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# The Torch

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Quebec Region

Volume 5 Number 1

March 2006

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**Word from Phil**  
**Doddridge, veterans**  
**spokesman**

LANCELOT SCOTT ROSS  
E-1144

So much has been said and written about Lance that I am afraid that what I have to say will ring hollow.

Lance meant so much to so many people. His Hong Kong friends, without exception, honoured and respected him. His many other friends, as well, held him in high regard, sought his advice and valued his opinions.

His quiet and unruffled manner instilled confidence in him. We roughnecks in Seventeen Platoon would have gone the last mile for Lance, such was the value we placed on his leadership.

He was a master craftsman in a number of ways. He could do many things with wood, from crafting a gun stock to building a piece of furniture.



**HKVCA Administration**

**Philip Doddridge**

HKVA, National President

Veterans' Spokesman

**Lucette M. Muir**

Quebec Regional Director

**Allan Marshall**

Treasurer

**Debbie Batley-Everett**

Secretary

**Marcel Mondou**

Deputy Director

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His knowledge of nature was phenomenal. He knew the ways and habits of every wild creature. He cultivated many different types of plants. His curiosity of all things in nature never diminished as he grew older. He planted seeds and grafted trees just to try something new. He always had a vegetable garden, he had tree plantations, he had a blueberry patch which he cultivated.

He built a stone wall half way across his farm with sandstone he hauled from the beach a half mile away. He had a huge wood-lot which he cared for and harvested for lumber as he needed it. He would travel through his woods on his ATV and prune bushes and select trees for use.

Lance was a hunter and a fisherman. I had the pleasure of accompanying him on a number of trips, but Bob Barter was his regular partner for many years.

Lance was one of the most loved and respected of all

Hong Kong Veterans. We will surely miss him.

#### PERSONAL NOTE

For me the past month has been an emotional roller-coaster.

Several of our comrades have departed this earth. I'll leave it to Marcel to report on their passing further on in this newsletter.

My own life has been shaken up a bit, with the death of my brother-in-law, and the attendance at his funeral of his extended family from Michigan.

Edwina's health has not improved. Indeed, she is now treated with the onset of diabetes.

We have had birthdays this week, my 84th on Sunday, April 2, and Edwina's 81st on April 4.

Just coasting along!

#### CVHV

An induction ceremony will take place again this year in Ottawa at the Canada Veterans Hall of Valour.

This year, Gander will be inducted. Ron McGuire, who has taken on the task of championing the cause of Hong Kong Veterans, has told me that he is attempting to have at least one Hong Kong Vet honoured each year.

Flash Clayton will read the citation for one of the candidates. Bob Barter and I

will also be there, as we were last year at Lance Ross's induction.

That's it for now. I always leave this job of writing something until the last minute. I vow that I will improve, but it never seems to happen.

So I'll close as usual.

Be good to each other, and may God Bless.

Philip

#### Word from Quebec Regional Director Lucette M.Muir

Greetings to all.

It is that time again. Hope this newsletter finds you all well. Here it is spring, The sweetness of the boiling sap is in the air, birds chirping, yes it is spring although I know that many of you are still in the snow and some of you are still with winter weather.

Things have been on a soft note with winter vacations for many and catching up on indoor work, and calls to members and/or visits to hospitals, funeral homes and friends. The planning and preparations for the upcoming reunion are well on their way.

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We attended a "Celebration of Life" for Lance Ross in Ottawa.

Yes, Lance will be greatly missed by his family and by all of his Hong Kong Comrades and extended Family.

I did not have the chance to know Lance for as many years as most of you but, the years I did know him, to me he was a gentleman in more ways than one.

I specially remember him during the 2000 Pilgrimage to Hong Kong at Stanley Park... while many were shopping galore, Lance stood there... back in time...in an other world as it seemed. For me, in my eyes, it was and still is unforgettable...

Lance you will be missed by so many. We will remember.

Unfortunately recently, we have lost many other Vets but through no fault of anyone we did not hear in time or for other reasons, we did not attend their ceremonies, they are still in our thoughts and our prayers did go out to their families as well.

Take care,

Lucette

#### Last Post

At this time we are sad to report the passing of more of our 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: Michael Haddad WG, Abraham Peters WG, August A.J. Bitzer WG, R.J. (Bob) McNaughton RRC, Leandre (Leo) Leblanc RRC, Lancelot (Lance) Ross RRC.

Widows: Margaret (Peggy) Wright widow of Stanley Wright RRC, Edith Ebert widow of George Ebert WG, Marion Irving widow of John B. Irving RRC, Maude Crawford widow of Dr. John Crawford, Iva Stodgell widow of George Roy Stodgell, Loretta Cyr widow of Roger Cyr RRC.

