

香港



中国语言学校

通讯 40 數

2017年9月

From your unworthy editor:

Hello Everyone

I am pleased to report that the response to requests for contributions has been wonderful and that this edition is much more informative and memorable than the previous two – much more in the inimitable Mick Roberts' style! Please, everyone – keep it coming!

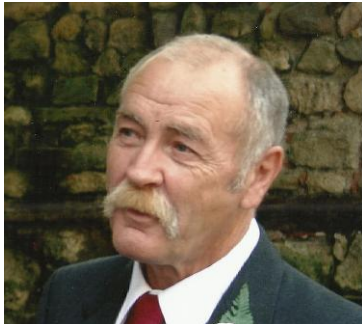
You will find in the following pages much of interest – and if anyone would like copies of the photographs in this issue they will find them on the website <http://modcls.org>

I have unfortunately not been well at all this year despite retiring in February; indeed only on the recent prompting of our esteemed colleague Brian Finch did I realize that I had not sent this edition to him for distribution! I thought I had sent it months ago but instead found it sitting in my Outbox waiting to be sent. I hope that you all find much in these pages to prompt your memories. Perhaps I will find a prompt to remind me to send things on time

Please don't stop sending in contributions and please DO visit the website.

I do hope the Year of the Rooster is being kind to all!

Alan



CONTRIBUTIONS

Crieff High School (Perthshire) and Weifang (Shandong) No 1 School - education and cultural partnership.

Ian Welfare

In 2008, a formal partnership between the two schools was established after a visit by the Head of Crieff High School to Weifang. Since then, there have been four outward and three inward visits. All have exceeded expectations.

Pupils stay with host families - an ideal way to open new cultural 'doors'. Our first visit, in 2009, was by four senior boys, accompanied by a member of staff Crieff High School and myself. We had four days in Weifang and then went to Beijing, by 'bullet' train, for a further four days. For our second visit, an extra day in Weifang was added at the request of the school, and this pattern has been repeated for the two subsequent visits.

Weifang No 1 Middle School, established in 1913, today has over 6000 pupils and almost 500 staff. It is now a 'private' school with parents paying quite hefty fees! But there seems to be no shortage of pupils from wealthy backgrounds in Shandong! By contrast, Crieff High School has 500 pupils and 50 staff!

After a gruelling journey from Crieff, we arrive in Weifang around 1700 (local time) and pupils meet their host families and head off for a well deserved wash and bite to eat! The next day - our first school day - we all have to muster on the huge parade ground at 0650 for the raising of the China flag 'ceremony' - standing around in 25+ degrees Celsius! The school and its grounds are huge, very much like a University campus! Over £45 million has been spent on new buildings and improvements to the campus in general, in the last seven years! It is a most impressive institution.

After the flag ceremony, classes begin! There are usually two days of school and three days of non- school activities. Our pupils are given introductions to the basics of Chinese calligraphy and some of the Chinese martial arts, both of which are extremely popular. English and maths classes are shared, with Chinese pupils discussing Shakespeare in English! There is a visit to the local and famous kite factory, as well as some localised general sightseeing - including a day in Qingdao which is great fun! Each evening, our pupils go 'home' to their respective Chinese families for dinner and are usually spoiled unashamedly!

Other joint school activities in Weifang have included a musical concert, a debate and an in-school TV interview - in English. When we take lunch in the school canteen - built to accommodate and provide food daily for 6500 - we have a huge selection of delicious 'fast food'! The five days in warm Weifang are enjoyable and productive for all concerned.

Then it is off to Beijing for a totally different full four-day programme. Visits to the Great Wall of China and the Summer Palace are highly prized as are Tiananmen Square, Cole Hill, the Bird's Nest and the Pearl Market. One day is set aside for a 'business' visit

which has included Airbus in Tianjin, the British Council, the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, and, on our last visit, a meeting with the Head of the European Department in the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We have also met the British Ambassador and been briefed by the China Britain Business Council on how British companies should be doing business in China. A good mixture of fun and learning. And, of course, there is the excellent Beijing cuisine to enjoy!

For our Chinese pupils when they come to Crieff, we take them to visit Stirling castle, the Oban Highland Games, a local farm, and trips to Perth, South Queensferry to see the two Forth Bridges and Edinburgh. They too stay with host families and sample our local cuisine. They are given a night in Crieff High School where they are introduced to Scottish Country dancing, and an evening on their own to go into Perth by bus to the cinema and a local pizzeria! The Chinese pupils love taking photos and commenting on our wonderful scenery and fresh air!

I have been very lucky to have been part of this worthwhile exchange. My last one will be in June this year when we take out 18 pupils! Looking forward to it very much!



This is our Crieff High school group who were in Weifang and Beijing in June 2013. The photo is with Mr Yang Xiaoguang, Director of UK, Ireland and Malta Division of the European Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Worldwide, we are the first school group to have been invited into the MFA! I have the tartan tie and am beside Mr Yang.

Editor's note: Ian sent this in last February and because of my appalling filing system it was "lost" and therefore not included in previous newsletters. I have since revised the filing system and contributions will not again be "lost". Many thanks Ian, and please accept my apologies for the late publication!!

In Praise of John deFrancis

David Syme

The reputation of the Chinese language as a difficult one to acquire was probably known to all of us before we arrived at CLS to start our courses. “Characters instead of words – back to front writing - different tones – huge cultural influence....” I recall some trepidation as I climbed the stairs to our floor of the Command Pay Office building in 1978 for the first time.

Looking back to the course now I realise how fortunate we were that staff had chosen to use the Beginning Chinese books of John deFrancis as the core textbook for the early stages of the course. These books appeared dated and formal at first glance, but they contained solid methodology and offered a simple, structured introduction to the language. There is a Russian saying: “Repetition is the mother of learning” and deFrancis used this to great effect. Vocabulary was introduced, and then re-introduced frequently in later chapters. The calligraphy and drawings were simple, uncluttered, non-threatening, and the exercises designed to support students rather than catch them out. Do you remember the pyramid drills in the language lab? Tedious on a hot Hong Kong day, but this is where we mimicked the native speakers until we gained the cadence of the language. I am sure we have all received compliments on the accuracy of our Chinese pronunciation. The Mainland Chinese texts (A Chinese Reader, for example) lacked the simplicity and old-fashioned charm of deFrancis, and I remember dreading these lessons and breathing a sigh of relief when we reverted to good old Beginning Chinese.

In preparing this article I “googled” the great man and found that I am far from alone in appreciating his textbooks and this adulation comes from students of Chinese in the present day!

Perhaps deFrancis had been in the military where he had come across the KISS acronym: “Keep it Simple, Stupid!”

BECOMING A NAVAL CHINESE INTERPRETER

Ian Corsie

A couple of years ago I wrote the attached piece as part of a compilation of stories and reminiscences that has recently been published in a book called 'They Joined the Navy...and Saw the World: The Naval careers and lives of 165 schoolboys who joined the Navy as Cadets in 1961'.

It occurs to me that it might well work in the CLS Newsletter. It would be necessary to explain the purpose of the article and that 'Murray 2' was the name given to our cohort of Naval Officers as we progressed (the second year of the Murray scheme of Naval Officer training).

BECOMING A NAVAL CHINESE INTERPRETER

It was 1969 when I read in DCIs that there was a need for volunteers to come forward to become naval interpreters in Chinese.

On the one hand, this excited me greatly: I had loved learning languages, was already a naval interpreter in Spanish and a linguist in French; and I had recently spent a year in the Far East Fleet during which I had become aware for the first time of the looming importance of China and its long, deep cultural history.

On the other hand what, from a naval career point of view, was to be gained from learning a difficult language for which there seemed no obvious use at that time. China had by then already descended into the chaos of the 'Cultural Revolution', and was becoming totally introspective. There was no longer a British Embassy in Beijing and therefore apparently no possibility of a future naval attaché posting.

Setting aside these inevitable reservations, I applied: and later that year I began a two and a half year course in Mandarin Chinese culminating in taking the Civil Service Interpreter examination. (I had not long been married and the chance of going to Hong Kong together was quite an attraction! Our first two children were born there during my studies.)

