



Hong Kong Volunteer and Ex-PoW Association of NSW



Editorial Letter to Accompany OPs 26 and 27

Dear Members and Readers,

The two Occasional Papers sent out under this short covering letter are of special interest. They describe the formation and wartime service of the Nursing Detachment of the HKVDC, formed in 1936, and of the Auxiliary Nursing Service of the Civil Defence Corps, established in 1941.

In keeping with the age, these were entirely women's services, and they need to be recorded every bit as much as those of the fighting men and civilian casualties they cared for during the defence of Hong Kong. Henry has brought together as much of their story as he can find, but reports that he has succeeded in tracing only a few of their members. Needless to say, we are still looking for more information. This would include the stories, letters and other memorabilia which may still exist out there somewhere, if only we can track them down with the help of our readers!

Any study of the wartime years 1941-1945 would be incomplete without giving these two units recognition which is their due. This is especially important when we are, this year, celebrating the 160th anniversary of "The Volunteers". Like their menfolk, the ladies of the Nursing Detachment of the HKVDC were part of that dedicated body of volunteers who served Hong Kong well in its dire hour of need. Their sisters in the Auxiliary Nursing Service are equally deserving of notice, as indeed are the female members of the local St John Ambulance Brigade, who are not the subject of these particular papers but as Hong Kong volunteers should be included in our search. This part of women's history in Hong Kong is under-researched, but even though so late in the day there is still time to redress the balance. So please do your best to circulate the two OPs and spread the word, on and off the internet, so that we can gather up more materials on these historically important and indispensable service formations.

As ever, Henry and I send our best wishes to our members and other readers for their continued good health.

James Hayes. Series Editor

August, 2014