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Orders and Medals Research Society

HONG KONG BRANCH

PATRON: His Majesty the King

www.omrs-org.hk

Branch Newsletter October 2026

Introduction

We have a busy run-up to the end of the year, with several events planned for our members. Please make a note of the dates below. Before looking ahead, however, a brief report on our most recent event.

Recent Event

Christopher Mellor-Hill, Head of Client Liaison for Noonans Mayfair, gave a fascinating presentation to the Branch at the United Services Recreation Club. A long-time collector with a particular interest in African medals and decorations, Christopher was also a founding member of the London Medal Club. His talk focused on medals and groups from his own collection that had been lost and subsequently recovered, as well as examples of medal groups that had been successfully reunited after years of separation. Through a series of remarkable case studies, he highlighted the research, persistence and occasional good fortune involved in tracing and reuniting historically significant awards with their original groups.

Next Event

Steve Robins CPM – ***A Talk on his service in the British South Africa Police (BSAP)***

The Speaker: Steve is a native of Birmingham, England. He joined the Birmingham City Police as a Cadet in 1962 and as Constable at the end of 1963. In 1964 he responded to an advertisement for the British South Africa Police (BSAP) arriving in Rhodesia on 10 November 1964 a year before UDI. He served until May 1970 and after two years in the New Zealand Police joined the Royal Hong Kong Police in June 1973. He served through the change of sovereignty retiring at the end of 1999.

The Talk: Steve will talk about his 5½ years the BSAP, including a brief history of the BSAP, his recruitment, training and duties, the impact of UDI, working in an Anti-Terrorist Unit during the early stages of the bush war, and leaving as a detective.

Steve is the holder of the Colonial Police Medal for Meritorious Service, Colonial and HKSAR Police Long Service Medals and the Rhodesian General Service Medal which he will display on the evening.

Date & Venue: 19th November 2026 at the Banyan Room of the United Services Recreation Club 6:30pm for a 7:00 start. Complimentary light refreshments will be provided and a cash bar will be available. Guests welcome.

To assist us in assessing numbers for catering purposes, please advise **by 10th November** if you wish to attend, together with the number in your party.

Forthcoming Events

Visit by Mike Babin

The Branch is pleased to announce the return of Mike Babin to Hong Kong for a visit in early December. Mike, as many members will be aware, is the President of the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association (HKVCA) in Canada.

Mike is the son of Alf Babin, a former SNCO with the Royal Rifles of Canada sadly no longer with us, who served with the Regiment throughout the 1941 conflict. He subsequently spent 3 years and 8 months as a POW.

The HKVCA is a Canadian registered charitable organisation whose mission is to honour the sacrifices of the Canadian soldiers who served in the defence of Hong Kong, and to preserve their legacy for future generations.

An informal reception for Mike is planned in early December at a date and venue to be confirmed.

Branch Annual Christmas Dinner 2026

Please mark your diaries – the ever popular Branch Annual Christmas Dinner 2026 will be held on Monday 7th December at the usual venue: the Garden Room of the United Services Recreation Club.

Please look out for further updates.

Best regards to all,

Steve Verralls,
Hon. President