

1980

VOL. 4:3

THE

ROLL CALL

HONGKONG VETERANS ASSOC^N OF CANADA.



*BRITISH COLUMBIA BRANCH
MAGAZINE*

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, BOB MANCHESTER

"LIFE IS TO BE FORTIFIED BY MANY FRIENDSHIPS.
TO LOVE AND BE LOVED IS THE GREATEST
HAPPINESS OF EXISTENCE."

* * * * *

These words have a very special meaning at this time.
But they alone cannot express the depth of friendship
which has been experienced these summer months.

To our Hongkong family and friends, our fraternal members
in the United States, please accept our humble appreciations
for your loving messages and prayers which have done so much
to give strength and courage to our household in this time
of crisis.

THE ROLL CALL : A quarterly magazine sponsored by the
British Columbia Branch of the Hongkong Veterans Association
of Canada. Offices at: 796 Adiron Avenue, Coquitlam, B.C. V3J 4K2
and at 3628 Saanich Road, Victoria, B.C. V8X 1X3
Editor: John Fonseca

THE ROLL CALL

HONGKONG VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA - BRITISH COLUMBIA BRANCH

VOL: 4 : 3

A U T U M N

1 9 8 0

PAGE 1

ON BLOWING ONE'S HORN

With this edition, the Roll Call enters its fourth year of publication and with each succeeding issue -should the warm appreciation and support continue undiminished - will set new records for itself as, possibly, the one and only veterans' magazine in the country which has not had to contend with controversy, condemnation, conflict or conflagration (had to pore through the old thesaurus to gather these together) of any kind to speak of, but, instead, has been greeted with enthusiasm, eclat, eager expectation and enormous enjoyment (again the thesaurus!) so much so that given continued mental and physical well-being, we hope to see the end of this decade reached with the Roll Call still flourishing.

Encouraging support, both materially and psychologically, has been absolute and tremendous and, in this respect, we cannot feel that we are being either overly gushy or indulging in blowing our own particular horn when we offer you, all our readers, contributors and subscribers, our warmest thanks and congratulations for making it possible for us to keep publishing and enjoying it so much whilst doing so. And while we're about it - include us in also!

Our first edition, back in the fall of 1977, carried our hopes that we were doing the right thing. Our third issue provided us with cause to feel that we were doing so, and ever since then, we haven't had the slightest doubt that we ARE doing the right thing, by simply reading your letters and realising that through the Roll Call, old forgotten ties have been and are being re-established with each succeeding copy we mail out.

Blowing one's horn in this instance is not enough! Anyone got a tuba?

SO AGAIN, THANKS AND ROTS A RUCK !

1980 HK PILGRIMAGE COSTS SLASHED

Belated, but nevertheless, very welcomed was the information received by Pres. Bob Manchester from Tour Director Art Lousier, that the Federal Government, through the D.V.A., has released a special grant which will see a further reduction to the total cost of land arrangements for the 1980 HK Veterans Association official Pilgrimage to Hongkong and Japan which will take off in November this year.

As a result of this, the total overall cost per person for the trip, to include all hotel accommodations, air fare, meals and local tours (except the side trips to Canton, China and/or Bangkok, Siam) is now estimated to be, because of the reduction and depending on the number making the trip, \$2,178.00 per person. BUT, there is a catch! The reduction applies only to HK Veterans or widows. Wives pay the whole \$1,678.00 plus air fare!

We are not informed as to what arrangements in respect of a possible extension of deadline for deposits (15 August 1980 originally) is being made in order to permit those undecided to take advantage of the reduced fare.

It is recommended that anyone who is now interested in joining the group, contact immediately Art Lousier, 505 Stalker Bay, Winnipeg, Man. R2G 0C9, or phone him directly.

TOMMY MARSH STRICKEN

With much concern we have just been informed that Tommy Marsh suffered a severe and massive heart attack sometime the week-end of Augst 9-10. He, however, is fighting a good fight at home in Kelowna. Address 1913 Lindahl Street, Kelowna, B.C. V1Y 3 Z6.

And while we're at it, also scheduled to undergo surgery mid-August are Stan Van Koughnett and your Editor, both of B.C.

EDITORIAL

Just about now, some thirty four years ago, all of us were looking forward to our personal 'homecoming' with high expectancy to start in on the task of rebuilding lives so rudely interrupted by four long years of enforced separation.

Today, in a rapidly changing world where values are being dictated by need greed and speed, it is felt that we should pause for a moment to remember those comrades and buddies who we left behind on some foreign shore and those who have since left us and to give thanks for what we have, ourselves, received and achieved, since then.

Back then, circumstances having reduced all men to one common level, the spirit of comradeship, compassion and understanding was a way of life and a helping hand was always there in the hour of need.

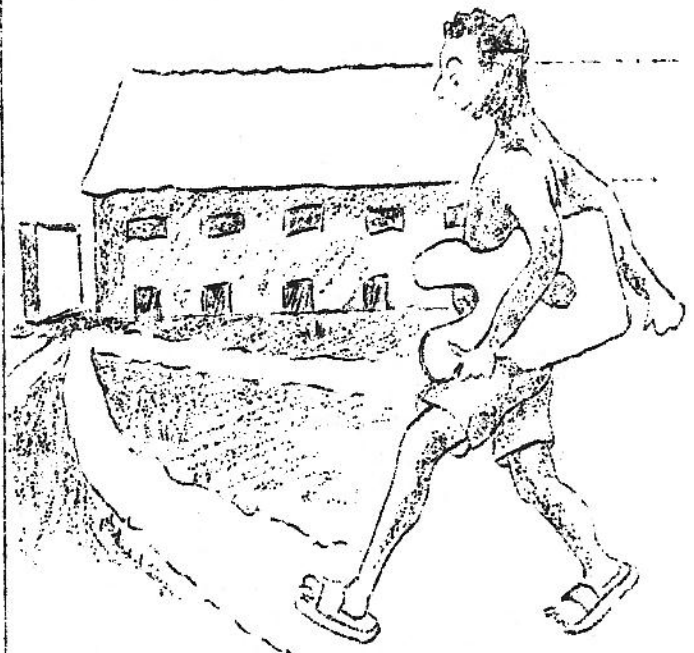
We are proud to say that that spirit, thanks to the selfless and unstinted efforts of men who, either as executives of various branches or just plain members, both past and present, has and is being kept alive through the Association. The Roll Call, in its diaphanous stage when compared to these men, is proud to have become a part of it all. But prouder still to have provided the medium through which you, our readers and contributors, by the warmth of the support offered, too, are keeping that spirit alive.

Today, with many of us having successfully carved a niche into which they have retired in peace and contentment, and many others in the process of doing so, there remain, however, a few who still bear the scars of those fateful years mentally and/or physically, and are in need of that comradeship.

In this regard, the Roll Call hopes to help lighten their burden and seek your help in bringing those who still suffer in their remembering, into our mailing list- and there are still many by passing on the word.

Someone wrote that those who do not participate do not because they have not the heart for it. Let us help you find that heart through the fellowship born of those tragic days.

For without heart, there is nothing.

INVENTORS' CORNER

" and thrice armed is he, who bears with him, his **SPLASH SHIELD** !"

STOP PRESS

No final confirmation is available at time of going to press regarding the B.C. Branch bi-annual Reunion, scheduled for Victoria this fall. Members will be advised by separate notice when arrangements are finalised.

