British Army Aid Group Drawings

Introduction

After the fall of Hong Kong to the Japanese in 1941, Colonel (later Brigadier Sir) Lindsay Ride was briefly detained at Sham Shui Po Prisoner-of-War Camp, but later escaped. He walked past Shatin and reached Sai Kong. With the help of the Chinese guerrillas, he took a sampan and left Hong Kong waters for Shuyuchung, on the north coast of Mirs Bay. Colonel Ride then moved on through Waichow (Huizhou) to Chunching eventually returning to Kukong (Qujiang, present-day Shaoguan), the wartime capital of Guangdong Province, where he founded the British Army Aid Group (BAAG). The organisation helped prisoners-of-war in Hong Kong to escape from Japanese captivity, and successfully organised a network of agents to collect military intelligence. This intelligence was supplemented by drawings of Japanese installations supplied by BAAG secret agents, both as an aid to Allied bombers as well as to any future Allied invasion of the territory.

After the war these drawings, collected by Colonel Ride, were donated to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. For ease of carrying and concealment most of the drawings are very small, but they show a great deal of detail. This exhibition features part of this drawing collection, which was instrumental to the victory of the Allies in World War II.

Front

1941年香港淪陷後，英軍上校賴廉士被扣留在深水埗戰俘集中營，但旋即逃脫。他翻山越嶺，經過沙田，抵達西貢，在中共游击队的協助下，後乘船離開香港水域，到達大鵬灣北岸的窩窩涌。後來他由國民黨政府管轄區惠州換經到達當時廣東省的臨時省會曲江（韶關），在當地成立了英軍服務團，英軍服務團除了協助香港的英軍戰俘、集中營被扣押人士逃亡外，更組織情報人員，潛回香港淪陷區刺探日軍的情報，對盟軍在第二次世界大戰裡取得最終勝利貢獻良多。

戰後，賴廉士上校把在香港期間搜集得來的抗日軍事情報草圖原件悉數捐贈予坎培拉澳洲戰爭紀念館。為了方便傳遞，避過日軍和漢奸的耳目，該批草圖原件體積非常細小，但畫工仔細，資料豐富，對抗日勝利影響深厚。
Colonel (later Brigadier Sir) Lindsay Tasman Ride (1898–1977) was born in Australia. He was a veteran of the First World War, during which he was twice wounded. He later studied medicine at Melbourne University and then furthered his studies in the United Kingdom with a Rhodes Scholarship at Oxford University. He was appointed Professor of Physiology at the University of Hong Kong in 1928, and became the fifth Vice-Chancellor of the University in 1949. An active member of the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps (HKVDC), Ride set up the Field Ambulance Unit for the Corps, which trained volunteer medical personnel in the years leading up to the outbreak of war in the Pacific.

Escape from Sham Shui Po POW Camp

After the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong on 25 December 1941, Ride was captured and detained at Sham Shui Po Prisoner-of-war Camp. Along with Lieutenant D.W. Morley, Sub-Lieutenant D.F. Davies and Lance-Corporal Francis Lee, who were all members of HKU staff, Ride escaped on 9 January 1942, greatly helped by Lee. This was made possible partly because a nominal roll had not yet been prepared, and thus the Japanese were unaware of the exact number of detainees in the camp. The escape party left by sampan and then made their way through the New Territories and into mainland China with the help of the Siu kang guerrillas. The party eventually arrived at Waichow on the East River on 18 January.
Establishment of the British Army Aid Group

Ride waited in Waichow for permission to travel onwards, and on the 23 January left for Chongqing, the wartime capital of China, where he put forward a detailed proposal to Brigadier G.E. Grimsdale, the Military Attaché at the British Embassy, to set up a post near Hong Kong to help escapers leave the territory, and to obtain firsthand intelligence of the actual situation in Japanese-occupied Hong Kong. After some deliberation, the proposal was agreed to by the government of China and by GHQ India, the British military authority in the Far East.

The organisation was modelled on the established escape and evasion operations in Nazi-occupied Europe (M.I.9), and was first headquartered at Kukong (Qujiang) and afterwards at Kwelin and Kunming.