The Ministry of Defence had, in 1967, established a Chinese Language School in the army barracks at Lyemun, and was running courses in both Mandarin and Cantonese. Obviously the Cantonese courses were of much more immediate relevance to army personnel serving in Hong Kong; the Mandarin courses were mainly intended to create a pool of expertise, in the principal Chinese language, that could be drawn upon as military needs arose in the future.

To make the school more viable financially, the courses were open to other agencies and so my course comprised two army officers, one RN officer, two army NCOs from the Intelligence Corps – and a delightful Canadian diplomat.

The standard of tuition was absolutely first-class and we were privileged to have tutors and teachers, mainly from Beijing (so they could teach us, as it were, 'received' pronunciation),

with high academic credentials. They had mostly left China in the wake of the Communist take-over of the country; this meant of course that we were introduced to Chinese propaganda (newspapers, Communist Party documentation, etc) through their (pleasingly!) jaundiced eyes. We immersed ourselves in the reading, writing and speaking of the language, learning to write essays in it on a wide range of topics and translating technical texts. Perhaps most challenging of all was oral interpreting, where one had to think very fast in 2 languages.

Learning Chinese is not easy: you have to overcome the problems of tonality in the language as well as the wonderfully complex character world of its written language. But the rewards are great, given that the learning process is inevitably an invitation to explore the rich tapestry of China's history, geography, culture and politics. The most frustrating thing was not being able to cross the nearby border into China in order to experience it all at first hand. Hong Kong, for all its fascination, is very different – and of course almost totally Cantonese-speaking (Cantonese and Mandarin are mutually unintelligible in their spoken forms).

It was very fulfilling to pass the examination at the end of the course to become an interpreter with a (then) rare skill. But what next? For me, it was time for the Supply Charge Course at HMS *Pembroke* in Chatham; and then to sea again as Supply Officer of HMS *Berwick* (it is a curious fact that I was to make *Berwick* upon Tweed my home 26 years later), on Cod War duties among other things. What chance was there to put my Chinese language skills to use? Unsurprisingly, the answer was 'very little'.

The remainder of my career in the Navy (I left in 1981, after 20 years in uniform) was overshadowed by the frustration of having a skill that could not be put to any direct use, knowing that all the time that I was not using this skill, I was losing it.

There was however always the likelihood that at some stage, as the diplomatic climate changed in the mid 70s and the British Embassy reopened in Beijing, an Assistant Defence Attaché would be appointed to assist the British Defence Attaché (an Army officer) and that this would be a dark blue posting. For me, this was a train that never arrived since I had left the Navy by the time this posting was actually established. It was filled by Commander Mike Farr, a wonderful character (he had preceded me at the Chinese Language School) who won the trust of the Chinese with whom he established excellent relationships over two tours in this rewarding job.

Was I disappointed? A little, it must be said – though not greatly; partly because I knew that Mike (with the kudos of having commanded a *Polaris* submarine) was infinitely better suited to this job than I was and partly because my immersion into things Chinese quickly led me into different, and much more appropriate, paths.

I first travelled to China in 1981 and, in the mid 80s, found myself visiting regularly as part of my job as Asia Sales Manager of a publishing group. At the same time I became fascinated by the development and growth of the Christian church in China – a body that, having appeared to die completely in the early 70s, arose from the ashes of that 'Cultural Revolution' to become the fastest growing church in the world, with perhaps as many as 100 million Christians now.

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Involvement, albeit from afar, in this extraordinary story has given me great satisfaction, particularly with a role to play in JHF, a Hong-Kong based organisation that supports Christian professionals working in China.

The alumni of the MOD Chinese Language School include a very impressive roll-call of ambassadors, generals and attachés (and Paddy Ashdown of course: he was a RM officer at the school when I first arrived there, long before he went into politics) – not to mention an eclectic mix of fascinating mavericks. It should be mentioned that our fellow Murray 2 Warwick Ackland, who followed in my footsteps at the school, and who sadly died in 2003, moved into the fields of scientific and technical intelligence, where his Chinese skills and interests were probably put to greater military use than were mine. In all 13 RN and RM officers attended the school during its 25 year existence (it closed in 1992).

Do I have any regrets about applying for that course? Absolutely not! Whether the Queen received good value for the shillings she invested in me is another matter...

Ian Corsie

From James Wong (Staff)

Thanks for this, James –
Even my wife laughed!

- Ed.



NEWS

David Kitching (C2 & N23, also Commandant & CI) wrote:

I was in class C2, joining at Lyemun in Feb '69 and graduating in Sep '71. Many years later, after transferring to RAEC, I did two stints as Chief Instructor with a year back in the classroom in-between doing Mandarin with, I think, N23. I was the last Commandant and had the dubious distinction of closing the School in Dec '92.

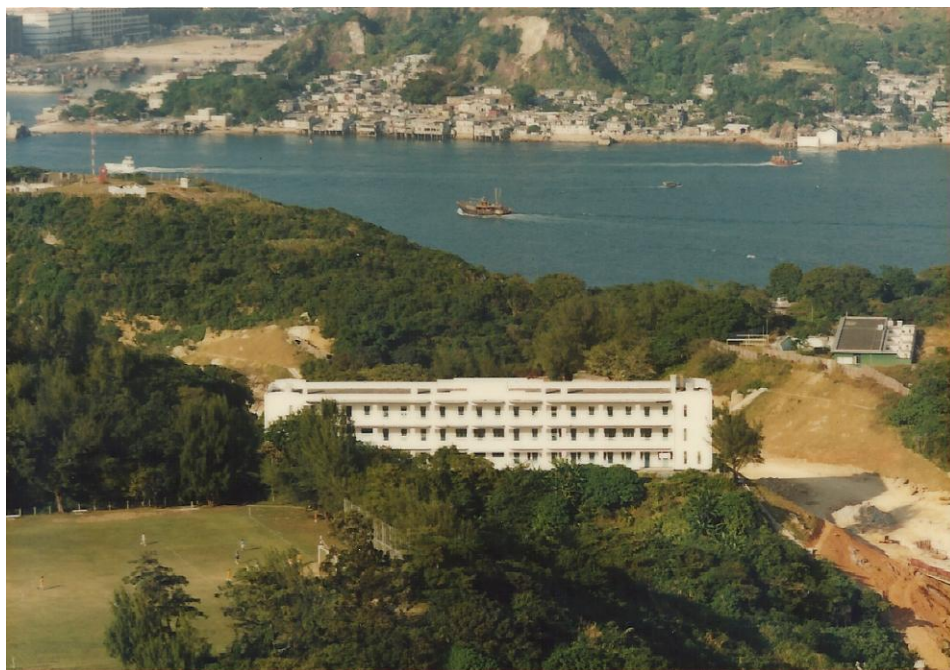
Anyway, I'm sending you by post a few items that may be of use in a future newsletter, or have reference value for you. The main item is a pictorial history of the School. I did this soon after we moved into the new School building in Apr '86. We had a lot of empty notice boards so various staff and students 'volunteered' to create displays. This was my effort using my own photographs. In the post shortly.

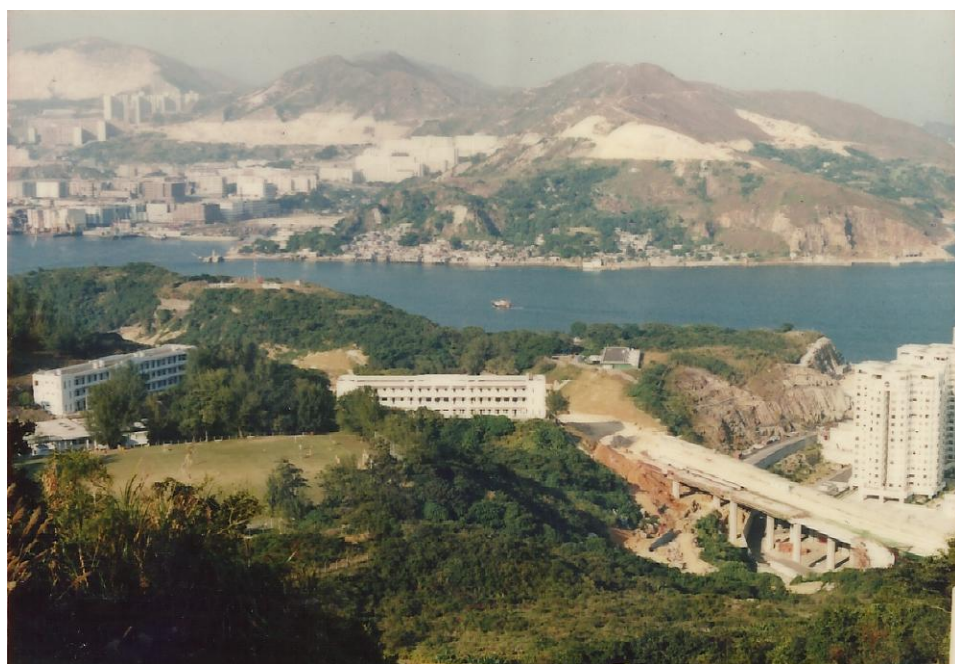
Incidentally, I just love your e-mail address.