A WORD FROM YOUR EDITOR

We regret to advise that due to a number of things, mailing of this issue of the Roll Call could be delayed until early September.

The cause for this possibility is due to circumstances beyond our control - to be specific, how rapidly your Editor is able to recover from the surgery which will take place during a period vital to preparation of the Roll Call for normal publication, the fourth week in August.

So please bear with us and keep your fingers crossed in the hope that we will not spoil the record.

Knock! Knock! Who's there?
Euripedes! Euripedes! Who?
Euripedes pants and I'll have to wear my fundishi to church!!
(Sheer unadulterated corn, Ed.)

OUR PADRE'S DIARY Rev. U. Laite, M.C.
(continued)

Dec:16th. At "B" H.Q.-Major Hook. Visited men at different stations as well as R.C.A.M.C. at Pokfullam.

Dec:18th. In afternoon sent to see Lt (Rusty) Young and men at Aberdeen and had dinner with them after which left for Little Hongkong to visit "A" H.Q. - Major Gresham. Shortly after arrival Brigade H.Q. telephoned for C.O. to be ready to move. The order was cancelled later, but within two hours another order came through to say the enemy at Jardine Lookout. Within a few minutes Maj. Gresham and his H.Q. Staff were on the march. I went with them and expected to see action with them. After an hour or so, while resting by side of road near Wong Nei Chong Gap, and waiting for other Co: platoons to contact him, he met a runner Kutot (Kohut ?) from D. Coy; and advised me to go with him and remain at D. Co: H.Q. for the rest of the night. We certainly walked into what, later in the morning, and for four days became a veritable death trap.

Capt. Bowman and his Co: went into action shortly after my arrival, and during early forenoon, Capt. Bowman was killed and his 2 I/C - Lt. R.W. Philip and Capt. Bush, seriously wounded. I took charge of any wounded brought in and applied field dressings to them. Later in the day it was learned that our Brigadier had been killed near his H.Q., just across the way from our H.Q. That night we moved our wounded from H.Q. shelter to the kitchen, hoping to be rescued but spent until the fourth day there in a veritable Hell fire. Bombs, snipers, hand grenades, trench mortars and shells were played on our section, and on Monday the 22nd, our men were out of ammunition and forced to surrender. At that time we had more than thirty wounded men in our shelter including Col: Reg Walker of the H.K. Volunteers, Lt. Philip, Lt. Blackwood. During the four days the few men left displayed marvellous skill, courage and daring.

Monday, Dec. 22nd, at 7:30-8, we surrendered. The enemy officers, with interpreter, came and took me up for questioning, and later had me go to Brigade

H.Q. and other places to find men, ammunition and other supplies. They gave me water for my wounded, and later allowed me to take six tins of milk to them as well. They left me with the five serious cases for about two hours and then led me to their H.Q. where they fed me biscuits, meat (bully) and water, and later sent an N.C.O. and three riflemen with me through their lines. This experience was more harrowing than the four days and nights with our men under fire. At such times we forget wounds or death in the thought of serving others, and in that service a new comradeship was born.

NOTE- Found body of Brigadier Lawson, and was permitted to remove his arm band. (There is a sequel and a story in itself, to be told later. ED)

Late that day I reached the Naval First Aid Station at the Grand Stand, Race Track, after being taken in by a Chinese resident and fed biscuits and milk. At the Station Dr. Selwyn Clark the D.M.H. took me in a Red Cross car to Queen Mary Hospital, and ordered me to bed, and quiet, for three days. I was there for twenty-nine days when with forty-seven other patients from different units, I was sent to Shamshuipo Military Prison Camp. After two days all Canadians in this camp were taken to North Point Camp on Jan 22nd.

Jan:25th, 1942, Sunday. Our first service in a prison camp. Capt. Barnett of R.R. of C. took Communion Service at 8:15 a.m. when fifty of us attended, including Naval - which came to camp yesterday - and Military. At 11:00-11:20 we had a brief service in the square attended by Military and Naval - about 1200 attended. I took charge of service, and Barnett was to preach but rain came on and we omitted it. One comment later was that we had a Baptist service, conducted by a U.C. and shared by a C. of E. The Naval padre is in camp and we shall co-operate in future. A band has already been assured us, and while we lost service books etc., we can type hymns for future use.

(to be continued next issue)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear John: Please be advised that I am the "Dave Adams" mentioned in your book (Roll Call -Summer 1980-Camp 3-D Roster-Page 7) and my initials are "T.M." not "D.H.". Corp.Adams,"D.M."

Vancouver,B.C. David M. Adams

So Sorry,Dave. I thought it had to be you.That's why I added the correct initials in brackets. Them Nips could never spell right anyhow!.

Dear John: I'm not sure if I owe any monies for 1980, but enclose cheque to cover Roll Call and the rest for the Kitty and by the way, the Roll Call have been coming in pairs!

Also enclosed are five pictures,three diehard individuals who I have not forgotten but their names have failed my weak mind. Perhaps you can find the owners. The only thing I want back from this package is the one picture of the group of Grenadiers.

Back home from Arizona. Had a good winter. Had visits from Ray Sellars and Art Lousier. For now take care.

Beausejour, Man. Dick Wilson

Dick, Sure appreciate your generosity and interest. By now you should have received the two pictures of the group of Grenadiers at Sendai together with a long delayed return of your album- for which many,many sorries! Trouble with you-all wot winter in the South is that you're listed on our mailing list as well as on Lionel's -who is responsible for mailing to the U.S.of A. Keep the extra copy or pass it on. Many thanks, keep well and in touch.

Dear John: Enclosed find a small donation to keep the Roll Call rolling along.

I think there are a few names missing from 3-D Camp list and mine is one. I haven't seen C.C.Fines either or maybe I missed a copy. Hope not, it sure brings back some good and some bad memories. Mostly bad I guess.Let's hope 1980 will be a good year for all of us and keep up the good work.

Vancouver,B.C. W.A.Rodgers.

Bill: Please be patient.There are 300 more names from 3-D to come. Thanks.

Dear John: A small note to thank you for your letter of May 2nd, which I picked up an hour ago from our box. I trust this newsletter will reach you in time for your publication. Others will receive one next week. Sometimes I think the mail could be delivered faster by hand. Best regards.

Scarboro,Ontario Wally Grey.

Wally: As you must have noted,we made it O.K. and will keep on making it if you keep sending them in by 10th of every second month of each quarter. Thanks very much for your unfailing co-operation. John

Dear John: Well, I just received my Roll Call and am sure glad to receive it, as I sure look forward to it.You sure do a good job John and it is nice to hear where a lot of my pals are. Keep it up.

I don't know but I think I am not up to date with me payment, So am sending you this cheque. Would sure miss the Roll Call if I didn't receive it.

Winnipeg, Man. R.D.(Scotty) Adams.

Scotty: Nothing pleasesme more than when you write " my Roll Call",because that is what the R.C. is all about.It belongs to all Hongkong Veterans and the sooner all our readers feel the same as you, the sooner we'll have it made - all together. John

Dear John: Just a note to let you know we have moved again. We are now at the above address.

Just got back from a month's trip on the Greyhound Bus Lines. We enjoyed their goodwill price cut. Had a good visit with our son.

All the best to you and your charming wife. Enclosed is a small donation for the Roll Call, which we both enjoy.

