

## Epilogue and Prologue

### The Last Chief Editor of the Pre-war Caduceus

*As a Japanese invasion was imminent, the pre-war Caduceus was suspended after its last publication in February 1941. Prof. Lindsay Ride, then Dean of the Medical Faculty, the Chief Editor of Caduceus and also a commissioned officer of the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps, took command of the Hong Kong Field Ambulance in 1941. Despite*

# The Caduceus – Facts and Opinions

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utmost gallantry, the outnumbered defenders had to surrender Hong Kong on Christmas Day after 17 days of fierce fighting, when further resistance was deemed futile. Prof. Ride was captured and held in Sham Shui Po Prisoners Camp. In January 1942, he managed to escape to Chungking (重慶), the provisional capital of China, from where he continued to contribute to the war effort against the Japanese invasion. Because of his outstanding leadership as the founder and commander of the British Army Aid Group, which provided assistance and gathered intelligence from escapees from Hong Kong, he attained the rank of Colonel and was elevated from O.B.E. to C.B.E.\* by the end of the war.



Sir Lindsay Tasman Ride

After Japan unconditionally surrendered in August 1945, Prof. Ride returned to the University and became Vice Chancellor in 1949. However, the publication of *Caduceus* did not resume and was replaced by *Elixir*, the new Medical Society Journal in 1950. *Caduceus*, as the Medical Society's Official Journal, faded away in history.

## Rebirth

*Elixir* first started as a quarterly with contents similar to the pre-war *Caduceus*, which included significant coverage of research articles, and also class news and submitted essays. In the 1960s, *Elixir* was published less and less frequently and finally became a yearly publication. Together with progressively increasing awareness of medical students on university and social affairs, a regularly published newspaper that could cover time-sensitive issues became high in demand. On the instruction of the Medical Students' Council, *Caduceus* — this time the Society's Official Newspaper — was resurrected on 15th January 1969.

*\* Prof. Ride was appointed O.B.E. (Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) for his escape from occupied Hong Kong in 1942. He was elevated to C.B.E. (Commander of the Order of the British Empire) in 1944, and was knighted in 1962.*

*Australian Dictionary of Biography. 2002. <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A160106b.htm>. Retrieved 2010-15-03.*

*[http://www.britain-at-war.org.uk/WW2/London\\_Gazette/hong\\_kong/](http://www.britain-at-war.org.uk/WW2/London_Gazette/hong_kong/). Retrieved 2010-15-03*