

THE MILITARY ACTIONS IN THE ABSORPTION OF NEW TERRITORIES

Chan Tsz King



The content

1. Background information

2. The military actions

3. Introducing the Military units involved

4. The influences

Background Information

Factors forcing Britain to lease New Territories:



Responding to the the Carving Up of China

- *China & Russia signed a secret alliance Li-Lobanov Treaty (1898)*
- The France forced China to lease Cantone Bay 廣州灣
- The German forced China to lease Kiautschou Bay 膠州灣 concession
- Sphere of influence

British's urging Needs of Land of Hong Kong

- Population extremely dense: The Victoria City
- Governor Sir George William Des Voeux (1834-1909):
 - *Over 100,000 living in an area not exceeding a half square mile*
- Defensive needs: a longer defense line to defense the European from Southern China

Background Information

- The triggering reason:
 - *French had leased the Leizhou 雷州 Peninsula and claimed*
 - *Yunnan 雲南, Guizhou 貴州 and Guangxi 廣西 became her sphere of influence*
- The British Minister , Claude Maxwell MacDonald (1852-1915) started negotiating with Qing government



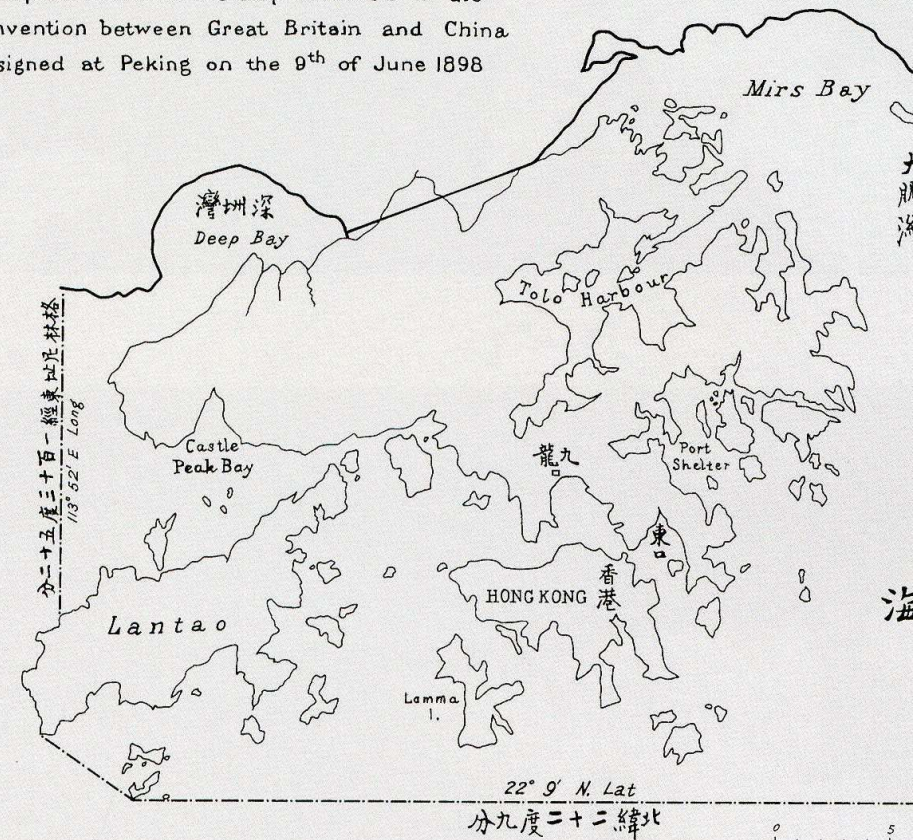
SIR CLAUDE MACDONALD,
British Ambassador at Peking.

Background Information

- Britain therefore started to look for Extension
 - Negotiation with Qing government
- 1898/6/9: “The Convention Between Great Britain and China Respecting an Extension of Hong Kong Territory”
 - Defining the area of N.T.
 - N.T. leased to the Britain for 99 years with no fee
 - Because of **controversy in the frontier**, Qing required the British to only control the area after a ceremony (international law)
 - Resultsd in delay of control on 04/1889

HONG KONG EXTENSION

Reproduction of the Map attached to the Convention between Great Britain and China signed at Peking on the 9th of June 1898



Background information

- The New Territories
- James Stewart Lockhart (1858-1937) : “The Great Difference”
 - *Inspection into N.T. for 20 days*
 - *Rural society with Chinese traditions, populated 80,000, most settled Chinese*
 - *The Victoria City: populated 250,000, colonial system, mostly Chinese migrant, some foreigners*
- Villages & Clans
 - *E.g., The Tang’s lineage in Pingshan village*
 - *Resourceful: Economic activities, capability in mobilizing people*
 - *Transport was bad: 0 influence from the Hong Kong Island*
- Military power to some extent
 - *Armed fights were between the villages*
 - *Against the external threat: pirates, robbers*

Background information

- Imperialism

- *A belief system*
- *Patrick H. Hase: Imperialism emerged and fashioned from around 1850s*
- *To help everyone to attaining the civilization*
- *Popular among the official, nobles, intellectuals .etc.*

- 2 major method in dealing with resistance:

- *1. Civil obedience*
- *2. Elimination*
 - *To eliminate rebel*
- *E.g., Abraham Roberts (1784-1873), British East India Company Army general: "If there are any armed oppositions towards Britain, **siege and expel** are needed to make them **a greatest lost.**"*

The Six-day War

- With above factors + triggering events (mentioning later)
- An armed conflict therefore happened
 - 1899/04/14~ 1899/04/19
- The major & only military event
- Caused number of casualties
 - *Patrick H. Hase: More than 500 deaths*
- “A forgotten event”
 - *Both British & local avoided mentioning the event*
 - *Few documents & records about the events*
 - Patrick H . Hase: THE SIX-DAY WAR of 1899: Hong Kong in the Age of Imperialism*
 - *Hase: The governor Blake claimed to wipe the slate clean.*
- **“wipe the slate clean” strategy influenced the policies to N.T. until now**

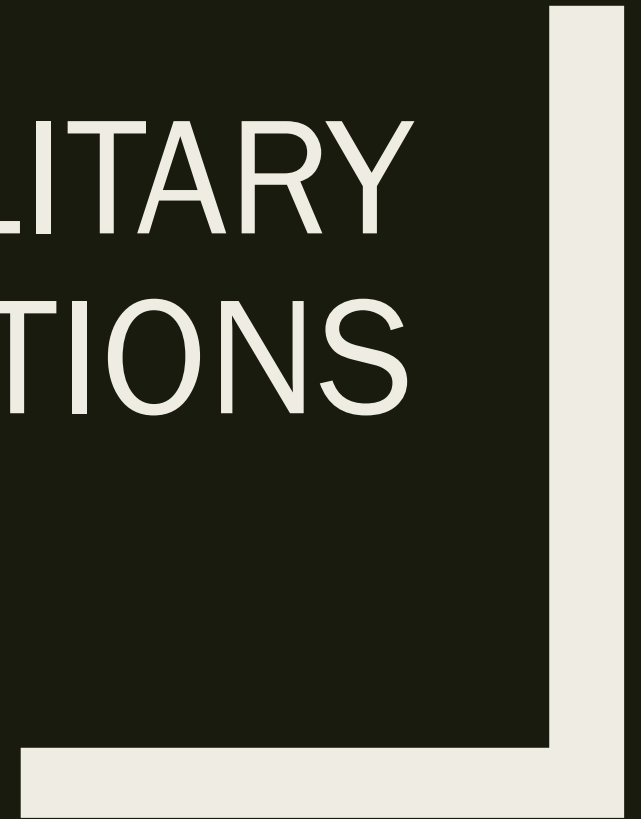


Henry Arthur Blake(1840-1918)

