

SECTION III (b) - (Contd)

HONGKONG (Contd)

Sheet 22.
KWIZ 73/35.

EXCHANGE.

The following rates of exchange were prevailing in SHUMCHUN (L1483), located on the border of the "New Territories".

CN\$100 = MY25 approx.
CRB\$100 = CN\$30.

(15 Oct 44 - Graded C3 - Source: Monty (BAAG)).

KWIZ 73/36.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Railway.

Between 9th and 11th October 120 rails and sleepers were sent to CANTON from HONGKONG. Sidings and surplus rails are being removed along the CANTON-KOWLOON railway.

(Oct 44 - Graded C3 - Source: Monty (BAAG)).

Tricycle taxis.

Each tricycle is only permitted to carry four passengers, according to a notice issued by the Bicycle and Tricycle Syndicate during the week-end. The official charges for these vehicles are Y1 per station during daytime, and Y1.50 per station at night. (5 Sep 44).

Special licence boards, painted red and white with the Chinese inscription of "Hongkong Bicycle Syndicate", were issued to members of the Syndicate last week, and are now attached to all vehicles engaged in the conveyance of passengers. (19 Sep 44).

(Dated as shown - Ungraded - Enemy Press: Hongkong News(thro' BAAG)).

KWIZ 73/37.

CONDITIONS IN HONGKONG 1942-1944.

Whereas the notes below contain little not already reported, they do provide a consecutive account in the eyes of a single reliable observer, and for this reason are included in this summary.

- 18 Feb 42: One of the doctors who visited the city, reported seeing on the streets several bodies of Chinese who had starved to death.
- 25 Jul 42: From this date the rate of exchange - MY1 = HK\$4. Previously MY1 = HK\$2.
- 25 Sep 42: Except for military trucks and a skeleton bus service, all transport being hauled by coolies. Great numbers of flat-tops mounted on motor car or truck wheels. These frequently loaded with 4 or 5 tons and have 10 or 12 coolies harnessed to them.
- 14 Mar 43: Small buses drawn by one or two ponies have appeared on the streets of Kowloon.
- 15 May 43: Poultry farmers went to the New Territories to buy chickens, and before they went the Japanese changed their MY into Hongkong dollars. Apparently the Chinese would not accept MY.
- 17 Jun 43: Party reported city absolutely dead, streets deserted and most shops closed.
- 30 Jun 43: From this date permanent black-outs from midnight instituted; saving fuel.
- 3 Aug 43: Notice in Hongkong News that no one working for Jap authorities can resign from his job. (Possibly dock-workers were leaving on account of air raids).