
The Torch

HKVCA - Quebec Region

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**Word from Phil Doddridge,
veterans spokesman**

Well, here we are again. Another winter just about gone. There is so much snow in the Gaspé this winter that it will take a while for it all to melt. We'll survive!

BOOKS

Pat Turcotte and her three sisters have put together and published their father's diary. They have titled it "A Hong Kong Diary Revisited."

Their father was Leonard Corrigan a lieutenant in the Winnipeg Grenadiers.

The diary illustrates the boredom of life in the Prison Camps. It also illustrates the different lives the commissioned officers led compared to the lives of "other ranks".

For example, the officers were not obliged to go on work parties outside of the camp; they seemed to enjoy much better rations than us other ranks.

Corrigan wrote extensively while he was in Sham Shui

Po with full description of his activities, much comment on the rations they received, and with scholarly comments on prison camp life and life in general.

I consider it a valuable addition to my ever-expanding Hong Kong book shelf.

Christie Blatchford, a columnist for the Toronto Globe and Mail, spent some time in Afghanistan with Canadian troops. She has written a book of her experiences. She calls it "Fifteen Stories".

Ann Allison, daughter of Elmer Denison, has sent me a copy of the book, reviewed by Lisa Laflamme of CTV News and none other than Don Cherry of "Hockey Night in Canada"..

Blatchford tells the stories in all the raw and uninhibited language of the soldier in combat. Although I am no prude, and have heard,(and often used), those words before, I find it difficult to

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read. That is not to say that I don't appreciate Blatchford's efforts. I don't question her enthusiasm and support for our troops in that far-off and difficult war.

THE TOWNSHIP SUN

In today's mail I received from Evelyn Smith (Ray), a copy of The Township Sun dated November, 1976.

An article by Bernard Epp titled "The Heroes of Hong Kong" tells the story of the experiences of the Royal Rifles and the Grenadiers. It has many pictures, all the ones that we are so familiar with.

There are articles by Walter Henderson, Lionel Hurd and Padre James Barnett, among others, and a story by Brig. J.H. Price about the espionage activities in the prison camp.

It also has the story of Jack Porter's refusal to sign the "no escape" document.

I intend to spend some time studying the paper and will report my impressions in future issues of The Torch.

In the meantime I will ask for Evelyn's permission to display the papers in the Military Museum in New Richmond.

COMRADES

I had a long chat with J-Paul Dallain. He is just as alert and interesting as always.

I have also been talking with Bob Barter. His wife, Bertha, is in St Joseph's Residence, a long term care facility, and Bob's life seems to revolve around her with daily visits. I know what a strain on daily living that can be.

Today (March 13) I had a chat with Flash and Jessie Clayton. Jessie has received Life Membership from her RC Legion Branch and Flash has been awarded the Legion Meritorious Service Medal. Congratulations to both of them for well-deserved honours.

The War Amps

Today I received a letter from Lee Ann VanDelst of The War Amps enquiring about my health and general well being. We HK Vets are, and will be, forever grateful to the The War Amps and Cliff Chadderton's excellent team for all the benefits that they have caused to come our way.

AND FINALLY

I'll get this off to Lucette to help her meet her deadline.

Be good to each other, and may God Bless.

Philip

Word from Quebec
Regional Director
Lucette M.Muir

Greetings All,

Hope you all enjoyed a pleasant and happy Christmas

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Season and are well. We took a few weeks vacation where it was warm and sunny, the weather was great. We are ready for whatever needs to be done. Spring is around the corner. Locally farmers installed their pipes or buckets for the spring maple syrup season. Things are looking good. The sad is already running.

The Winter season is always a quiet time. It gave us time to renew contact with some of our veterans and widows. To name only a few at this time, Edwina is home and stable at this time. Joan Gillis is doing well and took some time to visit her children and some time on Vancouver Island with her daughter, very good medicine. Pat Commerford is temporarily living in a residence but doing very well. Jean Paul and Irene Dallain are doing very well and went on a sunshine trip to Cuba.

Your executive will soon be holding their spring meeting. Other meetings will take place later in preparation for the National Convention.

Financially your Region will be closing the 2008 year in good standing. The last reunion did cost a bit more for all the hotel facilities and a lower number of guests, which is very understandable with the travel distances and health. It is the least we can

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do for our Vets. We are holding our own thanks to all of you with your memberships and to all with their donations.

In January I attended the on-line National BOD Meeting. Everyone is working on the Unveiling of the monument and convention. Will be reported on later in this edition.

That will be it at this time. I am planning on having more free time to chat with everyone of you during the convention next August.

Take care,

Lucette

Last Post

At this time we are sad to report the passing of more comrades. Some of these names may have been mentioned elsewhere, but in the interest of keeping the record straight, they are mentioned here. In no particular order: Fred Mason RRC, John Marsurkak WG, Wallace "Red" Harrington WG, George Taylor WG, George Edgcombe RRC, Austin Batley RRC.