The objectives

- To figure out the whole event: The military actions
 - *In simplified way*
- To figure out all the units involved in the fight
- To evaluate the influences

2. THE MILITARY ACTIONS



Before the Six-Day War

- After the convention:
 - *The villagers rigorously opposed*
 - *Raised more than 100,000 dollars*
 - *People who support the British will be “threatened”*
 - *Action continued: The British did not control N.T.*
- 1899/3~4 the period of preparation of war
 - *Leaflets instigating the villagers to resist with arms*

Before the Six-Day War

- The worries and rumors
- Harming of economies
 - *Poll tax, house tax, license for domestic animals,*
 - *banning of fishing, wood-cutting .etc.*
- The panic of Sanitary Board
 - *Rumor saying that when epidemic broke out, the officials search for sick people*
 - *Thin Chinese=sick, removed to the Board*
 - *Closed with arsenic until died of poisonous effects*
- Breaking the Fengshui
 - *The British would destroy and ignore all the fengshui*
 - *E.g., Controversy of Pingshan police station*
 - *Breaking the fengshui line*

Before the Six-Day War

- The problem of land law
 - *Most significant*
 - *Sub-soil rights & top-soil rights*
- Rumor about Li'Sing's (李陞, ~1830-1900) Land development company
 - *Linked with the government;*
 - *people denied to sell the land with low costs would face problems*
- Before Blake's proclamation of 7-9/04/1899,
the **government did not put enough effort to clarify the rumors**
- Triggering the resistance

Roads to war

- 1899/03 Qing & The Britain came to an agreement in frontier
 - *Prompting the villagers' anger again*
 - *Series of seditious leaflets & poets emerged again*
- 28/3 After several times of conference
 - *The Tang's from Pingshan 屏山, Ha Tsuen 廈村 & Kam tin 錦田*
 - *decided to resist the British with arms*

Roads to war

- 29/3 Pingshan sending letters to other N.T. clans
 - *Liu's from Sheung shui 上水, Man's from Sun tin 新田.etc.*
- 1st April conference conducted
 - *Elders from Sheung shui, Taipo Tau 大埔頭, Ping Kong 丙崗, Sun tin, Fan ling 粉嶺 participated*
- Pingshan threatened the elders to join **burning the village**
 - *But they were not intended to – forming militia, but seldom assist*
 - *Donation*
- Villagers outside N.T. also participated
- Pingshan invited Ngan tin 雁田, Wai Tak 懷德 from Tong Kwun country (東莞縣) to participate
 - *Located in the lawless northern mountain area of Shum Chun 深圳*
 - *Participated in anti-Qing revolution: always ready in armed fight*

Roads to war

- 01-04/04
 - *The British noticed the operation of villagers*
 - *Governor Blake went Cantone, demanded to dispatch forces*
 - *5 soldiers deployed*
 - *Banning of agitating leaflets*

Roads to war



Today's Flagstaff Hill



■ 03/04: an accident

- *Captain Superintendent of police force Sir Francis Henry May (1860-1922) arrived Tai Po*
- *To tell the location on flag-raising to the Qing soldiers*
- *Tai Po villagers demanded to remove the matshed on flagstaff hill (Fengshui)*
- *May refused; the communication became violent conflict*
- *Matshed was burnt*
- *Threw bomb towards May*
- *The Taipo villagers assaulted & burnt the matshed*

Roads to war

- 03/04: an accident
- May decided to retreat + Calling reinforcement
 - *Destroyer HMS Fame + troops from the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Welsh Fusilier*
 - *Led by general William Julius Gascoigne (1844-1926)*
 - *Colonial Secretary Lockhart arrived with HMS Whiting*
- Villagers threw bomb towards flagstaff Hill
- Forcing the villagers listening to Lockhart's proclamation
 - *Flag raising ceremony on 17/04*
 - *Villagers planned to assault that day; Earlier than planning*
 - Villagers apologized: actions led by drunk people

Roads to war

- 07-09/04
 - *Sending proclamation*
 - People posting the proclamation was assassinated
 - *Villagers intended to launch a war*
 - 1,332 pounds (604.2 kg) of gunpowder and 20 small cannons
 - 6 larger cannons and 28 jingals were collected



Jingal: Chinese wall gun

Roads to war

- 10/04 Taipingkungkuk (太平公局) established, the commanding department of militia (“The Public Office of Establishing Peace”)
- 12/04 Pingshan again threatened the elders, forcing them to devote
 - *Burning the village*
 - Enmity between villages
 - E.g. Pingshan & Shap Pat Heung, armed fight on 1851 ,1881
 - *Robbing the wealthy people who didn't donate with **employed robbers***
- Major Fong (?-?) from Cantone negotiated with Yuenlong villagers
 - “not to suppress with force”:
 - the villagers assumed that as providing a freedom to act

14/04

- Colonial Secretary received warnings from “respectable” villagers
 - *The construction site for matshed unguarded*
- May and 20 police were sent to site
 - *Taking in H.M.S Fame, arriving around 17:00*
- The matshed burnt when they arrived
 - *150 villagers occupied the opposite hill, firing jingal & bombs*
- May soon retreated at 18:45
- An ambush earlier than planning
 - *Following the “mistake” to launch the war earlier*
 - Kam Tin & Pat Heung arrived & reinforced
 - Pingshan supplied pork

15/04: The main warfare

- May was sent to Tai Po, preparing a camp for a company of Hongkong regiment to land
 - *Captain Ernest Lewis Corbett Berger (1867-?) and 3 Jemadars to lead 122 men from HKR, by boat*
- Failed to land: Being surrounded **from 3 sides**
 - *estimated as 1,200 armed villagers had occupied the surrounding heights.*
 - *The Chinese was swinging flags, shooting off firecrackers*
 - *Bombarded by the villagers' cannons*
 - *Trench on the cannon battery near Tai Po Tau Village*
- Returning fire with long-range rifle volleys
 - *Occupy a small top near the matshed.*
 - *Exchanging fire till afternoon*

