast, hosted by the City of Winnipeg, proved so popular that a shortfall of over 75 persons occurred, hurried arrangements however, saw everyone departing full-fed, happy and thoroughly appreciative of the welcoming speech by His Honour, Bill Norrie, Mayor of Winnipeg, which not only amused and entertained, but was as interesting as it was short and sweet.

Friday evening the Vets were once again guests, but of the Duke of Kent Legion this time and were once more recipients of a warm welcome. It was with regret that your Editor was unable to attend. He was sitting down to an honest-to-goodness home-cooked dinner with friends. So eat your hearts out, gang!

Saturday morning dawned beautifully clear, with a cloudless sky and the temperature hovering around the 23 deg Celcius mark, so much so, that one rabid B.C. veteran claimed that he'd brought the weather out from the Coast, because as soon as he got off the plane the sun appeared and stayed on for the duration.

In any case, the parade was as impressive as it was an eye-opener for the hundreds who lined the streets to watch. They saw over 150 veterans, most of whom past the 60 mark, marching the mile and more, from the Inn to the Cenotaph and all the way back, in perfect step (one 67-year old vet claimed that the reason for this was that everyone kept in step by watching the swaying hips of a personable female cadet up ahead of the column!!) led by a full band, flag bearers, units of the Winn-

ipeg Grenadier Cadet Corps and the Hongkong Veterans in a column of threes, with Lionel Speller at its head.

The route followed by the parade was as follows: Assembly back of the Inn at Smith, down the lane to Donald, on to St Mary's and on to the Cenotaph via the Mall. The return was back via the Mall, to Portage Avenue and back to the Inn. The Salute was taken by Brig. Dr. John Crawford, the Senior Officer present.

Both the late Padre Laite and Rev. Barnett, taken suddenly ill Thursday, were sadly missed at the ceremony at the Cenotaph.

The remainder of Saturday found the ladies getting prettied up at the hairdressers or shopping, whilst the men occupied themselves with the very pleasant task of renewing old friendships visiting within the hotel or congregating at room 1502 -the hospitality room.

There were, officially, 428 people at the formal banquet hosted by the Province of Manitoba, and head table guests included: His Honor, Lieutenant-Governor, Francis L. Jobin; the Hon. Edward McGill, Minister of Mines & Resources, representing the Premier of Manitoba; His Honor, Mayor Bill Norrie, the Hongkong Veteran hierarchy and their respective wives.

A feature of the speech-making was the pressing into service of a local radio personality, who, acting as the M/C, had the audience in stitches when, after warning the various talkers that he would cut short their speechifying if necessary, with his 'samurai' sword, sat immediately behind each speaker, waving a little pocket knife in a most disconcerting manner.

All in all, it was a happy and successful Convention and we are pleased to take this opportunity to congratulate Bert Delbridge, Sid Vale, Ike Friesen, Frank Harding, Ray Sellars and all the others who worked so very hard to make it so. Especially that group of lovely ladies who sat through two days handling the registrations and doling out the goodies. Thank you, Manitoba, for inviting us to be a part of it all.

AND STILL MORE HITHER AND YON..

Was very pleasantly surprised to have Tom Mulvaney with Southern Alberta-Saskatchewan's V/Pres. "Red " Windsor in tow, dropping in from out of the blue. Had a most enlightening and enjoyable visit - it is always so when Tom comes by and when paired off with "Two-Bun", it is little wonder that the three-hour gab-fest went by with the time unnoticed.

Mrs. Kathleen Porteous writes of having visited Ireland whilst en route to attend the ceremonies at Oxford University, England, where son, Hugh, received his Master of Arts (Oxon.) and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. She adds that it was terribly impressive and that our late comrade, George, would have been so very proud. In Ireland, she visited places I've only heard of in songs like: Tralee, Killarney and such. Why, oh, why don't somebody present me with a cheque so's I could go there - or anywhere else for that matter - too? Congratulations from all of us to you and Hugh. Mrs. Porteous also sends greetings to - I quote - "the blessed Hongkong Veterans."