Clearbrook, B.C. Joyce Brown

Joyce dear: Must have been quite atrip but a rewarding one. So happy you had an enjoyable visit with your son. We are not so lucky. Our son visits US twice a week,bringing his laundry for Elsa and scrounging supper at the same time. Oh! If he could only cook!! Say Hello to Murray and God Bless!

MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Johnny: I've been trying to get around this since March, but invariably something interferes-like grass mowing, wood cutting, painting, resting-it seems there is always something.

Anyway, one purpose of this letter is enclosing this other piece of paper. We know the costs of paper, ink, stamps and other goodies for the Roll Call are among the necessities of life which somehow or other must be paid if one's life is to be the best possible and we want that for ourselves, of course. We hope the enclosed will sustain us and maybe help some other way as well.

Audrey and I are really sorry we couldn't get to the last HKVA get-together. We've found some of the best people in the world gather at those affairs. In between our visits, of course, the Roll Call keeps us informed about the activities of the brothers to our north.

We hope to see you again shortly. Until then, keep well, have fun, stay healthy and be careful. Regards.

Gig Harbor, Wash. Jack 'n Audrey Brady

After which I needs must wax poetic, and say that the above is the steel that reinforces the concrete binding you all south of the border with us-all up here. That was sue one great "do" down in Bellevue way. You did us real proud.

Dear John: Before I forget (I tend to forget), here is something to keep the Roll Call coming in. I might add that except for the odd bout of malaria, the after effects of dysentery, odd twinges of beri-beri, mild attacks of pellagra and other odd aches and pains, I feel O.K. Greetings to all.

North Vancouver, B.C. Ev Lawrence

And when we add the increase in mortgage rates, higher prices on beer, gas and whatever, you, Ev, like all other HK Vets, are sure one tough "hombre!" and let's keep it that way. Thanks.

THE ROLL CALL

Editor: John Fonseca, 796 Adiron Avenue Coquitlam, B.C. V3J 4K2 and c/o Lionel Speller, 3628 Saanich Rd., Victoria, B.C. V8X 1X3.

Dear John: Please accept my thanks for your letter April 14th. Regrettably, due to temporary misfortune, I will not be attending the Las Vegas AMexPOW National Convention, and the Winnipeg time-table is in doubt -more on this later.

The Roll Call is serving our cause extremely well-please quote me.

We are aware that President Bob's wife, Edna, will be undergoing surgery soon; our very best and optimistic hopes ride with this letter. We are pleased others are recovering, Lionel, Bill and Elsa.

With kindest regards, and promise to forward material you may wish to use, sincerely.

Drummondville,
Quebec.

Lloyd Doull
President
Nat'l Council

As greatly relieved, as was concerned, to hear you've recovered from your recent indisposition. Take it easy, for we're no longer young cockerels. Our Edna, who underwent open heart surgery 26th June, took her first walk July 3. Isn't that great? John

Dear John: I sure enjoy reading the Roll Call. It brings back many memories as I go through the names of old buddies that I have not seen or heard of since the end of the war, and I am sure each and every one of us will be looking forward to every volume with Padre Laite's diary in it. It's sure great that you were able to come up with that.

There is a chap who works in the office who has been quite interested in Padre Laite as he and his wife were married by him in Vancouver before we were sent to Hongkong. I let him read each volume when I receive it and he thoroughly enjoys it. Very sorry to hear our First Lady, Edna Manchester, was on the sick list and sincerely hope everything turns out for the best.

Keep up the good work and enclosed a small donation to help keep the Roll Call rolling.

Courtenay, B.C.

Reg Smith

Your continued support sure helps. We missed you at our last reunion. John

WELL, SOMEBODY'S GOT TO SAY IT

Some time back, we predicted that 1980 would be a year promising exciting possibilities. Now, in early August, we find a small measure of pride in the fact that, so far, we've been right.

Commencing with that farce of an election, which saw a new government voted into power before half our provincial voters had cast their ballots, we had, following shortly after; that "Referendum" which only succeeded in dividing, angering and confusing an already confused political scene; we saw an explosion, caused by a single man's decision, in interest rates and incredible prices offered for gold and silver in the market place.

Speaking of explosions, Mt St Helens in Washington, blew its top on 18 May 1980, with such a terrific bang that it was heard here in Coquitlam, some 250 miles away and since then, gives no indication that it is all over, but with recurring eruptions in July, the possibility of Mt. Baker, right at our back door doing the same, threatens.

To the above, add minor earth tremors all along the Andreas Fault from Mexico to Alaska - and we lie pretty close, if not actually on it! - which serve to nag us with a possible major earthquake occurring; a merry free-for-all between our premiers and the Prime Minister whilst we sit and watch Canada edge closer to the brink; the devastating drought accompanied by immense forest fires in the Prairies; a cold and wet June out here on the Coast to presage a really bad winter (in mid-July the garden's already strewn with dead leaves!) and now when summer finally arrives, the beer supply dries up!

To cap it all, price of oil's gone up two bucks a barrel, of food 12% from the last quarter and in mid-August, I will be in dock undergoing surgery!

And with five months still to come, you ask me: Am I concerned? Well, my Friends, concerned I am not! Only mad and plain scared to hell !! However,

in reality, things are not really that bad. The above is a result of having of creamed artichoke, raw squid and mushroom, washed down with a glass of Cabernet Sauvignon, last night.

THE FONZ

DEFINITIONS

KURA!



DE BUMS
RUSH

JIBAKU



SELF
DESTRUCT!

YASUME



COFFEE
BREAK?

SERAMPANG



PRETTY
BL...Y
ANFUL!

DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED

The following is a list of donations received by your Editor, which together with subscriptions for 1980 (not included on the list), during period May 8, 1980 through August 8, 1980, which we acknowledge with deepest thanks and appreciation. We feel we must point out that they are unsolicited and purely voluntary and are, therefore, much, much more gratifying

R.C. (Dick) Wilson
Jack Brady (Wash. USA)
Miss Barbara Jones
Everest Lawrence
Jack Rose
Harold Halsall
John Matheson
Mrs. Martha Adams
Robert (Flash) Clayton
Glenford Mann
Cecil Currie
Albert Rheault

The above are separate from donations sent to Secretary Lionel Speller together with dues, and will be listed when we receive same from him.

HITHER AND YON WITH FONZ

Glenford Mann phoned all the way from Cobourg, Ontario, to deny that he spent anytime watching the lovelies on Main Street in neighbouring Port Hope. He did though admit that the thought was there but the lens of his telescope kept getting fogged over! Anyway, Glen, your call sure came as a welcomed and pleasant surprise especially since it brought on a lot of cheer to an otherwise dismal, damp and dreary June day out thisaway.

Re the unidentified trio in the photo of the Grenadiers at Sendai 2 (Roll Call, Summer 1980, Page 17) Sid Vale writes from Edmonton:

"Who could fail to recognise Lionel (Speller) in the photopage? The "dis" and the other "dat" I'm afraid I don't recognise.

In the Grenadier photo * Jack Chatwell (Ontario Branch) is standing between Bradbury and Rix, and Fred Poitras is seated between Temple and Haskayne. Although the face is certainly familiar I can't recall the name of the man beside Jack Davies. Those tough Grenadiers As far as I can recall, there are only five of that group who are not still with us today!"

Thanks and good show, Sid. Re the "dis" and "dat", we realise it is difficult to recognise those ferocious looking boys, but anyone with a bellyful of beans and barley, and a black hole for a benjo, would look and feel fierce!

