

Air Raid Precaution Tunnels: Tunnel Network K1

Location: **Gascoigne Road, Kowloon**

Status: **Identified Pre-1950 Structure**

Category: **Military**

Description

The tunnels were constructed of masonry side walls of uncoursed granite rubble with mortared joints and various types of lintels. Drainage holes were provided in the tunnels at the time of their construction. The tunnels measured approximately 2 metres in width and 1.9 metres in height. The tunnels were found to be in good condition in the 1970's, apart from floor heaving and some cracks in the walls.

History

This tunnel network consists of Air Raid Precaution tunnels that were built to protect the population of Hong Kong for aerial bombing during World War II. The K1 tunnel network is located to the east of Gascoigne Road between Methodist College and Cliff Road. It is known that after the war the Civil Defense Authority took over responsibility for the tunnel network and that it was used as a first aid training post and for storing medical supplies. In the mid 1950's water seepage became a problem after the installation of a distillation plant (which was installed in 1955 and in use until 1958. From 1958 to 1965 the tunnels were used only for the storage of emergency medical supplies. The tunnels were cleared and closed off on April 2nd 1965 (Mott, Hay, Anderson 1979).

Significance

The tunnel network has an association with a significant historical event in Hong Kong, namely, the defence and occupation of the territory during the Second World War. The history of use of this tunnel network is relatively well documented and the tunnel network is also believed to be complete (based upon available information). The survey undertaken in the 1970's revealed that the tunnels retained their original fabric, although evidence of repairs was present. Based upon the available information the tunnel network is evaluated as having the potential to be classified with moderate to high heritage significance.

Air Raid Precaution Tunnels: Tunnel Network K1A

Location: **Nathan Road, Kowloon**

Status: **Identified Pre-1950 Structure**

Category: **Military**

Description

The tunnel walls consist of uncoursed granite rubble with concrete lintels and chunam type fill over the crown. The tunnels were approximately 2 metres high and 2.5 metres in width. It was also noted that the tunnels originally also had timber supports, but it was believed that the wood was looted and no longer present in the 1970's during the survey (Mott, Hay, Anderson 1978). As well, the same report noted that the tunnels showed signs of deteriorating condition through floor buckling and cracks in the side walls.

History

Tunnel Network K1A is located to the east of Nathan Road, just north of Cliff Road and running in a north/south direction in the direction of Waterloo Road. Limited information is available on the history of this set of tunnels, although they were built for the same purpose as network K1, i.e. as air raid precaution tunnels. It is believed that the southernmost section of the tunnel system was demolished for construction works sometime between the 1950's and 1970's, although the details of this work could not be established (Mott, Hay Anderson 1978). The southernmost section of the tunnel network was demolished as part of past construction works.

Significance

The available information on this tunnel network is limited. The physical description of the tunnels reveals that they were constructed in a similar manner as other air raid precaution tunnels in Hong Kong. Some sections of the tunnel network appear to have been affected by later construction projects and parts of the network are sealed up and may have been destroyed by the previous works. The limited information available and the incomplete nature of the tunnel network means that the current assessment of heritage significance of the tunnels must be placed as undetermined, as it does not represent a complete network and a detailed history is unavailable.

Air Raid Precaution Tunnels: Tunnel Network K4

Location: **Chatham Road, Ho Man Tin**

Status: **Identified Pre-1950 Structure**

Category: **Military**

Description

This tunnel network is located in the area between Chatham Road, Fat Kwong Street, Wuhu Street and Gillies Ave. The majority of the tunnels were constructed of mortared random masonry side walls with precast reinforced concrete lintels with a layer of chunam fill over the crown. The remainder of the tunnels were unlined and localised enlargements were present. It was noted that some sections of the tunnels had been intersected by later construction projects and that the tunnels were sealed off in these places. At the time of the inspection in 1978, the tunnels were found to be in good condition (Mott, Hay, Anderson 1978).

History

These air raid precaution tunnels were built in the vicinity of the dockyards and industrial areas of Whampoa and would have served for shelter for the workers and residents in this highly targeted area. There is very limited information on the utilisation and closure of the tunnels.

Significance

The available information on this tunnel network is limited. The physical description of the tunnels reveals that they were constructed in a similar manner as other air raid precaution tunnels in Hong Kong. Some sections of the tunnel network appear to have been affected by later construction projects and parts of the network are sealed up and may have been destroyed by the previous works. The limited information available and the incomplete nature of the tunnel network means that the current assessment of heritage significance of the tunnels must be placed as undetermined, as it does not represent a complete network and a detailed history is unavailable.

Air Raid Precaution Tunnels: Tunnel Network K5

Location: **Valley Road, Ho Man Tin**

Status: **Identified Pre-1950 Structure**

Category: **Military**

Description

The reports describing the tunnels were not available in the publicly accessible records at the Civil Engineering Library at the time of the visit. Further investigation will be undertaken to gather information on this tunnel network and any additional information will be provided in the BHIA report.

History

These air raid precaution tunnels were built in the vicinity of the docks and industrial area of Whampoa and would have served for shelter for the workers and residents in this highly targeted area. There is very limited information on the utilisation and closure of the tunnels.

Significance

The available information on this tunnel network is limited. The physical description of the tunnels reveals that they were constructed in a similar manner as other air raid precaution tunnels in Hong Kong. Some sections of the tunnel network appear to have been affected by later construction projects and parts of the network are sealed up and may have been destroyed by the previous works. Sections of the tunnel network were backfilled as part of remedial repair works completed in 1992 (Mott MacDonald 1992). The same report also noted that the tunnel network has a high level of Radon gas and poses a health risk for prolonged exposure. There is limited information on the history of this tunnel network and previous construction works and the repair works have forced the backfilling and sealing up of some sections of the network.