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: Oswald Clark who has been in hospital since February, Edwina Doddridge, Reginald Law in hospital for the last month, Pat Poirier waiting for more eye surgery, Lionel Speller from BC.

Other veterans and widows have been under the weather with different ailments and possibly more that we did not hear about.

A friendly note or call to these people is very "good for the moral".

Having your love ones near you has a way of helping things.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all our sick.

Take care,

### **Humour**

Sven and Ole

"In Michigan it's the Polacks, In Texas it's the Aggies, in Canada it's the Newffies in Minnesota it is the Norwegians and then we have the Irish.

There was a well known phone company that was going to hire one team of telephone pole installers, and the boss had to choose between a team of two Norwegian guys and a team of two Irish guys.

So the boss met with both teams and said: "Here's what we'll do. Each team will be installing poles out on the new road for a day. The team that installs the most phone poles gets the job".

Both teams headed right out. At the end of the shift, Pat and Mike, the Irish guys, came back and the boss asked

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them how many they had installed.

They said that it was tough going, but they'd put in twelve.

Forty-five minutes later, Ole and Sven, the Norwegian guys came back in and they were totally exhausted.

The boss asked, "Well, how many poles did you guys install?"

Ole, the team leader, wiped his brow and sighed, "Sven and me, we got three in".

The boss gasped, "Three? Those two Irish guys put in twelve!"

"Yeah", said Ole, "but you should see how much they left sticking out of the ground!"

### **Happy Birthday**

April: Jean Paul Dallain, Phil Doddridge, Edwina Doddridge, Dick Keays, Jean-Pierre Lalime, Fred Mason, Debbie Batley Everett, Marcienne Lalime, Catherine Marshall

May: S,Martin Banfill, Jessie Clayton, Geraldine Cunningham, Una Lapalme, Monique Russell

June: Graham Boudreau, Eva Hunt

### **Wedding Anniversary**

A very special 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on April 6<sup>th</sup> for Bill and Claire Doull who will be celebrating with family and friends out in BC

### ***Happy Birthday***

### ***Happy Anniversary and Best Wishes to all***

(If we have your birthday month, all the HK Family would know of your special day and even send you their personal wishes).

### **Correspondence**

In no particular order, received correspondence or calls from: Phil Doddridge, Bob Olscamp, Lyla Beattie, Pat Poirier, Veronique Hunt, Rita Leblanc, Renee Giard.

### **Donations**

In no particular order: Peter Allain, Samuel Dissinsi, Thelma Dissinsi, Alma Wood, Robert Clayton, Joyce Aitken, Austin Batley, Marcel Ouellette, Allison Pollock, Rollande Miller, Jean Lalime, Graham Boudreau, Richard Keays, Martin Banfill, Llewlyn Doull, Veronique Hunt.

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

### **Membership**

Greetings to all .

My major responsibility is encouraging you to keep up with your membership by sending us \$ 15.00 each calendar year.

I would like to ask you to check your membership card and..... if it is marked **2006**... you are up to date, if you do not have it... you **STILL HAVE TIME TO PAY YOUR 2006 MEMBERSHIP DUES.**

Unfortunately we need to update our membership lists as a few members have not as yet renewed their membership for over three years. I am sure this is only an oversight on their part... This condition will affect continuing to receive The Torch as well as the National Newsletter. I'm confident that they will come forward very shortly. If you aren't already a member in good standing, please mail your cheque soon to my address on the front page of The Torch.

At this time we have no new members to report.

If you have any questions on membership, feel free to call or write to our Granby address or by e-mail at [mondoumarcel@videotron.ca](mailto:mondoumarcel@videotron.ca)

Thank you all for your support and great interest in your association.

Marcel

### **Humour**

Little Johnny watched his Daddy's car pass by the school playground and go into the woods. Curious, he followed the car and saw Daddy and Aunt Jane in a passionate embrace. Little Johnny found this so exciting that he could not contain himself as he ran home and started to tell his mother, "Mommy, Mommy, I was at the playground and I saw Daddy's car go into the woods with Aunt Jane. I went back to look and he was giving Aunt Jane a big kiss, then he helped her take off her shirt. Then Aunt Jane helped Daddy take his..., then Aunt Jane..."

At this point Mommy cut him off and said, "Johnny, this is such an interesting story, suppose you save the rest of it for supper time. I want to see the look on Daddy's face when you tell it tonight!"

At the dinner table, Mommy asked little Johnny to tell his story.

Johnny started his story, "I was at the playground and I saw Daddy's car go into the woods with Aunt Jane. I went back to look and he was giving Aunt Jane a big kiss, then he helped her take off her shirt. Then Aunt Jane helped Daddy, then Aunt Jane and Daddy started doing the same thing that Mommy

and Uncle Bill used to do when Daddy was in the Army”.

Moral: Sometimes you need to listen to the whole story before you interrupt.

