

Rotarian Charles Edward Michael Terry

Founding Commissioner of Hong Kong Civil Aid Service in 1951-1967

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The Honourable Charles Edward Michael Terry (泰利), CBE, CStJ, JP (1897 – 13 April 1980), Assistant General Manager of the Hong Kong & Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd. (香港九龍碼頭及貨倉有限公司), joined the Rotary Club of Hong Kong (香港扶輪社) since the early 1930s as an Active Member holding the Classification “Storage Merchandise”. Terry’s voluntary service to the community began with the appointment of Chief Air Raid Warden (防空救護隊分區總監) for Kowloon, New Kowloon and the New Territories commencing on 1 August 1941 until August 1945. The other major community service rendered by Terry was being the Founding Commissioner of the Civil Aid Service of Hong Kong (民眾安全服務隊處長) from 1951 until 1967.



1937 – The complex, including the piers, of The Hong Kong & Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd. located at the west coast of Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon Peninsula, Hong Kong.

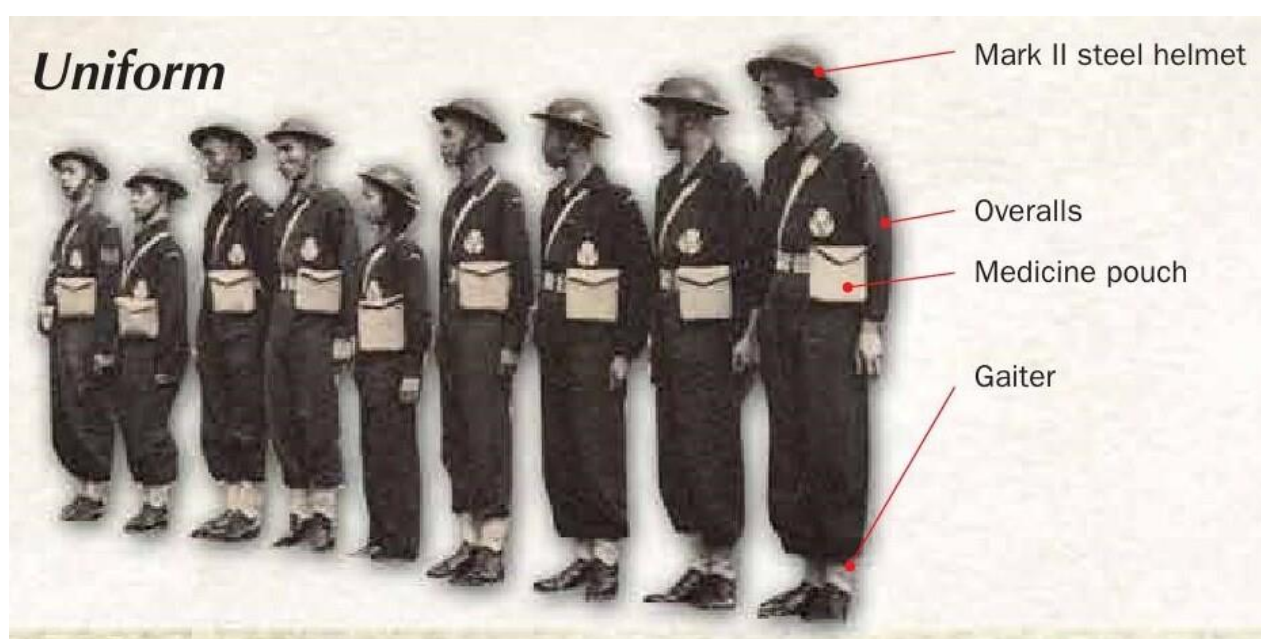
Civil Aid Service

The Civil Aid Service (CAS) (民眾安全服務隊) is a civil organization that assists in a variety of auxiliary emergency roles, including search and rescue operations in Hong Kong. CAS is funded by the Hong Kong Government and its members wear uniforms.

In April 1938, the Hong Kong Government established the Hong Kong Corps of Air Raid Wardens (香港防空救護隊), the forerunner of the CAS. During the turmoil of war in early 1940s, the Hong Kong Government set up the Hong Kong Corps of Air Raid Wardens to provide citizens with defense knowledge and skills in case of air raid. Terry was appointed Chief Air Raid Warden for Kowloon, New Kowloon and the New Territories commencing on 1 August 1941.