Our P/R man, Aubrey Flegg, had been missing for some time, and efforts to contact him failed. We now discover that he's been sitting in a boat up thar in the Nations Lakes area, with all intents and purposes to hook onto some unwary grayling, char, trout or something! For them what don't know where it is, the Nations are north of Fort St. James, about 60 miles and on my map are called Tchentlo and Chuchi Lakes. He had been sitting up there, just shy of that famous literary line: "North of 56", since July 12.

And speaking of fishing, you guys from Sendai 2, will be interested to learn that our Doc Pat Cmeyla spent the tail end of August up in the Lac La Ronge country, Northern Saskatchewan, also on an angling kick. It is good to hear that he is fully recovered from the ailment which saw a partial loss of the use of his arm, for a part of last year. Happy landings (we mean fish) Doc! Yeah! Doc's still is in Sioux City, Iowa, where the tallest corn grow!

DVA NEWS RELEASE June 13, 1979

The Honourable Allan McKinnon, Minister of Veterans Affairs, today announced his decision to proceed with the relocation of the Veterans Affairs Headquarters to Charlottetown, P.E.I.

In accordance with the Prime Minister's recent announcement, that the Ministers of the new government would undertake a full review of departmental plans and projects, the Minister has examined the proposed relocation plans and decided that the advantages of relocation to the province of Prince Edward Island, warranted the decision to proceed.

The Minister expressed his pleasure over being able to give an early decision on the matter, so as to prevent uncertainty and dislocation especially for Veterans Affairs staff and project planners.

" SO SORRY "

Due to extra space reservations for coverage of the National Convention in Winnipeg and heavy local happenings affecting B.C. Branch members, some serial instalments have been held over until the next issue. One of those held back is the first instalment of an ambitious attempt to tell the story of Shumshupo. ED

OUR ASININE ARTIST was asked to illustrate: " BATTER UP!"



and he came up with this!

CONVENTION'S NUTS & BOLTS

Went to Winnipeg hoping to meet and greet SOME veterans, many of whom I know only through the nice letters they write me, and was overwhelmed by the avalanche of good wishes and appreciation coming from all sides. Don't know what it is, but I must be doing SOMETHING right. Thanks you guys and you lovely dolls, thank you very much.

To Bert Delbridge, retiring National Council Vice-President, belatedly perhaps, but sincerely nevertheless, our thanks and appreciation for a job well done. Truly sorry you decided not to run again.

A little bird tells me that the latest entry in the Pilgrimage Stakes really originated t'other side of the border. Guess it takes a special type of an opportunist to turn it into a vehicle to get somewhere.

Comment of the Week-end: One enterprising lady reporter kept pressuring me for a copy of the Roll Call and after reading it through during the banquet Saturday, exclaimed: "But this is well written!!" Boy! Talk about an ego-leveller!

Apropos of nothing: It takes a real MAN to accept defeat gracefully and with dignity.

To Ray Sellars, Past President of the Manitoba Branch, goes our "first star" for handling a number of ticklish situations in a manner which will be improved upon. Smashing!

friends, Art Bressi of Ontario and Benson Guyton of Ontario, whose attendance at the Convention was so appreciated, if you to come! You both on our list of "dam welcom-

list of comrades who have passed on (in the Convention Souvenir Booklet) since our last Convention 1977, that the Roll Call has missed a few. Come on, chaps, you're not we hope, trying to hold out on us are you? Their buddies would want to know too.

In the Spring 1979 edition we stated that this National Convention would be a lively, enjoyable and rewarding one. We are happy to say that it has proven to be just that. One contentious issue has been satisfactorily resolved and is now declared closed and dead 'n a doornail.

Once again Walter and Dora Jenkins of B.C. have come up with some fantastic souvenirs. This time it was "COOLIE HATS" suitably marked with the HK emblem and oriental characters which (I may be dead wrong!) tells the world that: somebody desires to spit on someone else's kidneys! and if you don't think that's funny, you should've seen Big John with one of them thar hats perched on top of his head. Fust time I seen a mushroom tree!

NEW PRESIDENT ELECTED (cont from P.1)

was disallowed on a technicality. However, our new President, Lloyd Doull on assuming office, declared that the proposal was well worthy of serious consideration and that it would receive same at a later date.