We were very happy to receive a letter reassuring us of the safe return home, following a forced evacuation from the forest fires raging around Ontario's Kenora-Red Lake area, of the Rheaults, Al, Pat and son Bob. See Page 9 for the letter.

As for Ted Dunderdale, also in danger of being evacuated because of forest fires in Gimli, Manitoba, we trust he is also O.K., and hope that he, when he reads this, or somebody over there, write in to set our minds at ease.

The policewoman, one of a raiding party said: "When I searched defendant, she had 3000 one-pound notes hidden in her bra." Defence counsel told court that it was part of his client's treasure chest which she had been building up!

Mel and Melva Keyworth, after years there, moved out of Powell River (our Sunshine Coast) end of June to settle out Abbotsford way in the Fraser Valley. Happy retirement to both of you and, hopefully, we'll be seeing more of you.

And speaking of moving, we have this time another good companion and old comrade, Lou Specht, from Winnipeg, Manitoba, settling in B.C. They've decided for the Okanagan, specifically, Kelowna. Last we heard they were pretty close to the Cliff Newcombs - in fact the same apartment complex. From all of us, welcome to the land of high mountains, clear streams and God's green acres.

All Hongkong Veterans and friends of the Manchesters, will be happy to learn that Edna came through open-heart surgery with flying colours. The massive operation to relieve not one, but three blockages, was successful enough to permit our First Lady to take a short walk three days after the operation.

In the same vein, also recovering nicely but slowly, is our friend Gerry McKnight. He entered Shaughnessy Hospital on 12 July for possible surgery on an artery blockage in his neck which was causing some effect on his right eye.

We are happy to report that Gerry's back home and taking things easy and that the operation was successful and he's AOK.

Funny thing happened to me down at the Washington State AMEXPOW Convention in Bellevue last May. One of the door prizes was a beautiful driftwood clock handfinished by our friend, Joe Galloway, and when purchasing the raffle tickets, I stated that it was what I was going to bring back to Canada with me.

Two nights later, at the banquet, a pretty young miss put her hand into the box and, you guessed it, drew out the stub with my name on it. I leave it to you guys what believe in mental telepathy, ESP, astrology or whatever, to explain it. All I know is that it adds a touch of class to our dining room wall.

AND MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear John: Just a short letter to inform you that my Roll Call arrived in the afternoon mail, and was waiting for me when I got home from work last night. I read it as soon as I got in - then kissed my wife! As usual, I enjoyed it - the Roll Call I mean.

The Padre's diary should make for some interesting reading, in its continuation, and help some of us to recall dates and events that our ageing memories have forced us to forget.

Keep up your good work with the "Letters to the Editor". Among many others I feel it is one of the better features of the magazine. I have spotted names of writers many times I have thought about often, and wondered just where they are, and if in fact they are still with us. Hank Mayberry in the last issue is an example, I haven't heard a word about him for years.

Must run John, just wanted you to know that I received my Roll Call so you wouldn't spend postage sending another as I know you would if you thought I didn't have one. Kindest regards.

Edmonton, Alta. Sid Vale

Sid: Happy you got it. Damn mail was awful slow this time. Yours and all others were posted 28 May - over two weeks before! Also next time kiss your wife first. Can't have the R.C. become the third angle of a domestic triangle. See Hither and yon for your identification of missing Grenadiers. John.

Dear John: Enclosed please find my cheque for two or three years subscriptions and the balance as you see fit.

I enjoy the Roll Call very much and hope that it and you and yours continue to roll along in good health. Sincerely.

Winnipeg, Man. John C. Matheson

John: Thanks for your kind thought and consideration. So glad you like the Roll Call. I note that you're in the same building complex as Mrs. Martha Adams and not far from Harry Cameron. If you should by chance run into either of them, please convey my greetings and regards.

In the meanwhile, keep hearty, happy and healthy. John

Dear John: As I said on the telephone I would send my subs, also Mr. Forrest Dreger's for this year and a little bit extra, for all the enjoyment of reading the Roll Call. Sure is nice to see all the guys names and to read the letters from them all in your magazine.

I am one of those who were on the USS Ozark. I was in Camp #3 Niigata, Shintetsu gang and I guess the men will remember when we got the bulk Red Cross supplies how we traded off the shaving cream to the gals for beauty cream. They would come to work in the morning all lathered up with shaving cream. They gave us roasted beans in return for it, and how we used the tooth powder on our rice!

May I say keep up the good work. I'm sure all Hongkong Vets enjoy your news as I do. I expect to get out your way this fall and I hope to stop by and have a little visit with you.

Cobourg, Ontario Glenford Mann

Glen: Your 'bit extra' floored me. It is much too generous but many thanks. Re the shaving cream for beans trade, that was enterprising; but how could you fool those poor Nip gals? Will be looking forward to your coming out this way. I'm in the phone book so be sure you call. Meanwhile, take it easy

Hi John: Hope these few lines find you and yours well. Enjoy the Roll Call very much as every once in a while a name pops up, like Frank Petch. Also meeting again with Ed Toews, the Jenkins and others in Winnipeg. Just great. Keep up the good work and accept my donation.

Our thoughts are with your Edna and we know all will turn out well.

Brechin, Ontario Flash and Jessie Clayton.

Bob: It sure was one nice 'happening' for me meeting you and Jessie and all the guys and gals in Winnipeg, and I trust it will occur again and soon. The 'G' was the result of too many comics. I immediately connected the 'Flash' with 'Gordon'. So sorry. It will be remedied right away. For now, our bestest and God Bless! John

AND YET MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear John: Had been waiting on the Roll Call which arrived yesterday. Albert is always most interested in receiving it. Yours truly read every word of it also. Thanks for the write up on the Rheaults.

Yea, we just got home and we had to evacuate. The fires were very bad all around us and on Sunday, visibility was nil for the smoke. About 10.30 p.m. a Ministry of Natural Resources worker came to our door. At this time he took down all our names and told us we were to be on the alert to evacuate. Told us to pack what we wanted to take and they would let us know if we had to leave. I don't think anyone can describe in words the sick feeling we all had when we knew we were about to perhaps lose everything, house, camp, everything!

What does one pack at a time like this, when you have been married thirty three years? A favourite picture, crystal, China, silver? I took our wedding picture off the wall, our phot albums and our Family Bible, plus clothes for Albert, I and our son, Robert, who is seventeen. After we did this chore, we had showers and went to bed. One would think there would be no sleep but strangely enough, we slept well. Was awakened at 5:45 a.m. Monday morning by the RCMP and a Natural Resources man and told to leave immediately. The fire was headed our way. They were afraid we would be burned out.

We were all to register at the Rec Centre in Kenora and then go west to Winnipeg or stay with friends or relatives in Kenora for the fire had crossed the highway east and it was closed. We have a daughter who lives near Minaki, which is northwest of Kenora and we went there. Kenora was also on the evacuation alert. Schools were closed, families were asked to keep everyone at home and close together and listen to the radio station. This we did, on pins and needles and then, the wind changed and saved our little town. They allowed us to return home Thursday evening. The police were all over making sure there were no looters lurking around. We were indeed all very thankful and pleased to return to our humble abodes.