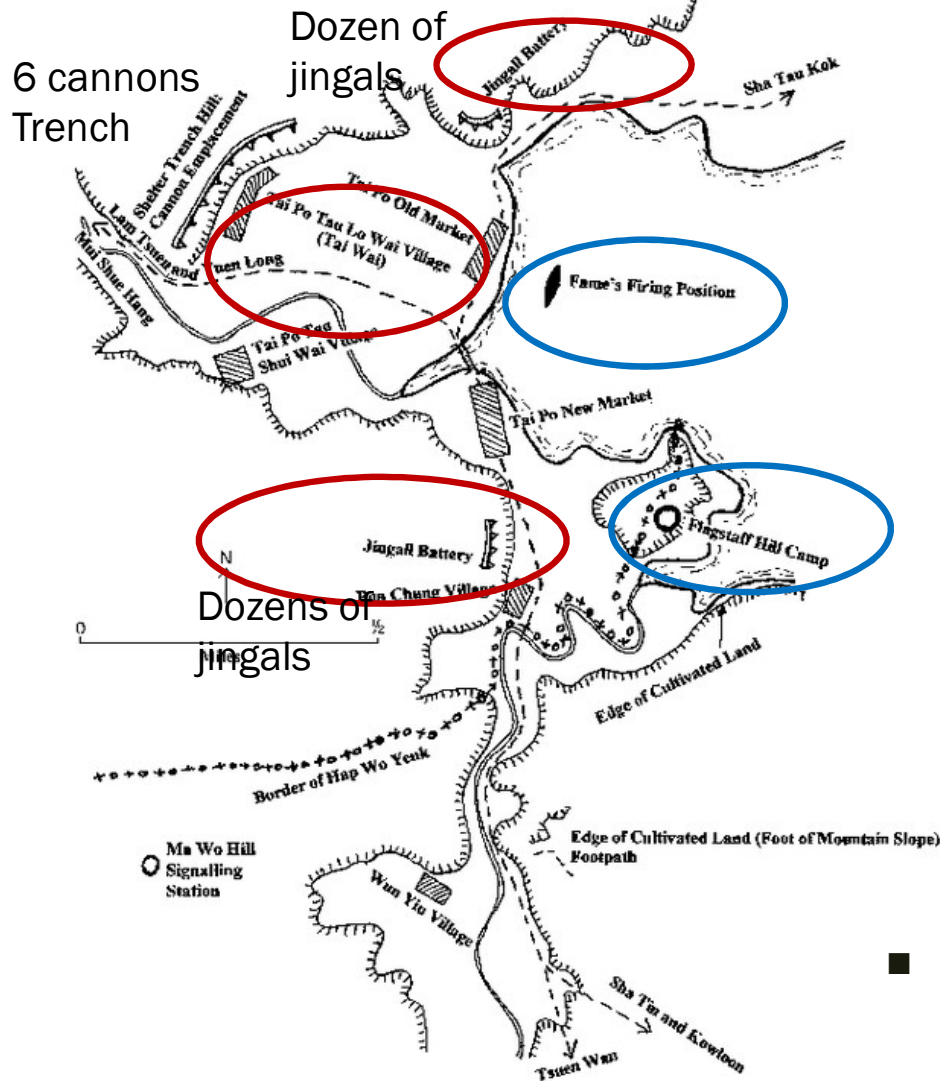
15/04: The main warfare

- Sir William Julius Gascoigne (1844-1926) arrived by HMS Fame
 - *took overall command.*
 - *Forced to land on Shatin, walking to the scene*
 - *Arrival exposed*
 - *Limitation in bullets: supplies left on HMS Fame*
- The armaments were too old:
 - *1 wounded*
- Afternoon, **HMS Fame returned** to Tolo Harbor to resupply Berger's men
- Armed with QF 12-pounder 12-cwt gun (76.5mm caliber)
 - *Firing range: 3 miles*
- First shot causing a **silence of the jingal battery**
- Fired 17 shots: destroyed all the batteries
- The villagers were dispersed before sunset



The Battle of Mui Shue Hang

Map done by Patrick H. Hase



Map 3 The Battle of Mui Shue Hang

- The villagers demonstrated excellent planning
 - 3 batteries with deep trench
 - Firing range covered the flagstaff hill
- The Hong Kong Dailey Press, 17th April 1899:
 - Blocking the Mui Shue Hang
 - Entrance of the route to Yuen Long
 - Suspect to be assisted by Qing government
 - The trench and batteries were hard
 - Wearing Qing army uniform, national flag
- If ambush launched on 16/04, result could be different
 - Fierce and unexpected firing

16/04: A relatively peaceful day

- The flag-raising underwent successfully
 - *The villagers retreated through Mui Shu Hang*
- Still under risk:
 - *The villagers retreated inland, HMS Fame could not be exerted*
 - *Heading back to ambush the ceremony*
- **The British reinforced**
 - *Arthur Leonard Barrett (1872-1964), Leading 3 companies from HKR*
 - *Captain Simmonds, leading 48 troops from Hong Kong-Singapore Battalion of the Royal Artillery*
 - *A total of 530 men*
 - *Signal system set up, completed on 17/04*
 - *HMS Brisk, HMS Miner, Wingfu*
 - Lockhart, journalists from The China Mail took the vessel

16/04

- Colonial Secretary Lockhart held the flag-raising ceremony
 - *Hong Kong Club, journalists The villagers*
- No fight
 - *Hong Kong Daily Press (18th April):*
 - If there was firing...till mid night...insubstantial
- The reinforcement of villagers
 - *Supplies from Wang Chau 橫州(Yuen Long)*
 - Pork
- Setting up new battery
 - *Preparing artillery emplacement on shelter trench Hill*
 - At the entrance of Lam Tsuen Gap
 - Hill near Pun Chung Village

17/04

- **The villagers took the dominance**
- The Villagers retreated
- Set up new battery on Lam Tsuen Valley林村谷
- Nicholas Purcell O’Gorman (~1845-) leading HKR to patrol, searching the insurgents
- Search stopped at Chung Uk Village鐘屋村, Fong Ma Po放馬莆
- 2 miles away from the battery
- Gascoigne hoped to set a camp on Chung Uk as a battery
- Soon retreated back to Flagstaff hill (original spot of camp)

17/04

- Villagers instantly followed Gascoigne's force
- Instantly occupied Chung Uk, She Shan社山
 - ***Did not notice***
- 12:35 signalers found the villagers, reported to Gascoigne
- Villagers instantly fired on signalers, HKR, Flagstaff Hill which so far away
- **Successful surprise attack**
 - *No time for rest, preparation & eat*
 - *Called the Artillery to formed a battery as fast as possible*

17/04

- Counterattack
 - *With the reinforcement of artillery*

- 13:45 Villagers retreated from She Shan
- Around 14:30 retreated from Chung Uk

- Evening, Retreated to Lam Tsuen Pass (Near today's Kadoorie's Farm)
 - *Possibly 1200 men*
- HKR stopped at position about 1.5 miles away from top of Lam Tsuen Pass
 - *350 men*

17/04

- The villagers prepared an entrenchment at Lam Tsuen Pass
 - *Believed to be done earlier as second defense: classic Chinese tactics*
 - **Very strong position:**
 - Hilly slope: **2 sides were steep & broken, no shelter**
 - 2 emplacement got protection of watercourse
 - Only be reached by frontal attack

