

Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Plaque

(Where/When/How/Who)

Step 1- Print and read this document

Step 2- Plan the Dedication event with the Venue

Step 3- give the venue copies of page 2 of this document- General Information

Step 4- Print the Suggested Dedication text for your use

Step 2- Planning the Dedication event

-contact your Regional Director for information on how to obtain a plaque

- choose and plan the dedication with a venue

- supply the venue with HKVCA Commemorative plaque General Information (pages 2 of this document)

- choose who will speak about the Battle (Defence) of Hong Kong

Queries Prior to Dedication-

- Venue- inside, lunch to follow
- Invite Media in area- who will invite
- Note HK 'C' Force members from the area
- Invite local dignitaries- who will invite

Queries to answer for the Dedication-

Agenda:

- Welcome- who speaks
- Attendees- who invites
- About the plaque
- Invite RSVP
- Publicity (send all pictures to HKVCA website and Facebook page)

HKVCA COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE

Step 3 - General Information

The Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association is pleased to offer this unique commemorative plaque for installation in locations such as Royal Canadian Legion branches, high schools and retirement/ long term care homes.

The plaque (see thumbnail to the right)(images/plaque_sted.jpg) includes graphics that depict the Battle/Defence of Hong Kong, and is intended to commemorate the 1,976 Canadians who fought against the Japanese Imperial Army during December 1941.

Please note that the concept of the plaque is not to recognize any one member of “C” Force, but to commemorate all members of ‘C’ Force. The design must not be altered in any manner without express permission of HKVCA.

Conditions:

- Plaques are provided free of charge. Please contact your regional Director (https://www.hkvca.ca/aboutus/meet_exec.php) for information on how to obtain a plaque.
- The cost of installation is the responsibility of the sponsoring organization (e.g. Legion, high school, etc.). This includes any mounting fixtures such as brackets, and labour.
- It must be located indoors, and in a location where it can easily be seen by people using the facility, such as a lobby.
- There should be a dedication service at which the plaque is unveiled or presented. Family and friends of local Hong Kong Veterans should be invited, and should be given the opportunity to speak. The local sponsor is responsible for arranging the ceremony, along with any related costs (e.g. catering if any).
- Local media should be invited to cover the plaque unveiling.
- Photograph(s) should be taken showing the mounted plaque, and including attendees of the ceremony, if possible. Photographs should be sent to www.HKVCA.ca for possible publication in the HKVCA’s newsletter as well as posted to Facebook HKVCA Tribute page.

Plaque Mounting Details:

- Dimensions are 18” wide by 44” high (46cm wide by 112cm high) x approximately 3/8 of an inch in thickness
- It is supplied mounted on a hard board
- The plaque may be mounted by drilling a hole at each corner and affixing to the wall with screws, or alternatively by using L shaped mounting brackets with screws
- The plaque should be mounted permanently, and not hung by a wire

Questions? Please email us: webmaster@hkvca.ca

HKVCA COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE

Step 4 - suggested dedication text

Good afternoon and welcome. I'd like to start by thanking our host, ??? and the ???president, ??? for hosting us today for this event. I think I know most everyone, but just in case ... my name is ??? of the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association in Ontario. There are ?? other members of our Association/executive here: ???

I'd like to give a bit of background.

In the fall of 1941, the government of Canada responded to a request from Great Britain to send troops to Hong Kong by dispatching nearly 2,000 soldiers ... mostly from the Royal Rifles of Canada and the Winnipeg Grenadiers ... to Hong Kong. Their mission was to bolster the garrison there, which was expecting an attack at some point by the Japanese Imperial Army. The Japanese had been fighting in China since before 1937, and by 1941 had effectively surrounded the British colony of Hong Kong. The colony was strategically important to Britain as it lay directly on the shipping route for oil and other war materials between Japan and sources in Southeast Asia.

The troops arrived in November of 1941. It was not known when the Japanese would attack, and the troops settled in to a routine of garrison duty. But on December 8, simultaneously with the December 7 attack on Pearl Harbour, the Japanese Army suddenly struck. Their bombers obliterated the British aircraft and airport, and their soldiers began to come overland from China into Hong Kong. The Japanese had over 50,000 troops, well outnumbering the British garrison of about 12,000. The Japanese were battle-hardened and well-equipped, while the defenders were very short of battle experience, and had no means of resupply.

The battle raged for 17 days. Many defenders were killed, including nearly 300 Canadians, during fighting that took place in the mountainous and extremely difficult terrain of Hong Kong. Finally, on December 25, 1941, the British Governor of Hong Kong surrendered to the Japanese. The defenders who survived the battle were taken prisoner, and spent the remainder of the war ... until the Japanese surrender in August, 1945 ... as POWs, subjected to brutal and inhuman conditions. Nearly 300 more Canadians died in the POW camps. Many of those who did survive had to live with medical conditions caused by their ill-treatment, lack of food and primitive living conditions during 3 years and 8 months of captivity. (We are proud to have one of those brave Canadians with us today ????)

Our association ... the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association ... exists to help ensure that this chapter of Canada's military history is never forgotten.

Which brings us to our presentation. We have a program of installing commemorative plaques in Legions and other places where Hong Kong Veterans have gathered. This ??? Legion branch, for example, has seen several, including ???. We are very pleased that the ??? Legion has consented to having a plaque hung where it will serve as a reminder of the sacrifices made by Canadians during World War II.

I'd like to ask ??? to come forward and unveil the plaque.

PLAQUE UNVEILING

Thank you all for attending