(continued top next column)

I am enclosing the pictures and as you will see, I am not a photographer, but they are a real treasure to us. We had such a lovely meeting in Vancouver. It was too bad we didn't see or meet Elsa. Perhaps next time. We are planning to go on the Pilgrimage to Hongkong in November, are you going? Enclosed please find a small donation to the Roll Call. Sincerely

Redditt, Ontario (Mrs) Pat Rheault.
Pat dear: Relief that you're all safe and sound matched the pleasure in getting the photos. Yes! You're no photographer but you're terrific! John

Dear John: Your letter came just as I was getting ready to take off on a vacation down through the U.S. picking up Viola and her youngest sister who were visiting an older sister in New Hampshire, hence delay in replying.

Regarding Lloyd, to the best of my knowledge, he is not well, although I have a letter that arrived when I was away, and I quote: "Still not up to par, having a hard time, but should start to go uphill soon. Received many cards and letters which must be answered." I am concerned however. Let's hope he will pull out of this one.

Your point re the Roll Call is well taken and I shall do all possible to get more former members of the Royal Rifles interested.

That's about it, old friend. Viola joins me in sending best wishes to everyone in your household and to all members of the B.C. Branch. Trust my old sidekick, Lionel, continues to improve. Take care, now.

St. Lambert, Quebec Ken Gaudin

Your help in trying to get the Roll Call more firmly established in your area surely appreciated and hope that it will not inconvenience you. Thanks for your support, also news re Lloyd. We share your concern. Lionel is as well as ever. Will be sending you a few extra copies of this issue and finally, trust your vacation was a rewarding and enjoyable one. John

THE SHUMSHUIPO STORY (Part 1V)

As stated at the end of the last instalment, we were going too fast, and in the interests of accuracy(?) we retract a bit to tell it as it was.

The first few months at Jubilee Buildings were spent in trying to scratch out an existence on much less than the bare necessities. It was during this period that a new breed of POW was born they were "the Traders". There were the Gray Brothers, Charlie and Frank, who through connections on the outside, were able to get food and cigarettes into camp through the good offices (and in all probability, well-oiled palms) of Japanese sentries and launched into an extremely lucrative business exchanging much needed goods for cheques, IOUs or cash of various currencies. In a much lesser scale, there was the South African - a Boer - who was known as Trader Horn, and he, succeeded in establishing himself as a minor version of 'King Rat'. Never got to know his real name.

Then came the odd individuals who had the advantage over the rest in knowing Japanese. Amongst these were George Lemay, Alfred(?) Rance and Mike Mendonca. And pretty soon they were selected by the Japanese to act as interpreters. They were pretty good at it and we all liked to think that they were instrumental in convincing some of the guards, more sadistic than others, to go easier on us.

Don't know what happened to Lemay. But Rance went with a draft to Japan (3-D?) and Mendonca, the story goes, somehow earned the ire of the Japanese and one day was reported missing and was never seen again.

Then, of course, there was Major Boon. I do not believe there was any POW in Shumshuipo who had the words to describe the shame and disgust of being even remotely connected with this British Army Officer of rank. No one ever bothered to ask why he acted the way he did. It was sufficient to watch with anger and contempt his bowing and scraping to every Jap in his vicinity, and this contempt rubbed off on to anyone attached to his office - which may be unfair, but true nevertheless.

But there were also lighter sides to life in Shumshuipo. Met a Tommy who'd

somehow acquired a battered old guitar and purchased it off him for the grand sum of 21 cigarettes. This turned out to be the best buy I ever made.

Apart from the depleted Middlesex Band, this appeared to be the only instrument in the camp at that time. A few of us would sit on the parade ground of an evening and strum and hum for the heck of it, and pretty soon there'd be twenty around us, then fifty, then a hundred and then so many you couldn't see the fence for the crowd around. Requests came from all over the place and all one had to do was to give off with the first chord and the crowd then took it from there.

Perennial favourites were: South of the Border, the Lights of Home, Long Long Trail A-winding, Loch Lomond, Pack up your Troubles and so on and on. A voice from out of the dark asks for "You're the Only Star in my Blue Heaven" and immediately after, someone would call for "My Blue Heaven. Bye Bye Blackbird, Waltzin' Matilda and Springtime in the Rockies would roar out from a thousand and more throats aching to let offsteam. And here and there a voice would crack a bit as "Home Sweet Home" was played. It was tremendous, terrific and sad all rolled into one.

There was also bridge, casino and gin rummy; scrounging for odds and ends which, with imagination and initiative, could be converted into something useful, and if that wasn't enough, there was always the topic of food to discuss and pass the time of day with.

I think it was sometime in June that we moved out of Jubilee to the huts and received our baptism of the bed-bugs. The huts were windowless shells of what once held 30 men with each his own bed, and now 70 on a mat covered platform, dubbed "tatami". Never could discover where the lumber for the 'tatamis' came from, but they were the breeding ground of all the bed-bugs in China. Not only were they night prowlers, but adding insult to injury, they were as hungry as we, with the difference that we were the prey. Turn off the light, count to ten and switch on again and you had a 'red tide' comin' at you! Remember, gang?

THIS ONE REALLY STINKS

We were deeply disturbed to note one little item in the B.C. Branch News published elsewhere in this issue, which reads: "We regret the B.C. HK boys were not invited to the Canadian Hospitality Room (in Las Vegas)."

Under the assumption that the H.K. Veterans Association of Canada was represented by someone, because President Lloyd Doull's illness prevented him from going, we feel forced to ask that delegate why wasn't the contingent from B.C. - three couples - advised that there was a Canadian Hospitality Room - and we are informed that there was one - at the AMEXPOW National Convention in Las Vegas, last July?

We find the word "invited" sticking to our craw and feel that no invitation should ever be necessary for any Hong-Kong Veteran to enjoy freedom of access to any Canadian Hospitality Room, if there is one, where there is a National Council member officially representing the Association in charge, wherever it may be held at.

We also feel constrained to point out, as it appears to be a question of sheer ignorance in this instance, that the function and responsibility of a representative of our Association does not stop dead at the glory of adding a title to one's name, but includes the duty to ensure that all visiting HK Vets are fully informed and advised as to what amenities are available to them.

If our information is correct, and we have no reason to doubt that it is, we not only seek, but expect, an official explanation of what must be considered a blatant disregard, amounting to a gross dereliction of duty by that representative, towards maintaining the spirit of our Association; which is to be sent to all Branches, and to the B.C. Branch, an apology for the omission added.

Don't blame us. We're not trying to rock the boat, but the offence, especially in the midst of strangers, is much too serious to be permitted to go past without us giving that dunghill, he so idiotically built all by himself, a little stirring so that he will know how it stinks! What price egoism?

You sure blew it! Johnny Stroud!

JOHN FONSECA

LEST WE FORGET

It is with deepest and profound regret that we report the passing of the following friends and comrades. We offer our sincerest condolences to their families and friends.

BENNETT, RON	MANITOBA
CARUSO, DOMINIC	- " -
DAME, RICHARD	U.S.A.
FRENETTE, JOE	QUEBEC
GEDDES, KEITH	ALBERTA
GRIMSHAW, GEORGE	QUEBEC
JOHNSTON, CLIFFORD	MANITOBA
JOSEPH, ALEXANDRE	QUEBEC
MACK, FREDERICK	B.C.
MILLER, JOHN W.	MANITOBA
NIXON, JOHN	QUEBEC
SMITH, FRANK	MANITOBA
SOUTHGATE, MARCUS	ONTARIO
TREMBETH, BERT	MANITOBA
WOODRICH, RUSSELL	U.S.A.

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

CAMP 3-D ROSTER (japanese listing)

The following, from both Regiments, are names listed under Group 5 at 3-D Camp: R.R.C. W.G.