- The British stopped movement until reinforcement, grouping all usable power
- Captain burger decided to dispatch all usable for to the front
 - *Left only 74 men at Flagstaff Hill*
 - **Reinforcement at evening**
 - HMS Humber & HMS Peacock containing supply to Tai Po
 - HMS Peacock stayed to help guarding Flagstaff Hill

17/04

- HKR deployed forces to advance in 3 sides
 - *The HKR were “mountain men”*
 - *Born in Northern west region of India*
 - *Successfully climbed through the sides of Lam Tsuen Pass entrenchment*
- The 3 teams gather and fired when 200 yards
 - *Charing fast with furious fire*

A completely failure for the villagers:

- The cannon were old-fashioned
 - *No swivels Unable to move to the face to attack*
 - *But still very tremendous attack*
 - *Unable to fire precisely: only 1 injured*

17/04

- The British kept perusing with non-stopped volley
 - *Stopped at around 22:00*
- The villagers gathered around 1 miles away from the west of Kam Tin
 - *Around Sha Po Village 沙埔村*

18/04 The final battle at Shek Tau Wai

- Shek Tau Wai 石頭圍 (Today's Wing Hing Wai 永慶圍)
- Burger's men encamped in Sheung Tsuen village 上村
- The British faced serious problem of supply
 - *Bullets ran out after battle of 17/04*
 - *Difficult to employ coolie: the supply couldn't be reached*

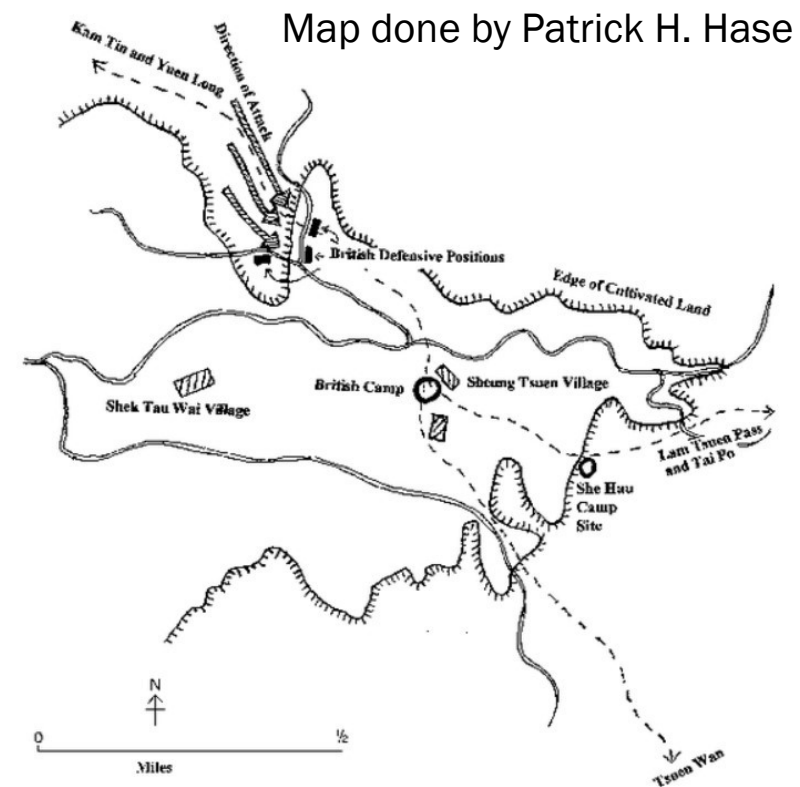


18/04 The final battle at Shek Tau Wai

- 18/04 heavy rain deteriorated the situation
 - *The soldiers were got wet, hungry and cold*
 - *May employed a team of coolie on 17/04*
 - *But they escaped because of non-stop working and fatigue*
- At the dawn, Captain Burger leading 200 men heading back to Tai Po
 - *After having lunch at Flagstaff Hill, rushed back to Sheung Tsuen*
 - *Another supplying team: 93-96 navy soldiers, arrived after 12:00*
 - Deployed by Sir F. H. May earlier on 17th

18/04 The final battle at Shek Tau Wai

- The villagers did not give up
 - *Some did not join any battles*
 - Dispatched 2 teams to guard Tuen Mun 屯門
 - Sha Kong Temple at Deep Bay 后海灣
- 14:30 managed to launch a raging attack
- O’Gorman: “they came into 3 lines in regular formation”
 - *Charging with muzzleloader*
 - *With cover of canon, jingal*
 - *Bravery: Advancing with perfect confidence*
 - Outnumbering in men: 5 to 1



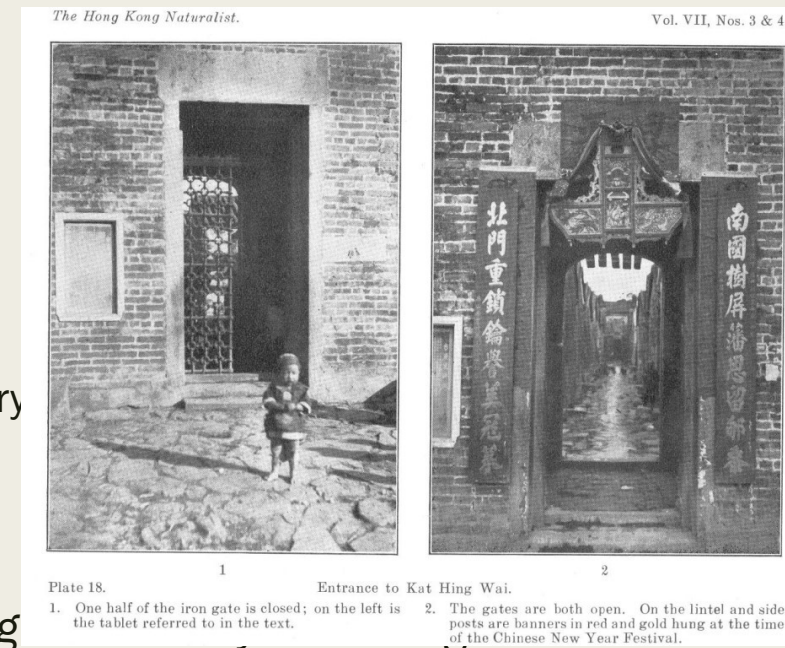
18/04 The final battle at Shek Tau Wai

- The British
 - *Only 250 men could be deployed*
 - *Divided into 4 incomplete companies*
 - *+ the 93-96 navy soldiers*
 - *The artillery unable to assist, difficult in advance without coolie, donkey*

- Defensed along a watercourse
- After the militia was close as about 200 yards
 - *The British opened another heavy volley*
- The villagers soon dispersed
- The British pursued the fleeing militia till 17:00

