The Boys in Blue:Escape from Shanghai 43 (Part 3)

"Conder's Return to Civvy Street in Hong Kong"

Mrs. Susan Grace Conder and her two children George and Margaret were released from captivity from the Shanghai Lunghua Civilian Internee Centre in August 1945. We believe they were repatriated to England as Jack was not around!

If it is believed that Jack went over the barbed wire at Lunghua camp to simply escape from his wife as set out to the letter to Commandant Hayashi one can understand there were little possibility of a family conciliation later. It must have been one of the most unique and strange reasons for escaping from a WW II POW camp despite the possibility facing death!

Anyway, Jack Conder served his country well after escaping and joining up with the British Army Aid Group (BAAG) in China. He was probably de-mobbed from further playing soldiers in 1945 after the close of the Pacific war.

Many old Shanghailanders gravitated to Hong Kong during and after the Pacific war and with it Jack Conder. It is believed that he arrived in Hong Kong in 1945 to 1946. Soon after he started a pub in Queen's Road Central.

I am sure that Jack must have quickly made contact with some of his old Shanghai contacts especially some ex Shanghai Municipal Police (SMP) such as Roy MacAdie and R.C. Hall and Tommy Lillie Dow (SMP 1929 to 1942) who were contemporaries of Jack in Shanghai but were now in Hong Kong. Just after the war 56 ex - SMP officers joined the Hong Kong Police Force.

As birds of a feather flock together a Mr. J. H. O'Grady a former foreman of the Shanghai British Country Club (BCC) and Liverpudlian and a member of Lodge Erin 463 I.C. in Shanghai introduced Jack as a 'Tavern Manager and Merchant' to the members of Shamrock Lodge No.712 Irish Constitution in Hong Kong.

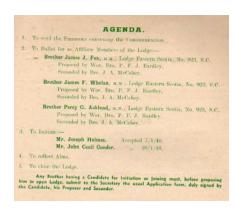
O'Grady formally proposed Jack Conder to become a member of Shamrock Lodge 712 on 7.1.1948. Roy MacAdie was already the first Master of Shamrock Lodge in 1947. (photo 712 Minute Book extract right)

Conder's ballot for membership took place on 28 .1.1948 (photo 712 Minute book Agenda item left)

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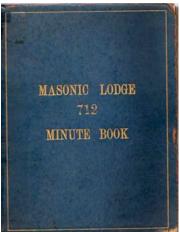
J.C. Conder's initiation into Shamrock Lodge took place at 6.45 PM at Kings Building on 9. 3.1948. His initiation Agenda item see (*photo below left*). The festive board that followed must have been punctuated with the stories of old Shanghai yarns and Jack's escape from Lunghua camp! His second degree ceremony took place on 8.9.48. together with Tommy Dow now a member of the Hong Kong Police.(*photo 712 Minute book Agenda item below*)



	AGENDA.
i.	To read the Summaris conversing the Communication.
2.	To read for approval and configuration, the Minutes of the last Stated Com- munication, held on Wednesday, 29th April, 1948,
4.5	To read correspondence.
45	To Ballat for the following Candidates
	For Afflintion: Wor. Bes. F. P. Versunia, Diet. Grand Aust. Soc. (S.C.), Hang Kong & South China. Proposed by War. Buo. F. A. J. Eardler, Socueded by War. Buo. F. J. J. Eardler,
	Wor, Bro, F. C. Mow Fang, p.n.s.o.w. (S.C.), Hong Kong & South Chinty, W.M. No, 4373, E.C. Proposal by Wor, Bao, H. E. Swaley, Seconded by Wor, Bao, P. F. J. Eardley,
	For Individual Mr. Herbert William Close. Date of Birth: 13th May, 1912. Proposed by Fore, F. W. Winyand, Secundal by War. Erst, H. E. Swaley.
	Mr. Raymond Stewart Nelson. Date of Birth. 10th November, 1922. Proposed by Dro. F. W. Wayard. Seconded by Bes. A. H. Smarthwaite.
5.	To PASS Hen, J. C. Condor, , T. Dow.
6	To transet such other Masonic Basiness as may regularly some before the Lodge.
7.	To sollect Alms.
	To close the Lodge.