Adams, R.L.	Trembeth, R.H.
Dewey, R.A.	Milloy, J.
Mason, F.C.	Creedon, H.E.
St. John, R.E.	Davis, H.T.
Tennier, J.A.	Duplaga, S.
LaPointe, A.D.	Eggie, E.D.
Roberts, A.G.	Fagg, S.
Green, W.S.	Fisher, C.E.
Cyr, A.	Garde, F.G.
Coleman, R.	Gcoch, A.H.
Lott, R.C.	Goodey, J.S.
Doody, I.	Houston, J.S.A.
Keays, A.C.	LaJeunesse, R.
Durrant, F.W.	Malbeuf, E.P.
Lavoie, J.J.	Matthews, A.S.
Irvine, J.N.	Nairn, A.P.
Englehart, H.W.	Noel, M.D.
Baker, G.W.B.	Olsen, S.G.C.
Lockhart, L.O.	Soroka, M.
Blanchard, A.	Phibault, H.J.
Harrison, G.M.	Wagner, A.
McKee, C.E.	Wallace, D.
Nolan, E.R.	Wheatcroft, G.W.
Simpson, P.	Cox, A.J.
Haley, D.	McGavin, J.R.

From here until Group 9, will be listed mostly, if not only, W.G.

NOW IT CAN BE TOLD

From Tom Mulvaney, who dropped in to visit, comes this: Seems like Tom was over at Wanchai Gap together with Big Paul Amp, when the Japs zeroed in on their listening post.

The way he tells it, there was all kinds of Made in Japan scrap metal flying through the air in his vicinity and the way it followed him around as he kept changing position, it appeared that they kind of didn't like him!

In any case, one big shell, screaming obscenities in Japanese, landed not far uphill from the foxhole where he'd taken refuge and all of a sudden everything went black. His last thought was that he'd finally bought it and that that was it!

But it wasn't going to be that easy, and he recovered consciousness to find a worried and concerned Big Amp trying to revive him by waving a pannikin of rum under his nose. Upon Tom's declaring that a Japanese mortar shell had finally got him, a sheepish Amp said: "That was no shell. That was the rock I threw to let you know that I was getting the hell outta here!"

Tom remembers that as he took off at high speed downhill, he passed a statue of a man running. In reality, it was Big Amp also going all out!

Tom concluded with: "That was no ruddy rock he threw! It was a bl....y BOULDER!"

About mid-July I felt that a physical was called for and after the usual examination my doctor recommended an exploratory X-rays merely as a precautionary measure.

Many of you will know what the preparations entail, but for the uninitiated, the would-be X-Rayee takes 2 ozs (four TABLESPOONS) of Castor Oil at 4 p.m. the evening before and then insult is added to injury by the positioning of a suppository in a location selected to cause the most discomfort, whilst no food, solid or liquid is permitted for the 16 hours prior to the X-raying.

Now, as one of them what 'live to eat' and not 'eat to live' (there is a big difference here) this was bad enough, but what occurred when the castor oil (continued next column)

took effect was absolutely incredible!

Everybody supports Terry Fox and his magnificent "Run for Cancer" attempt, a feat for which he will undoubtedly collect much more than the million dollar goal set.

Well, I had my own "thing" going. I "Ran for (the) John"! But instead of collecting, I PAID! and Oh! how I paid! Never would have believed I was that full of it!

Further to the above, we learn that my good friend, Bill, whilst commiserating and attempting to lend moral support to your Editor, found himself in the same predicament of having to have X-Rays taken a couple of days prior to yours truly's admittance to hospital.

The difference in this instance, was that he, after having been briefed on the consequences and effects of a sudden injection of Castor Oil into one's system, took all necessary precautions.

This included the purchase of a pair of Adidas track shoes, a hasty tailoring of a number (how many, he would not reveal!) of custom-made fundushis of varied hues and colours, the laying down of yards and yards of transparent plastic runners to protect the carpeting and a re-arrangement of furniture in all rooms to permit unimpeded and rapid transit from any location within the house to you know where!

That, my friend, is what I call friendship! I now feel like I'm really SOMEBODY!

ASO SORRY" DEPARTMENT

In our last issue under "Hither and Yon" we, incorrectly, reported having been visited by the Cliff Matthews, when it should have been Alf and his lovely lady, Elsie. To you two, we offer our humble and abject apologies. Can't explain why, unless you'll accept creeping old age as a reason.

One good thing, however, should come out of this correction. It should help the real Cliff Matthews convince his Missus that he really did go fishing!

AND YET MORE LETTERS

Dear John: I am sorry I am late. Enclosed is a cheque for 1980.

I would not want to miss the magazine I like most. I always look forward to it.

Winnipeg, Man. Mrs Martha Adams

Martha dear, Don't worry about being late. You're well up to date and over. I won't let you miss the magazine we both like most for anything. John.

Dear Mr. Fonseca: My sister-in-law, Mrs Sally Laite, sent me a copy of your publication "The Roll Call" Vol:4 :2. I am enclosing a cheque to cover a year's subscription.

At the time of Dr. Laite's release, I and my family were living in Moncton, New Brunswick. He and his wife, Sally, came by train and he gave the sermon at our Church's Anniversary Service. In his sermon he mentioned the diary but somehow I forgot about it until his widow sent a copy of your magazine recently. Sincerely,

Kitchener, Ont. R.A. MacNaughton

As advised by the time the final page of our Padre's diary is published, I don't believe either you or I will be around. I hope you have been successful in contacting Mrs. Laite as I suggested. Thanks anyway for your interest.

Dear John: Please find cheque enclosed. We were in Winnipeg over the week-end and Chester asked me to send in his subscription, as I had your address.

Neepawa, Man. Len Seaborn

Many thanks, Len, for spreading the good word. Hope everything is fine and getting better out your way.

For those who wonder who 'Chester' is, the name is T.C. Budd, Cpl. H6608, W.G. He stayed behind in Hongkong when we had our vacation in Japan.

The reduction in 1980 HK Pilgrimage to Hongkong costs, confining same to Hongkong Vets or HK Vets' widows only, prompts the thought. What'll happen if you loose a gang like ours with a slew of widows for 21 days? Sheesh!!

Dear Mr. Fonseca: Enclosed please find money order to cover three years subscription to your "Roll Call" - plus a little bit over for postage.

To our phone conversation last night I have looked through John Luff's book 'The Hidden Years' and see both the older Millington boys were Sgts. Harry Millington of the HKVDC killed at Stanley and Leslie Millington, No. 1 Battery, HKVDC, now living in Australia.

Did anyone know Jim Dennis-internee at Stanley? Killed after peace declared.

Enjoyed our conversation, hope to talk or write to you again sometime, and maybe meet you also.

North Vancouver, B.C. Barbara Jones

Miss Jones is the daughter of Sub/Lt Reginald George Jones, R.N. Victualling Section, R. Naval Dockyard, Hongkong. He was at Shumshuipo but was transferred to Bowen Road Hospital. He is deceased. Anyone knowing him, of him please write to the Editor.

Barbara: There was a Millington (can't remember his first name) working with me in the HKVDC cookhouse at Shumshuipo. He remained there when we were shipped to Sendai 2, Japan in April 1944. May be the one in Australia.

Dear John Fonseca: I am enclosing my cheque as a subscription to the Roll Call. I have just read No. 2 of Vol: IV, and enjoyed it very much.

