

HONG KONG VETERANS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

MANITOBA BRANCH
PO BOX 381
WINNIPEG, MB R3C 2H6

April May June
2004

EDITOR: Carol Hadley (204) 837-6754
Email: cahadley@shaw.ca

PRESIDENT'S REPORT	1
HONG KONG VETERANS' COMMEMORATIVE ASSOCIATION	2
WINNIPEG GRENADEER'S HONG KONG TRUST FUND	2
LAST POST	3
NOTES FROM BARRY MITCHELL,	3
TREASURER AND MEMBERSHIP	3
FROM THE EDITOR	4
ELECTIONS FOR HKVCA IN MANITOBA	5
CANDIDATES FOR 1 ST DEPUTY DIRECTOR	5
CANDIDATES FOR 2 ND DEPUTY DIRECTOR	6
HUMOUR	7
REMINDERS	8

President's Report

Another year has arrived and I am sending you my best wishes for peace, good health, wealth and happiness. May you receive all that you wish for.

Since my last report we have attended a number of meetings - our monthly luncheons, Commemorative Association meetings, Intrepid Society Luncheon and Veteran Affairs Canada Luncheon. The Intrepid Society invited a professor who had written many books about Canada's military history. He gave an interesting talk on Canada's Department of Defence's spending or rather the lack of spending from 1950 to the present. I was pleased to attend the VAC lunch at which the new minister, The Honourable John McCallum presented his Award for Merit to three deserving Peace-Keeper veterans, Norm Van Tassel, Robert Barry and Murdock Jardine. This was a very impressive meeting.

Before giving you of the status of the monument committee, I wish to clarify an important point. Contrary to our National President's letter of September 30th, 2003 that he addressed to Carol Hadley with copies to the HKVA Branch Presidents, Phil stated that this was the initiative of the Commemorative Association. The idea of erecting two memorials to 'C' Force, one in the East and one in Winnipeg, was suggested to me by Syd Davey, President of Intrepid Society of Winnipeg. I arranged to meet with him and the world reknown sculptor, Leo Mol, and asked Juliet Lafortune to accompany me. I introduced the subject at the HKVA National Council in Victoria in August 2003 where, through a motion, approval was given to develop suggestions for this memorial. I asked for ideas and suggestions to be forwarded to the monument committee that I would form. This project is the initiative of the monument committee until it is brought back to the HKVA for their approval. Then with the help of the Commemorative it will become fact.

Our committee consists of Juliet Lafortune, Stan and Vince Lopata, Neil and Eirik Bardal and myself as Chair. More people will be added as needed. We have looked into various number of ideas for this long over due memorial: a granite wall with 1975 names of 'C' Force; a monument of three soldiers - one for the Winnipeg Grenadiers, one for the Royal Rifles and one for Brigade Headquarters with special mention of the nursing sisters and the third concept of a Mausoleum as an interpretive centre. This last idea of an interpretive centre would have, in the entrance, a pedestal with a book of honour with all 1975 names. On the walls a variety of scenes showing parts of the battle for Hong Kong and depicting our fight for survival as POW's in Hong Kong and Japan. The size of the memorials and their location has also been considered. A mausoleum in Winnipeg could in all

Box 381 Winnipeg, MB R3C 2H6 Address for dues and/or correspondence for HKVA and HKVCA

probability be erected on the Field of Honour at Brookside Cemetery with the land being donated by the City of Winnipeg. If a memorial is to be erected in the East, we would leave that to the discretion of the HKVA in that area.

On March 15th Juliet and I attended a very enjoyable and entertaining celebration of the 76th Anniversary of the ANAF Unit #60 and the 1572nd anniversary of St. Patrick's Day.

On April 21st I will be attending the next meeting of the Prairie Advisory Council to Veteran's Affairs Canada at Deer Lodge Centre. The Annual Memorial parade at Brookside on June 6th will be switched to the Cenataph for this year only as it is the 60th Anniversary of 'D' Day invasion and a larger attendance is anticipated. The Peacekeepers will be unveiling and dedicating a cairn in August on Memorial Blvd – date and time to be announced later.

