

## 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.

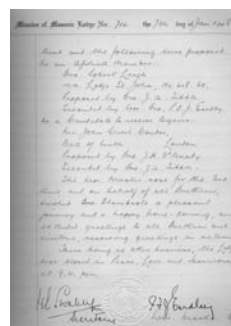
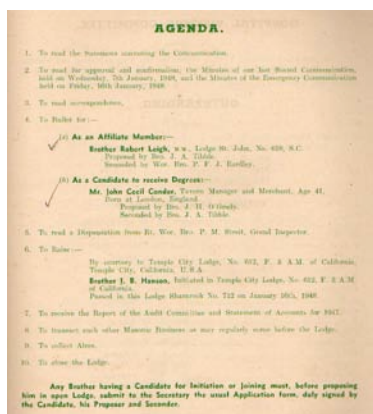
I am sure that Jack must have quickly made contact with some of his old Shanghai contacts especially some ex Shanghai Municipal Police (SMP) such as Roy MacAdie and R.C. Hall and Tommy Lillie Dow (SMP 1929 to 1942) who were contemporaries of Jack in Shanghai but were now in Hong Kong. Just after the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

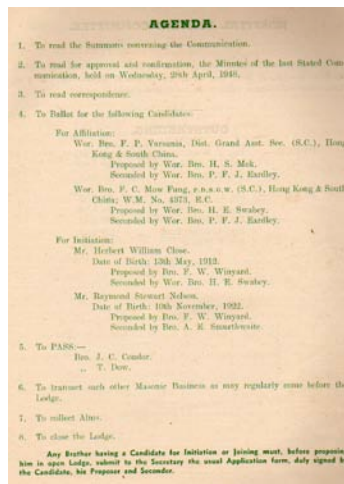
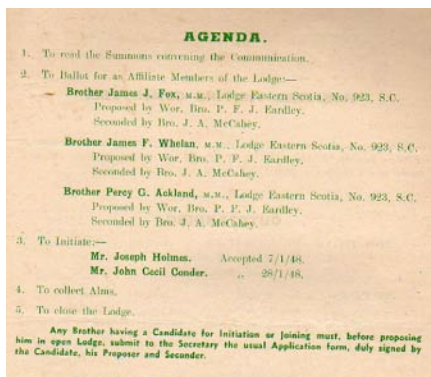
O’Grady formally proposed Jack Conder to become a member of Shamrock Lodge 712 on 7.1.1948. Roy MacAdie was already the first Master of Shamrock Lodge in 1947. (photo 712 Minute Book extract right)

Conder’s ballot for membership took place on 28 .1.1948

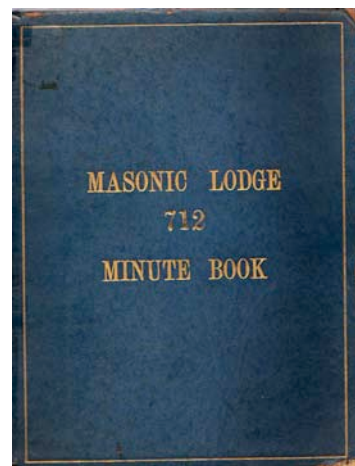
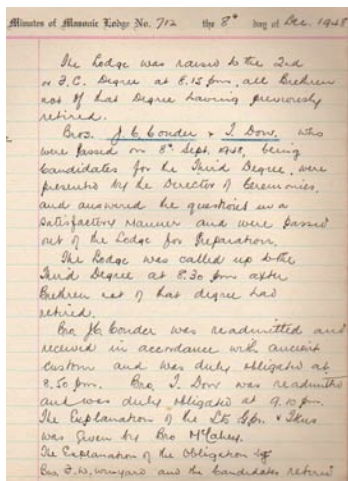
(photo 712 Minute book Agenda item left)



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)



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



**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)

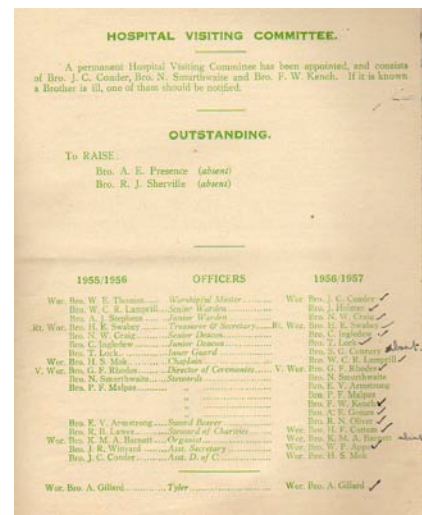
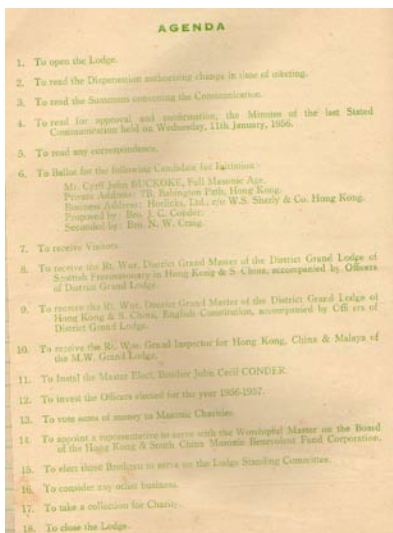
Standing J.C. Conder Rear Centre

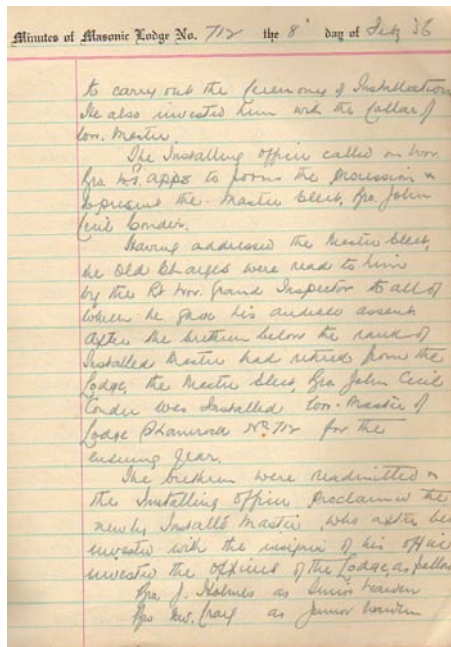


**J. C. Conder's Installation as Master of Shamrock Lodge 712 IC took place on 8.2.1956 at Zetland Hall (no Installation photo)**

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





**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 Princes 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”**