Officers were generally those who had pre-war experience of Hong Kong and China, members including Major (later Sir) Ronald Holmes, a pre-war Hong Kong Cadet officer who spoke fluent (indeed near-native) Chinese, Captain Osler Thomas, who had survived the massacre of medical personnel at the Salvation Mission, Captain Paul Taut, a pre-war Hong Kong University student from an established local family, who, after the War became the first ethnic Chinese Cadet Officer in the Hong Kong government, and Douglas Clague who set up the important Advanced Headquarters in Waichow and after the war became a prominent businessman in Hong Kong.

英軍服務團之建立

在惠州休養一段時間後，鎮上校便出發前往戰時中國首都重慶，自英國駐重慶領事館主任武官金博士將建議書寄進中國以便成立一個哨所協助盟軍戰俘逃出香港，並藉此取得日佔下香港的實際情況及第一手軍事情報。

整個組織是參考當時被日軍佔領的歐洲各地協助盟軍戰俘逃亡的行動模式而成，總部設在重慶（即今日重慶），為戰時廣東省省會。經過詳細商議，英國政府通過總部最終同意鎮上校的建議，因此正式成立「英軍服務團」。

英軍服務團的軍官均擁有在香港和中國作戰的經驗，重要人物包括於二戰從軍，並能

插流利粵語的何健文少校（後升為中校），於日本攻佔英屬香港後在倫敦的醫務人

員湯瑪士少校，以及曾就讀於香港大學，於戰後成為香港政府首任華人官學士的徐家祥上

尉。

Major Contributions to the Allies

A major contribution by the BAAG to the Allied Powers was the enhancement of mutual understanding between the British and the Chinese in the mainland and Hong Kong. The active participation of the various BAAG personnel played a very important role in enabling the Allies to carry out their wartime work in China.

Clandestine connections were maintained with the prisoners-of-war in Hong Kong through the agent network. Though there were few successful cases of extracting Prisoner of War escapes from the Camps, this clandestine contact, together with the smuggling of news and medicines into the camps, did much to raise morale amongst the prisoners. BAAG also rendered a great deal of assistance to a number of Europeans, Americans and people of other nationalities in getting out of Hong Kong and other Japanese-occupied areas of China. Their contribution in gathering intelligence, delivering materials, as well as disseminating information was highly appreciated.

Moreover, BAAG made a significant contribution towards the effective surveillance of Japanese shipping movements through the port of Hong Kong. A number of sabotage operations were conducted in the dockyards of occupied Hong Kong through the efforts of BAAG agents.

Sketches of ships and dockyard activities, location of oil storage, and the distribution of forts and

barracks are represented in this collection of drawings.

對盟軍的貢獻

英軍服務團對盟軍的主要貢獻在於加強中國大陸及香港兩地中英兩方軍隊的了解，而英軍

服務團各成員的積極參與，在協助盟軍的作戰上擔當著十分重要的角色。

通過情報網絡，為香港集中營的戰俘得以與情報人員進行秘密聯繫，雖然在營救被俘

兵上的成功例子較少，但亦在協助歐美及其他人士逃離香港，蒐集情報，運送物資及傳遞消

息等重要事項上，英軍服務團都功不可沒。

英軍服務團另一個重要的貢獻就是成功監控出入香港港口日本軍船的行動。而且，他們曾

在多次破壞敵軍船艦的行動中出力。重要的軍事情報及數據，有關敵軍船艦及船艦活動

等情報，油庫的位置、炮台的分布和艦隊的動向等等都詳列於軍圖內。
Japanese defence position on a hill above Taikoo Dockyard which was located in the present-day Taikoo Shing and part of Taikoo Place of Quarry Bay on the north shore of Hong Kong Island.

