

HONG KONG VETERANS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA QUEBEC MARITIMES BRANCH

June 1994

BANJO GOSSIP NEWSLETTER 1-4 BAMBOO TELEGRAPH

Greetings once more from New Richmond. Summer is once again with us after a long, cold, and wet spring in this neck of the woods. Summer in the Gaspé is the best time of the year with so much greenery, soft breezes off the Baie des Chaleurs, friendly people, absence of violent crime; BUT: the highest unemployment rate in Quebec, more welfare recipients than anywhere except Newfoundland, long, cold winters, far from big centres, etc., etc., BUT: we love it and wouldn't be anywhere else in spite of Parizeau and Bouchard, and their ilk. Once a Gaspesian always a Gaspesian. Check out all those retirees from Ontario moving back home!

EDITORIAL

Can it be fifty years (well, forty-nine) since we were liberated? It seems so long when you look back over the past five decades, but yet so short when you think of all the things you wanted to do but didn't get time to do.

The celebrations of the "D" Day invasion of Normandy evoked strong memories of our own futile encounter with the enemy, and feelings of deep gratitude toward those brave lads who stormed the beaches and were cut down in such large numbers. Without their efforts, who knows what might have happened to the world.

The war was won, but at enormous cost. When you read and hear of the blunders made by the allies, (Hello, there, Terrence and Brian) it seems a miracle that we survived. Was God on our side? Seems like it..

EXECUTIVE MEETING

Our June Executive Committee meeting was held in New Richmond at Branch #72 of the R.C. Legion. Those of you who have attended reunions in New Richmond are familiar with the place.

The following executive committee members were present: Denzil Firth, President, Richard Keays, Henry Lyons, Oswald Clark, Milton MacDonald, Leonard Wood, Joe Bujold, Arnold Ross, Reginald Law, Lawrence Rattie, and Philip Doddridge. Also, we were honoured by the presence of Roger Cyr, our National President, and Harry Atkinson, Pensions and Welfare Chairman.

Routine business included the payment of bills, planning for the Reunion in Fredericton, and the proposal of a replacement for the late Kay Christie as Honourary President. Membership seems to have levelled off at 266. Ossie Clark, nominating committee chairman, gave his report. Unless there are nominations from the floor at our annual meeting, the same slate of officers will be returned,

with a few changes likely at the director level.

REUNION, 1994

A reminder that the reunion is on for September 1 to 4 in Fredericton at Keddy's Hotel. There will be a bus trip to King' Landing, a heritage village on the St. John River. If you wish to participate, you should register on Thursday, September 1, because the bus leaves at 10:00 on Friday from Keddy's.

The price of rooms is the most reasonable we've enjoyed for a long time. \$49.95 for and type of room, that is, single or double.

How to get there: Route 2 passes through Fredericton. If you are coming from the direction of Montreal, take Exit 295, the last one BEFORE crossing the Princess Margaret Bridge.. Keddy's Hotel is only a step away. If you are coming from the direction of Halifax, Exit 295 is obviously the first one AFTER you cross the bridge. Fredericton Airport is not far from the hotel.

The programme in brief, is as follows: Registration Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at the usual hours; Friday, Tour of King's Landing, Buffet and Entertainment in the evening; Saturday, Annual General Meeting, Parade, Banquet, Dance; Sunday, Coffee and Farewell. You'll get a more detailed agenda when you register.

LAST POST

I have to report that, sadly, since the last newsletter, the following comrades have departed: Ralph Hercules Buchanan, Joseph Ralston Hardy, George Shaw, and Delphis Berthelot. At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

DONATIONS

My list is incomplete, so if nobody minds, I'll not print any names until the next newsletter.

CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you one and all for your letters. Some were brief, some were lengthy, but all carried good wishes for the success of the Association, which, I believe, is the closest-knit of any veteran's organization in Canada. Let's keep it that way.

The letters are listed in no particular order, and if I've repeated your name from previous newsletters, it's because I find it difficult to discard your notes once I've recorded them.

Charlie Thompson, Faye Coleman, Alice Gallie, Carol Ste. Croix, Thelma Misson, Trudy Nicol, Beryl Kaine, J.N.(Tojo) Leblanc, Wesley Hamilton, Richard Buchanan, Marion Irvine, Joan Anctil, Betty Ergemann, Arnold Ross, Manita Hardy.

CORRESPONDENCE, SPECIAL MENTION

Charlie Brady addressed his letter to "Fameux Ancien Combattant de Hong Kong" He has sent a joke to Humour Hunt in Legion Magazine. Watch for it.

Lance Ross sent a card from Hawaii.

Earl MacBeath responded to my Lost Trails item in the last newsletter. He is well and expects to join us in Fredericton.

I hope I haven't missed anyone. If I have, write and give me hell!

PERSONALITY

This time I chose to write about Lawrence Rattie. Lawrence, as you know, has been looking after membership for many years. If you think that is a soft job, just stop and realize how important it is to have paid up members. That is what keeps the Association going, and Lawrence has been bugging us all to pay up!

That is not all. On looking back over some of the old correspondence, we find that he has been involved in the Association from away back, holding down many jobs including President of the Quebec-Maritimes Branch.

Lawrence has provided continuity to the Association through thick and thin, has seen many presidents come and go, and is always there when you need him. One small word of warning. Don't try to pull the wool over his eyes !

VARIA

Congratulations to: Dorothy Soper (George) on being elected President of her Legion Branch in Toronto. Bravo!

Olive Josey (Ansel) for having completed fifty years teaching.

Arnold Ross (Arnold who?) has recovered from open-heart surgery and is more cantankerous than ever. He was named "Personality of the Year" for the Town of New Richmond for 1993. After his operation he got right back into action in organizing the 1994 Reunion.

BIOKI

I have no report of hospitalized comrades, but I'm sure there must be some. At our age, hospitalization tends to become the norm, rather than the exception.

PILGRIMAGE, 1995

Some of you may not have received the letter from Veterans' Affairs with information about the Pilgrimage. Seems there was some kind of foul-up in the addresses at VAC. You may know that Frank Harding and Don Nelson are the organizers of this event. Frank has asked me to include the following information, and I do so with pleasure. Incidentally, Frank expects to be with us in Fredericton to give us further details.

Briefly, then, depart from Vancouver to Hong Kong, November 25, 1995; depart from Tokyo to Vancouver December 15, 1995. In between, side trip to Singapore, if desired, and memorial services at cemeteries in Hong Kong and Japan.

If you are interested, you should address your request now as follows:

Hong Kong Veterans Pilgrimage Committee
c/o Mr. Richard Czoch, Western Overseas Agency
219 Selkirk Ave, Winnipeg, MB, R2W 3R6, Phone (204) 586-8059 Fax (204) 582-0249

Name in full _____ () Hong Kong Veteran

Address _____ () Widow of HK Vet

Phone () _____ () Relative or friend
() Other Far East POW

TRIVIA

Newspaper boners: From the Norwood, Ohio Enterprise: Marjorie Evans was slightly bruised Monday afternoon when a car struck her in front of the bank. George Taker, the driver, picked her up, and feeling her all over to make sure no bones were broken, insisted on taking her home where he could make a closer examination.

From the Ootlewah, Tenn. Times: Our paper carried the notice last week that Mr. Herman Ogle is a defective in the police force. This was a typographical error. Mr. Jones is, of course, a detective in the police farce.

Sophie Tucker said, "From birth to eighteen, a girl needs good parents. From eighteen to 35 she needs good looks. From 35 to 55 she needs a good personality. From 55 on she needs cash."

That's all for now, friends. Be good to each other and may God bless.

Philip

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