HONG KONG VETERANS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

MANITOBA BRANCH PO BOX 381 WINNIPEG, MB R3C 2H6

July, August, September 2004

participation of veterans, the armed forces, two pipe

EDITOR: Carol Hadley (204) 837-6754

Email: cahadley@shaw.ca

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President's Report

Today is Tuesday, June 8th, has summer arrived at last? I do not recall a worse spring in Winnipeg since I was born. This is a terrible way to begin my report but I just had to comment on the lousy weather. Now that remark is off my chest, enough is said.

We have attended a number of meetings since my last report - our Commemorative Association, our monument committee, the Joint Veterans' Council of Winnipeg, our luncheons, the Advisory Council to Veterans' Affairs Canada and the Winnipeg Grenadier Cadet Corp inspection parade. We also attended Glyn Chipping's funeral as he left us for a better place on April 29th - May he rest in peace – he is most sadly missed.

The plans for the monument are moving ahead quite nicely. We are waiting to hear from an architect and from Winnipeg City Council regarding the property at Brookside Cemetery where we hope to erect it.

I attended the VAC Advisory Council meeting at Deer Lodge Centre where I received application forms for our widows who need to be reinstated in the VIP program. Please call me and I will have them sent to you. Please remember your spouse had to have been in receipt of this service before he passed away.

The Winnipeg Grenadier Cadet Corps parade was a pleasant evening and the HKVA covered the costs for the reception following in the Officers Mess. I had the honour and pleasure of presenting our Hong Kong Veterans' Association trophy to the most efficient cadet, Celia Alpuim, with a gratuity of \$30.00.

This year the annual Decoration Day service in Winnipeg took place at the Cenotaph instead of Brookside Cemetery in conjunction with the 60th Anniversary of D-Day. Our Colour Party marshalled at the Legislature and marched to the Cenotaph for the service. We all then returned to the Legislature where a reception was held. I am unable to walk far therefore did not take part in the parade but had the honour of escorting a D-Day veteran, Gerry Little in laying a wreath on behalf of all veterans. The parade was the largest to be held in Winnipeg in recent years with the

participation of veterans, the armed forces, two pipe bands, cadets, a variety of Colour Parties and a large tank. Three planes passed overhead as a salute that was very impressive.

Thursday June 10, 2004 is the HK vets lunch at St. James Branch #4 on Portage Ave. On June 13th the Colour Party and I will be attending the Memorial parade in Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba. I will present the local Legion branch with a framed Certificate of Honour naming six Winnipeg Grenadiers who served in Hong Kong. They are comrades Aubrey Flegg, Eric French, John James, Ray Sellers, Lou Specht and Len Wilson, of these Aubrey and John are the only comrades who are still with us.

I believe I have brought you up to date and bid you Sayonara once again. Hopefully this finds you well and please keep in touch, we are here to serve you. May the wind be always at your back and the road you travel smooth and safe.

In comradeship, George N. Peterson

PS – After completing his report George received a letter from the Leader of the Opposition in Manitoba, Stuart Murray that beginning this fall, veterans of WWI, WWII and Korean War will have the option of a special licence plate for their car. We are not aware of the implementation process yet.

Also a letter has been sent to the Chief Herald of Canada in protest of the new cap badge that has been authorized for the Winnipeg Grenadiers. A request has been sent to Ottawa to have this order rescinded in favour of the current cap badge that was authorized 1 May 1922.

We will keep you posted on these two items.

Hong Kong Veterans' Commemorative Association

Hello to All

The summer is finally here but so are the mosquitoes. Hopefully the warm weather, will make an improvement, when it arrives.

We had a busy spring with meetings and parades but George has that in his report.

Pat Parker from Winnipeg School Division #1 came to the Thursday Luncheon in May and gave us exciting news. They will be introducing The Hong Kong Story, with our help, into the Social Studies program.

Eirik Bardal was elected the 1st Deputy Director and Pat Maltman the 2nd Deputy Director in our recent elections. Thank you to all who took the time to vote. For the individuals that allowed their name to stand for a position we appreciate the participation and interest and hope that you will help with other projects. Thank you to Padre Gordon Shields, George Peterson and Pam Heinrichs for their time with the elections.

