

Enriching Knowledge for the Secondary History Curriculum:
Field visit to Wong Nai Chung – Military installations
during the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and
the Japanese Occupation of Hong Kong (New)
CDI020171365 (16 December 2017)

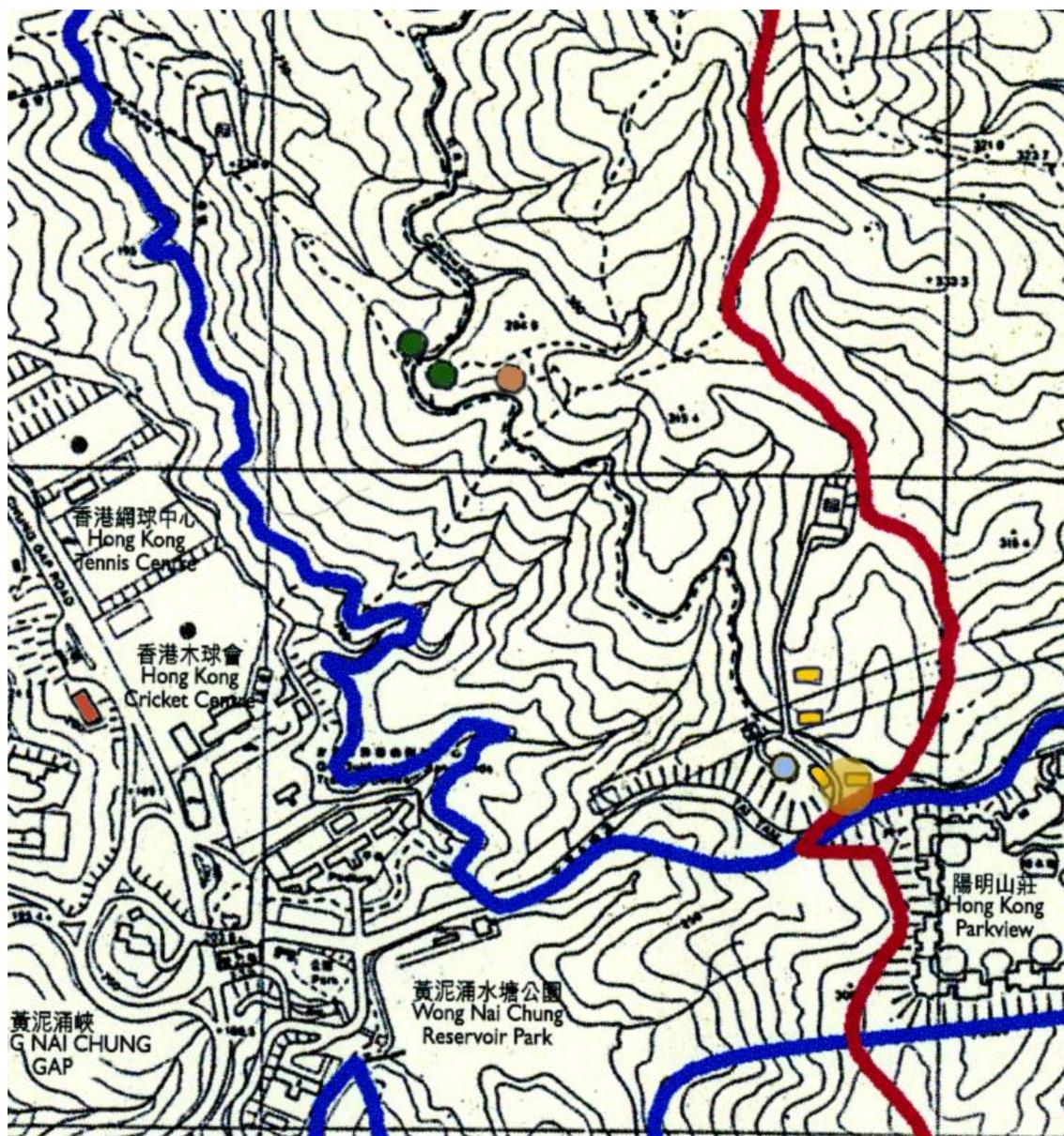
Wong Nai Chung Gap

The Wong Nai Chung Gap was, and to a certain extent still is, the focal point of road communications on Hong Kong Island, with roads radiating to Wan Chai, Causeway Bay, Tai Tam, Repulse Bay and Aberdeen. Whoever controlled the Gap and the hills around it – Mount Nicolson, Jardine's Lookout, and Violet Hill – controlled the vital ground on the Island. Shortly before the outbreak of the war in December 1941, Wong Nai Chung Gap was chosen by Brigadier Lawson as the site of the headquarters of the West Brigade.

During the Battle of Hong Kong (8th – 25th December, 1941), the Japanese began their assault on the northeast sector of Hong Kong Island on the night of the 18th. After a ferocious night of fight, by dawn most of Jardine's Lookout, Mount Butler and the northern slopes of Mount Parker fell into the Japanese hand.

At 7 a.m. on the 19th, a Japanese advance party arrived at the Gap, then shrouded in heavy mist. In the following twelve hours, vicious engagements took place in and around the Gap, which resulted in very heavy casualties on both sides, including Brigadier Lawson and his entire staff. The fighting for Wong Nai Chung Gap was admitted by the Japanese the most intense in the entire eighteen days of hostilities.

A number of military structures could still be found at Wong Nai Chung Gap: the East Brigade HQ structures, three pillboxes, an anti-aircraft position, several bunkers and stores, and a Japanese tunnel. There is no doubt that had the cricket club and the Hong Kong Parkview not been built in the 1970s and early 1980s, more structures would have been found.



-  Anti-aircraft position
-  Stores and bunkers
-  Pillboxes
-  West Brigade HQ structures
-  Japanese tunnel
-  Tai Tam Country Park boundary
-  Wilson Trail