Don't forget to send any ideas and suggestions for the memorials to the monument committee in Winnipeg and we will explore them to the best of our ability. Thank you.

If any problems arise that I can assist in solving, please let me know. One last reminder before I close. The VIP serves surviving partners of a veteran who was in receipt of same at the time of his or her death. This was back-dated to September 1990. The survivor needs to apply to VAC to have these benefits approved and restored.

Stay well and have a good year. In comradeship, George N. Peterson

Hong Kong Veterans' Commemorative Association

Hello to all,

Well we know spring is just around the corner. I was looking in my back yard the other day and saw some of my tulips starting to come up. What a great sight that was to see!

As you must know by now, we, in Manitoba, are trying to prepare a few proposals for the monument. We are receiving ideas from members of the HK's and HKVCA's. We are taking this all into consideration. Our mission here is to please the Veteran's. Isn't this what it is all about? We, as HKVCA

members are their legs. We are to work along with the Vet's not just what we want to see. It would be greatly appreciated by the monument committee if you would poll the Vet's in your area and email the suggestions to me at (jlafortune@hkvca.ca).

We are still working on getting involved with the Museum of Humanities. The content will be mostly articles and books on our Vet's.

Pat Maltman and I are planning on organizing a Ladies Luncheon (wives, widows, daughters, sisters etc.) will be invited.

Our elections will take place shortly and you will be notified of the results.

Well I must take leave as there are things to be attended to - so take care.

Juliet Lafortune, Regional Director

Winnipeg Grenadier's Hong Kong Trust Fund

- Donna Remillard

The Winnipeg Grenadiers Hong Kong Trust Fund assists the issue of the Winnipeg Grenadiers Hong Kong veterans, for their higher education. All donations that are received to meet these requests are greatly appreciated.

Cheques should be written to **Winnipeg Grenadier's Hong Kong Trust Fund** (not HKVA).

The Hong Kong Veterans' Association makes a donation to this fund in memory of each deceased veteran member. Contributions to this fund can be directed to: Donna Remillard at 303-740 Kenaston Boulevard, Winnipeg, MB R3N 1Y3 or telephone (204) 489-0008.

Last Post

Philip Lawlis, E-29943, RRC died Jan.10/04

Gordon Hutchinson, E-30570, RRC died Jan. 19/04

Paul Arsenych, H-70404, WG died Feb. 3/2004^{3/4}

Wendell Thompson, E-30348, RRC died Feb. 13/04

Alton E. Jewers, F35214, RRC, died in Victoria on Feb. 21/04

HKVCA

Doreen, the wife of HK vet Alfred Mills, formerly of Richmond, Qc - now residing in Prescott, ON, died Friday, Feb. 13th.

Dorothy McGrath, widow of John McGrath, E30702, Royal Rifles of Canada died Feb. 12/04

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to all the families and friends.

"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. I wish you well and trust this finds you to be in good spirits. We have just experienced a hell of a long winter in Winnipeg and I envy you Snowbirds who escaped for a few weeks or months. I guess this is why we have so many H.K. veterans living in British Columbia and why this newsletter is sent to so many destinations.

The first few months of each year bring us lots of mail, with many of you renewing your membership promptly as you should. However,

many more of you let things slip as far as dues are concerned, so you will hear from me again in the form of a reminder. My apology if you receive a dues owing notice when you have already paid but hopefully that means your cheque and my letter crossed in the mail. But I did make a mistake once, so there is a slim chance that our records aren't the same as yours. If you are wondering about your status, please drop me a line or better yet, give me a call (an e-mail for you Hi-Tec types).

We would certainly like to see some more activity with the sale of merchandise through Barry's Emporium so I encourage you to think about your gift needs. Many of you have taken advantage of the great price of our sweatshirts (we are sold out of size Large but still have lots of size Medium, XL and XXL) that remains at \$20.00 while we continue to offer prompt delivery on 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.

