

## •Japanese occupation of Hong Kong (1941-1945)

N: Hong Kong people had the hardest time during the 1940s. Japan invaded Hong Kong in 1945. On the 25 of December 1941, Hong Kong surrendered to the Japanese troops at the Peninsula Hotel. The occupation lasted for three years and eight months until Japan surrendered at the end of the Second World War. Life was hard for people under Japanese rule as there was inadequate food supply, most people did not have enough food to eat, and many died of starvation. The city was in a state of disorder. Let us recapture the lifestyle of Hong Kong people at that time.

**Scene 1: Food rationing** [Hold the card board]

N: Since food supply became insufficient, the Japanese rationed necessities, such as rice, flour and salt.

[Many people line up to get food....(4-5 people )]

Hong Kong people: I'm starving now. My wife and my daughter are suffering from malnutrition. Each person is only allowed to buy two hundred and forty grams of rice per day! I have to change our Hong Kong dollars into military notes first and grab my rice ration card to buy rice. I'm afraid this will be a piece of useless paper after Japanese surrender. [someone holds a small bag of rice]

Another group of people: I bought a bun yesterday and it had an offensive smell. I found out that there was a piece of finger bone inside. It's so terrible. Also, it is so common for people to eat sweet potato leaves. How poor we are! [someone holds some sweet potato leaves]

**Scene 2: Forced Labour** [Hold the card board]

Journalist:(ask the labour)What are you doing ?

[2-3 laborers are working with hammer and axe]

Labour :The Japanese forced us to build new bridges and roads for them.

Some of us were even sent to work as labourers in Japan or in other places!! I would rather die if I have to work like this every day ! The Japanese will beat us if we don't finish our work . It is so harsh.

**Scene 3: Education Policy** [Hold the card board]

N: To strengthen their rule, the Japanese controlled education strictly.

A child: [4-5 students read together] con ne gi wa !! All the students were forced to learn Japanese language! See...all the books were written in Japanese. It was very hard for us to learn Japanese.

**Scene 4: Loyal to Japanese** [Hold the card board]

N: Everybody had to obey and respect Japanese otherwise they would.....

[Many people bowed to the Japanese soldiers (wear soldier cap) , but a man didn't do so.]

The Japanese used a gun to shoot the man .

And the Japanese saw a girl who didn't bow to them, he took out his knife and cut her head!. And they held her head to walk in the street cheerily.

**Scene 4: Renaming The streets** [Hold the card board]

A girl : Where is '香取通'? [Hold the card board '香取通']

A boy: It is Nathan Road. [Hold the card board '香取通' and '彌敦道'] The Japanese renamed all the roads in Hong Kong. Queen's Road is changed to '明治通' now. [Hold the card board '明治通' and '皇后大道']

Girl : Oh no!

**Scene 5:**

A Hong Kong soldier: I can't live under the Japanese rule anymore. They introduce lots of measures to control us. I would like to join the British army in order to fight against the Japanese!

All the people say : Drive away Japanese! X3 [ Raise their hands]

N: At last, after the United States had dropped the atomic bombs in Japan. Japan surrendered and Hong Kong restored its order again [Someone holds the British flag]

## Props

1.Rice ration card and military note[Big: 1 , small:4]

2.A bag of rice

3.Axe and hammer[3 ]

4. Knife[3]

5.A head

6.Gun[3]

7.make the roads 's name 's card['香取通' , '彌敦道' , '明治通' , '皇后大道']

8.Big Card

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- Food rationing
- Forced Labour
- Education Policy
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- Renaming The Streets

END