



# NEWSLETTER

**The ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT (THE VOLUNTEERS) ASSOCIATION**

www.rhkr.org

July 2015

## **Message from the Chairman**

*Ron Taylor MBE TD ED*

In May 70 years ago the war in Europe ended, but the war in the east, in the Pacific, in China and Burma, continued. In the Pacific, the United States of America was advancing west towards Japan. In Burma the British and Indian Army forces were advancing east towards Rangoon, whereas in China there was effective stalemate between the Japanese, the Nationalists and the Communist forces. There was no prospect of an early end of the war in the Far East.

All this was to change in early August when Americans dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, and then three days later one on Nagasaki. Less than a week later Japan had called for an end to hostilities leading to an unconditional surrender of all of their military forces, including those in China where the Japanese had been occupying areas for the previous 8 years.

In May this year Europe celebrated the 70th anniversary of the end of the war and gave thanks to the peace which has followed since then. It is only appropriate that the 70th anniversary of the end of the war in the Far East is similarly celebrated with the commitment of all parties to maintain that peace in the future. Too many families lost members 70 years ago, still within living memory of some, and today's families should not be put through the same trauma in the 21st century.

Members of the Association are hence encouraged to take part in the ceremonies in Hong Kong to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the end of the war in the Far East.

Those who lived through the war years will have personal experiences of the hardships; Pte William Sprague of the HKVDC kept a diary of his time as a Prisoner of War in Sham Shui Po. So that we may appreciate what hardship those prisoners endured, each day in August this year his daughter is adding to a blog (<http://wspraguediary.blogspot.com>) the diary entry for that day 70 years ago. Another, and very different account, of life during the same period is given in "The Arthur May Story - Hong Kong 1941-1945". Arthur May served in the HKVDC and, in December 1941, he was a warrant officer. Post war he was well known to many in the Regiment with his regular attendance at remembrance services. I freely admit a personal reason for promoting this book which is on sale in the Clubhouse.

## Family Walk 2014

*CC Leung MBE ED*

The Family Walk 2015 took place on 11<sup>th</sup> January (Sunday), just a month before the Chinese New Year festive season. It was the only beautiful day of the week before and after. We had a very good attendance with 45 walkers including members, spouses and three little girls. We started from Pak Tam Chung at 0945 hrs via Sheung Yiu Family Walk that took about 1.5 to 2 hours to our destination at the Hong Kong Adventure Corps Man Yee Training Camp. Walkers also visited the museum at Sheung Yiu village and enjoyed the beautiful scenery of Sai Kung and Man Yee Reservoir along the walk. We had a very good lunch at AC Camp. While we were having the Sweet and Sour Pork rice or the Hungarian Beef noodles, the AC Band performed for us. They played very well and we all stood up for the Regimental March 'The Leather Bottel' for the finale of their performance. Be sure, their performance gained our big applause and it gave us an unforgettable lunch. Having finished our good lunch with fruits or ice cream, two AC vans took us to the Geopark at the East Dam. We were briefed of the history of the rocks by two professional Geopark guides arranged by Col Pau. It was believed that all of us enjoyed the walk and the programme of the day.

To bring the walk a happy ending, AC had kindly transported us from East Dam to Sai Kung directly instead of the Pak Tam Chung. 40 Likes were given.

Looking forward to having another family walk and to seeing you all very soon again.



## 161<sup>st</sup> Foundation Day Dinner

The FDD was held on 30<sup>th</sup> May at the Happy Valley Box, Hong Kong Jockey Club as usual but a little difference was on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor instead of the 8<sup>th</sup> for the past. This year, we invited the USA's Hong Kong and Macau Consul General, Mr Clifford Hart, as our Chief Guest; the two other guests were Mr Peter Choi of WW II Veterans Association and Mr Cowen Chiu, the Commodore of the Hong Kong Sea School and patron to the HKEAS. As usual, we had a performance from the Pipes and Drums Band of the Hong Kong Adventure Corps. However, it was the first time their Brass Band performed at our dinner. Most of the members of the Band were students from secondary schools and they gave us a good performance of their music. During the dinner, the chairman conveyed the congratulation message from the Queen and he also presented a souvenir to the Consul General of USA, our new plaque. As the UK Branch was also having their Foundation Day Lunch in London at about the same time, Capt John Lam, one of the attendee there, sent photos to me via the WhatsApp from his i-phone, so I also forwarded them to our directors of at the dinner. Many thanks for our modern technology.

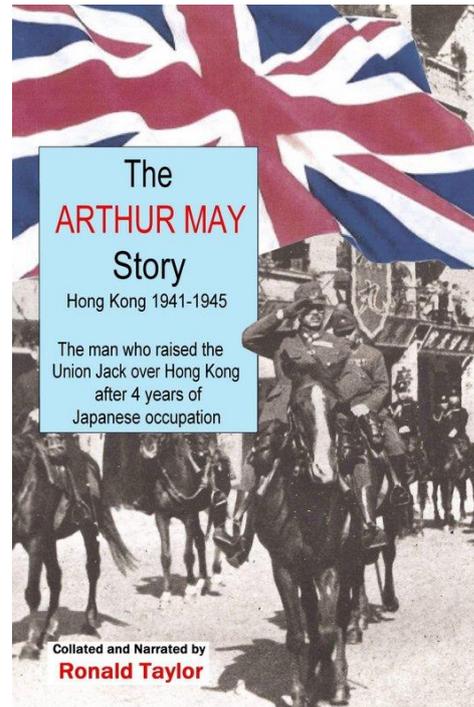
The Dinner ended with the usual tradition of playing the Marches of the different units represented at the dinner and then members proceeded back to the club house for drinks and chattering.



## New PRI items



HK\$260.0



HK\$140.0

## Coming Events

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| 1. Victory Day Ceremony   | 16 <sup>th</sup> August, 2015                       |
| 2. AGM and Annual Dinner  | 28 <sup>th</sup> August, 2015.                      |
| 3. Procession to march the 70 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the war | 30 <sup>th</sup> August, 2015 .                     |
| 4. Remembrance Day Ceremony   | 8 <sup>th</sup> November, 2015.                     |
| 5. Oxfam Trailwalker  | 20 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> November, 2015. |
| 6. Grace Charity Double Trails Walk   | 5 <sup>th</sup> December, 2015.                     |

Editor

Bernard Yuen