Email Sent by Calvin M.J. Quong on December 22, 2016

To all Troop 23

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and all the best for 2017. I am profoundly grateful to have had you all as part of my life and for being able to reunite at a truly memorable 47th Reunion in Regina.

I hope we will all keep in closer touch now in retirement and I hope we can get together whenever and wherever are paths cross. I still base myself out of Hong Kong, so if you are ever in the Orient let me know. I make a couple of trips across Canada each year, either on business or to see my sons and grandchildren so would love to have your local contact info. Hope to see you in the years ahead and in PEI for our 50th!

The attached are a few photos from Hong Kong were taken at the memorial celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the fall of HK. We had two regiments sent there to defend the colony against the Japanese. The Winnipeg Grenadiers and the Royal Rifles of Canada. Many of those who served and fell in HK in the Wpg Grenadiers were friends and classmates of my Parents. Every year they are commemorated at the Sai Wan War Cemetery. Over half the Canadian contingent never made it home. This is one of the primary reasons there is such a close connection between Hong Kong and Canada as many of the present generation's parents and grandparents served in the HK Regiment (the Volunteers) in HK and were interned in Prison Camps and the coal mines in Japan until liberation. Canada sent the two regiments to bolster HK's defense forces which consisted of a couple of commonwealth contingents ( India) , Irish, Scots and the Middlesex Regiment with the Volunteers making up a substantial part of the defense forces as Britain had taken from HK to bolster Singapore. HK was attacked on the same day as Pearl Harbour and surrendered on Christmas Day.  
  
This year, for the first time the RCMP had a formal presence, they sent 4 bagpipers. They also gave concerts and public appearances with the HK Police Bagpipe Band. They also gave a charitable concert at the All Saints Cathedral in Monkok who, with the RCMP was held in a celebration of their mutual 125th Anniversary.  
  
I am in two of the photo's (without facial hair!....)  with piper Casey from Perth, Ontario and Lim ...the drummer ( Ottawa, originally from Singapore). They are all volunteers and were very well received and all the venues packed. There are three former members in HK plus those active at the Consul General office .

It was a moving ceremony this year as a group of thirty veterans from Vancouver Chinatown also attended, some of whom were at the liberation of HK and who had fought in Burma and the Pacific.  
  
All the best to all of you and your family and loved ones. Look forward to keeping in touch and perhaps getting together whenever possible.

Calvin M.J.Quong.