The afternoon session opened with Art Lousier, Chairman of the Hongkong Pilgrimage 1980, expounding on what the tour comprised and announce the possibility of a visit to Canton, China, being included (that's where friend Chiang Kai Shek was supposed to have hopped on that white horse and come galloping over the Kowloon Hills to help us, remember?). Estimated cost is approx. Can\$2,600 to Can\$2,800 (excluding Canton trip) per head as of this date. Possible changes because of exchange and air fare increases were not being taken into account.

The Election of Officers then followed and that was that, except the brief announcement that the Roll Call had been honoured by being placed in the Canadian War Museum's library in Ottawa last June.

Congratulations are offered to our newly elected Council Executives and a vote of thanks and appreciation to the retiring officers, and to Ken Gaudin, Sec/Treas., our grateful thanks for continuing with the excellent job he has been doing.

*Bert
Dorey
Mr. Rose*

CONVENTION'S NUTS & BOLTS

Went to Winnipeg hoping to meet and greet SOME veterans, many of whom I know only through the nice letters they write me, and was overwhelmed by the avalanche of good wishes and appreciation coming from all sides. Don't know what it is, but I must be doing SOMETHING right. Thanks you guys and you lovely dolls, thank you very much.

To Bert Delbridge, retiring National Council Vice-President, belatedly perhaps, but sincerely nevertheless, our thanks and appreciation for a job well done. Truly sorry you decided not to run again.

A little bird tells me that the latest entry in the Pilgrimage Stakes really originated t'other side of the border. Guess it takes a special type of an opportunist to turn it into a vehicle to get somewhere.

Comment of the Week-end: One enterprising lady reporter kept pressuring me for a copy of the Roll Call and after reading it through during the banquet Saturday, exclaimed: "But this is well written!!" Boy! Talk about an ego-leveller!

Apropos of nothing: It takes a real MAN to accept defeat gracefully and with dignity.

To Ray Sellars, Past President of the Manitoba Branch, goes our "first star" for handling a number of ticklish situations in a manner which will be difficult to improve upon. Smashing! Utterly smashing, Ray.

To our good friends, Art Bressi of Tucson, Arizona and Benson Guyton of Decatur, Alabama, whose attendance at our Convention was so appreciated, t'was nice of you to come! You both rank high on our list of "dam welcomed Yankees!"

See from the list of comrades who have passed on (in the Convention Souvenir Booklet) since our last Convention 1977, that the Roll Call has missed a few. Come on, chaps, you're not we hope, trying to hold out on us are you? Their buddies would want to know too.

In the Spring 1979 edition we stated that this National Convention would be a lively, enjoyable and rewarding one. We are happy to say that it has proven to be just that. One contentious issue has been satisfactorily resolved and is now declared closed and dead 'n a doornail.

Once again Walter and Dora Jenkins of B.C. have come up with some fantastic souvenirs. This time it was "COOLIE HATS" suitably marked with the HK emblem and oriental characters which (I may be dead wrong!) tells the world that: somebody desires to spit on someone else's kidneys! and if you don't think that's funny, you should've seen Big John with one of them thar hats perched on top of his head. Fust time I seen a mushroom tree!

NEW PRESIDENT ELECTED (cont from P.1)

was disallowed on a technicality. However, our new President, Lloyd Doull on assuming office, declared that the proposal was well worthy of serious consideration and that it would receive same at a later date.

The afternoon session opened with Art Lousier, Chairman of the Hongkong Pilgrimage 1980, expounding on what the tour comprised and announce the possibility of a visit to Canton, China, being included (that's where friend Chiang Kai Shek was supposed to have hopped on that white horse and come galloping over the Kowloon Hills to help us, remember?). Estimated cost is approx. Can\$2,600 to Can\$2,800 (excluding Canton trip) per head as of this date. Possible changes because of exchange and air fare increases were not being taken into account.

The Election of Officers then followed and that was that, except the brief announcement that the Roll Call had been honoured by being placed in the Canadian War Museum's library in Ottawa last June.

Congratulations are offered to our newly elected Council Executives and a vote of thanks and appreciation to the retiring officers, and to Ken Gaudin, Sec/Treas., our grateful thanks for continuing with the excellent job he has been doing.