Taikoo Dockyard was an important military facility for the Japanese, being a base for shipbuilding, repair, and maintenance, and for the production of military supplies. Some 60 soldiers of the Special Naval Landing Force guarded the shipyard, and two anti-aircraft machine gun positions were built to repel Allied air raids. On the hill at the East gate of the shipyard, a new style anti-aircraft gun was deployed to guard Taikoo Dockyard and Taikoo Sugar Refinery. The BAAG agent reports that the two machine gun positions and anti-aircraft gun were initially concealed under canvas painted in camouflage colours, but following Allied air attacks the Japanese repainted the anti-aircraft gun in camouflage colours, and covered it with leaf nets to avoid detection.

A number of important facilities were located at North Point, including the Power Station, oil depot and the Commercial Press. This drawing shows a strategic defence position manned by the Japanese to guard against Allied air attacks on the area. The BAAG agent describes two six-inch calibre anti-aircraft guns, and one anti-aircraft machine gun.

此圖顯示了日軍對於有軍事戰略價值地點的重視。由於在北角一帶有電燈公司、汽油庫及商務印書館等重要設施，因此日軍在附近的一個山坡上建築了一個高射炮陣地，以防軍事空襲，包括安裝兩門六英寸高射炮及高射機槍一枝，並經常有士兵以望遠鏡瞭望。情報員對高射炮外型之描述亦非常詳細，故軍事戰機在空襲時能把握高射炮方位。
ON HONGKONG ISLAND

Japanese defence deployment on the slopes opposite the West gate of Taikoo Dockyards (now Taikoo Shing).

At that time, this area was a remote industrial district. Some of the more substantial industrial operations were the oil depot and power station in North Point (the present-day Electric Road area). In Quarry Bay there was Taikoo Dockyard, the largest shipbuilding facility in Hong Kong. Apart from building large ocean-going ships and carrying out repair and maintenance work, it had also built naval vessels for the Royal Navy. The Japanese aggressively defended these facilities, setting up machine gun positions in the hilly areas from Sai Wan Ho to present-day Fortress Hill to provide defence against Allied attack.

A Japanese anti-aircraft gun position on a small hill near the power station in North Point.

The position was armed with a 4-inch calibre rotating anti-aircraft gun, guarded by 10 soldiers of the Special Naval Landing Force. The small hill shown on this drawing with streams is believed to be the present-day Comfort Terrace in North Point.

In the defile of the hills, the Japanese built defensive positions, including machine guns and anti-aircraft guns, to defend the area against Allied attacks. The location of the anti-aircraft gun position is near the present-day Comfort Terrace in North Point. The hill with streams shown in the drawing is believed to be the site of the anti-aircraft gun position.
ON HONGKONG ISLAND

Office of the Japanese Imperial Navy Facilities Department, Arsenal St, adjacent to Naval Dockyard (present day Hong Kong Police Headquarters). This Department was responsible for military construction projects and for military supplies to occupied China.

This drawing shows the ‘No 2 Department of the Imperial Japanese Navy’ (former Royal Naval Dockyard). It continued to serve as an important military base during the Japanese occupation, and was protected by gun emplacements marked by red dots on the map. Stray bombs from Allied air raids caused much damage to civilian areas in Wanchai.

HKU100
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
CENTENARY
香港大學百周年

The University of Hong Kong
Libraries
Centenary
Japanese machine gun positions in the present day Chater Gardens, Queen's Road Central - ex Hongkong Cricket Club (Japanese Kempeitai Square).

The square was adjacent to important Japanese locations: Japanese Kempeitai Headquarters (the present Legislative Council Building), Japanese Government Headquarters (Hongkong Shanghai Bank building), the Naval Dockyard and the three military barracks - Murray, Victoria and Wellington.

The Kempeitai Headquarters and the Naval Dockyard are located in Chater Garden, Queen's Road Central, which is ex Hongkong Cricket Club.

The BAAG agent records the number of workers and the types of output, the daily production capacity and storage locations.

The University of Hong Kong Libraries Centenary.

The University of Hong Kong

Centenary
Japanese machine gun positions, Johnston Road, Wan Chai.