Jack Conder's third degree ceremony took place on 8.12.1948 together with Tommy Dow former SMP & HKP. (*photo 712 Minute Book extract*)

Him	es of Manunic Lobys No. 712 the 8° may at Dec. 1948
	The lodge was rained to the 2nd
	11 2. C. Segue at 8.15 pm, all Bredrew
	nos of has degree having previously
	refired.
	Birs. J. 6. 6 ouder + I. Dow. who
	were passed on 8" dept. Aut, being
	bandidates for he Third Degree were
	presentes by the Director of Geremonies,
	and answired he questioned as a
	patisfactory Manuer and were passed
	out of the Ledge for Suparation.
	The Redge was called up to the
	Juid Deque at 8.30 pm atte
	Brekren as of has degree had
	retried.
	the fle border was readmitted and
	received in accordance with ancient
	custom and was duly soligated at
	8.50 pm. Bre I. Don' was readwith
	and we duly Aligated at 9.10 pm.
	The Explanation of the Sto Apr. + Ikus
	was given by Bro Hilaber.
	Die Explanation of the Obligation ly



A photo of Shamrock Lodge 712 I.C. Installation 1953

Seated Centre W.P. Apps (Master) Left W. E. Thomas (SW) Right J. C. Conder (JW)



A photo of Shamrock Lodge 712 I.C. Installation 1954

Seated Centre W.P. Apps(Master) Left W.C.R. Lamprill (JW) Right J. C. Conder (SW)



A photo of Shamrock Lodge 712 I.C. Installation 1955

Seated Centre W. E. Thomas (Master) Left W. C. R. Lamprill (SW) Right A.J.Stephens (JW)

Standing J.C. Conder Rear Centre



J. C. Conder's Installation as Master of Shamrock Lodge 712 IC took place on 8.2.1956 at Zetland Hall (*no Installation photo*)

Installation Agenda item of 712 Minute Book (photo J.C.Conder below)

J.C. Conder was Installed as Master of Shamrock Lodge 712 I.C. by V.W. Bro. G.F. Rhodes P.G.D. Assistant Grand Inspector. (*photo the Agenda items of the Installation Summons and extract of Minutes from Shamrock Lodge 712 1956*) below



Minutes of Masonie Lodge No. 712 the 8' day of Liky 36 to carry out the feren ony of Inchellat. See also invested him with the fallar of low. mater The Installing office called on the free his apps to form the procession & porigine the tractic select, for Join ind bonder. Having addressed The Mentio blees he old Charges were read to him by the Rt Mrr. frand Inspector to all by her to Mr. paint and a second where he pass his annale assent after he better below the new of hatalles herein hes retries from the ladge, the meetin bless file John Cent Conder was bestelled ton massing gage Phanurale Nº 712 for The The broken were readmitted on The Sustalling office Roclam & the newly Installe master, who again be Aunty Installs marin , the office unearly with the majori of his office unearly the officers of the forge as fellow the f. Statues as their barren the kits hay as four howing

John Cecil Conder also became the distinguished head of the following Masonic Lodges and Orders:

- Emerald Royal Arch Chapter 712 IC 1960
- Ararat Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No. 264 EC 1962
- The Preceptory & Priory of Shanghai No. 195 EC 1963
- The Hamilton Council of Hong Kong No. 67 IC 1964
- Order of the Secret Monitor Hong Kong Conclave No. 136 EC 1968
- Phoenix Sovereign Chapter of Prices Rose Croix No. 17 SC 1969
- Paul Chater Lodge of Installed Masters No. 5391 EC 1972
- Robert Lindsay Sovereign Council of Grand Elect Knights K.H. No. 30 SC 1972
- Irish Class of Instruction 1974
- Irish District Inspectorate Far East Assistant Grand Inspector I.C. PGD.

Conder was considerate, compassionate to the younger members and a good ritualist.



The Boys in Blue: Escape from Shanghai 43 (See Part 4)

"Face to Face with Jack"