



Hong Kong Volunteer and Ex-PoW Association of NSW



OCCASIONAL PAPER NUMBER 1

AUXILIARY UNITS IN THE HKVDC AND UNITS FORMED UNDER THE CIVIL DEFENCE CORPS REGULATIONS 1941

Constitution of the HKVDC

The Volunteer Ordinance, No.10 of 1933 consolidated the law relating to the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps (HKVDC). The constitution of the Corps was detailed in a Schedule. In later years changes were made to the constitution of the Corps which, at the outbreak of war in 1941, was as follows:

Corps Units	Corps Headquarters 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th Batteries Field Company Engineers Corps Signals Armoured Car Platoon Motor Machine Gun Platoon Nos.1,2,3,4,5,6,7 Companies Air Arm Army Service Corps Company Field Ambulance Pay Detachment Reserve of Officers Training Cadre Reconnaissance Unit
Auxiliary Units	Railway Operating Detachment Cadre Special Guard Company Fortress Signal Company Stanley Platoon Hong Kong Engineering Corps Motor Transport Unit Engineer Works Service (Public Works Department)
Affiliated Unit	Nursing Detachment

Civil Defence Corps Regulations, 1941

The Civil Defence Corps Regulations made by the Governor on 1st July, 1941 included a Schedule listing the units in the Corps:

- Auxiliary Communications Service
- Auxiliary Conservancy Corps
- Auxiliary Fire Service
- Auxiliary Labour Corps
- Auxiliary Medical Service
- Auxiliary Ordnance Corps
- Auxiliary Quartering Corps
- Auxiliary Supply Corps
- Auxiliary Transport Service
- Civil Pay and Accounts Service

During 1941 were added to the list the Public Works Corps, and the Auxiliary Rescue and Demolition Corps.

Points to Note

In the constitution of the HKVDC no mention is made of the Supply and Transport Section, leaving it unclear whether this was a part of Corps Headquarters or of the Army Service Corps Company. Also not mentioned is the popular Hughes Group, suggesting that officially this was probably part of the Special Guard Company.

The HKVDC Field Ambulance should not be confused with the Hong Kong Field Ambulance. The latter was composed of units from the HKVDC Field Ambulance, the Royal Army Medical Corps and the St John Ambulance Brigade.

The Auxiliary Nursing Service was a part of the civilian Auxiliary Medical Service, and was distinct from the HKVDC Nursing Detachment.

The separate roles of the HKVDC's Hong Kong Engineering Corps and Engineer Works Service (Public Works Department), and the civil defence Public Works Corps and Auxiliary Rescue and Demolition Corps are not clear. The confusion is made worse as, at some stage, some members of the HKVDC who in civilian life worked in the Public Works Department were transferred to the Public Works Corps. This transfer was apparently in the nature of attachments or secondments, and those affected retained their military ranks and service in the HKVDC.

The list of HKVDC Auxiliary Units should include the Dockyard Defence Corps which was made an auxiliary unit in December, 1941 after the Government Gazette had ceased to be published.