Montreal, P.Q. Cecil Currie

Cece: I have known three Curries in my lifetime. One from the Waterworks in Shanghai, with whom I worked. One (and his wife) who came into some property on Anderson Lake, near Lillooet, who stopped over for the night at our place in Shalalth and the last was Manager at McGavin's Toastmaster, in the late 60's, who went out of his way to give me a break, when I needed one real bad. Sure'll be happy to renew valued friendships.

If not, are you related to either Edwin A (W.G.) or Richard A. (RCOC) Currie? I haven't any other Curries listed as having gone to Hongkong with the Canadian "C" Force. John

B.C. BRANCH NEWS

Attending the American EXPOW's National Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, July 20-24, 1980, were three members and their wives, the Spellers, Mableys and Jenkins. John Stroud, V/Pres. National Council, HK Veterans Association of Canada, represented the Association in place of Pres. Lloyd Doull who could not attend due to illness.

The new Nat'l Commander of the AM-EXPOW INC., is Stan Sommers of Wisconsin, who takes over from retiring National Commander Herman Molen, our good friend. Our B.C. members held their own reunion with our Washington State comrades, the Pages, Fernandes, Morgans Galloways, Bousheys and Oakes and had a most enjoyable time, in spite of the terrible heat - 110 to 115 deg. Fahr. every day of the three days.

The one of two sour notes experienced was that they had to check-out at noon, with a nine-hour wait for their plane departure. But the Claytons of Ontario, Flash and Jessica, stepped in to the breach and let our group use of their own room until plane time. It was a lovely gesture from a lovely couple and very deeply appreciated by our group. Good show, our friends from Brechin, Ontario.

The other sour note: We regret the B.C. Hongkong boys were not invited to the Canadian hospitality room !!

B.C. News: Jack Davies will not be away and will continue as Treasurer for another year.

Mrs. Edna Manchester a improving steadily but slowly and goes for a walk with Bob every day. She wishes to thank everyone for the flowers, cards, telegrams and good wishes.

Mrs. Sally Laite is over at Powell River for the summer and sends her best wishes to the gang in B.C.

We all regret the passing of one of our 30-year members. To the family and friends of Fred Mack, we offer our sincerest sympathy and condolence.

B.C. Branch Meeting: We are hopeful of arranging our next annual meeting, in Victoria this time, around the end of October.

Exact details and date will be mailed to all members by newsletter in Sept.

(continued next column)

The Roll Call: The number of subscriptions from new readers continue to grow. Donations received from Ron Routledge (Salmon Arm) and Ted Kurluk (Sechelt) both in B.C. Many thanks. The National: President Lloyd Doull is improving and we look forward to hearing more from him later as he continues to do so.

MANITOBA BRANCH NEWS

President's Message: The Manitoba Branch is the pioneer branch. This is where it all started. Your needs will increase as the years go on and if you expect the HK Vets to work for you in your time of need, GIVE THEM YOUR SUPPORT. JOIN NOW. Send your dues to HK Vets Assoc., Manitoba Branch, Box 381, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 2H6, now!

National News: Regarding the future of Deer Lodge Hospital. It appears that the Federal Government is going to transfer this to the Provincial Government sometime before the end of the year. Your President has, on behalf of all veterans, voiced by letter our Official Objection.

Annual Reunion-Dinner Dance 11 October 1980, at the International Inn. Price \$25.00 per couple. Includes flowers, dinner 'n wine, live orchestra and prizes. Reservations: contact the International Inn, or Ray Sellers, 291 Carpathia Rd, Winnipeg, Man. R3N 1T2. OBIT: We sorrowfully advise that we have lost Frank Smith, Bert Trembeth, Ron Bennett, John W. Miller, Dominic Caruso. Our sincere sympathy is extended to all their families and relatives.

Lost Trails: We've lost track of a number of our comrades the last few years. If you recognize any name below and know their whereabouts please let us know: Barry Adams; Armand Bourbonnier; Henry G. Lawson; Duncan Rankine; George W.F. Stevenson and Clarence Stewart.

Hospital Visiting: Herb Millar is our new Sick Visiting Chairman. He reports those still there are: Fred Adams, Joe Ateach and Bill Paul. Max Moysey has now been discharged.

Harry Atkinson
Secretary/Treasurer

THOSE LONG VOYAGES HOME

Dear John: I have received the Roll Call since its inception and have decided that it is about time I made a verbal contribution to the cause. I am enclosing some material, photostated from a scrap book which I have kept over the years.

Some of the newspaper clippings were saved for me during the war by my parents, some are photographs which were sent to me from time to time.

I was in the Signal Corps, joined up in Vancouver, and went to H.K. on the Australian vessel the "Awatea" with the Royal Rifles, Winnipeg Grenadiers and Brigade Headquarters. I was at North Point Camp, Shum Shui Po, Camp 3D in Tsurumi and Sendai in north Japan.

The way I got out of prison camp was rather interesting. Sendai was a coal mining camp. During the years of incarceration, I became fluent in Japanese, and could read the Katakana rather well.

Dr John Reid, now deceased, was our Medical Officer. When we found out that the war was over, Dr Reid decided that one of the Indonesians (mostly Dutch) who had a tumorous growth coming out of his nose, needed immediate medical attention. I was picked as one of the stretcher bearers because of my fluency in Japanese.

We walked out of the camp to the train station which was several miles away. Trains were still running regularly. The train stopped at the station. We commandeered a car, shoed all the Japanese out of the railroad car, and off we went to Tokyo.

We got off the train, were immediately surrounded by American troops and our sick friend was sent to a hospital. To this day I don't know his name nor did I ever hear about him again.

The first thing they did was put us in a little booth, one by one, just us with DDT and give us a change of clothing. They then took us aboard the USS "OZARK", about 1200 of us, and we went to San Francisco, via Guam and Hawaii.

An interesting thing happened on the Ozark on the way home. The boat (an LST) was originally designed to hold a total complement, including Marines, of about 600 men. There were 1200 of us aboard all as hungry as hell after four

years on the short end of eating.

We started off with breakfast, and this took about 3 hours from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. to feed us. As each man finished breakfast, he got back into the end of the line again. The line never ended!! 24 hours a day. The cooks just kept cooking until they were exhausted!!

I weighed about 120 lbs when I was released. When I arrived in San Francisco about 3 weeks later, I weighed 170 lbs! You can see from the photograph how fat I was.

We took the train from S.F. to Seattle. That was when all hell broke loose. There must have been about 100 Canadians on the train. Naturally, seconds and thirds had been a part of our eating life since we were released. On this train there were no third helpings! There weren't even any second helpings!! We managed to survive till we got to Victoria.

When we arrived at North Point(?) Barracks in Victoria, we were given Canadian issue uniforms. We were served fantastic meals with tablecloths on the table and shiny silver eating utensils. My God, we wondered what had happened to the Canadian Army style in four years?

Of course, we found out that this was especially for us, and that Army chow hadn't changed much, but it certainly tasted a hell of a lot better than barley and vegetable tops!

Before I close, just an amusing incident about Camp 3-D. In the early summer of '44, a small tree was growing in a corner of the camp. As time went along, the tree flowered and little nuts like almonds appeared. For some reason or other, I was leary about eating them. But several of my friends gathered them up and ate them. It was only after several hours that they discovered that it was a castor tree and they were eating castor nuts. They had a busy time at the benjo for several days!