David sent a number of photographs of the school's various sites and these have been put onto the website <http://modcls.org> if anyone would like to download their own copy. They are shown here also:



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Additionally. David included a copy of the booklet for the CLS 25th Anniversary dinner on 23th September 1992 at the Police Officers Club in Hong Kong. This is reproduced also, as close as I could get to its original format, as an extra publication and also can be found as a single PDF file on the website <http://modcls.org>

Ministry of Defence
Chinese Language School

英國國防部中國語文學院



25th Anniversary Dinner

25 September 1992

二十五週年校慶晚會

Police Officers' Club, Hong Kong

25 September 1992
Sequence of Events

1900hrs Cocktails

2000hrs Buffet Dinner

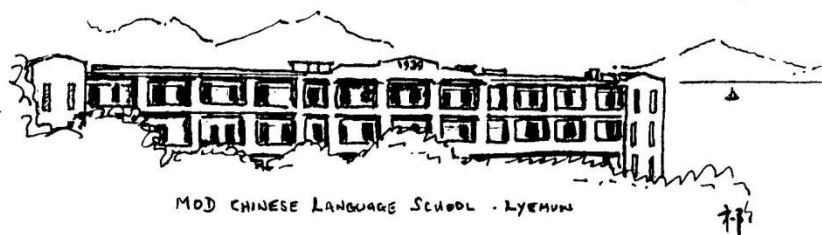
2130hrs Welcoming Address
and Birthday Cake

2145hrs Messages

2200hrs Presentations

2230hrs Karaoke Contest

Programme subject to slippage



THE EARLY DAYS

By Wing Commander (Retd) R P Sloss

Among the refugees arriving in Hong Kong during the communist take-over of China in 1949 were two groups of military language students. I think it was the RAF students, who had been located in Peking, who came first. They were followed by some Army students who'd been in Nanking. They had to be found some habitation to continue their studies and Professor F S Drake, the then Professor of Chinese at Hong Kong University, provided them with a temporary lodgement there and an attempt was made to continue their training. To start with it was rather acrimonious I gather. The Air Force and Army students seemed incapable of getting along together, but Professor Drake finally knocked heads together and organised some semblance of a language course; but it never had much formal organisation, being just sets of teachers who gradually as the years went by acquired some haphazard experience of teaching people.

Rather motley groups of people came during the fifties and early sixties to this language training facility, a mixture of missionaries, military officers and NCOs and some foreign service people as well. The course had the merit of having some very able tutors, but its organisation was pretty chaotic and there were many complaints from generations of students about its inefficiency and wastefulness.

The pattern in those days was that students went for their first year to the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, and if they survived an examination at the end of this they went on for two further years at HKU. They were long (48 week) years and the tuition was all individual, four hours a day five days a week. I arrived there in 1960 to find that the RAF had added to this regime an additional 4 hours of free conversion outside the university orbit (provided by a redoubtable woman, Lillian Wang, who now lives in retirement in St Albans).

There had been complaints about the SOAS component of this whole process as well, that it was a barely adequately adapted first year of the standard SOAS undergraduate course, and that was certainly my own impression when I undertook it in 1959 - 60. I thought it was pretty poor really - remarkably non-intensive and badly focused, text books were primitive, and, and, and..... so down through the years an accumulation of complaints about this pattern of training had caused people in the MOD to begin thinking about other ways of doing things. The RAF had its own training facility in Chinese for other purposes. We didn't train interpreters in that organisation, but we at least did quite a lot of work on a more intensive basis than was the practice at SOAS and HKU.

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The moving force behind the idea of a MOD Chinese language school in Hong Kong was an officer called Lt Col Gordon Wortelhook of what was then AED 4b. I was the Director of Studies at the Joint Services Language School in the early sixties - I'd moved on from actual Chinese training which I had been involved in there from 1962 to 1964 and I frequently met Wortelhook. We discussed the problem of Chinese, among other services language training problems, and were of one mind that what was really needed was a dedicated school that we could throw open, if they felt inclined to use it, to the Foreign Office and to Commonwealth and other foreign armed services and external affairs students.

So the idea of the school was carried forward and by 1966 had firmed up into a "live" project. The question arose as to who was going to set it up and run it initially. It was to be very much a MOD (Army) operation, but at that time there were no RAEC officers with experience of military language training in Chinese. I hadn't had much myself with the Air Force, but I was approached to see whether I would take on responsibility for setting up this new organisation in Hong Kong. My then CO at the JSLS, an RAF officer, was extremely hostile to my going. Not that he liked me particularly, but I gathered that he'd had some bad experiences with the Army in the past, and the fact that I would even contemplate going to work with the Army was absolutely astounding to him! He'd heard of people defecting to the Soviet Union, and that was reprehensible, but nothing in comparison to an Air Force officer going to work with the Army, voluntarily. I didn't share his paranoia about these things and agreed to go and do the job if the Air Force would allow it.

I'd had numerous meetings with Wortelhook and others about funding, staffing levels, equipment and so on, so it was with a fairly firm theoretical scheme that I arrived in Hong Kong to prospect for a building in 1966. I was assisted in this task by the local SOI Education a Lt Col Vivian Gilding, himself a linguist in modern European languages and so he at least understood some of the issues involved. I was treated with a certain amount of suspicion by the local Army people who weren't quite certain what kind of an incubus this was that was being foisted upon them. It was decided to place the new unit as a minor unit of 51 Bde for administrative purposes, and that of course reported to HQ Land Forces Hong Kong which in its turn reported to HQ Far East Land Forces in Singapore in those days. It was a long chain of command going back in theory to the MOD (Army). However, one of the first things I was most insistent about was that although administratively we might fall within that structure I was very keen indeed that operationally and functionally we should report straight to the MOD in London so that we shouldn't be messed around by the local Army set-ups, either in Hong Kong or Singapore. That's why I christened the embryo unit the MOD Chinese Language School. It was a completely unilateral decision at that stage, but amazingly nobody questioned it. The direct link to the MOD was clearly common sense (but THAT in my experience doesn't always rule the day!) However, administratively and for equipment and supplies and engagement of civilian staff etc we went along with the standard local administrative patterns.

I was offered a variety of buildings in Hong Kong, most of them unsuitable. One was that incredible place at the top of the Peak Batty's Belvedere which for half the year is in permanent dank mist. I also felt we'd have suffered from vertigo perched up there, whenever the cloud cleared. I was put under a lot of pressure to take that particular building, but I wasn't keen. I was offered a number of other places and then it was suggested we might operate on two floors of the old colonial-style barrack block building in Lyemun Barracks above the Command Pay Office on the ground floor. I

went along and had a look at this and immediately liked the setting. The fung shui was perfect! And I liked that old style of colonial building with its deep verandahs back and front, and the rooms seemed adaptable into reasonable-sized classrooms. It wasn't perfect, but when you don't do a design - build you have to put up with a number of compromises. Of course the Pay Corps were a bit suspicious about what sort of set-up was going to materialise on the floors above them. Lyemun Barracks itself was a bit of a rag-bag of units, the Depot Hong Kong Military Service Corps being the main one, but there were numbers of others, including 29 Sqn RCT.

Anyway, I felt that all things considered Lyemun was a good site. The main snag was the business of the aeroplanes going into (not so much coming out of) Kai Tak. Under certain weather conditions aircraft came over very low on their approach runs to the airport and that really was a major problem. Air-conditioning seemed to be the answer but this was looked upon in those times as a needless luxury and so the issue turned into a long-running saga. And, inevitably, when the go-ahead was finally received, they got it wrong. They didn't spend enough money, they didn't get the right equipment, they didn't insulate the rooms properly and so it was pretty ineffective in the early days. (Later on it became rather better).

