

Orders and Medals Research Society - Hong Kong Branch

October 2024 Newsletter

Dear Members and Friends

Welcome to our October 2024 Branch newsletter. No doubt many members who have been out of town during the swelteringly hot summer months have now returned to HK, where we have started to enjoy the glorious autumnal weather. If you do fall within this category, welcome back!

No matter what your circumstances though, please read on and hopefully you will find something of interest in these notes.

Recent Events

Whether by accident or design I'm not really sure, but in recent months the Branch has appeared to adopt the practice of holding events bi-monthly. A report on all our events can be found on the branch website at www.omrs-hk.org, (click on "Recent Events" on the menu bar), so only a fleeting reference to those events need be made here.

In March a good turnout enjoyed a presentation from local writer and historian David Bellis, prior to his relocation to his native South Wales. David runs the award-winning www.gwulo.com website, home to over 50,000 pages on Hong Kong history, including thousands of photographs.

Our next event was held in May, when a small group visited the offices of local lawyer Roy Delbyck in Tsim Sha Tsui. Roy has amassed an extraordinary collection of printed material and other ephemera over many years, all connected with Hong Kong, China and the Chinese experience in the United States.

After a short summer break, we enjoyed a visit in early August to the Hong Kong Maritime Museum at the Star Ferry Pier in Central. Whoever decided to re-house the museum in 2012 in Central from its original home in Stanley, made a good call!

Upcoming Event

The next event, as I'm sure everyone will be aware, will be held this coming **Friday 18 October**, when Branch member Jeremy Stone will give a presentation at the **United Services Recreation Club**, Gascoigne Road, Kowloon.

Again, full details can be found on the Branch website; please click on "Upcoming Events" on the menu bar.

Jeremy's talk is titled "The First Anglo-Afghan War (1839 - 1842); the Involvement of Lt. Col. Andrew Crawford." This officer, who was Jeremy's third great-grandfather, was an officer in the Bombay Army of the Honourable East India Company who played a significant role in that conflict.

There has been a remarkable level of interest expressed in Jeremy's talk, to the point where we found ourselves drastically over-subscribed for the room which we were originally allocated.

If you are attending this event, please note that we will no longer be holding it in the **Banyan Room**. We have now been allocated the larger **Aviary** at the USRC; all other details remain unchanged.

Future Events.

Please make a note in your diaries for the ever-popular Branch Christmas Dinner - even if we are still only in October! (Tempus fugit and all that..).

The Dinner, again to be held at the USRC, is scheduled for **19 December**, probably in the Garden Room.

Early in the New Year, (date to be decided), the Branch plans to conduct an overseas visit - something we haven't done since pre-Covid days!
Only Macau - nothing too ambitious. Nearer the time we will seek expressions of interest, and we will decide whether to make it a one day trip or to stay overnight.

Finally another visit to the Green Hub in Tai Po, the former Tai Po Police Station, will be arranged in early 2025.

Article Published in OMRS Journal

Branch members who are also members of the parent OMRS organisation in the U.K., will by now have received their copy, (or have had sight of it online), of the September 2024 edition of the Society Journal.

Branch member **Stephen Mosely** is to be congratulated on having had a fascinating article published in that edition, titled “Major Willie Pilcher: a proud ‘Fire-eating Devil’ of the Min-Ho-Loong Rifles.”

In his article Steve studies in detail the life and times of a man who moved to Shanghai in 1889 aged 18, and who lived there until his death in 1946. His great interest in life was his beloved Shanghai Volunteer Corps, and one can only imagine the turbulent times during which he lived and served, including the Boxer Rebellion and 2 World Wars!

We have received interest from as far away as the United Kingdom and New Zealand, from people wanting to contact Steve regarding his article. Major Pilcher’s medals recently came up for auction.

Well done Steve!

Best regards

Martin Heyes

Hon. Secretary
OMRS Hong Kong Branch