The **Tea and Tidbits** held at St James Legion in May was successful with 16 ladies in

attendance. It was wonderful to see some faces that I haven't seen for a long time and the lunch was great. Hopefully we will see more of you at the next Tea and Tidbits planned for September.

The Monument Committee meets every three weeks and they are working very hard. The committee consists of George Peterson, Chair; myself, Juliet Lafortune (I work with George); Neil Bardal & Phyllis Downie (fund raising) and Stan & Vince Lopata (research). Vince is also the secretary.

Due to increased costs the Reunion tickets will be increased to meet the additional expenses this year. Please put this date on your calendars – October 23rd Reunion Dinner \$45.00/adult and children \$20.00.

A reminder that **August 15th V-J Day** observance will be at All Saints Church at 1pm. If you have any questions or suggestion or just want to help please call me. For now take care - stay in contact with us.

Juliet Lafortune 338-3354 or 294-9335.

Last Post

Lt. John McGreevy, RRC, Lt. died March 25, 2004 Lt. Elmer Denison, RRC, died April 13, 2004 Ernest W. Roberts, H-6612, WG, died May 4, 2004 Glyn Chipping, H-41858 WG, died April 29, 2004

HKVCA

Florence May Fryatt, widow of Walter Fryatt H 6062 KIA, passed away June 19, 2004. She had celebrated her 100th birthday in August 2003.

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to all the families and friends as we share in your grief.

"We will remember them"

Notes from Barry Mitchell

Treasurer and Membership

Greetings to all members and friends of the Hong Kong Veterans' Association as well as the Commemorative Association. We in sunny Manitoba have survived not only the long winter but a spring that brought us nothing but cold and wet. Everyone complains but for some reason this weather does whatever it wants. Here in early June we are finally seeing a little sunshine so hopefully we'll all enjoy a great Midwestern summer!

The mailbox hasn't been as kind to your old Treasurer as it should be, as over 50 members still owe me dues for 2004. I'm going to give it a couple of more weeks and then I'll have to send out another reminder. If you received a little self-addressed envelope from me, then I assure you that your dues are in arrears. A neatly made out cheque for \$15.00 will make everything right!

Another reminder that Barry's Emporium is very much open for business and we would be more than pleased to send you one or more of our charming gifts. We are continuing our super-low price on sweatshirts at \$20.00 (we are sold out of size Large but still have lots of Medium, XL and XXL). Other items in good supply are lapel pins (\$5.00), videos (\$10.00), WG ties (\$30.00) and Honour Rolls (\$20.00). Please add the cost of shipping to your order.

One of my challenges this year as the Treasurer of the National HKVCA was to arrange for the preparation of an audited statement but done on a pro bono basis. We were really fortunate to find **Jim Montgomery**, a partner in the C.A. firm of **Heisinger & Montgomery** here in Winnipeg, who agreed to audit our books without a fee. Jim has no connection to the Hong Kong Vets other than he has done some work for me in the past, so it is a huge favour from Jim that has allowed us to have our first audited statement. If anyone has some work that requires the assistance of a chartered accountant, may I strongly recommend Jim as the man for the job. A show of support from our membership would go a long way to establishing a working relationship with this generous person.

In May we received a cheerful note from Lloyd & Roberta Hanna, out there in Nanaimo, BC. They both say "hello" to all members and express their appreciation for the work being done by both our organizations. Their note had a special "thank you" to George Peterson for all his work, now and in the past. More mail from British Columbia included a note from Don & Pearl MacPherson who bring greetings to all as well. Don had been recently interviewed by a reporter from the History Channel who is putting together a Documentary for 2005 to celebrate the end of WW II. It seems they turned the MacPherson household into a TV studio for the one interview, so we'll certainly look forward to seeing the finished product next year.

