

Copy No.....²

EB/16

To: H.B.M. Military Attache,
British Embassy,
Chungking.

Ref.: INT/HQ/003/45.

From: Commandant, B. A. A. G.,
Kunming.

Date: 20 Mar 45.


Subject:- Report on Conditions in HONGKONG.

A short time ago a questionnaire was received from D.M. MACDOUGALL, Esq. of the Colonial Office asking for information concerning recent conditions in HONGKONG.

2. Enclosed is a copy of an outline compiled for Mr. MACDOUGALL by our Intelligence Section in answer to that questionnaire.

3. - As this has been compiled from intelligence received by us before 28th February 1945, the passing of this to Mr. MACDOUGALL is not considered here as a breach of orders whereby all secret intelligence must now be passed through I.S.I.D. only.

Headquarters,
B. A. A. G.,
Kunming.
LTR/hmk


Colonel,
Commandant, British Army Aid Group.

Distribution:-

- Copy No. 1 - H.B.M. Military Attache, Chungking.
2 - War Office, London.
3 - D.M.I., G.H.Q., New Delhi.
4 - 'I' Sec, B.A.A.G.
5 - File.

SECRET.

Office of H. B. M. Military Attache,
British Embassy,
CHUNGKING.

26th March, 1945.

Ref. MA/188

M12 (b)

Director of Military Intelligence,
M.I. 2,
War Office,
London.

[Handwritten initials]

EB/16

I enclose herewith a copy of an
admirable report on conditions in Hong Kong
compiled by the Intelligence Section of The
British Army Aid Group at the request of
Mr. MacDougall. 2 to Colonial Office.

[Handwritten signature]

Major General,
H.B.M. Military Attache.

wo 208 1211 X/R09

COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

CONFIDENTIAL.

EB/16

AN OUTLINE OF CONDITIONS IN OCCUPIED HONGKONG

* * * * *

1st March 1945.

British Army Aid Group
China.

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
BRITISH ARMY AID GROUP
CHINA

AN OUTLINE OF CONDITIONS IN OCCUPIED HONGKONG.

The report which follows is limited in so far as it has been completed from information received through B.A.A.G. sources. It is not claimed to be comprehensive and throughout should be treated on its merits as an Outline only.

The changing situation in South China in past months has had its effect on the receipt of economic intelligence on Hongkong by these headquarters, and reservation should therefore be made for possible major points not included in this report.

It is hoped that it may be possible to supplement this Outline if and when pertinent information should become available, and that the paragraphs which follow may prove of value as a basis for future reports.

1 March 1945.

Table of Contents.

	Page
Summary.	2
Electricity Supply.	3
Gas Supply.	5
Water Supply.	6
Tramway Service.	7
Motor Bus Services.	8
Ferry Services.	9
Railway Service.	10
Coal Supply.	11
Firewood Supply.	12
Dairy Supplies & Facilities.	13
Population.	14
Registration of Persons.	16
Cement Works.	17
Dockyards.	18
Mooring Buoys.	23

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Outline of Conditions in Occupied Hongkong

(Page 2.)

SUMMARY

Social and economic conditions in HONGKONG have steadily deteriorated under the Japanese, particularly since the latter part of 1943. HONGKONG has always been dependent on outside sources for a large part of its food supply and for other essential commodities. Shortages arose as a result of Japanese shipping difficulties, and have remained unrelieved. The scarcity of rice imports forced the administration in April 1944 to suspend the public rice ration which had been maintained for over 2 years. Lack of coal seriously dislocated all public services and local communications, besides leading to restrictions on industry and dockyard activity. The enemy also proceeded to remove machinery from industrial premises, and by the end of 1944 many large plants had been partially or wholly stripped. Prices of commodities rose phenomenally and the value of the Military Yen steadily declined in value. Towards the close of 1944 conditions in general showed signs of becoming progressively worse.

CONFIDENTIAL