I reported back about the Lyemun choice, and it was progressed and accepted and agreed that I would come out to Hong Kong in early 1967 to start the physical business of setting the place up. I'd had further discussions with Gordon Wortelhook and others in Stanmore and we'd hammered out a plan of campaign which actually proved to be quite successful when it was implemented. So I arrived back in Hong Kong with the local Army people still highly suspicious of having an Air Force officer running an Army set-up; their suspicions were probably quite justified because I could have made the most dreadful mistakes simply by not understanding the quartermaster procedures and so on; I think it was with this in mind that they made me an offer of a spare Lieutenant Colonel, who was awaiting retirement, who'd expressed an interest in learning some Chinese. The offer was to "help" me, it was said, but I think he was really meant to keep an eye on me. Anyway, I was only too grateful to accept the offer and as it turned out I had the terrific assistance of Lt Col Bob Reese of the KOSB who subsequently went on after retirement to head Save the Children Fund operations in Vietnam at the height of the war there. I saw him later when he came to Hong Kong on periods of leave and he really did have the most dreadful experiences to talk about. He was a very good man and we worked in tandem very well. He knew how to open all the various Army doors in ways that I, as a "crab", just couldn't have done.

We worked very hard indeed because we literally had to do everything, from getting the colour of the paint right to getting the furniture in, from getting the books for, in my case, writing the syllabus, to hiring staff and trying to get everything right for the first intake of students in September of 1967. But we made it, just, and opened for business on time, and the first batch of 16 students got down to their studies. The first Cantonese group started 6 months later and a year after that we had as many as 55 students in the school.

I've overlooked mentioning a rather important figure in all this. Towards the end of 1966, or early 1967, Ian Horrocks an RAEC major was appointed as Chief Instructor designate and he and I met at North Luffenham. Where I was then stationed and had fairly lengthy discussions about our respective roles and so on. He didn't actually come out to join me until

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quite late on in the piece, about August 1967. The intended pattern was that the Chief Instructor was eventually to take over the Commandant role and this pattern was hopefully to be established for perpetuity, the Chief Instructor post being in a sense a training role for the Commandant position.

The courses we established were based on the De Francis series - not altogether a suitable series, but felt at that time to be the most modern and integrated audio-lingual approach to learning Chinese. We established a pattern of working mainly in the mornings with the afternoons given over either to tutorials or free study. This caused a lot more suspicion among other Army units, but my contention was that this was pedagogically the optimum way to do things, particularly in the hotter months of the year, and I still believe this was a correct decision.

Really we got up and running quite fast, but we were overtaken by events rather badly quite early on with the Cultural Revolution spilling over into Hong Kong. Numbers of officers were drafted into Hong Kong at short notice to help with these troubles on the basis that they knew Chinese. In most cases however they had completely forgotten whatever Chinese they had learned as long as 10 years previously. So early on in the life of the school we had to provide punishingly intensive courses for "re-treads", officers re-assigned to Hong Kong for various intelligence posts to do with the CR and Hong Kong's own troubles. These courses seemed to do the trick and the officers went away after 4 weeks saying their Chinese was better than it had ever been. We were looked-over by the Foreign Office at the outset. Their people continued to do the SOAS/HKU thing, but Canadian and Australian diplomats began arriving very early on and were joined I understand a few years later by their UK counterparts. We also started providing Mandarin for selected officers from the RHKP and remedial/conversion/refresher training for civilians from Little Sai Wan.

In order to meet these various requirements we had to extend our staffing pattern and the most successful way to do that was by recruiting short-term part-time Chinese teachers, of whom there was quite a conspicuous supply, so we established a small cadre of full-time teachers supplemented on an ad hoc basis by these part-timers.

The school settled down fairly rapidly and our first results were really quite respectable. At that time the Interpreter course was 2½ years long. We'd won 6 months off the previous system. There was an argument that we should reduce it by a whole year, but I resisted this. I thought it might be possible in due time, but until we got the place up to reasonable flying-speed I felt we shouldn't seek to get too rapid advantage over the old system.

I continued with the school until July or August 1969. I'd have liked to have carried on, but by then the Army were feeling, quite rightly I think, that they had officers who were more than competent to take over from me. By that time also I'd received a rather odd offer to come to Cambridge to head a study of Intensive Teaching in Modern Chinese for University purposes. So I left the school in the summer of 1969, with very considerable regret because, well.... it may sound vainglorious, but I looked on it as my baby. And it was a baby that had become quite lusty and successful and appeared to be making its mark in the world. I was very proud of the achievement, not only my own but everybody who'd worked in setting it all up. Gordon Wortelhook in particular deserves to be remembered for his part in founding the school.

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During the early stages of the school we were under constant financial attack, people threatening us saying that it was ruinously expensive and ought to be shut down at once! I remember a Command Pay Review team from Singapore came and spent a week in the place and at the end of it the team leader said to me "Well, its absolutely magnificent and quite the finest set-up I've ever seen, but it'll ruin us, it's got to be shut and my report will recommend closing you down". Well, I never heard any more of his report, and no doubt there have been other similar reports down through the years!

Yes, it is expensive. To do it properly costs money. There's no doubt about that. You've got to have a very generous staff-student ratio, good equipment, the latest teaching materials and aids - the more the better. There's no way it's going to be cheap! Tagging military people onto existing programmes elsewhere will do, sure. But it will never turn out the quality product that the job actually demands. I just cannot stress this too strongly. You cannot hope to have people who will be competent to do really tough jobs in emergency situations unless they are trained really properly. Not just to pass the examinations, but trained so that they can be relied upon, so that they know not only their language but they know about China, the history, the philosophy, the economics, the politics, the culture BUT everything! Because their evaluations of any problem to do with China and the Chinese is influenced by their depth of appreciation of the way in which Chinese operate in any given situation. If you think you can get this kind of expertise on the cheap I'm afraid you just cannot. MOD CLS was set up to produce a quality product and I know that down through the years it has succeeded in doing so, and I would warn those who want to do it more cheaply that they will end up producing people who cannot deliver the goods! I'm sorry to end on so apocalyptic a note, but I feel this very keenly.

It only remains for me to offer my heartfelt congratulations to the school on its 25th Anniversary and to wish all staff and students, past and present the very best for the future.

NEWS

TO THE STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION
OF
THE BRITISH MINISTRY OF DEFENSE
CHINESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL

OSBORN BARRACKS
KOWLOON TONG
HONG KONG

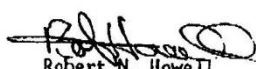
CONGRATULATIONS ON 25 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE,
ON A QUARTER-CENTURY OF SUCCESS IN ACCOMPLISHING
"LEARNING WITH A PURPOSE."

THE "PURPOSE"
-- IMPARTING KNOWLEDGE OF THE GLORIOUS
CHINESE LANGUAGE, HISTORY AND CULTURE --
IS BOTH NOBLE AND DIFFICULT.

THROUGH YOUR WISDOM, DEDICATION, SKILL, PERSEVERANCE AND PATIENCE
THE GOAL HAS BEEN REPEATEDLY ATTAINED,
AS THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE MANY GENERATIONS OF MODCLS GRADUATES
-- SOLDIERS, STATESMEN AND OFFICIALS --
TO THE OBJECTIVES OF THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS
SO INDISPUTABLY ATTEST.

CONFIDENT THAT I SPEAK FOR ALL THE UNITED STATES ARMY
FOREIGN AREA OFFICERS
WHO HAVE BEEN PRIVILEGED TO RECEIVE YOUR INSTRUCTION,
YOUR TEACHING HAS CHANGED OUR LIVES:
IT MADE US BETTER MILITARY OFFICERS,
BETTER REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR COUNTRY,
AND BETTER HUMAN BEINGS.

WE SALUTE YOUR PROFESSIONALISM
AND ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR FRIENDSHIP.


Robert N. Howell
Lieutenant Colonel
US Army (Retired)

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE MOD CHINESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL
BY TANG PONG MBE AND MAJ D R KITCHING

In the early 1960s the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence concluded that in view of the ever closer relations between Britain and China and increasing contacts at all levels between the two countries, including in the military and diplomatic spheres, there was an urgent need for proficient linguists to take on the duties of interpreting and translating between Chinese and English. So a decision was taken to set up a Chinese Language School in Hong Kong dedicated to the training of Chinese language specialists.

