



# Hong Kong Volunteer and Ex-PoW Association of NSW

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## Editorial Letter to Accompany OPs 28 and 29

Dear Members and Readers,

Occasional Papers 28 and 29 come from Henry Ching's family papers. They recount personal experiences and impressions of a very traumatic period in the history of Hong Kong, and describe what the coming of war and enemy occupation meant for some local residents of the time.

I am not well versed in occupation literature, but children's memories are probably few and far between, especially of children who, like Henry, lived outside the Stanley Internment Camp and were able to remain in their homes in different parts of the territory over that period. There is always room for more, and I hope that Henry's contribution will encourage members and readers who may have lived through that time to set down their recollections before it is too late.

As for Henry's father's diary entries for the 18 days of the fighting, these too constitute a useful record of how the war affected the life and work of a man who held the important position of editor of the Colony's leading English language newspaper up to and during that time, and resumed duty after the liberation in August, 1945.

Though not directly related to the Occasional Papers series, I cannot close this editorial letter without paying a tribute to our Association's Patron, and first and longtime Chairman, Colonel Solomon Bard, OBE, ED who passed away peacefully in Wolper Hospital, Sydney at the age of 98 on 8<sup>th</sup> November this year. He was a strong supporter of the plan to launch the series, and was always happy to offer advice and suggestions, and to answer any queries we might wish to make on related matters within his knowledge. His passing is greatly regretted by all our members, for his own sake and also because he was one of our few surviving members of the wartime HKVDC and ex-POWs. The Association's Chairman and committee members attended the memorial service held by the Bard family on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 and an obituary notice has been posted on our website, [www.rhkrnsw.org](http://www.rhkrnsw.org).

Finally, Henry and I send cordial greetings for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all members of our association and other readers of our series. Please bear in mind that we are always happy to hear from you about anything which will add to its value and interest as a record of those momentous years 1941-1945 in Hong Kong.

James Hayes, Series Editor

December, 2014