



The Maple Leaf and Dragon

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Larry Wong, Editor

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Chinese Vets Mourn the Passing of Doug Jung

By Larry Wong
Editor

Doug Jung, a member of Operation Oblivion, the first of Chinese Canadian lawyers, and the first Member of Parliament, passed away January 4, 2002. He was 77.

As a special tribute to him, a reprint of a speech he gave on the 40th Anniversary Reunion of Unit 280 at the Chinese Cultural Centre in 1987 appears in the enclosed insert. The transcribed text is courtesy of Sid Tan, who filmed the event for Rogers Cable program, Chinatown Today. We appreciate his permission to reproduce the speech in this issue.

Much of the speech is still relevant even though it was given 15 years ago. In fact, many aspects of the speech are the reasons why our museum has come into existence and must continue to be part of our community heritage.

He volunteered for special intelligence duties and was assigned to Special Operations Executive (SOE). He was trained at Commando Bay in British Columbia as a member of an elite guerilla group; Operation Oblivion, the forerunner of Force 136.

Doug graduated from the University of British Columbia as the first Chinese Canadian veteran granted university training by the Department of Veteran Affairs.



A young Douglas Jung on the far left of back row with the Operation Oblivion team; the first Chinese Canadian group recruited for Special Operations Executive.

He was called to the B.C. Bar in 1954 after receiving his two degrees, Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws. He made court history in 1955 by becoming the first Chinese Canadian lawyer ever to appear before the B.C. Court of Appeal.

Later, as an MP, he implemented the Amnesty program which made it possible for thousands of Chinese, who had used false names to come to Canada, to attain their true status with the Immigration Department. This measure enabled them to apply for the admission of their real families into this country.

He was also instrumental in broadening regulations to permit more categories of family members to apply for resident status in Canada. Time Magazine at that time credited him for pushing these new progressive changes.

Douglas's multi-faceted career also included a stint as a judge on the Immigration Appeal Board in Ottawa. He took a special interest in the welfare of Chinese Canadian veterans. In his view, the contributions made by his fellow veterans were enormous. Without their service and sacrifices, Chinese Canadians might not have received the right to vote and the community would not be as dynamic as it is today.

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Any donations of \$10.00 and up are tax-deductible.

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Election of 2002 Executives

Pictured above is the new Executive of the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society elected January 10, 2002.

In the back row from left to right are Dan Lee, Assistant Curator; Gim Wong, Director; Quan Lim, Media Reporter; Roy Mah, Director; and Chong Joe, Director. Missing is John Ko, Director.

In the front row from left to right are Willie Chong, Director; Peggy Lee, first woman Director; Howe Lee, President; Bing Wong, Vice-President; Larry Wong, Secretary and Frank Wong, Treasurer.

The Executive looks forward to an exciting and eventful year. ♦

Doug Jung

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One of the projects he spearheaded was a visit for Chinese Canadian veterans to their ancestral homeland. During that trip, the veterans received the red carpet treatment from the Chinese government and Douglas Was honoured as being the first Member of Parliament of Chinese origin in Canada. On another occasion, he brought a group of Chinese Canadian veterans to Ottawa who were well received by the Right Honourable Ray Hnatyshyn, Governor General of Canada.

Douglas' record of public service was accorded nation-wide recognition. His profusion of honours included the

Order of Canada and the Order of British Columbia, the highest honour a citizen can receive from the federal and the provincial government respectively.

Other awards came from the Chinese Benevolent Association, S.U.C.C.E.S.S., Chinese Cultural Centre, Chinese Canadian National Council and the Chinese Associations in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Thunder Bay and Toronto as well as the Quebec Japanese Canadian Citizenship Association in Montreal.

A public memorial service was held in his memory February 1 in the David See-Chai Lam Auditorium in the Chinese Cultural Centre in Vancouver's Chinatown.

The Master of Ceremonies was Kelly Ip who introduced Monty Jang, a family friend, who gave the eulogy. Tributes came from Dr. Hedy Fry, M.P. Vancouver Centre, Patrick Wong, MLA Vancouver Kensington, Mayor Philip Owen, City of Vancouver, Roy Mah, representing Pacific Unit 280, David Choi, the Memorial Service Committee and David Chong from the Chinese Bar Association. The Words of Thanks came from Douglas's nephew, Douglas Ross Jung with a Salute from George Campbell, a past National President of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada.

