



BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

Having been present in Hong Kong for the official Japanese surrender ceremonies in 1946, and having visited Hong Kong several times after that, I was naturally very interested to read about the plan to retrace the route of the dramatic escape which started on Christmas Day 1941. There were many remarkable adventures during World War 2, but few can rival the escape from Hong Kong to mainland China of sixty-eight men under the noses of the invading Japanese Army. There can be no doubt that the success of the escape was largely due to the leadership of Admiral Chan Chak, who had been the representative of the Chinese Government in Hong Kong.

I am particularly glad to know that the descendents of those who escaped have got together to retrace the escape route at Christmas 2009, in memory of the achievement of their ancestors, and to celebrate this shining example of successful Anglo-Chinese war time collaboration. I hope the celebration of the anniversary of the escape will be crowned with complete success.