



# HERO News

保衛香港突圍羣英協會  
(二战中英聯軍)

Hong Kong Escape  
Re-enactment  
Organisation

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## Welcome!

Welcome to the second edition of HERO News. This newsletter gives you the latest news and information from HERO around the world. In addition, we would like to use this newsletter to engage you in our upcoming events, find out if you want to get more involved and to seek your input for future HERO activities. We also want to hear from you—how are you getting on in your own personal quests to find out more about those elusive forefathers? Have you uncovered more gems of information? Tell us!

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## Mission Statement

The Mission of HERO is to honour the comradeship of our forefathers and foster strong new friendships among their descendants; hoping that this will forge strong ties between Britain and China for the 21st century and beyond. By creating a forum for sharing knowledge, we aim to raise interest in, and appreciation of, this unique episode in Sino-British history and to commemorate the 1941 escape with a series of memorial stones at Aberdeen, Nanao and Huizhou.



62 Members of the escape party with Chinese Officials at the American "Wai On hospital complex" run by the Seventh Day Adventists in Waichow on 30th December 1941:

Photo from Buddy Hide's collection ©

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### Special points of interest:

- Wartime diaries to Hainan Provincial Archives
- What's our Focus?
- The Book

## Upcoming Event

HERO's Museum Liaison, Alison McEwan (daughter of Major Colin McEwan) has been working with the HK Museum of Coastal Defence to arrange speakers to promote the exhibition and HERO during 2011. Talk topics are related to the escape and include:

**27th August** — Bill Lake, local historian

**3rd September** — Tony Banham, war historian

**3rd Dec** — Emma Oxford, HERO executive

## Exhibition Update

Good news! Our exhibition at the [HK Museum of Coastal Defence](#) has been extended for a further 6 months – until the end of June 2012 – giving more of you a chance to see it if your travels take you to or through Hong Kong!

The visitor figures are holding up very well and there has been a lot of positive feedback. Several groups of children have based school projects on 'Our Escape'. There was also a lot of interest and audience participation following the talks given by Donald Chan and David Hide on the 7th May at the Museum's lecture theatre covering the fight against the 5th Columnists in the 18 days in HK immediately before the surrender and the journey the escapees made across China to Burma and on to the UK. Tom Recaldin also gave some background on his grandfather, David MacDougall. The audience were most appreciative and eagerly followed up with many questions following the talks. In the audience were representatives from Hainan Island who are most interested in obtaining an exhibition along the same lines as the Coastal Defence Museum.



There will be further talks from Bill Lake (a keen local historian) on the 27th August - "Battle For A Barren Rock – an overall look at the war in HK" and Tony Banham (an eminent [HK war historian](#)) on the 3rd September - "WW2 Escapees from HK & Their Contribution to the War Effort". Emma Oxford will be giving a talk on 3rd December, based on a memoir of her parents, Wing Commander Max Oxford and his wartime bride, Audrey, "Picking up the Pieces: HK rebuilds after WWII".

I would like to use this opportunity to put out an appeal to all descendants for any further artefacts or mementoes related to the escape that they may have hidden away or are not yet known to us. The Museum is interested in 'refreshing' the exhibition if it can, so they are particularly keen to have 3D objects – clothing, diaries, personal souvenirs of any kind. They are not so interested in papers or photographs at this stage though of course anything new remains of great interest to HERO to add to our knowledge.

Alison McEwan - daughter of Major Colin McEwan

## David Hide and Donald Chan trip to Nanao

Donald and David ventured over to Nanao in May and met up with the son of Yeung Chuen Admiral Chan Chak's coxswain/bodyguard and his two lovely daughters. They were introduced to a local dignitary from Nanao who has agreed to examine the feasibility of a memorial to the people of Nanao and the escape party. He is of the opinion that the Chan Chak story will be a tourist attraction. Our observations are that Nanao will become a major tourist attraction. Many changes are happening at Nanao with the beachfront being remodeled. There are also many high priced apartments and houses in and around Nanao and it appears the real estate industry is doing well there.

“WARNING” Never trust Donald when he says we will get the last bus from Nanao, you are guaranteed to miss it, however he did save the day by using local buses and taxis in getting David and himself back to Hong Kong .

Many thanks to Bill Lake for his assistance and William who acted as interpreter for David Hide



Descendants of Admiral Chan Chak, Coxswain Yeung Chuen, & PO Buddy Hide meet in NanAo 2011

## HERO Got Together

HERO members got together and held the June meeting in central London on Saturday 18th June on the Tattershall Castle (<http://www.thetattershallcastle.co.uk/>), which is moored on the Thames at Victoria Embankment (very close to Charing Cross/Waterloo/London Bridge mainline stations).



Saturday, June 18 · 2:00pm - 8:30pm

## Wartime diaries to Hainan Provincial Archives

In July 2011, Donald Chan, HERO president, contributed more than 100 of Admiral Chan Chak's historical materials, including the admiral's wartime diaries, rare policy, military merit medals and awards to the Hainan Provincial Archives to educate and pass on this critical piece of China's history to our next generation.

