

ROY RANDOLPH
PRESIDENT
WILKINSON SWORD LTD.

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Lieutenant Commander I.A. Robinson, RN,
c/o H.M.S. Blake,
B.F.P.O. Ships.

26th May 1972.

Dear Commander Robinson,

We were delighted to learn that H.M.S. Kirkliston had been awarded a Sword of Peace for outstanding services by the ship's company in Hong Kong. As you know, the presentation of these Swords of Peace will be during a special luncheon in Cutlers' Hall, Warwick Lane, London E.C.4., on Thursday July 13th. His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh has kindly consented to make the presentations.

I am looking forward to the pleasure of your company at Cutlers' Hall on July 13th. We meet at 12.15 prompt to be in readiness for the arrival of His Royal Highness at 12.30 p.m.

Yours sincerely,
Roy Randolph.

WILKINSON SWORD AWARD 1971

HMS KIRKLISTON is nominated for the Wilkinson Sword Award 1971 for the sustained personal effort of her ship's company throughout the year to help communities in and around Hong Kong and, in particular, for the rescue work she carried out among wrecked and stranded ships when the Typhoon Rose struck Hong Kong on the night of 16/17 August, 1971.

The following is a brief summary of some of the many and varied forms of assistance rendered by those serving in HMS KIRKLISTON.

January Community Project – Peng Chau

HMS KIRKLISTON worked on a community project on the small island of Peng Chau in the extreme north-east corner of Mirs Bay, next to the Chinese Mainland. The whole day was spent digging in, erecting and cementing posts required for overhead power cables from the island's generator to the small village. The one and only village shop was also painted to the gratitude of the very old proprietor.

Cattle Drive

The ship, alongside HMS AURORA AND THE OTHER SHIPS OF THE SIXTH Mine Countermeasures Squadron, took part in a large scale round up of cattle on the island Weng Wau Lau in the north-east of the New Territories. Villagers of this large hilly island were having problems keeping track of their cattle – more than 300 had disappeared into the wilderness and attempts to recover them had been fruitless.

The cattle were all driven to one end of the island where they were corralled so that the villagers could have a greater control over them.

April Playground built at YMCA Youth Village

HMS KIRKLISTON spent 3 days anchored off the Chinese YMCA Youth Village in Tolo Harbour. During this period, the ship's company cleared a considerable area of rough ground and erected a children's playground. The equipment installed included swings, see-saws, monkey climbs and shelters. This youth village has accommodation for 300 families and 1,500 Chinese students.

Blood Donation

The ship's company of HMS KIRKLISTON donated 36 pints of blood to the Hong Kong Red Cross. Each one of the ship's company, not counting those on station leave, gave blood and the remainder visited the Red Cross Centre and donated on return. This was the seventh 100

per cent donation in 2 years and was given television and local press coverage.

May/June HMS KIRKLISTON in Japan

The ship paid a visit to KOMATSUSHIMA between 27th May and 7th June and was open to visitors on 4 separate days. 10,000 people saw over the ship.

During this visit, 30 schoolchildren were taken to sea on a 3 hour trip and on another occasion a party was given onboard for 45 handicapped children.

Another day, the Captain and Officers gave a talk to the English Speaking Union of Tokushima University. The lectures before an audience of 100 covered subjects ranging from the system of British Government to sport in Britain and the ensuing discussion period lasted some 5 ½ hours. Meanwhile, another of the ship's officers gave a talk and led a discussion at a school for handicapped children.

Installation of a Swell Recorder in Hong Kong

One of the more difficult and physically tiring community projects undertaken by HMS KIRKLISTON was the installation of a swell recorder off Waglan Island. This was required by the Royal Observatory in order to measure swell height with a view to deciding the height of the dam necessary for the Colony's High Island fresh water scheme. The recorder weighing some 150 lbs. had to be secured to the top of an underwater tower which had been built on the sea bed and whose top lay 25 feet below the sea surface. The task took many hours of hard diving and humping, including a great deal of night work.

August Typhoon Rose

During the night of 16/17 August, Typhoon Rose struck Hong Kong. HMS KIRKLISTON slipped from her buoy in Central Harbour at 0800 and proceeded, in gale force winds and poor visibility, to the east coast of Lantau Island, where it was known that at least 2 merchant ships had floundered.

In this area 13 ships were found to be aground, including 2 Hong Kong/Macao ferries. SS FATSHAN was one of these which had capsized with 88 crew members on board. The only 4 surviving crew members were brought from shore by the ship's Gemini and given medical attention on board.

The ship's Gemini then went round all the stranded vessels offering assistance to the various Captains. In all, 37 other men were taken off their ships and fed and clothed in HMS KIRKLISTON. A ship's liferaft

(towed behind the Gemini) had to be used to clear one ship, in danger of breaking up, of personnel. The ship returned to harbour at 1600.

November Community Project

The ship spent 3 days off a remote island near Double Haven in the New Territories off Hong Kong clearing an underwater fresh water pipeline for the island's inhabitants. The pipe was ¾ mile long and had to be broken and re-sealed many times before the job was completed. As this is the only means of having a fresh water supply, the islanders were most grateful and after giving 3 cheers for the ship's diving team, proceeded with a month's washing.

Other activities included further blood donations, several sea bed surveys, a day at sea for 100 Civil Aid Services and Sea Cadets and a demonstration for the Royal Hong Kong Marine Police on uses of the Gemini craft prior to the Police evaluating it for their possible use.

The public spirited efforts of those who have served in HMS KIRKLISTON have made that ship a credit to themselves and those they serve. Her achievements have been varied, continuous and out of proportion to the size of the ship.