We always enjoy the notes some of you include with your cheques and for example, we received a lovely Christmas card from **Mona Zane & Family** in **Carlsbad, California**. Someone who really spent some time to bring us up-to-date was **Dennis Stewart** of **Selkirk, MB**. Dennis included a long note with his thoughts about his dad and the WG mementos he is willing to share with anyone who is interested. He also tells us that in 1939, a total of 13 men from his home town of Pilot Mound signed up for active duty including **Bill Mayne** who visited recently. Also have a note from **Tom Forsyth** of **Reston, MB**, who tells us he is the only Grenadier who was never issued a pay book. At the age of 93, he is still looking forward to obtaining that book before his next birthday. Good luck Tom!!

We have an interesting card from **David Martin** of **Saskatoon, SK**, who has sent us his dues along with a generous donation. David is still getting around with the aid of a walker and all-in-all, feels pretty good. He sends his best wishes to everyone. Another nice note from **George Coutts** in **Melita, MB**, who sounds as

active as ever. George says he keeps busy with curling a couple of times a week and bowling once in awhile. He hit the golf course last summer and plans to do the same this year. Good for you, George!! I spoke briefly with **John James** of **Emo, ON**, and it was great to hear his enthusiasm once again. We have some cheerful words from **Bill Muir** out there in **Courtenay, B. C.** who managed through some heavy snow this winter but looks forward to the more usual temperate BC weather.

Sheridan Corbeil of Mesa, Arizona is very good at keeping in touch and regularly sends us a very professional letter along with her dues and donation. Thank you again, Sheridan. Of course we always like to hear from our **Winnipeg** veterans and I was pleased to be able to respond to **Cliff Matthews'** invitation for a brief visit to pick up his thoughtful donation. We also received a most gracious note from **Bob Lytle** and I can tell you it is gratifying to know that even though we don't see that much of some of the guys, that they remain in reasonable health and follow the HK activities through the newsletter. Thanks for you kind words, Bob.

I would like to acknowledge an active and cheerful Commemorative member in **Sacramento, California**, namely **John Norris**. John has regularly communicated with us through the regular mail, e-mail and by phone and always with interesting anecdotes. His latest contribution is a newspaper article about various munitions bunkers across the U.S. that are being converted to civilian use, such as storage vaults. The article mentions that in Hong Kong, some World War II bunkers are being converted into Crown Wine Cellars and in one case the move is so popular that a clubhouse is being built to make full use of it. We appreciate your newsy items, John.

It's time to remind you that memberships are due if you haven't yet sent us your cheque. We charge 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

From the Editor

We are always pleased to hear from our members and I wish to pass on some recent contacts that I have received.

- A thank you card from the **Gordon Hutchinson's family** – I wish more of us could have been with them at Gordon's funeral service in Ontario.
-
- Thank you to **Tom Foster** who sent an email about the notice in the Legion Magazine - "Winnipeg Grenadiers - Hong Kong. Comrade of **SHAYLER, ED**, from Calgary (possibly Sid Varcoe) who carved plaque: "Prisoner of War Hong Kong 25 12 41" sought by Red Cross woman stationed in Okinawa who was given it.
Scott Wolff, 4136 Minnesota Ave. Duluth, MN. 55802, USA (218) 722 - 3388, swolff@d.umn.edu.
- **George Harbour** called to say that he had returned from Florida where he had enjoyed a couple of weeks in the warm weather. He hopes to attend the next luncheon if he is still in town.

Our **web site**, www.hkvca.ca, as always, generates great interest in our veterans and our Association from people from all over the world. Our Web Master, **Linda May**, oversees this project and does a wonderful job of maintaining our chat room for our executive meetings every month. She has many projects on the go to enhance our site so stay tuned.