These positions provided control over Causeway Bay, the recreation ground next to Happy Valley Racecourse and the Po Leung Kuk at the end of Broadwood Road. Causeway Bay Typhoon Shelter and Happy Valley Racecourse, located on low ground, were possible targets for an Allied beachhead assault. Moreover, the end of Broadwood Road controlled access to Wong Nai Chung Gap and the south of Hong Kong Island. It was a critical junction that required a strong defensive deployment.

Japanese machine gun positions, Leighton Hill.

These positions provided control over Causeway Bay, the recreation ground next to Happy Valley Racecourse and the Po Leung Kuk at the end of Broadwood Road. Causeway Bay Typhoon Shelter and Happy Valley Racecourse, located on low ground, were possible targets for an Allied beachhead assault. Moreover, the end of Broadwood Road controlled access to Wong Nai Chung Gap and the south of Hong Kong Island. It was a critical junction that required a strong defensive deployment.
Japanese gun positions on Mount Davis.

This position controlled the West Lamma Channel, the western entrance to Victoria Harbour. The blue dots indicate the entrances of the gun positions.

由於摩星嶺山頂居高臨下，可監控維多利亞港西面水道入口，故日軍沿著英軍的防守策略，在山上築有防禦工事，以防盟軍反攻。情報員清楚列明此處防禦工事是監控港島西南丫角海峽的情形，亦清楚記載了轟炸機槍壘如何構成而，圖中藍點標示了槍壘出入口位置，方便盟軍戰機機師進行轟炸時易於識別。

The camouflage of Kellett Island, Japanese Military Storage depot (prewar Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club)

Keller Island, or Tang Lung Chau, was at that time a small island in Causeway Bay. It was used by the Japanese to store military supplies, including fuel, gunpowder, artillery and ammunition. The RAAG agent made a very detailed list of the goods stored and their quantities. In view of the island’s strategic importance, 48 soldiers of the Special Naval Landing Force were stationed there and four heavy machine guns were deployed.

加列島軍需品倉庫（今日香港遊艇會會址）

加列島原屬鴨脷洲南面開海面的小島，僅幾萬方米。自香港開埠以後，成為英軍儲存軍火的地方。日軍佔領香港後，仍以之為軍需品倉庫，儲存燃油、火藥、槍炮子彈等，情報員詳列了各類物資的數量，詳細可見。情報員指出，當日軍也派遣48名陸戰隊員到島上駐守，並設有大型機槍四門，以防防守，可見其乃重要軍事設施。隨着戰後港島北岸展開的填海工程，加列島最終於1969年與港島連接，成為了今日香港遊艇會會址，即香港海事處海港入口位置。
The drawing shows gun emplacements, two connecting caves built by the Japanese, the location of the living quarters, and the number of soldiers on guard. Closely watched by BAAG agents, the Imperial Naval Ammunition Department was located next to the pier so that supplies could be easily loaded and unloaded. The report mentions that the barracks were equipped with anti-aircraft guns camouflaged under leaves and trees.

India Barracks (尖沙咀威菲路軍營)

圖中所見印度兵房，即尖沙咀威菲路軍營，也就是今日九龍公園的範圍。從情報員詳細描述炮塲及日軍所加建的兩個相通的山洞的建築、每座宿舍的位置（以它與炮位的距離為標準）和駐守士兵的數目等，可知是經過長時期的資料彙集而得出的情報。由於軍需部屬於碼頭附近，以方便上落貨物，受到情報員的監視實在所當然。此外，情報員報道，此兵房配備有高射炮，以草叢遮掩，實為提醒盟軍飛機在空軍時須多加防範。以免受其挑釁。

Japanese gun positions defending the kerosene depot in Tsuen Wan.

The drawing records measurements, structures, military equipment and defence deployment at the site, and also storage volumes of the depot. The text also gives the number of Japanese soldiers deployed and details of their activities.

本文詳細記錄了據地士古油庫所儲存的各項細節，如所設置的軍事設施器材、機槍塲和車塲的面積和構築，情報中不但把油庫的特性、儲存量及防衛設施和裝備詳細描述，還把軍需庫的情景繪於圖上，內容中提及日軍的人數及結構的活動情況，可想像情報人員是經過長時間的觀察，以達到如此精細的程度。
ON KOWLOON PENINSULA 九龍

Whampoa Dockyard, Hung Hom, 22 April 1944 (now Whampoa Garden).