Squadron Leader R P Sloss was assigned to Hong Kong in April 1967, as the first Commandant, to do all the planning and preparation work. Under Commandant Sloss's positive action plan the process of recruiting Mandarin and Cantonese lecturers began in May 1967. Mr TANG Pong was engaged along with Mrs XIAO Shufang (better remembered as Mrs Chan) as Mandarin lecturers in July 1967 while Mr TSE Hau Loong and Miss YIP Kwok Hung were taken on as lecturers for the Cantonese department.

The school opened officially for business on 1st August 1967 in Lyemun Barracks, Hong Kong island. At the beginning of September the Mandarin department's first class consisting of 4 students designated N1A (who had already been studying at HKU) and 12 beginners designated N1, formally commenced their studies at the school.

In February 1968 the first Cantonese group (11 students) assembled to begin classes. This pattern, whereby Mandarin intakes commenced in September and Cantonese in February each year, was to continue for some years.

From class N1 to N6 and C1 to C6, students studied for 2½ years for the military interpreter examination. Beginning with N7, which assembled in September 1973 however, the course of study was reduced to 2 years.

In the 12 years from 1974 to 1985 the British Foreign office sent their second year students to the school each September for, usually, a year to complete their studies towards the Diplomatic Service Language Awards Higher and Advanced Level examinations in Mandarin and, occasionally, Cantonese.

From the time of N2 right up to the present, Australian students have been a regular feature of MOD CLS. Australian Military students have attended the Interpreter course each year during this time and Australian diplomatic personnel were always strongly represented on the diplomatic courses. Foreign Service personnel from New Zealand and, in earlier days, Canada and India have also been welcomed in the school as well as occasional students from other countries such as Sweden, Germany and France. The Royal Hong Kong Police Force regularly sent officers on the long Interpreter course up until the late 1980s.

NEWS

Since September 1979, the school has each year welcomed officers sponsored by the United States Defense Department to take part in its Mandarin programmes. For the first few years of American association with the school, US students undertook the standard British Military Interpreter course, but in 1983 the first dedicated US Foreign Area Officer course, undertaken over a period of about 18 months at the school, was begun. This pattern has continued, with some modifications to the format and syllabus, until the present time and the last group, FAO 9, will graduate in late 1992.

From 1978 occasional short 8 week Cantonese courses for locally based soldiers, including Gurkhas, have been conducted. Indeed, the last formal course in the school will be one of three 2 - week basic Cantonese courses being run during autumn 1992 for Gurkhas electing to work in Hong Kong after leaving the service.

Since its establishment on 1st August 1987 in Lyemun Barracks MOD CLS has occupied two other homes. In August 1981 it moved into a double Romney hut in Osborn Barracks Kowloon and in April 1986 took over purpose - built accommodation nearby in the same barracks.

Following extensive studies into the future of Chinese Language training, a decision was reached by the MOD in 1989 to close the school on 31st December 1992.

英國國防部中國語文學院簡史

唐鵬

六十年代初英國國防部鑑於中英往來日益繁多，中英關係日益密切，在軍事與外交方面對精通中英語文能負傳譯任務的傳譯人員的需要日益迫切；於是決定在香港設立一所專為訓練傳譯人員的中國語文學院並且派由當時身為空軍少校的史樂斯(Sqdn. Leader R. Sloss)任首任院長於一九六七年四月來港負責籌劃建校工作。在史院長積極策劃下，六七年五月公開招聘國、粵語講師；七月決定聘拔和蕭樹芳女士為國語組講師，謝厚隆先生、葉桐雄女士為廣東話組講師。同年八月一日起中國語文學院在香港鯉魚門兵營內正式開始辦公。九月初國語組第一班學生，〈N1A〉學生四名及〈N1〉學生十二名，正式開學上課。十一月廣東話組學生十名〈C1〉開始上課。此後每年九月及十一月各有國、粵語組一班新生入學；從〈N1〉到〈N6〉，〈C1〉至〈C6〉各六班正科學生在校學習二年半畢業。自〈N7〉〈C7〉(七三年九月)起正科班學生在校學習改為二年畢業。

中國語文學院從一九七四年起至一九八五年止，在這十二年中每年九月接受英國外交部派送二年級學生若干名在校學習一年，完成高等國語課程。

本院正科國語班自〈N2〉至今，每年都有若干名澳洲國防部派送的學生另外有時也有澳洲的兼讀學生。

本院從七九年九月起每年九月接受美國國防部派送軍官若干名參加國語(普通話)組學習中國語文(每班課程一年半)最後一班今年底畢業。

此外，本院從六八年至六九年「國語」組正科班都有印度外交官學生二名；七十年代中有加拿大、新西蘭外交官參加「國語」組學習。

本院於六八年至八十年中期，國語(普通話)組正科班每年都接受一名香港政府警官參加學習。

粵語組方面：

一、由七八年起不定時舉辦短期(約八周)粵語訓練班。學生都是駐港呢嚟兵及駐港英籍士兵。二、本院開辦至今共有四名英國外交官接受為期一年的粵語訓練。

本院自六七年八月一日成立以來，院址原在港島東部的鯉魚門兵營。八一年八月遷來九龍興士本兵營至今。現在仍有老師十三位，其中服務二十五年以上的有三位(唐鵬先生、鍾鄭雅嵐太太和何沛基先生)。

TO THE STAFF OF MODCLS :

悽悽去親愛
泛泛入煙霧
歸棹洛陽人
殘鐘廣陵樹
今朝為此別
何處還相遇
世事波上舫
沿洄安得住

[初發揚子寄元大校書：韋應物 773-828]

名師出高徒，名師出名校！

中國語文學院的精神萬歲！

阿羅

各位老师各位同学：我是陈义树芳，首先我要感谢新青校长来信通知我，今天大家在这儿为中国语文学院25周年银禧举行庆祝大会，很可惜我不能来参加，只能写几句话来祝贺并表示我对各位老朋友的关怀和敬意。

日子过得真快，记得25年前，我开始为学校工作的时候，学校还没有校址，我们借用维多利亚兵房作些筹备工作。（即晚在的太在广场）搬到鲤鱼门兵房之后，学校才正式成立。那时后只有唐先生和我两位老师，学生仔一共才13位。包国瑞现在英国民社党领袖 PADDY ASHDOWN 先生，想不到25年后，在这个学校学过中文的学生已经有二三万人了！我感觉好像是一个婴儿出生，跟着他一起长大，今天见到他成为一位健康漂亮的小伙子，心里充满了快乐与满足。

我知道今天有许多老校长老朋友都来了，我在猜：谁来了呢？谁没来呢？心目中马上呈现出许多熟悉的面孔，回想以前在学校时，又怕自己教得不够，又怕学生考得不好，时常又焦急又担心，但是知道考试成绩都很好的时候，又非常自以为是，高兴。~~因因因因~~我认为我一生中最美满最快乐的一段时期就是与你仔一起那19年，我会永远记得的！

我晚在雪梨的生活很时，既简单又平静，很适合我。如果有谁也在雪梨请告诉我，可以与他联络。如各位老战友：唐先生钟太（等）老同学卜克先生，新青先生等，教一些不认识我的新朋友，如果来雪梨，请来看我，我们都是从中国语文学院出来的，我们是一家人，不必客气，好了，祝大家有一个愉快的晚上，再见。

咁大大

NEWS

COMMANDANTS

Wing Cdr	R P SLOSS	RAF	Aug 67	- Jul 69
Maj	J ROSCOE	RAEC	Dec 69	- Dec 70
Maj	B A ROURKE	RAEC	Dec 70	- Jan 72
Maj	A E SYKES	RAEC	Jan 72	- Mar 73
Maj	G CHADWICK	RAEC	Mar 73	- Jul 74
Maj	J H PRINCE	RAEC	Jul 74	- Nov 75
Maj	N SADLER	RAEC	Nov 75	- Jan 77
Maj	B A ROURKE	RAEC	Jan 77	- Feb 79
Maj	K McMAHON	RAEC	Feb 79	- Apr 81
Maj	D C SYME	RAEC	Apr 81	- Sep 81
Maj	P K GOVETT	RAEC	Sep 81	- May 83
Maj	K O WINFIELD	RAEC	Jun 83	- Sep 83
Maj	D C SYME	RAEC	Oct 83	- Sep 84
Maj	R M BOOKER	RAEC	Oct 84	- Sep 86
Maj	J B SALES	RAEC	Sep 86	- May 88
Maj	M G ROBERTS	RAEC	May 88	- Jun 91
Maj	D R KITCHING	RAEC	Jun 91	- Dec 92