JACK ROSE

Thanks, Jack. That's the kind of stuff we keeping hoping for and always glad to get. Keep sending. Come on, gang, let's have your versions too. John P.S. After what happened to me, Jack, did you have to bring up the word "castor"? ED

HONGKONG VETS AT BELLEVUE, WASH.

To the eighty-odd EXPOWs and their wives who registered at the Greenwood Inn in Bellevue, Wash. for the 1980 Washington State Annual Convention, 30/31 May last, add, from the B.C. Branch Hongkong Veterans Association of Canada, the Spellers and Jenkins (Vancouver Island) and the Laidlaws, Tony Neault, Peter Legouarger and John Fonseca from Mainland B.C.

Most of the Canadian contingent motored down Friday, although the Convention opened officially Saturday morning. The Jenkins, Walter and Dora, however, decided to be original and hydrofoiled from Victoria to Seattle. They reported the ride 'out of this world' and then proceeded to lend basis to the claim by celebrating in no small manner!!

The Opener on Saturday, saw a Memorial Service at Sunset Hills Memorial Park, a feature of which was the quarter mile driveway lined (on both sides) with the Stars and Stripes (over 200 of them) which once draped the caskets of veterans buried there, and loaned for the occasion by the families of those interred.

By special request, the Maple Leaf and B.C. Branch colors, borne by Tony Neault and John Fonseca respectively, were flown side by side with the Stars and Stripes (Harold Page) and the AMEXPOW banner (Harold Hirschert) during the service. Sp-5 Brian Benson, 9th Inf. Div. Bd. Fort Lewis, sounded the Last Post and a firing squad from Bellevue VFW Post #2995 did the final honours.

Prayers and the address was conducted by State Chaplain James Kell, assisted by Cdr. George Fernandes and HK Vet's Lionel Speller. Wreaths were laid by Cdr. Fernandes, Don Morgan and Billie-Joe Morgan amongst others, and by Bill Laidlaw for the B.C. Branch, HK Veterans Association.

It was great to meet again with our old friends the Pages (Buckley), Bradys (Gig Harbor), Galloways (Seattle), Morgans (Tacoma), Hershel Boushey and the Fernandes from Bellevue itself. The reunion resulted in our meeting with a host of new friends, many of whom expressed their hopes of attending our own Reunion in Victoria in October. We sincerely hope that they'll make it.

(see next column)

There were meetings, get-togethers daily in the hospitality rooms, where nightly loud and long sing-songs kept everyone within a five-mile radius awake. Sure was a happy and great 'do'.

Cdr George Fernandes stepped down as did the retiring executive and the new slate comprised: Washington State AMEXPOW INC: Cdr. Harold Hirschert; Sen: V/Cdr: Alfred (Joe) Galloway; Jnr V/Cdr: ms Phyllis Meyer; State Treas: Don Morgan.

Apart from this, Joe Galloway and Burdette Langdon (of Oregon) were also elected Nat'l North-West Region Directors - a dual post.

The elections were relieved by one lighter note. Joe Galloway's election to the NW Region directorship was at first declared unanimous but had to be amended to one vote against. That solitary 'NO' vote was cast by none other than his wife, Charlotte!!

It was an excellent convention and our thanks are offered in all sincerity and deep appreciation to the executive and all AMEXPOWs who, without exception, made us so very welcome.

ONTARIO BRANCH NEWS

Deletion of most of the coming events listed in the August 1980 issue of the above, is due to the fact that they will have already taken place by the time this Roll Call is published.

OBITS: L/Cpl Marcus Southgate.

HOSPITAL: Wally Grey, our Sec-Treas. was admitted to Sunnybrook Hospital on May 28, 1980 with an ear infection. He is presently in the Extended Care, K Wing Room 1335, E-1. Speedy recovery Wally.

DONATIONS: We acknowledge with thanks and gratitude, donations from the following: E.C. Smith; J.C.E. MacMillan; Thomas Lucas; Bill Campbell; Ron Inche

STRONGYLOID WORMS: A common infection in former Japanese POWs. Main symptoms recurring, intensely itchy, skin rash most common in the trunk and buttock area. Typical appearance is a raised wriggly line surrounded by a red area. If you suspect you have this infection contact your local doctor or District Canadian Pension Commission doctor.

John Stroud
President

LATE, LATE NEWS BRIEFS

We deeply regret to report that advice has been received of the passing of comrade Harry Cameron sometime in mid-August, in Winnipeg. Our sincerest condolences are offered his family and his friends.

Calgary in 1981? We have been informed that a tentative agreement has been reached between Branch Presidents to accept the bid to host the 1981 Biennial National Convention from the Southern Alberta-Saskatchewan Branch. The venue will be Calgary and suggested dates: 9 thru 12 September 1981. The official acceptance will, however, be made during the National Council Meeting scheduled for October 9 thru 11 this year, at Winnipeg. Details and information will be published when they are released.

The National Council Meeting, postponed from June 27-29, 1980 due to illness of National President, Lloyd Doull, is now scheduled for October 9-11, 1980 in Winnipeg. This meeting will precede -and coincide- with the Manitoba Branch's Annual Reunion -October 11 1980, and the site will be the International Inn, Winnipeg. B.C. Branch members interested in attending please contact Secretary Harry Atkinson, Box 381, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 2H6.

D.V.A. NEWS RELEASES

Two news releases have been received. The first (24 June 1980) announced amendments to the WVA and Civilian War Allowances regulations, effective 1st July 1980, providing exemption of the additional \$35 per family paid to GIS recipients this year. It also permits recipients of either allowances, or his or her spouse, to increase casual earning exemptions to: \$2100 (from \$1500) Single and \$3100 (from \$2250) Married.

The second (9 July 1980) Bill C-40, does not affect Hongkong Veterans' widows and children who are already assured of the benefits (pensions) laid out in the Bill.

NORTHERN ALBERTA-SASKATCHEWAN BRANCH

Hope you have all enjoyed a healthy and happy summer. Our apologies for the long lapse between news letters, but will attempt now to bring you up to date on all branch happenings. No date has been set for the next branch general meeting, as yet, but you will be notified in due time.

OBITS: It is with much regret that we report the passing of comrade Keith Geddes- Calgary. We extend our sympathy to his family and friends.

Our Man Sam (Kravinchuk) has recently returned from Toronto, where he attended a convention for the Sir Arthur Pearson Assoc. of War Blinded. Sam has been confined to a wheel chair for the past 3 years, and his afflictions are numerous. However, he still maintains his interest in, and is an avid supporter of all veterans causes, as he ever was. Would that we all had that kind of "spunk!"

COMING EVENTSMeetings and Conventions

National Council, at Winnipeg, 9-11 October 1980.

Manitoba Branch, International Inn, Winnipeg, Manitoba, October 11, 1980

B.C., Northern Alberta-Saskatchewan, and Ontario Branches' Annual Meetings not available at time of going to press.

1981 HK Pilgrimage: Depart 23 November and return 14 December 1980.

Confucius once said: 'Great fortune goes with the man who has good friends.' (if he didn't, he should have!)

I add to that with: "But thrice fortunate is he who hath friends who can send the following get-well card in the knowledge that it is appreciated!"

'HAD AN OPERATION? I heard they took out your whatchamacallit! Well don't worry.. they took out my Uncle Elmer's thingamabob and his doohickey, and he still can you-know-what as good as ever!"

The entire 3-North wing went into hysterics upon reading this !