It is very exciting to see the wonderful recognition that is being given our veterans by the younger generation who are putting up web

sites as tribute to their family member – our HK veteran. In fact if you visit Tony Banham's web site - www.hongkongwardiary.com - he commends the Canadians for their initiative in producing these memorial tributes.

The newest site is in honour of Charles Richard Trick, Winnipeg Grenadier - <http://members.shaw.ca/tricksweb/> - created by his son Jim Trick of Victoria, BC.

The next one is from grandson, Michael, of George Thomas Palmer, a Royal Rifle who served in Hong Kong. Please visit his website (www.geocities.com/canadianhongkongveteran/georgethomaspalmer.html) – and take a moment to update his records if you are able.

Please visit these sites also:

In memory of - Major Ernest Hodkinson DSO

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

Major M.A. Parker

<http://www.geocities.com/rcwpcal/> ; Staff

Sergeant John "Jack" Laing

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

and Kenneth Cambon, M.D.

<http://www.fourthmarinesband.com/cambon.htm>. Please let us know if there are other sites

dedicated to our 'C' Force.

Some of the inquiries are from families looking for information on their relatives:

- Tracie is looking for information on her grandfather, **Andrew Harvie, WG**
- David Hughes is looking for information on his grandfather, **Sgt. Harold B. Hughes, RRC**
- Jo-anne is looking for information on her grandfather, **Pte George Ernest Smith, WG**.
- Karen is looking for information on **William Alexander Rule Smith H41807** who died a POW in November 1942.

If anyone has information to pass on to these families, please forward the information to me if you don't have a computer and I will send it onto them.



Elections for HKVCA in Manitoba

Enclosed you will find a ballot for the positions of 1st Deputy Director and 2nd Deputy Director. Please read the following biographies of the candidates and put a check in the box on the ballot beside the person that you choose for that position.

**Return this ballot to: Rev. Gordon Shields,
DEADLINE: April 23, 2004**

By mail: 574 Renfrew St.

Winnipeg, MB R3N 1J7

By email: shieldsgordon@hotmail.com

CANDIDATES FOR 1ST DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Eirikur Luke Bardal

Born in Winnipeg October 18, 1970 of parents Annette and Neil Bardal and Grandparents, N.O. Bardal and Sigga Bardal.

N.O. Bardal was a Winnipeg Grenadier and was a Prisoner of War in Hong Kong for four years.

I am a 4th generation Funeral Director and Embalmer. I am married to Lisa Bardal and we have four children, Catherine, Sean, Samantha and Joshua. I have one brother Jon Bardal and nephew Stephen.

Past time: Hunting, fishing, walking my dog Teagan, reading, and watching Historical Biographies and spending time with my family.

Working career: Graduated the 2000 from the Western School of Funeral Services and now manager of Neil Bardal Inc. and NBI Cremation Services.

I am currently involved in: Scottish Rite, on the board of the Manitoba Funeral Service Assoc., member of the Icelandic National League, member of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, member of the Hong Kong Veteran's Commemorative Assoc of Canada

Phyllis Downie

I am the daughter of James McLaughlin Downie of the Winnipeg Grenadiers. Born 1936 in Winnipeg, BARA University of Alberta, employer – Province of Alberta and City of Winnipeg.

Aim as Board Member: to assist the Association for Hong Kong Veterans in achieving their goals in the services they provide to the remaining members of the Hong Kong Veterans; to work towards the recognition and remembrance of the contribution of all Hong Kong Veterans present and past to all Canadians; to assist in developing archival and educational materials towards this goal for present and future generations; to assist the Board of Directors in what manner deemed necessary.

Relevant experience: I have been fortunate to have had jobs/positions that focused on the areas of Community, Organizational and Institutional facilitation coordination and educational matters. Areas of focus – Leisure, Culture, Recreation, Disabled and Integration, Multiculturalism, Inter-Governmental Relationships and Volunteerism. I believe that much of this experience will be of value to the operation of the HKVCA of Manitoba.

Thank you for your consideration.