Please go to this link for media coverage during the ceremony = <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AWmT1r5gdAU>



## What's new with our Executive Committee Members

### Just Got Engaged!

HERO Executive Committee Member Russell Joyce (grandson of Able Seaman Lesley S. Barker) got engaged on the 26th June

Russell Joyce proposed to Zoe Evans after her birthday picnic overlooking Lullingstone castle and received a 'Yes' from Zoe – Congratulations!



Zoe & Russell



**Hong Kong Escape Re-enactment Organisation**

*Fan page for descendants of the 1941 Christmas Day escape from Hong Kong. Please become a fan, upload your pictures and videos of your trips to China/HK. Please also visit our official website: [www.hongkongescape.org](http://www.hongkongescape.org)*

### Moving to Washington DC!

HERO Executive Committee member Emma Oxford relocates to Washington DC:

Emma, and her husband, Michael Elliott, move from New York to the US capital in September. Mike has begun a new job as President and CEO of ONE, the global anti-poverty campaign which was co-founded by Bono (of U2 fame!). In DC, they join their daughters, Roxana and Gina, who are both studying at Georgetown University. Emma expects to complete her memoir of her parents once settled in DC!



### Just Got Married!

Rachel Kennedy (Grand-daughter of Alexander Kennedy) married Dr Markus Ketola on the 20th August at Logie Kirk, Blairlogie, Scotland.

We wish them all the best and much happiness in their future.

### Welcome to HERO

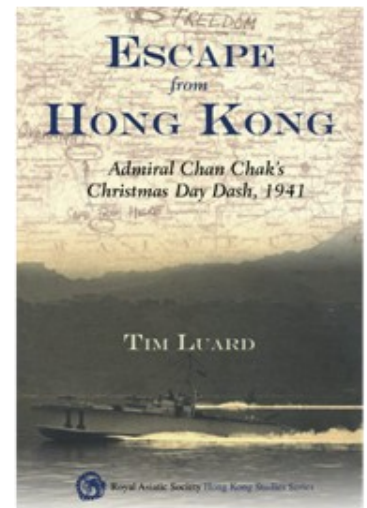
Sandra Spencer, grandchild of William C Dyer found us through our website and posting. Our executive committee members will be officially welcoming her to be part of our HERO family.



William C Dyer  
MTB 10 of the 2nd MTB Flotilla

## The Book - Escape from Hong Kong: Admiral Chan Chak's Christmas-Day Dash, 1941

We've already got the website -- now here comes the book! *Escape from Hong Kong: Admiral Chan Chak's Christmas-Day Dash, 1941*, is to be published by [Hong Kong University Press](#) in time for the 70th anniversary this Christmas. The author, Tim Luard, is the son-in-law of Colin McEwan -- one of the three-man SOE team on the escape -- and a former BBC China Correspondent. While the previous books on the escape, by Freddie Guest and Alexander Kennedy, have been largely autobiographical in nature, this one is the first to offer a full history based on all available primary sources in both English and Chinese -- including recently declassified official reports and extensive interviews. Tim says he is deeply indebted to the many relatives of the original men of the escape group who have generously shared their personal testimonies, whether in the form of letters, diaries, photographs or spoken reminiscences and anecdotes.



History / World War II  
December  
320 pp, 9" x 6", 66 b/w illus.  
HB ISBN 978-988-8083-76-3 HK\$295

## What's HERO focusing on right now?

- ⇒ Talks at the Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence
- ⇒ Design and print of our promotional booklet
- ⇒ 70th Anniversary planning
- ⇒ We're working to find sponsors to mark an accurate Nanao - Waichow memorial trail and marker stones. Please see below for the pictures of David Hide's (HERO executive committee member - son of Petty Officer Buddy Hide) trip in June to Hong Kong and Nanao in developing the memorial trail and marker stones. Pictures of Nanao under rapid modernization



- ⇒ We're also looking to the future and would very much welcome any suggestions and input for possible future events.

### Hong Kong Escape Re-enactment Organisation

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(二战中英聯軍)



[www.hongkongescape.org](http://www.hongkongescape.org)

*HERO aims to foster stronger Sino-British relations through the story of the escape from Hong Kong after it fell to the Japanese.*

*We want to create a lasting legacy to remind future generations of this heroic escape and to highlight the courage and humanity of the Chinese people.*

*We aim to increase international tourism to Nan Ao and Huizhou through plotting an accurate memorial trail and marker stones.*

*HERO welcomes help, sponsors and partnerships from suitable organisations and individuals with a view to achieving its aims.*

## We need your help

If you are interested in supporting our aims, please contact your local HERO representative.

**Email us and get in touch.**



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## Special Thanks

A special thanks to [Eastbourne Computer Services Ltd](#) for providing hosting solutions and Domain Name Services for our HERO website since its inception.