We also have a kind note from Estelle Jenkins whose husband Walter passed away in 1996. Estelle has enjoyed a "distant" relationship with the Hong Kong Veterans Association but has followed the various events through newsletters and the like. She has now moved to Saskatchewan and lives with her daughter in Regina. Another note tells us that Lorne & Mavis Remple are also on the move and have given up their Winnipeg home for the country life in Beausejour, Manitoba. Poor health brought about retirement for both but it also allowed them to pursue their dream. Mavis was wondering whether any of the Veterans remembered her father Charlie Grieves and if so, would they give her a call in Beausejour. Finally, I received a most interesting letter from Ross Purse in Nanaimo, BC as a result of sending him the video "Slaves of the Rising Sun". Ross was most impressed with this production and reflected at some length on some of his experiences. We very much appreciate his thoughts and I was truly interested in the observations he shared in his letter.

As usual, I will end with the reminder that memberships are due. The fees remain at only \$15.00 but suggest you might include a few extra dollars to help with the cost of mailing you this newsletter four

times a year. Our address is still P.O. Box 381, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2C 2H6. I look forward to hearing from you and wish you well.

Cheers, Barry Mitchell

Elections for HKVCA in Manitoba

Well, the results for the Manitoba Region are final – Eirik Bardal is 1st Deputy Director and Pat Maltman is the 2nd Deputy Director for 2004 – 2005 term. Congratulations to you both and welcome to the MB Board. Thank you to the Elections Officer, Rev. Gordon Shields and his scrutineers George Peterson and Pam Heinrichs for a wonderful job of officiating over our election.

The Manitoba Region Executive are:
Juliet Lafortune – Regional Director – 338-3354
Eirik Bardal - 1st Deputy Director - 204-467-2106
Pat Maltman - 2nd Deputy Director - 669-4941
Barry Mitchell – Treasurer & Membership – 269-1497
Carol Hadley – Secretary – 837-6754

From the Editor

Our web site, www.hkvca.ca, as always, attracts interest in our veterans and our Association from people all over the world. Our Web Master, Linda May, does a wonderful job of maintaining our website and the chat room for our regional and executive meetings every month. She has the assistance of Jim Trick who has done a wonderful job with the Photo Gallery.

We would like to encourage all Regions and members to use the website to post current events and projects that are happening in your area and follow-up with pictures like Manitoba & Ontario with their mini Reunions last fall and BC who posted their annual luncheon pictures this spring for all to enjoy.

Another use for our site is for education. I appeal to the veterans, wives and widows to document your experiences during the war so that our families and youth may learn from your experiences what price our rights and freedom are based. If you have difficulty writing, please use a tape recorder and we will have it transcribed, send you a copy for you and your family and post it on the website. Ed Shayler has his comrades in Alberta-Saskatchewan doing an article from their POW experience by writing about "One Day in the Life of a POW". The articles will soon be posted on the web site for all to read.

!!!!!

Further on education, we received some exciting news from **Pat Parker**, Social Studies Consultant with Winnipeg School Division #1 who brought us a letter of acceptance to have the BC curriculum and the Ontario 10 Lessons used in that Division's schools starting in September 2004. The Manitoba HKVCA Education Committee will be working with the Division to supply resources to supplement the lessons to aid the teachers.

At a recent online meeting **Neil Darragh**, Regional Director for the Atlantic Region, mentioned that they have initiated discussion to have the curriculum changed in New Brunswick. If we share our

information, experiences and work together we will accomplish our goal to have all schools with this curriculum.

!!

A few weeks ago in a supplement to the newspaper there was information about Apprenticeship Training. This was started 60 years ago in 1944 with the Manitoba Apprenticeship Act for military personnel to get back into the civilian work force after the WWII. One of the men focused in the article was **Grant Shepherd**, Hong Kong veteran from Scotland, who was an engine room mechanic in the Royal Navy. After the war he came to Winnipeg to visit relatives where he learned that skilled workers were needed. So he settled here working for the Canadian National Railway, then an inspector for the Department of Labour and eventually moved to the Apprenticeship Branch and worked as a development officer. Well done Grant!

!!!!

Dick Wilson mentioned that he heard from Tom Forsyth of Reston, MB who is keeping well at 94 years old despite his failing eyesight and difficulty walking. Tom, please accept our condolences on the loss of your family members. It is nice that you keep in touch, we enjoy hearing from you.

!!!!