CHIEF INSTRUCTORS

Maj	I HORROCKS	RAEC	Aug 67	- May 69
Maj	B A ROURKE	RAEC	Jul 69	- Dec 70
Maj	A SYKES	RAEC	Dec 70	- Jan 72
Maj	G CHADWICK	RAEC	Jan 72	- Mar 73
Maj	J H PRINCE	RAEC	Mar 73	- Jul 74
Maj	N SADLER	RAEC	Jul 74	- Nov 75
Maj	C THOMAS	RAEC	Nov 75	- Feb 78
Maj	K McMAHON	RAEC	Feb 78	- Feb 79
Maj	D C SYME	RAEC	Feb 79	- Apr 81
Maj	K O WINFIELD	RAEC	Apr 81	- Sep 83
Capt	M G ROBERTS	RAEC	Sep 83	- Sep 85
Capt	D R KITCHING	RAEC	Sep 85	- Dec 86
Capt	I D S BARROW	RAEC	Dec 86	- Oct 88
Maj	K M PICKLES	RAEC	Oct 88	- Oct 90
Maj	D C SYME	RAEC	Oct 90	- Dec 90
Maj	D R KITCHING	RAEC	Feb 91	- Jun 91
Maj	C D ROSE	RAEC	Jun 91	- Dec 92

NEWS

SCHOOL TEACHING STAFF

MANDARIN

Mr	TANG Pong	(唐鵬)	Aug 67 - Dec 92
Mrs	CHEN-XIAO Shu Fang	(陳蕭樹芳)	Aug 67 - Dec 85
Miss	TAN Lin	(譚琳)	Apr 68 - Sep 71
Mrs	ZHONG HENG Ya Lan	(鍾鄭雅嵐)	Apr 68 - Dec 92
Mr	WU Guangwu	(吳光武)	Apr 69 - Mar 74
Mr	WANG Guowei	(王國威)	Mar 73 - Jun 86
Mr	ZHANG Yitao	(張一濤)	Apr 74 - Dec 76
Mrs	JIANG Lin Lin	(蔣林琳)	Aug 80 - Dec 92
Miss	GAO Fengning	(高鳳寧)	Aug 80 - Oct 83
Mr	CHAN Pok	(陳樸)	Oct 81 - Dec 92
Mrs	Lisa AHNERT	(張麗超)	Oct 81 - Sep 82
			Sep 87 - Jun 88
Mr	ZENG Zifan	(曾子凡)	Oct 83 - Dec 92
Mrs	ZHANG Alice	(張翔愛麗)	Jan 85 - Dec 92
Mrs	POON Lorraine	(潘珀樂倫)	Jun 86 - Dec 92
Mr	ZHUANG Ching	(莊晶)	Sep 86 - Nov 92
Mrs	LUI Caroline	(呂若香)	Oct 86 - Aug 87
Mr	WU Sanyuan	(吳三元)	Dec 86 - May 88
Miss	SIU Sara	(邵若華)	Oct 87 - Oct 92
Mrs	LI Julie Ann	(李黃麗)	Dec 88 - Dec 92

CANTONESE

Mr	TSE Hau Loong	(謝厚隆)	Mar 68 - Sep 80
Miss	IP Teresa	(葉嫻雄)	Mar 68 - Mar 72
Mr	HO Pui Kei	(何沛基)	Jan 69 - Dec 92
Mr	LEE Min Man	(李勉民)	Apr 70 - Jan 78
Mr	WU Ming Biu	(胡名標)	Apr 72 - Mar 75
Mr	TSANG Kin Pan	(曾建斌)	Apr 73 - Mar 74
Mrs	CHAN Amy	(陳)	Apr 74 - Dec 76
Mrs	CHAN Yvonne	(陳余婉慧)	Apr 75 - May 87
Mrs	HEUNG	(何)	Feb 78 - Jun 79
Mrs	LAU Stella	(劉麗娟)	Jul 79 - Sep 86
Mr	HUANG Yao Ping	(黃耀平)	Oct 80 - Sep 86
Mrs	WONG	(梁淑賢)	Apr 89 - Dec 92

CALLIGRAPHERS

Mrs	YEUNG Jenny	(黃婉真)	1970 - Apr 73
Mr	LEUNG Fong King	(梁訪經)	1974 - Mar 86
Miss	LAM Fuk Kuen Marie	(林復娟)	Apr 86 - Dec 92

James Wong (Staff) wrote from the States in October 2016 in response to my own contribution in the last issue.

"I am very pleased to know that you have visited many places in China including Shao Guan 韶關, Nanxiong 南雄 and ShaoShan 韶山 etc. There are many people who go to ShaoShan to pay respect to Mao Zedong's old house. Our school organized a trip of two dozen students to ShaoShan to visit Mao's old house in 1985. The trip was led by Richard Booker, the Commandant and teachers Mrs Jiang and myself. I noticed the small hill on the rear of Mao's old house where usually there would be many tombs around, but the area was very well arranged and only one tomb available which is Mao's parents' tomb. The special privilege mentality is everywhere. Not many foreigners go to Shaoguan and Nanxiong. Nanxiong is one of the tobacco production areas in southern China and also the pass to candidates who would go to Peking participating in the imperial Examination during Ming and Ching Dynasties. If you go further north across the pass at the top of Mei Ling mountain 梅嶺 you enter into Jiangxi Province 江西省. That was the route my family went to Jiangxi from Guangdong during the Sino-Japanese war in 1941 when I was a teenager."

This last sentence piqued my interest and since I replied we have been having a stilted dialogue during which he also revealed that he was an instructor at the Indian Army Educational Corps Training College & Centre, Pachmarhi, India. When I asked about this he started putting together some of his memories of the India post and these are published below.

To begin with I would like to introduce myself: my name is (James) Kwok-wei Wong. I joined MOD CLS early in 1970. I retired as Senior Instructor at MOD CLS 1986. 16 years was quite a long time, and was the longest period of one job in my whole life, the most memorable. We had a Gang of Four among our teachers, Mr. Tang, Mrs. Chen, Mrs. Zhong and myself; I am the only survivor at the age of 90.

Then I emigrated to America and obtained USA citizenship. Before that I was a language instructor at the Indian Army Educational Corp Training College & Centre, Pachmarhi, India.

I keep in quite close contact with old friends from MODCLS, for example I went to England, meeting with Mick & Kay Roberts at Guernsey, Alan Robertson at Fife, Scotland, David & Pat Syme at Edinburgh and Brian & Sophia Gopsill at Plymouth in Autumn 1994. But I had to miss the reunion occasion in Hong Kong, 2007 to my great regret.

I am very grateful to Mick Roberts and Brian Finch for sending me every issue of the Newsletter which I treasure very much and also look forward to in the future.

NOSTALGIA

After 16 years of service I retired from MOD CLS in June 1986. It was the longest period of my whole life in one post; I totally enjoyed it.

I am now settled in the city of Monterey Park, Los Angeles, California, with neighbouring cities like Alhambra, San Gabriel, El Monte, Rosemead and Rowland Heights which some claim is a Chinese colony. Chinese restaurants, Chinese supermarkets and all sorts of shops are available. The weather here is great, air temperature not too cold, not too warm throughout the year and rainfall concentrate in winter months only.

I approached the Defence Foreign Language Institute, Monterey, California after I arrived in this country in the wish to find a teaching post, but did not make it. Luckily enough I got hold a job at a trading company and six months later I was promoted as manager in charge of the business, importing T-shirts from China. Seven years later I was invited to Shanghai joining the Super Ocean Group as a Vice General Manager in Sales for two years. I then went back to the State and retired when I was 71 years old.

