



Hong Kong Volunteer and Ex-PoW Association of NSW



EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION TO OCCASIONAL PAPERS 3,4, & 5

Dear fellow members of our Association,

It gives me great pleasure, as editor, to introduce this second batch of Henry Ching's Occasional Papers on the part played by the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps and its auxiliary and affiliated units during the defence of Hong Kong in 1941.

These Papers have a particular interest for us at Christmas time, not only because the Colony was surrendered to the Japanese forces on Christmas Day of that year, but because they relate to those killed, wounded and missing during the fighting. They are a poignant reminder to us of the harrowing times through which Volunteers and their loved ones passed in December 1941 and its aftermath.

The Papers include one on Casualties to units of the Corps, and another on Volunteer Families, whether resident in Hong Kong or living overseas at the time of the battle, and their anxious wait for news of their menfolk. A third paper is dedicated to those members of our Association who took part in the defence of the Colony, and the units to which they belonged, mostly in the HKVDC.

I am glad to report that, following the first batch of OPs, Henry and I have received several letters of appreciation from members, showing that people are taking a keen interest in the series. Some have provided valuable information, such as the letter written in 1943 to the Penn family in Canada from Benny Proulx which features in Paper Number 5. Landon Burch, whose name appears in Paper Number 4, has forwarded rare copies of the Volunteer Yearbooks for 1934-35 and 1938, which present a vivid picture of the Corps in the years before the War. Others have asked whether the Papers will be placed on our web-site. They will!

The series will focus more on the background than on the fighting. The latter has received attention world-wide, whereas details of the former are in danger of being lost or forgotten. We aim to put this right in succeeding Papers. Already, Henry has at least ten on varied subjects in preparation, and more can be expected.

With best wishes and season's greetings to you all,

James Hayes

December 2011