### **Quebec Reunion 2006**

Quebec will be holding their regular Reunion in Granby August 10<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> 2006 as usual at the Castel Spa/Hotel which is now upgraded to a \*\*\*\* Hotel. The Hotel reservations will be treated as usual only through your organizing committee for our group prices.

Your complete Reunion Kit is included in this mailing.

Mark that date on your calendar and looking forward to seeing all of you and your families in Granby.

Personal holiday packages are also available, at the Castel, for extra days for families to visit our renovated Zoo with it's water park, the Nature Trails and/or other local activities.

Summer camping parks are also available in the area for extended vacations

See you all in Granby in August 2006!

### **Convention 2007**

The Alberta/Saskatchewan Region of the HKVCA has

graciously accepted to host the next National HKVCA Convention in 2007.

I am sure many of you are already looking forward to the next Convention. We will keep you informed as to the dates and place.

See you then.

### **Humour**

#### **Best Coffee in Town**

A Newfoundland woman “of a certain age”, visited her physician to ask his help in reviving her husband's sex drive. “What about trying Viagra?”, asks the doctor.

“Oh, no, doctor, I couldn't do dat,” she said. “He won't even take an aspirin.”

“Not a problem”, replied the doctor. “Drop it into his coffee. He won't even taste it. Give it a try and call me in a week to let me know how things went”.

It wasn't a week later, that she called the doctor, who directly inquired as to the progress.

The poor dear exclaimed, “Oh jaysus mary and joseph, doctor, twas horrid. Just terrible!”

“Really? What happened?” asked the doctor.

“Well, I did like you said and slipped it into his coffee. Lard de effect was almost

immediate. He jumped hisself straight up, with a twinkle in his eye, and with his pants a-bulging something fierce! With one swoop of his arm he sent the cups and tablecloth flying, ripped me clothes to tatters and then, lard tunderin jaysus, didn't he take me right then and there, making wild, mad passionate love to me on the tabletop! It was a nightmare, I tell you!”

“Why so terrible?”, asked the doctor. “Do you mean the sex was not good?”

“No, no, no, Doctor. The sex was fine. Indeed, 'twas the best sex I had in 25 years. But, oh me son, I'll never be able to show me face in Tim Horton's ever again!”

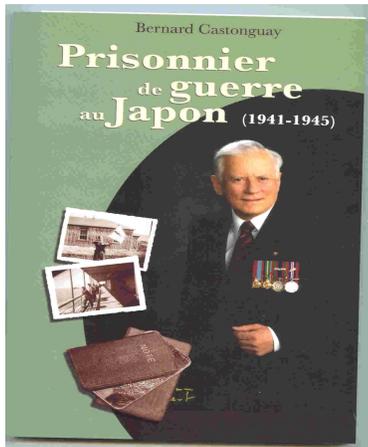
### **Book Corner**

The Royal Rifles of Canada in Hong Kong by Grant Garneau is still 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.

Throughout his life Bernard Castonguay, RRC, wrote his memoires with the help of Renee. Since Bernard's death, his widow Renee Giard Castonguay completed and published his book.

“Prisonnier de guerre au Japon” was dedicated to his

children, grand-children and to his comrades which he never forgot.



The book is for sale (at this time only the French version) at the cost of \$ 20.00 including handling and shipping. Send your cheque payable to: Renee Giard for the number of copies required to: 18 rue Barre, Canton de Granby, QC J2H 2E6.

Other books are also available through your National Address.

### **Nominal Roll**

Copies of the Nominal Roll of the Royal Rifles in Hong Kong are available for sale at the cost of \$ 10.00 including postage. These plastic-coated copies measure 12" x 19" and are suitable for framing or can also be laminated. 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 Broach**

Many members are familiar with the silver maple leaf broach developed, quite some time ago, by our Vets and worn by wives and widows.

Our inventory of broaches has since been sold out. Today, the total cost of a silver broach with the logo is out of reach for most people.

We have similar silver colour broaches being made and will be sold by mail at \$ 25.00 including shipping and handling. Send your cheque, for the number of broaches, payable to: HKVCA, QC at our Granby address.

BTW these broaches can also be worn by family members.

### **Call for Elections 2006**

A "Call for Elections" is out for 2006 for Quebec Region.

Your executive committee needs to fill a Deputy Director Chair (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice) left vacant and/or any chair, current members are also eligible for re-elections.

It is time to think of names you would like to nominate at any chair.

The Election Chairperson Larry Everett has prepared election info included with this edition of the Torch.

It is your duty to express your vote for the well being and

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management of your association. Do take the time and return your ballots.

That is it for this time and hope to see many of you next August at our Reunion in Granby.

*May Easter be happy*

*And bright for you*



Take care,

Till next time – June 2006.

Lucette