18/04 The final battle at Shek Tau Wai

- The villagers kept running
- When entered Kam Tin
 - *Blasted gate of Kat Hing Wai Walled village 吉慶圍*
 - Gate of Fui Sha Wai 灰沙圍 also blasted by the artillery
- To show the power and pride
- Reflection of the arrogant of British
 - *17/04 4 British men went panic at Tuen Mun, being*
- Burger and his men kept chasing till 22:30



19/04: The insurgent surrendered

- The British made troop movement in the western N.T.
 - *Deployed HMS Hermione*
 - *convoying 6 steam launches full of troops*
 - *with Maxim gun, landed Sha Kong Temple at 6:00a.m*
 - *HMS Fame with same mission arrived Tuen Mun at the same time*
- The British walked through the western N.T.
- The guarding villagers were retreated
- Motivating the villagers to surrender
- Arrived Pingshan at 13:00
- The clans surrendered; A flag-raising ceremony held at Tai Po



The Six-day War

- The military conflicts between the British & the indigenous

1899/04/14 - 19

- **14/04:** The Flag raising matshed at Taipo flagstaff hill got destroyed
- **15/04:** The Hong Kong Regiment (HKR) reinforced
 - *but surrounded by 1200 villagers; HMS Fame reinforced & rescued HKR*
- **16/04:** Flag raising held 1 day earlier
- **17/04:** The British's counterattack
 - *attacking the villagers at Lam Tsuen Gap; The British advancing*
- **18/04:** The remaining 1600 villagers attacking the British at Sheung Tsuen village
 - *but soon got failed and was **counterattacked***
- **19/4:** The villagers surrendered

3. MILITARY UNITS PARTICIPATED



1. The HongKong Regiment (HKR)

- Founded 1891, disbanded 1902
- Different from the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (1854, 1878, 1949)
- A standard Indian Army regiment, seconded to British Army specifically for defense of Hong Kong
- First colonel: Captain Edmund Burger
- A Class Regiment of Mussulmans
 - *Representing the fame of Mussulmans*
- Aimed to be a first-class
 - *All trained up from School of Musketry (Small Arms School)*
 - *All recruited were good:*
 - The Commandant “little we could teach them”
 - Praised by Frederick Sleigh Roberts (1852-1934), Commander in-chief of India after first inspection



Sir Edmund Burger (1852-1934), retired as general



The Indian commissioned officials of Hongkong Regiment in 1902

The formation

- 2 companies of Pathans
- 2 companies of Punjabi Mussulmans
- 2 companies of Hindustani Mussulmans
- 8 British officers: Commandant, 2 Wing Commanders & 5 Wing Officers, with commission from India Viceroy:
- 17 Indian Officer, with commission from India Viceroy
- 8 Subadars, 9 Jemadars including the Jemadar Adjutant
- 117 Non-Commissioned Officers
- 870 Privates

1. The HongKong Regiment (HKR)

- Weapons adapted during the war:
 - Lee-Enfield Rifle
 - *Basic armament for British army starting from late 19th century*
- 1898, participated in suppressing the villagers in N.T. (The main force)
- 1900, participated in Boxer Uprising
- 1902, disbanded with demand of India
 - *Pay Disparity*
 - Much higher than local Indian regiment
 - Monopolizing in recruitment



2. The Royal Welch fusiliers

- Established 1689
by Edward Herbert (the fourth Baron Herbert of Cherbury)(1583-1648)
- WELCH: Old spelling OF Welsh in 18th century
- Weapons adapted during the war:
 - Lee-Enfield Rifle
 - *Basic armament for British army starting from late 19th century*
- 1960, Royal Welch Fusiliers Regimental Museum founded in Caernarfon Castle
- A regiment with long history and iconic traditions, customs



History

- In 1702, the Duke of Marlborough converted the regiment into one of three fusilier regiments armed with the flintlock fusil
- Battalions fought in the American Wars, **French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars** & 1853 **Crimean War**.
- The 1st Battalion served in the **South African Wars**, and the 2nd during the Boxer Rebellion.
- During the **First World War**, 42 battalions of fusiliers fought in all major theatres; among their officers were authors Robert Graves and Siegfried Sassoon.
- During the **Second World War**, the fusiliers fought in mainland Europe, Burma and **Madagascar**, and since 1945 the regiment has served in Germany, Malaya, Cyprus, Singapore, Kenya, Belize and Northern **Ireland**. The 2nd Battalion was disbanded in 1958.
- In 2004, it was decided to **merge** the fusiliers with the **Royal Regiment of Wales**, to create the **Regiment of the Royal Welsh**

The Traditions & Customs

■ The Regimental goat

- *An ancient custom with no origin, 1844 first royal goat*
- *silver headplate*
- *in care of non-commissioned Goat Major.*

■ The Literary Tradition

- *Outpouring of literature, poet*
- *Robert Graves (1895-1985)*
- *Ellis Humphrey Evans (1877-1917)*

■ St David's Day: 1st March

- *Holiday for all rankings*
- *The ceremonial eating of the leek in the Officers' Mess.*



A Fusilier & Regimental Goat,
Hong Kong, 1899

The Traditions & Customs

■ The flash

- *5 overlapping black silk ribbon*
- *To protect the tunic from the powdered and greased pigtail*
- *1808, the pigtail was abolished.*
- *The officers decided to retain the ribbons with which the queue was tied, and, using an old slang term for a wig, they were known as the 'Flash'*
- *1900, use was extended all ranks*

■ Ceremonial Pioneers

- *Wearing white buckskin aprons and gauntlets, and carrying their traditional tools*
- *8 of them Marching behind the Regimental Goat at the head of the battalion on ceremonial parades.*
- *The unique distinction was authorized for the Regiment in 1887. it is a reminder of time past when they prepared the route for the battalion before the days of good roads and bridges.*



Royal Welsh Fusiliers SD Tunic



Hong Kong-Singapore Battalion of the Royal Artillery (HKSRA)

- Records are rare
 - *Detailed record: Denis Rollo, Guns and Gunners of Hong Kong (Hong Kong, 1991)*
 - *A website called Gwu-lo: Old Hong Kong; David(2017)THE HONG KONG AND SINGAPORE BATTALION ROYAL ARTILLERY*
- Consisted of people of different nationalities, religious:
- Madrassee (India) Christians, Madrassee (India) Mohammedans, Sayyad(Afghanistan) Mohammedans, Portugese half-castes, Jews, Punjabi (India) Mohammedans, Malayees
- dressed alike to the garrison gunners

Formation & weapons

- Formation: 1 Havildar-Major, 2 Havildars, 1 Bugler, 96 privates until 1905
- commanded by a British Subaltern or Captain
 - *Captain Simmonds (?-?) during Six-Day war*
- Origin of the name:
 - In 1892 there were "Asiatic Artillery Companies" at Hong Kong, Singapore, Ceylon and Mauritius.
 - 1898 battalion combined and formed HKSRA, headquartered in Hong Kong
- Weapons: R.M.L and M.L.
 - Practiced 64pdr R.M.L. and the old 7pdr R.M.L.
 - *In 1886, the Foreign Intelligence Committee of the Admiralty also recommended installing new BLs and QFs in Hong Kong.*
 - A Royal Engineers–Royal Artillery Committee was formed to review the adaption
 - 1890 the two companies were encamped at Kowloon Dock for the purpose of mounting the 9.2 B.L. gun