Widows: Hazel Breaky widow of Ian Breaky, Leone Murray Bujold widow of Edward Bujold RRC, Kathleen"Kay" Christie Mann widow of Glenford F.Mann RRC, Verna G. Nicol widow of Ralph Nicol,

Wanda Law Mann widow of Richard "Dick" Mann, Floris VanRaes widow of Emile VanRaes HK.

Regular Member: Gerald N.Osborn PPCLI son of John Osborn VC.

They shall grow not old; Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM!

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all families in this time of great sorrow.

Sick Parade

Our thoughts go out to: veterans and widows may have been under the weather with different ailments and that we did not hear about, but our thoughts and prayers go out to you and all our sick.

Take care,

Humour

Cowboy boots & the Teacher

Every teacher or mother should appreciate this!

Did you hear about the Texas teacher who was helping one of her kindergarten students put on his cowboy boots? He asked for help and she could see why. Even with her pulling and him pushing, the little boots still didn't want to go on. By the time they got the second boot on, she had worked up a sweat.

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She almost cried when the little boy said, "Teacher, they're on the wrong feet." She looked, and sure enough, they were. It wasn't any easier pulling the boots off than it was putting them on. She managed to keep her cool as together they worked to get the boots back on, this time on the right feet. He then announced, "These aren't my boots." She bit her tongue rather than get right in his face and scream, "Why didn't you say so?" like she wanted to. Once again, she struggled to help him pull the ill-fitting boots off his little feet. No sooner had they gotten the boots off when he said, "they're my brother's boots. My Mom made me wear 'em."

Now she didn't know if she should laugh or cry. But, she mustered up what grace and courage she had left to wrestle the boots on his feet again.

Helping him into his coat, she asked, "Now, where are your mittens?" He said, "I stuffed 'em in the toes of my boots." She will be eligible for parole in three years.

Happy Birthday

April: 2 Phil Doddridge, 4 Edwina Doddridge, 21 Pierre Dallain, 24 Jean Paul Dallain, 27 Debbie Batley-Everett.

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May: 1 Una Lapalme, 8 Guy Lalime, 11 Jessie Clayton, 11 Claude Dallain.

June: 1 Graham Boudreau, 2 Eva Hunt, 25 Barbara Hardy, 27 Ralph Maclean.

Wedding Anniversary

Claire & Bill Doull celebrating their 63rd Wedding Anniversary on April 6th.

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary and Best Wishes to all

Correspondence

In no particular order, received correspondence or calls from: Joan Gillis, Claire Doull, Kay Hurd, Rita Syvret, Bernard Lalime, Lillian Brunet, Irene Dallain.

Thanks to all.

Donations

In no particular order: Celia Ramier Smith in memory of Goldie Ramier, Allison Pollock, Marion Bisson, Rita Leblanc, David Dallain, Claire Doull, Joyce Clarkson, Austin Batley.

Many Thanks to all of you for your participation for the welfare of your Association.

Membership

Greetings to all.

If you forgot, I am again here to encourage you to keep up

your membership by sending us your \$ 15.00 each current calendar year, effective January to December.

(HK veterans and widows are Lifetime Members).

If you forgot to renew your 2009 membership you still have some time. My cards are ready for you.

Be a member in good standing and it would also be greatly appreciated if your 2009 dues were received here to confirm your membership to the National membership people for the Ottawa activities next August.

Thank you, we really count on your help and cooperation.

I would like to welcome new members to our region. They are: Karen Arps of Essex ON daughter of Austin Batley and Bonnie Everett of Vancouver BC daughter of George Everett.

Welcome to the Hong Kong Family and hoping to meet you both soon.

If you are moving in the near future **PLEASE DO NOT FORGET TO LET ME KNOW your new address**

If you have any questions or news, feel free to call or write to our Granby address or by e-mail at

mondoumarcel@videotron.ca

Thank you all for your support and interest in our association. Marcel

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Humour

Spring is in the air

A True Love Story

Little Bruce and Jenny are only 10 years old, but they know they are in love. One day they decide that they want to get married, so Bruce goes to Jenny's father to ask him for her hand. Bruce bravely walks up to him and says, "Mr. Smith, Jenny and I are in love and I want to ask you for her hand in marriage." Thinking that this was just the cutest thing, Mr. Smith replies, "Well Bruce, you are only 10. Where will you two live?" Without even taking a moment to think about it, Bruce replies, "In Jenny's room. It's bigger than mine and we can both fit there nicely."

Still thinking this is just adorable, Mr. Smith says with a huge grin, "Okay then how will you live? You're not old enough to get a job. You'll need to support Jenny."