CANDIDATES FOR 2ND DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Terence Arthur Jackson

I am the son of Hong Kong veteran, Arthur H. Jackson, (WG). I am very pleased to be nominated for the position of 2nd Deputy. I am presently retired from the C.N.R. I have been a member of the Hong Kong Veterans' Association for approximately 20 years. For the last 8 years I have been responsible for the Hong Kong vets Memorial Roll at All Saints Church. Over the years I have attended as many Hong Kong vets events as possible, especially V.J. Day and Remembrance Day Services.

I believe it is up to us children of the Hong Kong Vets to keep their memory alive.

I am looking forward to your support for the position of 2nd Deputy.

Patricia Maltman

I am the daughter of and the widow of a Winnipeg Grenadier – Hong Kong Veteran. It

goes without saying that my interest in this particular military unit has always been {"What can I do, and how can I help?"}

In the middle 1950's I joined the Royal Canadian Legion, Emo Branch and acted as their Sergeant at Arms for 2 years. I was also a member of their ladies auxiliary.

During the latter part of 1957 I joined the Canadian Women's Army Corps Militia and was discharged at my request in 1960.

Became a member of the Hong Kong Ladies Auxiliary {Calgary Branch} in the 1960's and held the office of treasurer for 2 years and on the convention committee 1972.

Graduated Certified Nursing Aide course 1972. Employed at the Calgary General Hospital. Graduated Registered Nursing course 1977 – retiring in 1986.

Became an Associate member of the Manitoba Branch, Hong Kong Vets Association in 1981. Was elected entertainment Chairman in 1988 and continued in that position until 1997, at which time due to husband's illness I resigned.

I was, am and always will be interested in doing whatever will benefit the Hong Kong Vets and the membership of the Hong Kong Veterans' Commemorative Association.



BOOKS! Continuing with a request for any books about the Battle of Hong Kong. I will list a few books that would help to establish a resource library. (Only the books marked * are available from the HKVCA)

- **This Soldier's Story** - George MacDonell *
- **No Reason Why** - Carl Vincent
- **Desperate Siege: The Battle for Hong Kong** - Ted Ferguson
- **The Royal Rifles of Canada in Hong Kong** -The Veterans *
- **In Enemy Hands** - Daniel G. Dancocks
- **A Handful of Rice** - William Allister
- **Hostages to Fortune** - Tim Carew
- **From Jamaica to Japan** - Thomas S. Forsyth
- **17 Days Until Christmas** - Léo Paul Bérard *
- **Where Life and Death Hold Hands** - William Allister
- **Guests of Hirohito** - Ken Cambon

- **Hell On Earth** - Dave McIntosh
- **Diary of a Prisoner of War in Japan 1941-1945** - Georges "Blacky" Verrault
- **"C" Force to Hong Kong; a Canadian Catastrophe** - Brereton Greenhous
- **The Ruins of War** - Ko Tim Keung and Jason Wordie
- **Not the Slightest Chance** - Tony Banham (see Amazon.ca as the price of this book has been reduced to \$58.94)

If anyone would like to donate any of these books, please mail the book(s) to our PO Box or contact me at (204) 837-6754 to make arrangements.

PS – Grant Shepard has been assisting Tony Banham who is writing another book - the new book is about the Lisbon Maru (ship that was sunk by the allies but carried POWs going to Japan). If anyone knows of a survivor(s) that settled in Canada, please let us know.

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥
The Memory Project

I would like to mention the Memory Project again as it is a worthwhile effort to benefit our future generations.

I would encourage the veterans and the widows to make a contribution to our 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_in dex.cfm 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 that is organizing a memorial or funeral service for veterans. The CD has the correct order of service and music to enhance any event. There are 2 distributors for **"Honour and Pride"** now, Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command Kit-Shop, 359 Kent St., Ottawa, ON K2P 0R7 and McNally Robinson Booksellers at www.mcnallyrobinson.ca. The cost of the CD is \$25.00 plus taxes (and shipping and handling where applicable).