RML 64-pounder 64 cwt gun

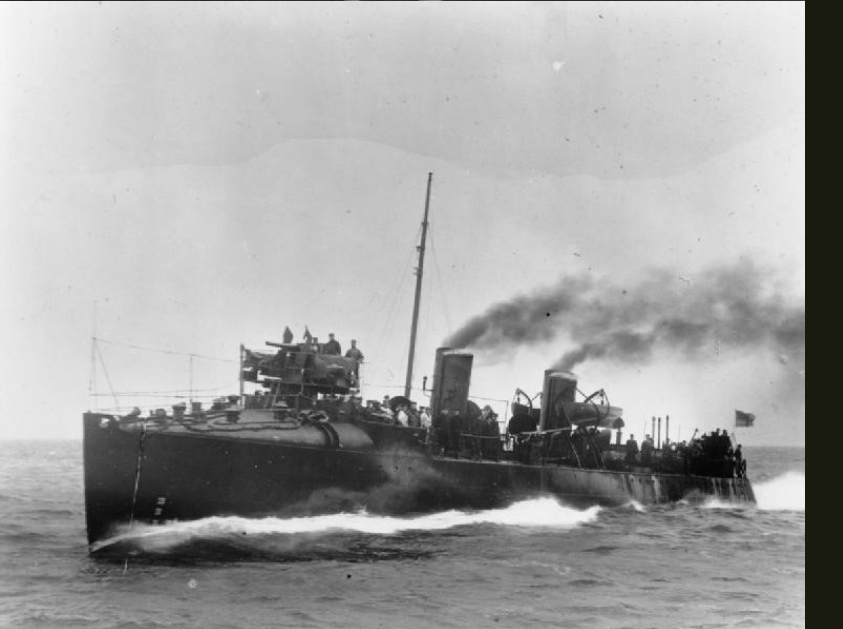
Royal Navy

- 1839-1861 a chaotic period
 - *At first no permanent dockyard:*
 - *a temporary battery on Kellett Island*
 - *Only a naval store at West Point*
 - *Relying on China station Royal navy*
- Starting from 1880s, Hong Kong was becoming a shipping & financial centre
 - *According to Japanese intelligence, over 1,260,000 tons of coal was imported to the colony in 1909 alone*
- Becoming important as naval base since mid 18th century
- Dockyards such as the Cosmopolitan (1880), Taikoo (1902) and the Royal Naval Dockyard (1903) completed respectively



Royal Navy

- List of participated vessels:
 - *HMS Fame*
 - *HMS Miner*
 - *HMS Brisk*
 - *HMS Hermione*



HMS Fame

- “D” class destroyers, launched 1896
 - Sold 1921
- Commanded by Roger John Brownlow Keyes, First Baron Keyes (1872-1945) during Six-Day war
- Displacement: 272 long tons (276 t) standard 352 long tons (358 t) full load

5700 horse-power 30-knots speed. length 211 ft., beam 20ft., draught 7 ft.

- Armament:
 - *1 × QF 12-pounder 12 cwt Mark I L/40 naval gun on a P Mark I low angle mount*
 - showed the power on 15/04 of Six-Day war
 - *5 × QF 6-pdr 8 cwt L/40 gun on a Mark I* low angle mount*
- Participated in Boxer rebellion



HMS Brisk

- Archer Class torpedo cruiser, launched 1886
 - *Sold 1905*
- Basic classification: N/A
- Armament: Torpedo
- Commanded by Robert Bourchier Sherard Wrey (1855-1917) during the Six-Day war
- Supplied bullets and 6 cannons for the artillery
- Colonial Secretary Lockhart rushed to Tai Po by taking it

HMS Miner

- Very few information on internet
- Several vessels with same name
- HMS Miner III (1942)
- Possible vessel used during Six-Day war:
 - *HMS Miner 11, launched 28th January 1880*
 - *HMS Miner 14, launched 10th August 1880*
 - *HMS Miner 6, launched 16th May 1878*
- Torpedo Mooring Steamer



Unrelated image



HMS Hermione

- The 6th royal naval ship to bear the name
- launched at Devonport dockyard, 1893
- An eight gun twin-screw cruiser
- Displacement: 4,360 tons I.H.P: 9,000 Length: 320 feet. Beam: 46ft 6ins. Maximum draught: 19 ft. Speed: 19.5 knots.
- Service as a naval airship depot
 - *saw service during World War I.*
 - *Swagged 1940*
- Armament
 - *2 × QF 6-inch (152.4 mm) guns*
 - *8 × QF 4.7 in (120 mm) guns*
 - *1 × 76 mm (3.0 in) gun*
 - *2 × 6-pounder guns*
 - *1 × 3-pounder gun*
 - *4 × machine guns*
 - *3 × 18 inch (450 mm) torpedo tubes*



HMS Hermione

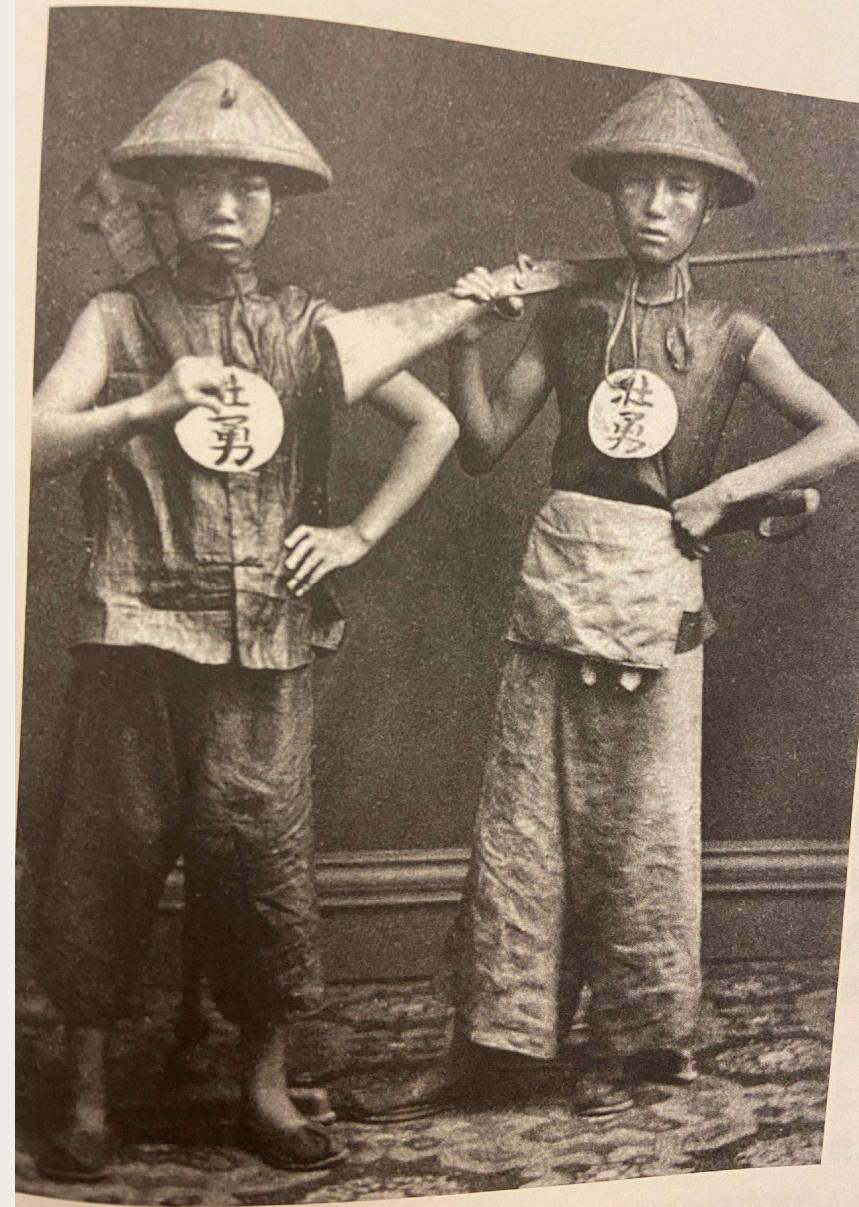
- Commanded by George Astley Callaghan (1852-1920) during Six-Day war
- One of a squadron of six ships specially commissioned in reply to a congratulatory telegram from the German Emperor President Paul Kruger on the repulse of Dr Jameson's raid.
- Assist in defense on 18-19/04/1899
- Also participated in Boxer rebellion