At that time, Japanese naval vessels were repaired there. It was a critical military facility and was thus a prime target for Allied air attacks. To avoid loss of supplies caused by repeated Allied air raids, the Japanese forces had some 30 dock workers move petrol and other military supplies to the air-raid shelter across the children's playground in Wahu Street on 22 April. This drawing reports the damage caused by Allied air attacks.

The slope in the drawing has now been redeveloped into the Fat Kwong Street area, but the entrances to the air raid shelters are still visible from the bus stop on Chatham Road North near Ping Chi Street in Hung Hom (location A).

Kowloon Hills (former Whampoa Dockyard, now Whampoa Garden)

This factory produced concrete for the expansion of Kai Tak Airport. The agent reports that the factory originally had three concrete mixer machines, but owing to the shortage of coal and electricity, only one was in operation.

Kowloon Peninsula

This area recorded the location of the Kowloon Peninsula and nearby streets. Due to the construction of Kai Tak Airport, a large amount of land was used for construction and development. The agent describes the damage caused by the Allied air raids, which resulted in the destruction of several buildings and the loss of many workers. The area was later redeveloped into the Fat Kwong Street area, with the entrances to the air raid shelters still visible from the bus stop on Chatham Road North near Ping Chi Street in Hung Hom (location A).
ON KOWLOON PENINSULA 九龍

Date: January 1944

Kowloon Headquarters of Kempeitai (Japanese Military Police), junction of Nathan and Prince Edward Roads (now part of Mongkok Police Station).

The drawing is marked with the words “King Po Tai”, which should have been “Kempeitai”, the romanisation of the Japanese name. This drawing has no textual explanation, but presents the exterior of the building, including the pillars and windows, in great detail.

九龍憲兵總部

圖中所見的是日軍九龍憲兵總部，後來改作警署。及至淪陷後，日軍改以此為九龍憲兵總部。圖上標有“King Po Tai”應該為“Kempeitai”，即憲兵隊的日語羅馬字譯音。綜觀此圖，並無文字輔助，只把建築物外貌，包括屋頂窗戶，細緻描繪。很有可能是情報人員以此為根據，

Former Kowloon Motor Bus Company, Nathan Road, Kowloon.

前九龍巴士公司，九龍彌敦道。

Agent No. 15
Drawn by No 18
Date: April 19 [1944]

This drawing shows a building at the junction of Argyle Street and Waterloo Road (present day Yee On court and Kadoorie Hill), requisitioned by Japanese forces as a Military club for high ranking officers, known as Suidoju."
ON KOWLOON PENINSULA 九龍

Air Raid shelters next to Kwun Yum Temple, Station Lane, Hung Hom.

To prevent further damage by Allied bombing to facilities at Whampoa Docks, the Japanese moved their production of ammunition, as well as military supplies, to air raid shelters built by the British. The agent reports that Allied air attacks had caused significant damage to civilian residences in the area, but miraculously Kwun Yum Temple was untouched.

A number of civilian houses on Kadoorie Hill in Kowloon Tong were requisitioned by the Japanese Military during the occupation - for example No 33 was taken over by the "Tokko Division", the Special Police Intelligence Unit. The building was protected by two anti-aircraft guns and a machine gun.

本國更記錄了日佔期九龍塘加多利山頂及附近樓房多為日軍軍官宿舍，而日軍間據「特高班」一隊也居於33號小洋房內；故此，日軍在此處附近修築高射機槍一座，並配備高射機槍一枝，並在其對面設有高射炮兩座，以防盟軍戰機轟炸。
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

HKU Libraries would like to express our sincere thanks to:

The Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence

The Australian War Memorial

University Archives, University of Hong Kong

Ms. Elizabeth Ride

for the generous loan of these valuable exhibit contents and drawings for the display. We also would like to especially thank Ms. Elizabeth Ride for her invaluable advice and suggestions on the selection of the contents.