

# THE EARLY DAYS OF HONG KONG SCOUTING—PART 15

## ARCHIVES OF THE PAST - Part 7A

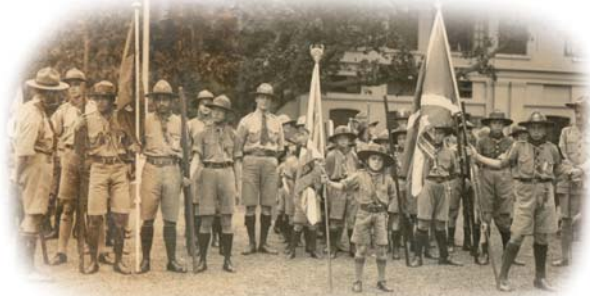
The following article appears in the February 1941 issue of the Hong Kong Scouting Gazette, some 10 months before the fall of Hong Kong to the Japanese Imperial Army on 25<sup>th</sup> December 1941.

### A BRIEF HISTORY

#### OF THE BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION HONG KONG BRANCH

Compiled by the Secretary from  
Existing records

Although no actual Branch of the Boy Scouts Association had been formed in Hong Kong at that time, Scouting for Boys, as originated by the late Chief Scout of all the World had spread to this Colony as far back as prior to the Great War. St. Andrew's Church, Kowloon, and St. Joseph's College, Hong Kong, were both sponsoring a Troop of Boy Scouts when war was declared in August 1914, and, much to the credit of both institutions, both Troops not only exist today, but have grown to full Groups consisting of Wolf Cubs, Boy Scouts and Rover Scouts, while both of the Troops have won the Inter-Troop competition during the past two years. St. Joseph's College Troop was the first actually to register with the Boy Scouts Association, registration being effected on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May, 1913, while St. Andrew's Church Troop quickly followed, applying for registration on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November of the same year.



Line up for inspection St. Joseph's (1<sup>st</sup> HK) Troop on the left, St. Andrew's (2<sup>nd</sup> HK) to the right at Scout Rally in Jan 1925



St. Joseph's College served as Scout HQ in 1920s

Imperial Headquarters also took an interest in Scouting in the Colony from an early date. Major A. A. McHardy, D.S.O. R. A. being appointed Colony Commissioner on May 1<sup>st</sup> 1914. The first census was taken at the end of September, 1915, and the total membership, all ranks included, was then 155 members, a fairly rapid increase in strength considering that the Hong Kong Branch was not registered until May 1<sup>st</sup> 1914, while at that time membership was strictly confined to members of European descent.

Vice Admiral R. H. Anstruther, C.M.G., R. N. succeeded Major McHardy as Colony Commissioner in May, 1915, but with the Empire in the throes at war, little progress was made until the termination of hostilities. At this time Lieut. Colonel Bowen came to the Colony, and in the absence of the Colony Commissioner on Naval duties, did a lot to keep the movement going, finally becoming Colony Commissioner in July, 1920. The next census, taken two months after Col. Bowen's appointment, showed a slight drop in numbers, the strength then being 139. Col. Bowen and his staff worked exceedingly hard and when he handed the Commissionership over to the Rev. G. T. Waldegrave in November 1921, Scouting was firmly established in the Colony although numbers were still small compared to many other Branches. Lieutenant Ramolf of the Dutch Navy made a successful effort to popularize the movement in the Colony in 1920. Lieutenant Ramolf brought with him many lantern slides of Scouting activities in other parts of the world and gave a most interesting lecture which was attended by most members, and many members of the general public, with the result that membership began to increase almost immediately. ...."