Chinese serving in Hong Kong Submarine Mining Company

- A small group of Chinese employed as assistant of divers
- Recruited from 1886
 - *The first Hong Kong Chinese soldiers to serve in the British Army during the colonial period*
- Number of soldiers: 70 in 1893
- Chinese name : submarine miner 水雷炮兵
 - *Became a synonym for Hong Kong Chinese soldiers serving in the British Army for the subsequent century*
- Disbanded 1906
 - *Royal Engineers handed the submarine mining service to the Royal Navy.*
 - *Transferred to the 40th (Fortress) Company, a local engineer unit*

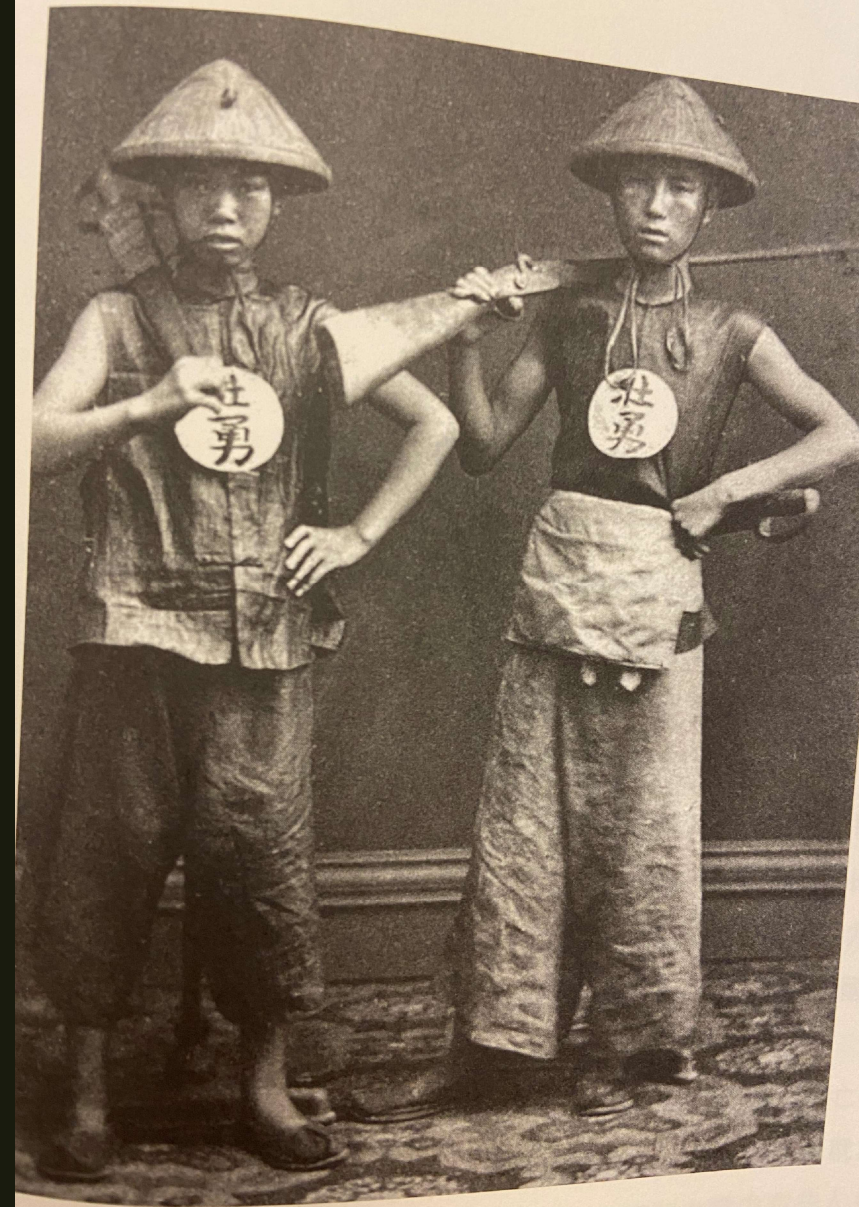
The Militia

- Wearing Qing Army uniform
- Swinging Qing nation flag
- Some were from Trained-band (憲團練)
 - *Official militia system*
- Sophisticated military training
- Number of men: estimated as 2600
 - *More than 500 deaths*



