



Hong Kong Volunteer and Ex-PoW Association of NSW



Editorial Letter to Accompany OPs 15 and 16

Dear Members and Readers,

It gives me great pleasure to introduce this particular batch of Occasional Papers.

There are two reasons for this. First, John Penn has sent another of his late father's valuable letters, this time a long one written to his wife, Rene, from Sham Shui Po PoW Camp soon after the war ended in mid-August, 1945 but before the arrival of the British Fleet at the end of the month.

Second, Robin Hutcheon has forwarded an account of the wartime experiences of G.R. Ross who was a gunner in the HKVDC and, as a PoW, was sent to Japan to work in the dockyards until war's end. Derived from interviews with Ross before his death in 2008, this was part of Robin's book on Ross's firm, the long-established Deacon & Co. Ltd., published under the title *The Merchants of Shameen* in 1990*.

The two OPs have been abridged from longer texts by Henry Ching, with John's and Robin's consent and approval, and the originals will appear in due course on the Association's website <http://www.rhkrnsw.org>.

As editor of the series, I greet these two additions as further proof that it is being well received and, what is more important, that it is being supported. And now that it is possible for us to place copies of OPs, and of the longer texts on which some of them are based, on the Association's website, this will extend their life and usefulness still further. Looking into the future, it may not be too ambitious even to hope that, upon completion, it may be possible to attract a publisher for the completed set of these valuable papers and their associated materials.

In conclusion, Henry and I wish you all happiness and health and the best of good fortune in the coming Year of the Snake.

James Hayes
February, 2013

*Shameen was the former British concession at Canton, where Deacon's was located between 1858-1938.