



NEWSLETTER

The ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT (THE VOLUNTEERS) ASSOCIATION

www.rhkr.org

July 2014

Message from the Chairman

Ron Taylor MBE TD ED

May 2014 marked the 160th Anniversary of the founding of the Volunteer Corps from which the Regiment and the Auxiliary Air Force were both descended. With Hong Kong's close links with Canada, and in particular the large number of Volunteers now resident in and contributing to Canada's prosperity, it was appropriate that Mr J Ian Bouchett, Canada's Consul General to Hong Kong and Macau, was our chief guest at the annual Foundation Day Dinner.

To help mark the 160th anniversary, during the first week of November, we will be visited by representatives from our overseas branches in the UK, Canada and Australia. A series of events are planned, including a photographic display of past Volunteering, with the visit ending as the world commemorates another significant anniversary at the annual Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph, this the year in August being the 100th anniversary of the start of the Great War, subsequently renamed as World War I.

Hong Kong was not directly involved in this war, but a number of Volunteers went to Europe to reinforce the number of those fighting there. As most of the regular forces in Hong Kong were withdrawn for service in Europe the remaining Volunteers were assigned to man a series of block houses in the hills above Kowloon. Once it was appreciated that no German attack was to be expected, they withdrew to Murray Barracks in Central, the then headquarters for the Volunteers. Later Volunteers worked in their offices during the day and, at night, half slept in tents in Central while the other half supplied guards for the camp in Hung Hom in which German residents of Hong Kong had been interned. The two groups changed over each week.

Many of the German internees were friends of the Volunteers and hence guarding the Germans was somewhat relaxed until the Germans built a 180 ft long tunnel under the camp's wire and adjacent railway line. An unnamed Volunteer guard fired at the fourth German to escape and hit the white bag which he was carrying. The German retreated back along the tunnel thus blocking further escape while the three who had escaped were soon recaptured.

The full story is related in *Second to None*, our Regimental History. Now we just reminisce and look back to those days when Hong Kong required the service of Volunteers like ourselves.

Family Walk 2014

CC Leung MBE ED

The Family Walk took place on 5th January, just a few weeks before the Chinese New Year festive season. It was a beauty and sunny day. Before the Walk, we visited the Hong Kong Police Museum in the Peak. The walk started at 1100 hrs at the Wan Chai Gap Garden and descended from the Peak along the Reservoir Road to Aberdeen where the walkers had a very good dim sum and a very cold beer lunch in a restaurant. We had totally 33 walkers which included members, spouses, four little girls and friends. It was believed that all enjoyed the visit to the museum, the walk with the beautiful greenery along the route and the lunch as well. Looking forward to having another family walk and to seeing you all soon.



160th Foundation Day Dinner

Captain John Lam MERCIAN

"Had it not been the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) I would not have been able to join the British Territorial Army (TA) and now serving under one army, regular and territorial....."

That was the testimony that I gave, which was nothing but the truth, in front of all those present at the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) Foundation Day Dinner on Friday 30 May 2014 marking the 160th Anniversary. It was the opportunity given by the Chairman of the Association, Major (Ret'd) Ron Taylor, for me to give an update on what I have been up to whilst serving the British Army for which I was grateful.

It was great to see that there were a total of 115 participants at the Dinner. However, only 59

(51% of the total) were indeed members of the Regiment of whom 9 had chosen to attend the regimental dinner in the HKAC capacity instead of their original regimental identity (probably they take more pride in their HKAC rank than that of the regiment). More fascinating to see were 10 members of the Women Troop present this year, some faces that I recognised but some I did not even know. I was even more amazed when learning that the Women Troop had recently celebrated their 30th anniversary of foundation of the troop early this year when nearly 80 members of the past attended. Considering that these ladies were all from one single troop of establishment, the support to the Women Troop from their members was overwhelming. Guys from all the sabre squadrons should work harder to encourage those who were once old comrades to support this regimental annual foundation day dinner.

Considering that the Foundation Day Dinner this year was to celebrate the 160th anniversary I came home from the UK bringing with a guest Captain Richard Price RLC to support this celebration. Richard, whom I met when we both served in the Op OLYMPICS in 2012, was an Inspector of the Royal Hong Kong Police in the eighties before he joined the British Army serving with the Royal Irish Regiment as a regular. He later joined the TA and is now serving with the Royal Logistic Corps. To mark this special occasion of the anniversary, Richard and I jointly presented a framed display of RLC and MERCIAN plaque.



New PRI



Regimental crest mechanical watch
HK\$250.



Regimental Motif tie
HK\$150

Coming Events

1. Liberation Day Ceremony
2. AGM and Annual Dinner
3. Remembrance Day Ceremony
3. Oxfam Trailwalker

Editor

Bernard Yuen

17th August, 2014.

29th August, 2014.

9th November, 2014.

14th – 16th November, 2014.