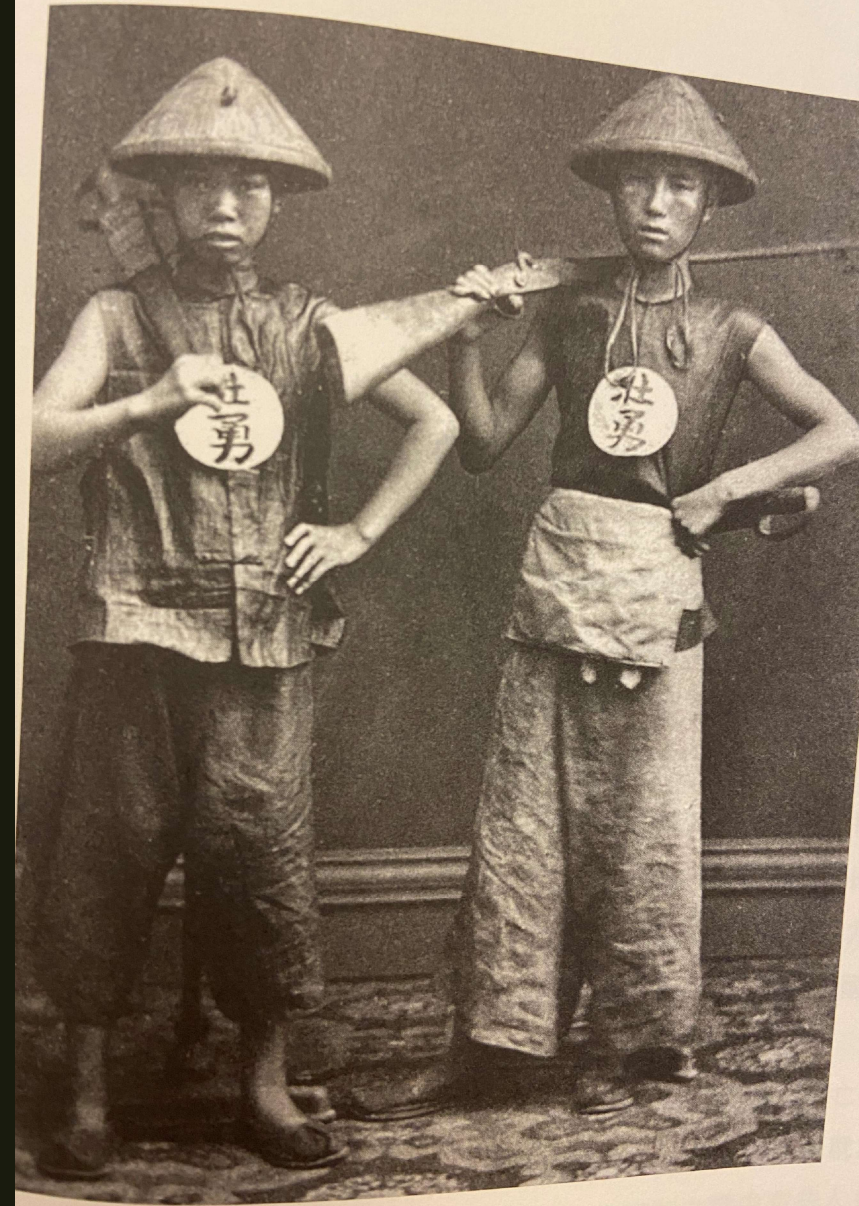
The armaments

- Old-fashioned firearms
 - *Jingal*
 - *long matchlock*
 - *unknown cannon (similar to culverin in 16th Europe)*
 - *small culverin & old cannon*
 - The China Mail 18th April 1899:
 - Extradentary look...Unable to see the projectile
- Small, muzzled-loading
- Difficult in alternating direction: The failure On 17/04
- Cold weapon
 - *Sword, lance*

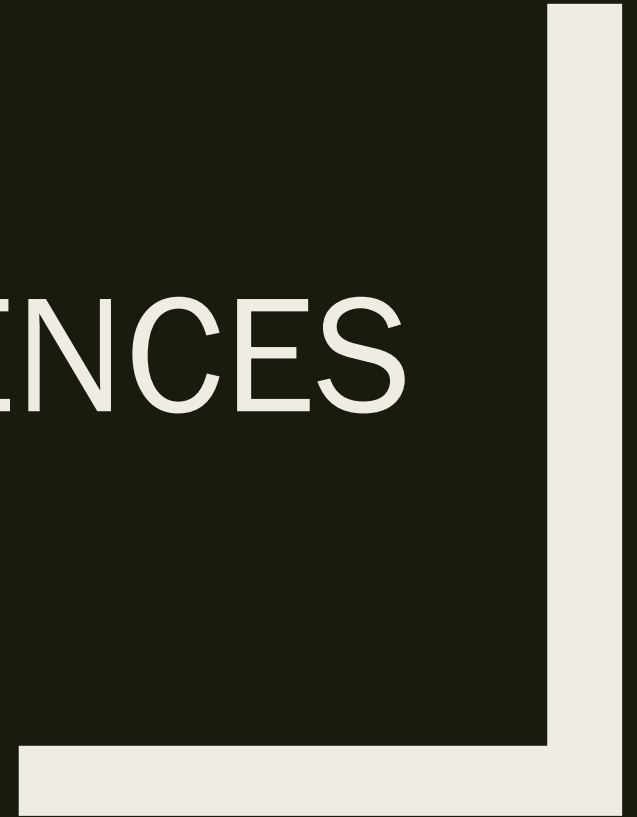


The formation

- Divided into 6 teams:
- Pingshan & Pat Heung, Ha Tsuen & Kam Tin, Shap Pat Heung, Tai Po, Wai Tak, Ngan Tin
- According to the relations, enmity
- E.g. Pingshan & Shap Pat Heung



THE INFLUENCES



1. Changing the political power of clans

- Lockhart made a black-list, listing the leaders participated in to penalize them
- Destroy the house, penalize the villages
- Changing of political dominance among the family
- E.g.: Pingshan

1. Changing the political power of clans

- Family of Tang Fang Yau, (鄧方猷, 1812-1862), a military Kui-yan
- The original Political dominance of Tang's during 19th century:
- His sons Tang Sai Ying (鄧世英, 1841-1907), Tang Hau Ying (鄧厚英, 1869-1907)
 - *Anti-British; The leaders of insurrections*
- Family of Tang King Yau(鄧敬猷, 1815-1838), aimed to get the political dominance
 - *Oppose every policies from Tang Fang Yau descents*
 - *Pro-Britain*
- After little event, Tang Fang Yau Lost prestige
 - *Family of Tang King Yau was perceived as sensible & pragmatic*
 - *Gaining the power till today*

2. Different policy towards N.T.

- The drastic resistance
- Governor Blake to Lockhart: “I should advice you to ignore what has passed”
- Retreated troops, leaving only a company
- Motivating the villagers to forget
 - *Some villagers, did perform rituals for this in temple & hero shrine*
 - Discontinued from the Japanese war- 1996
 - *Some buried in a Communal grave at Shapo*
 - *Today's Miu Kuk Yuan (a nunnery)*
 - The nuns still light incense 3 times a day
 - *Not all the clans would sweep the tomb now*



2. Different policy towards N.T.

- Blake's policy
 - *Amicable co-operations, mutual confidence*
- District Office;
- Different from the Urban Council administrating Hong Kong island, Kowloon
 - *General duties, land administration*
 - *Police and civil jurisdiction*
- Amicable access to district offers

2. Different policy towards N.T.

- The small house policy, established 1972
- *“a male person at least 18 years old and is descended through the male line from a resident of 1898 of a recognized village (Ding, 丁) which is approved by the Director of Lands”. An indigenous villager therefore enjoys small house concessionary rights (ding rights, 丁權) in building a house of not more than three storeys nor more than 700 square feet per floor (therefore a maximum of 195 square meters, or 2,100 square feet)”*
- In exchange with the confiscation of indigenous areas
- Triggered debates over the years

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