



Hong Kong Volunteer and Ex-PoW Association of NSW



OCCASIONAL PAPER NUMBER 6

Campaign Medals

Members of the HKVDC who were mobilised in December, 1941 and who took part in the defence of Hong Kong against the Japanese attack were eligible to be awarded four medals – the *War Medal*, the *Defence Medal*, the *1939-1945 Star* and the *Pacific Star*.



The *War Medal* was for military service during the Second World War. The qualifying period was between 3rd September, 1939 and 2nd September, 1945 but it was only necessary to serve for 28 days in any of the armed forces to be entitled to the award of the medal. As shown in the illustration, the Mentioned in Despatches oak leaf device could be worn on the ribbon, but only one device could be worn regardless of the number of mentions the recipient had received. The reverse of the medal shows a lion standing on a two-headed dragon.



The *Defence Medal* was intended for members of auxiliary services, such as the fire service, air raid precautions, police and ambulance services as well as military personnel. Thus, in Hong Kong members of the Auxiliary Medical Corps, including the Auxiliary Nursing Service, were eligible for the award. The qualifying period was again between 3rd September, 1939 and 2nd September, 1945. It was necessary to have served three years in the UK or six months overseas in territory subject to air attack. The reverse is shown in the illustration.

The *1939-1945 Star* was for service in the Second World War between 3rd September, 1939 and 2nd September, 1945. Army and Navy personnel had to serve for six months in an operational area to be eligible, but the award of a decoration or a Mention in Despatches qualified the recipient for this *Star*. The *Pacific Star* was awarded to those engaged in operational service in the Pacific theatre. The *1939-1945 Star* was a prerequisite for this award.

The 1939-1945 Star



The Pacific Star



The next of kin of those killed in action were additionally given a commemorative Scroll of Honour.



(Pte W.H.Peters was the father of Association member Eileen Ching)

Henry Ching

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