

Consulate General of Canada



Consulat général du Canada

8 Connaught Place
One Exchange Square, 14/F
Hong Kong (SAR)

August 8, 2013

Dear veterans and members of the HKVCA,

As Consul General of Canada in Hong Kong and Macao, it is an honour to express my gratitude, through this letter, to the Canadian veterans and their families for the sacrifices made during the Battle of Hong Kong and, for so many of them, during the following years as Prisoners of War. More than a year after having taken on my duties, I have been privileged to witness first-hand the close bonds that connect Canada and Hong Kong, which are in no small way due to these sacrifices made more than 70 years ago.

As many of you will know, just last year on the occasion of Remembrance Day 2012, the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honourable Stephen Harper, visited Hong Kong where he, with Canadian Parliamentarians and alongside Canadian Battle of Hong Kong veteran Mr. Kenneth Pifher, participated in our annual Commemorative Ceremony at the Commonwealth War Graves Sai Wan Cemetery.

On that day, Prime Minister Harper joined over 400 others, Canadians and Hongkongers alike, in remembering the men and women who served Canada during the two world wars. He eloquently recounted of what is in each of our hearts:

“For it lies within each one of us to remember the dead as once they were...
Canadians from across our great land, born of it or brought to it ...
Young and bold, drawn together by their willingness to serve their fellow citizens.”

In November 1941, fate brought them across the Pacific Ocean to a foreign land named Hong Kong where they fought alongside fellow Commonwealth soldiers and local Chinese with the same sense of duty to serve their people and to defend their freedom. The role played by the close to 2,000 men and women of the “C” Force in 1941 is, without any doubt, one of the key foundations of Canada and Hong Kong’s unique friendship as it is part of our common history and heritage.

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For these reasons and so many more, it is imperative for us to always remember the sacrifices made by the Canadian Battle of Hong Kong soldiers, veterans and their families. I would like to salute the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association and commend you for all your efforts in supporting Canadian veterans and in educating the Canadian public of the roles played by the “C” Force in Hong Kong.

To quote Prime Minister Harper again:

“As long as we faithfully tell their story to our children ...
and praise their great deeds ...
the years, even great passages of time, will not condemn them.

But more than that, it lies within us to do this:
We can walk worthy of the lives that they laid down for us.”

Lest We Forget.

Most Sincerely,



J. Ian Burchett
Consul General