

SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST
10 JUN 1991

50-year wait for medals

MR Stephen Chow, 72, (right) was presented with his war medals 50 years after the battle for Hongkong that broke out in December 1941.

Mr Chow could only receive the medals half-a-century later because after the war he settled in Thailand. He came back to the territory especially to receive the honour.

He was presented with a 39/45 star, a Pacific star, a war medal and a defence

medal at the passing out parade of 124 recruits of the Royal Hongkong Regiment at the regimental headquarters in Happy Valley.

At the age of 22, Mr Chow was mobilised as a private with his comrades in No 3 Company of the Hongkong Volunteer Defence Corps on December 8, 1941.

Ten days later, while engaging Japanese troops in bitter fighting, the company was dispersed and he was

separated from his comrades.

He was forced to join the corps' headquarters at Central Unit until the end of the war, when he joined the British Army Aid Group in China.

As an engineer, Mr Chow was transferred to work for the Americans in building an airfield.

He was evacuated from Guilin and stayed in Kunming until the Japanese surrender in August 1945.