Joyce Chen provided musical interlude and Andrew Ko, bugler, played The Last Post.

An outstanding Canadian, Doug Jung, will be greatly missed. ♦

Eulogy to Rupert Fong as delivered by Roy Mah

Permission was given by Roy Mah (pictured) to reprint the following, which has been edited.

We gather here today to pay final tribute to Rupert Mun Leong Fong.



Rupert passed away peacefully at the Burnaby General Hospital after a prolong period of less than ideal health. He was 86 years old when he departed from this good Earth.

Rupert was born 1916 in Prince Rupert where he attended grade school. He moved to Vancouver in 1932 where he lived with the Soon family in his growing years.

He is survived by Vera and daughters Diane with husband David and Cynthia Chow; grandsons Randall, Ronald and Shane; great granddaughter Tamara; brothers Richard, John with Mae, Frank, Robert with Edna; sister Laura and sister-in-law Lily as well as many nephews and nieces.

When World War Two broke out, he enlisted in the Canadian Army and served overseas by joining the fable Force 136, a British led special operation unit under the command of Lord Louis Mountbatten. The mission of this unit was to carry out clandestine operations behind Japanese lines in Southeast Asia.

I was the non-commissioned officer who led the first all Chinese Canadian contingent of 107 men overseas to fight in the Indo-Burma front which included Malaysia and Singapore as our ultimate destination. Rupert was one of the young men in my group.

He was a widely travelled trooper in the war years as we set out from Vancouver and made stopovers in cities from coast to coast. We ended up in Halifax where we boarded a troop ship for our trip to England. After a few months sojourn in Aldershot near London where we took up additional training before leaving for India.

The trip to India took us through the Mediterranean Sea and the Suez Canal, passing through Egypt and many Middle East countries. Arriving in India, our first stop was the port city of Bombay from where we took a train to a city called Poona, where we received training either as wireless operators or as demolition squad members.

From Poona, we travelled across India to Calcutta,

Our Condolences

To the following families and friends of:

Ernest Bowmer M.D., passed away November 11, 2001 at age 86. He served as medical doctor in the British Army, the Indian Army and the Canadian Army, and was awarded the Military Cross for bravery at Cassino, Italy in 1944.

Rupert Mun Leong Fong, 86, who passed away November 10, 2001 in Vancouver. Please see his eulogy on this page.

Horace Bing Dang Lee, 76, passed away December 31, 2001. He was born in Victoria and served with Force 136.

Dick Mah, 77, of Nanaimo, passed away December 19, 2001. He served with the RCAF.

Allen Robert Quan, 82, who passed away December 17, 2001 in Vancouver. He was a member of Pacific Unit 280, the Burma Star Association and a Director of the Museum Society.

All were members and supporters, as well as personal friends of the Society. ♦

where we took training as paratroopers. From there, we proceeded to Colombo in Ceylon (now called Sri Lanka), which was our final destination, and the launching pad for our mission of guerrilla warfare in Japanese occupied territories in Malaysia and Singapore.

With the war over, we came back to a Canadian society, which was much better than the one we had left behind. The contributions and sacrifices made by Chinese Canadian men and women, on various war fronts, brought about this change. Most notable was that we were no longer regarded as second-class Canadian citizens. As a consequence, the vets were able to take advantage of this opportunity by landing jobs previously closed to them.

The City of Vancouver recognizes the contribution by commemorating two statues on Keefer-Columbia Square; one for the vets and one for the Chinese railway workers.

So Rupert has had a role to play in bringing about the Chinese Canadian vets monument in Chinatown. He will be remembered and lived in the hearts and minds of future generations of Canadians. ♦

MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

Membership: \$100 per individual or corporation.

Donation: from \$10.00 and up will receive a tax-deductible receipt.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Members of the Chinese Cultural Centre and the Museum Society chartered a bus for a special trip following the historic route of the Chinese pioneers from Vancouver to Yale, Ashcroft, Likely, Quesnelle Forks and finally to Barkerville where the above photograph was taken in late August of last year. The tour was an eye opener of how the early Chinese spent their lives in the wilderness. ♦

Postage