Let's talk about my India experience of fifty years ago. I was invited to teach Chinese at the Indian Army Educational Corps Training College & Centre, Pachmarhi, India from Dec. 1966 to Dec 1969 on a Contract basis. It was a very interesting three years in my life. Please allow me go into details. Pachmarhi is a summer resort in central India; the Ganges plain arises at the Nindhya Mountain and extends all the way to south India forming the area of Dacca Plateau. Pachmarhi is just on the northern brim of the plateau.

Pachmarhi was spotted by British Army Captain James Forsyth at 1857. At the beginning it served as sanatoriums, and then became Army Training Centre. After Partition – the Indian way to say Independency - the Army Educational Corps Training College & Centre was established.

My wife and I arrived in Calcutta from Hong Kong on the evening of 3rd Dec. 1966; an AEC Major met us at the airport and arranged a hotel for the night. Next day the morning paper headline said that in Hong Kong there was a plastic factory workers strike against the Hong Kong Government. We boarded the express train heading towards Pachmarhi. I have to state that the train was unique; the first class compartment was divided into six individual parts and had it's own door for boarding and a self-contained shower and toilet plus passengers could move around and were not have confined to sitting. It must have been a colonial-time train. I wonder whether it is still to be found in England now.

The rumbling train headed towards the north, at dawn reaching a big station – Batna, the capital of Bihar State, where the train would stop for 25 minutes. Some one knocked on the door and shouted “Good morning Sir, Your bed tea.” The train door opened and a white- uniformed attendant with a red turban was standing by the door with smiling face holding a tray on his palm. I said, “I have not ordered anything.” He answered, “Three meals a day are served for first class passengers, Sir. A cup of hot and sweet milk tea at the daybreak would be a very enjoyable treat. No Chinese would understand the custom of morning tea - me too, I venture to say.

After breakfast the train continued westward heading to the Ganges plain. There would be another 18 hours journey before reaching my destination Pachmarhi.

The train stopped finally in a small station at Pipariya at midnight of 5th Dec. 1966. My wife and I spent the night in a Government Guest House without hot water supply. Next morning a Sergeant Shridar Prasad came down from the Indian Army Educational Corps Training College & Centre, Pachmarhi to receive us. Then we took the bus to go up the hill. On arriving at the Headquarters we were first seen by the Adjutant, who then took me to report for duty to the Commandant, Colonel S. J. Sardhu Singh.

The accommodation allocated to us stood at the top of a slope, quite old, which was okay, but was cold at night, as we had travelled by air with only light luggage, and only one blanket! It was a long and cold sleepless night!

Pachmarhi at first sight to me was wilderness. Apart from the AEC Centre Headquarters buildings, the training and teaching facilities, Officers' Mess and some accommodation for officers and family were nearby. NCO's quarters stood a little farther away, and all the other bungalows or houses were scattered at the road side with several hundred feet of distance in between each other.

AEC Centre was organized into four Wings; they were School Wing, Training Wing, Musical Wing and Foreign Language Wing. Maj. K.N. Sardana was in charge of Foreign Language Wing; he studied Chinese at Hong Kong University three years previously. Mr. Hanshen Tsai started the Chinese Course in 1992 - he has run it singlehandedly ever since. However, there were interesting tales to be told; six Chinese Instructors arrived in Parchmahi from America late in 1992, they were a part of the USA military aid programme, and no one knew where they were recruited and they did not have any experience of teaching Chinese to non-native speakers. They had to return to America eventually. Then a Mr. Hsu Xu 徐訐 came from Hong Kong; he was a famous novelist in China. However he could not accept the Indian curry diet every meal, and he requested to end his contract and go back to Hong Kong. After that came me. I was introduced by Mr. Tsai and fulfilled the three years contract and work happily.

In my opinion, the Musical Wing should be the most famous one as they claim that they are second to none in all of the military band training in Asia countries. Mr. JHD Simeon was the Director. Three times a year Lady's Night was held in the Officer's Mess; a band of not less than 60 players had to sit outside the hall. That was their time to distinguish themselves; the fashionable European and American dancing music was beautiful and most enjoyable, and gave the opportunity for officers to enjoy the colourful Sari dresses.

The Chinese Course had three classes with some fifty NCO students by the end of 1966 when I arrived.

In March 1967 an Officer class started with 18 army officers and two civilian officers; Maj. S.C. Sharma was the senior. He was then the Indian Military Attache at the Indian Embassy in Beijing, China middle of the late 80's.

USA military aid programme provided two complete sets of language laboratories, each good for 24 users, also 200 complete sets of text books by Mr. de Francis, the same as those we used in MOD CLS. What was missing was a good print machine; we had to make use of special stencil paper and a hand-rolling printing machine.

Thankfully Mr. Tsai had made a scheme for the coursework; actually we just made full use of the text book instructions and that went smoothly without much difficulty. What was not perfect was that it did not provide Listen and Write (聽寫) lessons. The reason was we two teachers could not fulfill this heavy task as it was a two year interpreter course - we failed. However, we did make other achievements, strengthening Chinese character writing which produced instant results when they posted students to Chinese Class in military stations, facing no trouble in teaching the language. Like the Chinese idiom says: make up on the roundabouts what one loses on the swings (失之東隅, 收之桑榆). So we came to know that the government's intention was that after two years training in Chinese by AEC non-commissioned officers and officers, they would then in turn train more soldiers to do the job in the Monitor Station near the border.

In mid 1967 to Sept. 1969 I had the opportunity go to Poona, the Indian Military Central Command, as an External Examiner for the Chinese Class run by the Central Command, and also to Merrut, 40 miles to the east of Delhi. To tell the truth, the soldiers who learned one and a half years of the language had not produced good results, especially on the conversation side. Strictly speaking the soldiers should not have had to take the blame; it was the fault of those who decided this training programme. Two years after I left AEC Centre, Mr. Tsai went to Jawaharlal Nehru's University, as Chinese Language Lecturer, also holding a post as translator at the India Radio Broadcasting Station, New Delhi. I have not heard of any language teacher of Chinese origin being invited by AEC Centre, Pachmarhi after that time.

However there was a quite odd and interesting incident during the Chinese Courses at Pachmarhi. It was one year after I took the teaching post; an order from Defence Ministry said that we could make use of a most advanced foreign language teaching method invented and used successfully by USSR. The main idea was to learn foreign language under unconscious situations. That meant letting the user learn the foreign language while asleep, just a little while before awakening. A micro or mini loud speaker was put under the user's pillow and activated at the right time just before sounding reveille, so it was as simple as that! They called it the Learn While Sleeping method. It sounded very good, and the loudspeaker was installed in NCO Chinese students' living quarters, and recorded tapes of short and simple Chinese sentences were prepared. Later, one early morning before reveille was sounded, the loudspeaker would blurt out quite loud Chinese sentences and everybody was awakened. This carried on three or four days and was then released by request. I have never told anybody of this, because I thought no one would believe it!

This is what I can recall of my three years in India. In fact I didn't have many chances to visit other places apart from Pachmarhi. I did pick up my heavy luggage at Bombay, to act as examiner at New Delhi, Poona and Merrut. Of course I had to see the Taj Mahal at Agra. I did specially arrange a trip to Khajuraho, where there are the remains a group of 8 Hindu temples, built in the 10th and 11th century before the Moslem invasion.

Britain, China and India have had countless cultural, trading, and military ties during the last few hundred years; there must be something, somewhere and some person who can put the loose threads together. I found that Merrut was the place where Governor of Canton Ye Ming Chen (葉名琛) was captured by the British fleet in 1857 and was sent to prison in Fort Williams, Merrut and died the next year. The same year, the Indian Mutiny arose; the Indians call it the Sepoy Revolution.

The past is the past; 30 years came and went, then 50 years had passed. Images of all my many students and colleagues linger in my mind; I remember you all.

James Wong

10th March 2017.

I send my special thanks to James for this contribution and hope that he approves of my editing. Does anyone else remember the CLS trip to Mao's home in 1985? If so, please feel free to respond!

NEWS

James also sent me this link – highly recommended for a tour of the Great Wall!



<http://www.ba-bamail.com/content2.aspx?emailid=24116&memberid=1257404>

IN MEMORIAM

He also sent this one:



The end of the Great Wall

Alan Robertson wrote recently:

I expect that you saw the attached or some similar report of the statement by a MOFA spokesman as Xi Jinping came to Hong Kong to mark the 20th anniversary of the handover. I just posted some remarks on the CLS website. The Yahoo News showed him reviewing a vast PLA parade, but I could not work out where exactly it took place.