Humour

Jack and Joan were having some problems at home and were giving each other the "silent treatment". But then Jack realized that he would need his wife to wake him at 5:00 am for an early morning drive with some pals to a golf match. Not wanting to be the first to break the silence (and so lose the "war"), he wrote on a piece of paper, "Please wake me at 5:00 am."

The next morning, Jack woke up, only to discover it was 9:00 am and that his friends would have left for the golf course without him. Furious, he was about to go and see why his wife hadn't awakened him when he noticed a piece of paper by the bed.

The paper said, "It is 5:00 am. Wake up."



At New York's Kennedy airport today, an individual later discovered to be a public school teacher was arrested trying to board a flight while in possession of a ruler, a protractor, a setsquare, a slide rule, and a calculator.

At a morning press conference, Attorney General John Ashcroft said he believes the man is a member of the notorious Al-gebra movement. He is being charged by the FBI with carrying Weapons of Math Instruction.

Al 'Gebra is a fearsome cult," Ashcroft said. "They desire average solutions by means and extremes, and sometimes go off on tangents in a search of absolute value. They use secret code names like 'x' and 'y' and refer to themselves as 'unknowns', but we have determined they belong to a common denominator of the axis of medieval with coordinates in every country. As the Greek philanderer Isosceles used to say, 'There are 3 sides to every triangle,' Ashcroft declared.

When asked to comment on the arrest, President Bush said, "If God had wanted us to have better weapons of math instruction, He would have given us more fingers and toes.



A man and a woman meet at a bar. They got along so well that they decided to go back to the woman's place. A few drinks later, the guy takes off his shirt and then washes his

hands. He then takes off his trousers and washes his hands again. Watching him...the woman says, "You must be a dentist". Surprised, the guy responds, "Yes...how did you figure that out?" "Easy" she replies, you keep washing your hands".

One thing leads to another and they make love. Once they're done the woman says, "You must be a really good dentist." The guy (now with a boosted ego) says, "Well yes I am a good dentist"....."How did you figure that out?" "I didnt feel a thing!" was her reply.

• • • • •

Medical term for sick leave (I always knew there was a medical term for it!).

Employee....."I'm sorry but I can't come in today. I am suffering from Anal Glaucoma."

Boss....."Anal Glaucoma? What's that?"

Employee...."I just can't see my ass coming to work!"

• • • • •

Last year I replaced all the windows in my house with those expensive, double-paned, energy efficient kind.

But this week I got a call from the contractor complaining that his work had been completed a whole year ago and I had yet to pay for them.

Boy oh boy, did we go around! Just because I'm blonde doesn't mean that I am automatically stupid. So, I proceeded to tell him just what his fast talking sales guy had told me last year... that in one year the windows would pay for themselves.

There was silence on the other end of the line so I just hung up and I haven't heard back.

Guess I won that stupid argument.

• • • • •

PALM SUNDAY:

It was Palm Sunday and, because of a sore throat, five-year-old Johnny stayed home from church with a sitter. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm branches. The boy asked what they were

for. "People held them over Jesus' head as He walked by."

"Wouldn't you know it," the boy fumed, "The one Sunday I don't go, He shows up!"

• • • • •

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 have changed location to St. James Legion on Portage Ave. at NOON - 2nd Thursday of the month. Full accessibility available.

• • • • •

***** Please make sure you are a paid up member in order to run or vote in the elections. Also please indicate if Manitoba is your primary membership or just for newsletters. Thank you. *****

* * * * *

The Hong Kong Veterans' Commemorative Association address in Ottawa is: 1 Stafford Road, Ste.164, Nepean, ON, K2H 1B9.

Your HKVA Branch Council Phone Numbers - Keep Them Handy:

George Peterson, President	256-7174
Carol Hadley, Secrtry/Newsletter	837-6754
Barry Mitchell, Treasurer/Membership	269-1497
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 day and be safe!