



勳章及獎章研究學會香港分會

Orders and Medals Research Society

HONG KONG BRANCH

PATRON: H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES, K.G., K.T., G.C.B., O.M., A.K., Q.S.O., C.C.

September 2022 Newsletter

Committee E-Mails

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Current Situation

It does appear that Hong Kong is finally opening up to the world, even if progress is being made at a glacial pace. Still, we live in hope! The Branch was able to hold a well-attended indoor event in July; a presentation by local historian Craig Mitchell on Project Avenger, and we do have a couple of events scheduled for October.

Further details regarding both the former and latter are covered in the relevant sections of this newsletter.

Consideration will also soon have to be given to the ever-popular Branch Christmas Dinner, and details regarding this event will follow in a later newsletter.

Future Events

(a)

A Tour of Roy Delbyck's Collection

- Host** : Roy Delbyck
Date : Saturday 8 October 2022
Time : 11:00 – 12:30 hrs
Venue : Meet at 10:50 hrs, entrance of Star House, Canton Road, Tsim Sha Tsui.
Admission : \$100-HK, Branch members only please.
Booking : Group size : 5 visitors maximum, due to space limitations. First come first served.

Details

Roy Delbyck is a Hong Kong resident who has amassed a tremendous collection of printed materials on China and Hong Kong from the 19th and 20th centuries. His collection consists of books, maps, photos, programmes, magazines, posters, postcards, luggage labels, letters, diaries, yearbooks, directories and other ephemera of which even he may not be aware! This veritable treasure trove is kept in his Aladdin's Cave in his office in Star House.

Roy has spoken about and, more importantly, hosted visits to his collection for various bodies and organisations in the past. He has now very kindly extended an invitation to visit to the Branch.

Members are invited to put their names down for this visit which I'm sure will prove to be very popular. However, please do not do so if you have visited Roy's collection in the past, or if you have the opportunity to do so in the near future, e.g. with the Royal Asiatic Society.

About the Speaker

Roy Delbyck is a Council Member of the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong and the Secretary of the Museum of Chinese in New York City. He has amassed his vast collection of ephemera over many years. When Roy is not collecting, he practices

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United States customs and trade law at his own company in Hong Kong, which he opened in 1993. Roy obtained his degree in law at the University of California Davis and a second degree in Chinese from Connecticut College.

(b) Branch Annual General Meeting

Date : Monday 17th October 2022
Time : 19:00 hrs
**Venue : Queen Victoria Pub, Lockhart Road, Wanchai.
Road, Wanchai.**

Please make every effort to attend Agenda to follow– all members welcome!

Recent Activity

As mentioned above, the Branch held an indoor presentation from Craig Mitchell on 20 July on Operation Avenger. Full details will be provided in a summary to be uploaded to the Branch website, but a synopsis is provided here.

Craig's discovery of a single piece of metal whilst hiking the hills in Tai Tam on Hong Kong island, led to the start of what became HK's largest WW2 archaeological project. The artefact which Craig had discovered was, in 2012, found on investigation to belong to a WW2 U.S. aircraft. Extensive site investigation led to the identification of wreckage with virtually all the machinery in situ. Subsequent research revealed that what Craig had discovered was the wreckage of two U.S. military aircraft which had collided over Hong Kong whilst engaged in a bombing mission in early 1945.

Thus was born Project Avenger, (named after the type of aircraft involved), which brought together historians and archaeologists to piece together the events of that fateful day. A truly amazing story!

Matters of General Interest

(a) Letter of Condolence

The Branch has sent a letter of condolence on the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to Buckingham Palace. Once an acknowledgment has been received, both

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items of correspondence will be uploaded to the Branch website.

(b) Articles for Publication in OMRS Journal

We are pleased to announce that a paper which was earlier submitted by the Branch on Colonel Evan Stewart, who commanded No. 3 (Machine Gun) Company of the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps with such distinction during the 1941 battle for Hong Kong, has been accepted by the Editorial Committee for publication in the OMRS Journal.

It will appear in the December 2022 edition, following which a copy will be uploaded to the website.

Many people will be familiar with Colonel Stewart's record of the actions of the HKVDC during the battle which was first published in 1953. It has been reprinted many times over the years, the most recent edition being dated 2020 which was revised and produced by Branch stalwart Ron Taylor.

Finally, the next paper to be submitted by the Branch to the Journal Editorial Committee for publication will be on the subject of men who were recommended for the award of the Victoria Cross during the 1941 battle, but whose recommendation was turned down by higher authority.

Research has identified two such men, both of whom were killed during the battle for Stanley shortly before the British surrender on Christmas Day. These men are Major "Rusty" Forsyth, O.C. No.2 (Scottish) Coy of the HKVDC, and L/Bdr "Red" Bullen R.A., who was attached to the Hong Kong and Singapore Royal Artillery. (A native of my home town).

If anyone knows of any other men who were recommended for the award but whose recommendation was subsequently rejected, please contact the undersigned.

M.H. Heyes

Hon. Secretary
OMRS HK Branch