We heard recently that some of our veterans are spending some time in hospital - **Cdr Len Birchall** (the Savoir of Ceylon), **Jack Smith**, President of Alberta-Saskatchewan Branch and **Leo Berard**, author of '17 Days until Christmas' – we wish you all a quick recovery.

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Here are links to interesting information about our veterans:

- www.hongkongwardiary.com

http://members.shaw.ca/tricksweb/

(www.geocities.com/canadianhongkongveteran/georgethomaspalmer.html)

http://ca.geocities.com/surfchops/index.html;

http://www.geocities.com/rcwpca/http://www.blac kyvero.com/aindex.html

http://www.geocities.com/kkaiser61/laing.html;

http://www.fourthmarinesband.com/cambon.htm.

www.vac-acc.gc.ca/general/sub.cfm? source=history/secondwar/asia

www.waramps.ca/video/chkv.pdf

www.geocities.com/jeffyam/hongkong war.htmnhtt

www.geocities.com/phil doddridge

www.wlu.ca/~wwwmsds/vol10d

http://www.geocities.com/canadianhongkongveteran/georgethomaspalmer.html

www.wlu.ca/~wwwmsds/341dicksonhk.htm

BOOKS!

The Commemorative Association were fortunate to purchase a limited number of copies of **Carl Vincent's** book "**No Reason Why**". This book is out of print now, which makes this a wonderful opportunity to add an excellent book to your library. The cost of the book is \$37.00 + postage. Make cheque payable to HKVCA and send your request to our address below for prompt service from Barry's Emporium.

The Memory Project

I would encourage the veterans and the widows to make a contribution to history by relating your story so that future generations are aware of the effects of war. If you wish to visit the website http://www.thememoryproject.com/dominion_index.cf m you will see others who have made this contribution.

** "Honour & Pride" is a CD produced by Cove **Records Inc.**, with the assistance of our Padre - Rev. Gordon Shields, to assist anyone who is organizing a memorial or funeral service for veterans. The CD has the correct order of service and music to enhance any There are 2 distributors for "Honour and Pride" now, Royal Canadian Legion - Dominion Command Kit-Shop, 359 Kent St., Ottawa, ON K2P McNally and Robinson Booksellers at www.mcnallyrobinson.ca. The cost of the CD is \$25.00 shipping and handling where plus taxes (and applicable).

Winnipeg Grenadier's Hong Kong Trust Fund

- Donna Remillard

The Winnipeg Grenadiers Hong Kong Trust Fund is receiving applications from direct descendants of the Winnipeg Grenadiers Hong Kong Veterans for the Fall/Winter Sessions at accredited post-secondary institutions. The Winnipeg Grenadiers Hong Kong Trust Fund provides financial assistance to the issue of The Winnipeg Grenadiers HK Veterans for their pursuit of higher learning.

All donations, received through the generosity of the many individuals who support this worthy initiative, and from The Hong Kong Veterans' Association who donates to this fund in memory of each deceased veteran member, are most gratefully appreciated. Cheques should be written to Winnipeg Grenadier's Hong Kong Trust Fund (not HKVA).

Application inquiries and donations to this fund may be directed to:

Donna Remillard, 303 - 740 Kenaston Boulevard, Winnipeg, MB R3N 1Y3

Tel: (204) 489-0008.

Humour

The world's greatest philosophers and not one over 11.

HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHO TO MARRY?

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming.

--Alan, age 10

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with.

--Kirsten, age 10

WHAT IS THE RIGHT AGE TO GET MARRIED?

Twenty-three is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then.

-- Camille, age 10

No age is good to get married at. You Got to be a fool to get married.

--Freddie, age 6

HOW CAN A STRANGER TELL IF TWO PEOPLE ARE MARRIED?

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids.

--Derrick, age 8

WHAT DO MOST PEOPLE DO ON A DATE?

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough.

--Lynnette, age 8

On the first date, they just tell each other lies, and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date.

--Martin, age 10

"And the #1 Favourite is....."

HOW WOULD YOU MAKE A MARRIAGE WORK?

Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a truck.

--Ricky, age 10

• • • •

How many men does it take to open a beer? None, It should be open by the time she brings it.