After the Pacific War (1941-1945), in August 1945 the Hong Kong Corps of Air Raid Wardens was dismissed. With passage of the “Essential Services Corps Ordinance” in December 1949 and the order for compulsory service in September 1951 by the Hong Kong Government, Terry was appointed by Hong Kong Governor Sir Alexander William George Herder Grantham (香港總督葛量洪爵士) to take up the responsibility in forming the new organization of Civil Aid Service (CAS) which was modelled after Civil Aid agencies in the United Kingdom. Terry became the first Commissioner of CAS.

The CAS expanded to the size of about 10,000 members. Most of the members came from the former Hong Kong Corps of Air Raid Wardens. At that time, the CAS was mainly tasked with air defense and rescue work including training on surveillance, air raid rescue, first aid and handling of damaged public facilities. In the early days of the CAS, its uniform design was similar to that of the Hong Kong Corps of Air Raid Wardens, i.e. deep blue blouse and trousers with unit and rank insignia on the shoulder, grey-blue garter and waist belt, blue beret and peak-cap.



Since 4 January 1952, the CAS established with respective wards at Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and New Territories. The next year in 1953, the Hong Kong Training Centre was completed at Hawthorn Road, Happy Valley (跑馬地荷塘道). The Centre, providing with indoor and outdoor training areas, was officially opened by Hong Kong Governor Sir Alexander Grantham on 15 November 1953.

After completion of the CAS Headquarters in 1966 at No. 100 Caroline Hill Road, Causeway Bay (銅鑼灣加路連山道), Terry retired from the CAS the next year in 1967.

In 2006, the CAS Headquarters was moved to Yau Ma Tei (油麻地), Kowloon Peninsula.

Duties

The stated duties of the CAS are:

- to provide support to the government regular emergency forces on counter disaster activities, mountain search and rescue, flood rescue, countryside fire protection duties;
- to provide crowd control and management services in major public functions;
- to patrol country parks and hiking trails and to assist people in need of help;
- to stage performances to enhance public attention on major campaigns or activities organized by government departments and non-government organizations;
- to provide training activities and professional services on mountain safety/rescue for government departments and non-government organizations.

Services in law making and government administration

Hong Kong Governor Sir Alexander Grantham in his memoir 《Via Ports》 says Terry “had originally come out from Britain to Hong Kong as a police constable, had then gone into business and on retirement had decided to remain in the Colony”. The outbreak of the Pacific War in December 1941 caused the invasion of the Imperial Japan to the British Crown Colony Hong Kong. After the short 17-day Battle of Hong Kong (香港保衛戰), the Colony was captured and occupied by the Japanese military forces for the next three years and eight months. During this period, all the Britons and Americans were interned at the Stanley Camp (赤柱拘留營) as prisoners of war, including Terry. The Rotary Club of Hong Kong has thus to be disbanded.

After the War, Terry rose higher. On 8 February 1950, he was appointed by Hong Kong Governor Sir Alexander Grantham to serve as Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council (香港立法局非官守議員) until 5 September 1959. Almost parallel to this period, Terry was also appointed by the Governor as Unofficial Member of the Executive Member (香港行政局非官守議員) from 1956 until 28 May 1961.

Rotarian Terry has also served as Chairman of the Council of the Order of St. John in Hong Kong (香港聖約翰救護機構理事會) from 1963 to 1971. In recognition to his service, Terry has been decorated Officer of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem (OStJ) in 1963, and few years later the higher Order of Commander (CStJ).

Other than the above, Terry was the President of the St. Patrick's Society of Hong Kong in 1941. The Society was established in 1931 to provide a forum for members of the Irish community and friends of Ireland in Hong Kong to celebrate Ireland's unique culture and heritage through social gatherings and events.

The Honourable Rotarian Charles Edward Michael Terry passed away in Queensland, Australia, in April 1980.

Honours

For his public services in Hong Kong, Rotarian Terry was in:

- (1) 1955 – appointed Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) by Queen Elizabeth II, United Kingdom.
- (2) 1959 -- appointed Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) by Queen Elizabeth II, United Kingdom.