World news *The Daily Telegraph* 1.7.2017

Hong Kong treaty is no longer relevant, says China on eve of anniversary

Beijing rejects 'one country, two systems' agreement and says Britain has no power to enforce it

By Neil Connor in Hong Kong

CHINA appeared dramatically to consign Britain's responsibility to Hong Kong to history yesterday by saying a treaty signed by Margaret Thatcher which paved the way for the handover and guaranteed freedoms in the city had "no practical significance".

The surprising remarks, which came on the eve of the 20th anniversary of the handover of the former British colony to China, relate to the 1984 joint declaration, which guarantees Hong Kong's legal autonomy from the mainland.

The agreement established "one country, two systems" for Hong Kong, giving the city freedoms and rights that are not enjoyed on the mainland for 50 years after the 1997 handover.

Britain says that as a signatory to the agreement it is legally bound to uphold those freedoms – a position that is often repeated in Hong Kong as concerns grow that Beijing's grip is tightening.

But hours after Xi Jinping, the Chinese president, oversaw a defiant military parade during a visit to Hong Kong, an official in Beijing said that two decades after the city had returned to the "motherland's embrace" the bilateral treaty had become redundant.

"The Sino-British Joint Declaration, as a historical document, no longer has any practical significance," foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said.

"It is not at all binding for the central government's management over Hong Kong. The UK has no sovereignty, no power to rule and no power to supervise Hong Kong after the handover."

Beijing regularly responds to overseas criticism over its interference in Hong Kong's legal autonomy by saying that it is the "internal" affairs of China. However, officials have not previously rejected the joint declaration outright.

A British Foreign Office spokesman said: "It is a legally binding treaty, registered with the UN and continues to be in force. As a co-signatory, the UK government is committed to monitoring its implementation closely."

Boris Johnson, the Foreign Secretary, said on Thursday that Britain's commitment to Hong Kong, enshrined in the "treaty", was "just as strong today" as it was 20 years ago.

Phillip Hammond, Britain's previous foreign secretary, last year accused China of committing a "serious breach" of the treaty following the abduction of five booksellers from the city.

China's apparent rejection of the treaty would heighten anxiety in Hong Kong, where Mr Xi continued his three-day visit yesterday by inspecting the largest military parade held in the city since the handover.

That statement of authority came as protesters prepared to take to the streets for the annual July 1 handover demonstrations. Hong Kong was under security lockdown with more than 11,000 police deployed to "protect" Mr Xi and first lady Peng Liyuan, local media reported.

IN MEMORIAM

Robin Croslegh wrote:

One of my Rotarian friends having heard a few anecdotes concerning the tonal and character differences between an Airfield and a Chicken Farm suggested I would give the U3A History Group a presentation on the History of China. The CLS had not prepared me for this! Luckily I found a book by John Keay that filled the gaps. I was given 40 minutes to cover 3000BC to the present day.....

I now have a Powerpoint presentation that lasts up until 649 AD. I taught them a Dynasty Song. It is sung to the tune of Frere Jaques.

The Dynasties Song

Shang, Zhou, Qin, Han

Shang, Zhou, Qin, Han

Sui, Tang, Song

Sui, Tang, Song

Yuan, Ming, Qing, Republic

Yuan, Ming, Qing, Republic

Mao Zedong

Mao Zedong

(For those who wish to download the PowerPoint presentation created by Robin please go to the website. If you are receiving this in print, please let me or Brian know you would like a copy of the presentation and we will send it on request.)

IN MEMORIAM

Alan Robertson (N3 and C8) wrote of the death of Zhou Youhuang (周有光):

Probably of special interest to those who learnt Mandarin, is the death in Beijing on 14 January of Zhou Youguang [周有光] the day before his 111th birthday. In 1955 the government put him at the head of a committee charged with promoting Mandarin as the national language, devising means of advancing literacy and developing Hanyu Pinyin, of which he is regarded as the father, the latter task taking three years. Receiving his first university education at St John's University in Shanghai, he had varied overseas experience before returning to China and being appointed to the task for which he is best remembered. For further detail, see Wikipedia.

Readers might also be interested to know that I own a copy of CHANGYONG ZIHUI [常用字汇], the same size as the well-known little green-plastic-covered 新华字典。 Now in tattered paper covers, it was published by Commercial Press, Beijing, 1959. Its simplified characters are arranged by Pinyin, each syllable showing (in Chinese) all the most common combinations of that character followed in each case by the Pinyin. Besides that, there are Appendices giving all the characters arranged by stroke order; 姓氏表 listing first all the surnames by stroke order & another similarly arranged showing the 'double-barrelled' surnames. Information inside the back cover shows that the date of original publication was 1953, with other editions in 1957, 1958 and 1959, price 0.44 ¥! Acquired while in N3, I must have found it in one of the dusty bookshops in the back streets of Kowloon which fascinated me at the time. I have never come across another copy.

In another letter, Alan also wrote of the death of Claire Hollingsworth:

With acknowledgements to The Daily Telegraph of 11 January 2017, Alan Robertson [N3 & C8] writes:

For any Newsletter readers who may have missed it, the death on 10th January of veteran foreign correspondent Clare Hollingsworth deserves mention. She died in Hong Kong at the age of 105, having lived there since going to cover the 1997 Handover.

First making a name for herself on 1st September 1939, as a novice Daily Telegraph stringer, she reported from Katowice in Poland, awoken at her hotel by the sound of anti-aircraft fire aimed at German bombers, the outbreak of the Second World War. With her interest in military action, devious diplomacy and political chicanery thus kindled, she went on to report from front lines all over the world -- Israel, the Lebanon, India, Pakistan, Algeria, Vietnam, and Borneo during Confrontation, where General Sir Walter Walker's staff forced her to submit her copy about the campaign "for review" before being despatched.

China's 'bamboo curtain' had descended in 1949, its relations with the West only slightly thawed after President Nixon's diplomatic initiative in 1971. In 1972 Clare

IN MEMORIAM

Hollingworth took on what was probably her toughest assignment as the Telegraph's first resident staff correspondent in China. Beijing was a lonely place for a British journalist, with austere conditions and hostility on every side, living alone in a hotel, knowing nothing of the language, her interpreter forbidden to eat with her from fear of being infected with western ideas. During the now infamous events at Tiananmen Square in 1989, [when the late Mike Farr was Defence Attaché] Clare Hollingworth was reporting from the thick of it.

Stepping down as defence correspondent in 1980, she refused to contemplate retirement and became a roaming correspondent in the Far East, then a Sunday Telegraphstringer. The governor Lord Macle hose was an old friend, arranging her press accreditation and finding her a small job as a part-time lecturer at the University of Hong Kong, where she rented a small room within walking distance of the Foreign Correspondents' Club. Besides writing for The Telegraph, she wrote for local specialist journals and was appointed OBE in 1984, the year her book *Mao and the Men Against Him* was published, receiving generous reviews and later translated into Chinese & republished.

Footnote: on the day after Clare Hollingworth died, her friends and family gathered with members of the Hong Kong Foreign Correspondents' Club, observing a minute's silence before raising a glass in her honour. She had been a member of the club for 35 years.

IN MEMORIAM

CONTACTS:

The following people are being sent electronic copies of this newsletter, but in some cases the addresses we have might be out of date. Please let us know if you need someone's e-mail address - we can probably provide one.

ACKLAND Gillian (UK)	CONNELLY Sheena (AUS)	KITCHING Dave (UK)
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Please let us know if you have an e-mail address for someone who should be on this list, but isn't. Alternatively, please ask them to contact us.

For changes to this list, please notify Brian Finch at: [bfinch @tiscali.co.uk](mailto:bfinch@tiscali.co.uk)

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CONTACTS

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Most of the people on this list are those for whom we have no contact addresses or whose whereabouts are unknown. If you are able to provide an email address for anyone please let us know, or ask them to contact us.

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Go to: <http://modcls.org>

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Please also DO visit the [website](#).

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Next edition out (probably!) January 2018

If anyone would like to call in and visit, then please call in advance to arrange it. I currently travel an incredible distance and my calendar is quite full. To avoid disappointment, please call on my mobile or better yet e-mail me on saageiwaan@gmail.com to confirm that I will be at home!