Again, Bruce instantly replies, "Our allowances. Jenny makes five bucks a week and I make ten bucks a week. That's about 60 bucks a month and that should do us just fine." Mr. Smith is impressed that Bruce has put so much thought into this. "Well Bruce, it seems like you have everything

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figured out. I just have one more question. What will you do if the two of you should have little ones of your own?" Bruce just shrugs his shoulders and says, "Well, we've been lucky so far." Mr. Smith no longer thinks the little shit is so adorable.

'C' Force Memorial Wall

We can fulfill our promise to our Hong Kong Veterans. A Memorial will be erected on an attractive site in downtown Ottawa.

The second phase of the Memorial Wall campaign is well on it's way with again many private and corporate donations still coming in.

A few more steps are to be confirmed and/or accepted soon.

The dates received from the *Memorial Wall Committee* for the unveiling of the Memorial Wall should be August 14-16, 2009. Keep those dates open as more info will be coming for the *April* edition of the "Wasureru-Nai" National newsletter and the next "The Torch".

Hope to meet all of you in Ottawa for the 'Great Unveiling'

National Convention

As for the Memorial Wall, confirmation of August 14-16, 2009 will be coming in the *April* edition of the Newsletters. Keep these dates in mind and open!

Humour

How is Norma?

A sweet grandmother telephoned St.Clare's Hospital. She timidly asked, "Is it possible to speak to someone who can tell me how a patient is doing? The operator said, "I'll be glad to help, dear. What's the name and room number?" The grandmother in her weak, tremulous voice said, "Norma Findlay Room 302." The operator replied, "Let me place you on hold while I check with her nurse. After a few minutes, the operator returned to the phone and said, "Oh, I have good news. Her nurse just told me that Norma is doing very well. Her blood pressure is fine; her blood work just came back as normal and her physician, Dr. Cohen, has scheduled her to be discharged on Tuesday." The grandmother said, "Thank you. That's wonderful! I was so worried! God bless you for the good news." The operator replied, "You're more than welcome. Is

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Norma your relative?" The grandmother said, "No, I'm Norma Findlay in 302. No one tells me shit."



DO take the time as a proud Canadian to pause and remember Veterans, to reflect upon their contributions and sacrifices, and to pay tribute to those who died protecting the values and freedoms we enjoy today.

Book Corner

The Royal Rifles of Canada in Hong Kong by Grant Garneau is available from your Quebec Region. It is for sale at the cost of \$ 50.00 per copy, including shipping and handling. Just contact Lucette with your order and cheque.

Other books are also available through your National Address.

Nominal Roll

Plastic-coated copies 12" x 19" of the Nominal Roll of the Royal Rifles in Hong Kong are available for sale at the cost of \$ 10.00 including

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postage. Make your cheque payable to HKVCA, QC for the number of copies required and mail to HKVCA, 18 Barre, Granby, QC, J2H 2E6.

Maple Leaf Brooch



The Maple Leaf Brooch is available through your regional address for \$ 25.00 including handling and shipping costs.

Please make your cheque to HKVCA QC and send to your Quebec address.

Having Mom over for dinner

Brian invited his mother over for dinner. During the course of the meal, Brian's mother couldn't help but notice how beautiful Brian's roommate, Jennifer was. Brian's Mom had long been suspicious of the platonic relationship between Brian and Jennifer, and this had only made her more curious.

Over the course of the evening, while watching the two interact, she started to wonder if there was more between Brian and Jennifer

than met the eye. Reading his mom's thoughts, Brian volunteered, "I know what you must be thinking, but I assure you Jennifer and I are just roommates." About a week later, Jennifer came to Brian saying, "Ever since your mother came to dinner, I've been unable to find the beautiful silver gravy ladle. You don't suppose she took it, do you?" Brian said, "Well, I doubt it, but I'll send her an e-mail just to be sure. So he sat down and wrote:

Dear Mom, I'm not saying that you 'did' take the gravy ladle from the house, I'm not saying that you 'did not' take the gravy ladle. But the fact remains that one has been missing ever since you were here for dinner. Several days later, Brian received a reply back from his mother that read:

Dear Son, I'm not saying that you 'do' sleep with Jennifer, I'm not saying that you 'do not' sleep with Jennifer. But the fact remains that if Jennifer is sleeping in her own bed, she would have found the gravy ladle by now. Love, Mom

Never lie to your mother!

Mom

Mom, there must have been times when it was hard bringing me up right.

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I know I didn't always listen to your advice, but you hung in there supporting me through it all...

And this Mother's Day I want you to know that although I've often gone my own way, your love has made all the difference in my life. And I'll always love you for that.

Happy Mother's Day to all Moms.

Dad

A Dad is always there to guide, listen and understand, to give love and happiness

On this Father's Day I want to say 'I love you' I sincerely appreciate everything you did for me then and still today.

Happy Father's Day to all Dads

Looking forward to meeting you all next August in Ottawa, more news to come on the Wall & Convention.

Take care - Till next time,

June 2009.

Lucette