Why is a laundromat a really bad place to pick up women? Because a woman who can't afford a washing machine will probably never be able to support you.

I married Miss Right. I just didn't know her first name was Always.

Scientists have discovered a food that reduces a woman's sex drive by 90%. It's called a Wedding Cake.

Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a baldhead and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.

• • • • •

Two weeks ago was my 45th birthday and I wasn't feeling too good that morning. I went to breakfast knowing my wife would be pleasant and say, "Happy Birthday!" and probably have a present for me. As it turned out, she didn't even say good morning, let alone any happy birthday. I thought, well, that's wives for you, the children will remember. The children came in to breakfast and didn't say a word.

So when I left for the office, I was feeling pretty low and despondent.

As I walked into my office, my secretary Janet said, "Good morning, Boss "Happy Birthday". And I felt a little better that someone had remembered. I worked until noon, then Janet knocked on my door and said, "You know, it's such a beautiful day outside, and it's your birthday, let's go to lunch, just you and me."

I said, "By George, that's the greatest thing I've heard all day. "Let's go!" We went to lunch. We didn't go where we normally go; instead we went out to a private little place. We had two martinis and enjoyed lunch tremendously. On the way back to the office, she said, "You know, it's such a beautiful day. We don't need to go back to the office, do we?" I said, "No, I guess not." She said, "Let's go to my apartment."

After arriving at her apartment she said, "Boss, if you don't mind, I think I'll go into the bedroom and slip into something more comfortable"

"Sure!" I excitedly replied. She went into the bedroom and, in about six minutes, she came out carrying a huge birthday cake....... followed by my wife, children, and dozens of our friends, all singing Happy Birthday.

And I just sat there...... on the couch...... naked

Is he a good dentist?

A couple of old guys were golfing when one said he was going to Dr. Taylor for a new set of dentures in the morning.

His friend remarked that he had gone to the same dentist a few years before. "Is that so?" the first said. "Did he do a good job?"

"Well, I was on the course yesterday when the fellow on the ninth hole hooked a shot," he said. "The ball most have been going 200 mph when it hit me in the stomach. That," he added, "was the first time in two years my teeth didn't hurt."

Speaking with the general

It was a dark, stormy, night. The Marine was on his first assignment, and it was guard duty.

General stepped out taking his dog for a walk.

The nervous young Private snapped to attention, made a perfect salute, and snapped out "Sir, Good Evening,"

Sir!"

The General, out for some relaxation, returned the salute and said "Good evening soldier, nice night,

Well it wasn't a nice night, but the Private wasn't going to disagree with the General, so the he saluted again and replied "Sir, Yes Sir!".

The General continued, "You know there's something about a stormy night that I find soothing, it's really relaxing. Don't you agree?"

The Private didn't agree, but them the private was just a private, and responded "Sir, Yes Sir!"

The General, pointing at the dog, "This is a Golden Retriever, the best type of dog to train."

The Private glanced at the dog, saluted yet again and said "Sir, Yes Sir!"

The General continued "I got this dog for my wife."

The Private simply said "Good trade Sir!"

Fishing on the lake

A famous admiral and an equally famous general were fishing together when a sudden squall came up. When it died down both eminent warriors were struggling helplessly in the water.

The admiral floundered his way back to the boat and pulled himself painfully in. Then he fished out the general, using an oar.

Catching his breath, he puffed: "Please don't say a word about this to anyone. If the Navy found I can't swim I'd be disgraced.

"Don't worry," the general said. "Your secret is safe. I'd hate to have my men find out I can't walk on water."

Requesting a three day pass

An Israeli soldier who just enlisted asked the Commanding Officer for a 3-day pass. The CO says "Are you crazy? You just join the Israeli army, and you already want a 3-day pass? You must do something spectacular for that recognition!" So the soldier comes back a day later in an Arab tank! The CO was so impressed, he asked "How did you do it?"

"Well, I jumped in a tank, and went toward the border with the Arabs. I approached the border, and saw an Arab tank. I put my white flag up, the Arab tank put his white flag up. I said to the Arab soldier, "Do you want to get a three-day pass? So we exchanged tanks!"

Free advice at social affairs?

A doctor and a lawyer were attending a cocktail party when the doctor was approached by a man who asked advice on how to handle his ulcer. The doctor mumbled some medical advice, then turned to the lawyer and remarked, "I never know how to handle the situation when I'm asked for medical advice during a social function. Is it acceptable to send a bill for such advice?" The lawyer replied that it was certainly acceptable to do so. The next day, the doctor sent the ulcer-stricken man a bill. The lawyer also sent one to the doctor.

An old occupation

What happens when people of different occupations get old.

- Old farmers never die, they just go to seed.
- Old garagemen never die, they just retire.
- Old hackers never die, they just go to bits.
- Old hardware engineers never die, they just cache in their chips.

Eating the piece of fruit

Two Polish guys were taking their first train trip to Warsaw on the train. A vendor came down the corridor selling bananas that they'd never seen before. Each bought one. The first one eagerly peeled the banana and bit into it just as the train went into a tunnel. When the train emerged from the tunnel, he looked across to his friend and said, "I wouldn't eat that if I were you." "Why not?"

"I took one bite and went blind for half a minute."

Editor: Thank you, to all of you who send me the notes and funny stories. The jokes serve a dual purpose as they brighten my day and I appreciate the contributions to share with the rest of the members. Keep up the good work!

Reminders

Monthly lunches are held at St. James Legion on Portage Ave. at NOON - 2nd Thursday of the month. Fully accessible.

V-J DAY Service at All Saints Church Hall, Broadway & Osborne at 1 p.m. August 15, 2004 – all are welcome – refreshments.

Watch for it!! An information package for the 59th Annual Hong Kong Veterans' Association Reunion – October 23, 2004 will be out soon.

Ontario Region Mini Reunion will be held September 25, 2004 in Aurora, ON – this is for veterans and Commemorative members.

Quebec Region Mini Reunion will be held August, 2004 in Granby, PQ. Also the Bay of Chaleur museum will be opening July 1, 2004 – congratulations to all that are involved with that project – truly a labour of love.

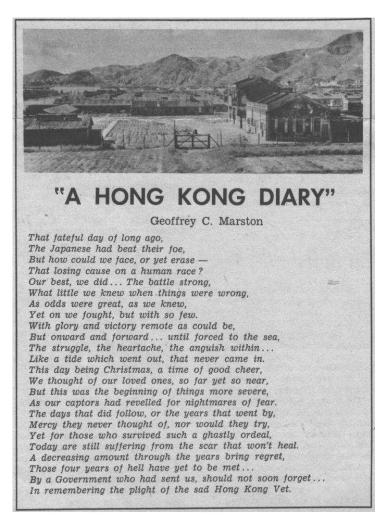
*** Check your membership card today. Please make sure you are a <u>paid up member</u>. Also when you remit your membership, indicate if Manitoba is your primary region or just for newsletters. Thank you. ***

Your HKVA Branch Council Phone Numbers - Keep Them Handy:

George Peterson, President	256-7174
Carol Hadley,	837-6754
Secrtry/Newsletter	
Barry Mitchell,	269-1497
Treasurer/Membership	
Juliet Lafortune, Social	338-3354
Terence Jackson, Memorials	452-1460
Phil Doddridge, Nat'l President	418-392-5838

**PLEASE REMEMBER:
SEND US ANY ADDRESS CHANGES –
WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU
AND
CHEQUES FOR BARRY'S EMPORIUM
SHOULD BE
PAYABLE TO HKVCA**

Have a great summer and be safe





The names of the men in the picture are: L-R Pte. D.A. Benton, Wpg; Pte E.J. Morriseau, Pine Falls MB; Pte J. St. Onge, St. Boniface; Pte. S.E. Koughnett, Wpg.; Pte. J.E. James, Lac du Bonnet MB. Sitting: Pte. I Sanderson, West Selkirk MB.

These are two of several items that were sent to me by the executrix of Duncan (Bud) Benton's estate. There was no family to forward the documents to so the HKVCA will create a package of information and post it on the web site to share with everyone. There are some very interesting items that have come to light.