

THE EARLY DAYS OF HONG KONG SCOUTING—PART 16

ARCHIVES OF THE PAST - Part 7B

This is the 2nd Part of an article appeared 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 25th December 1941.

A BRIEF HISTORY - 2

OF THE

BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION

HONG KONG BRANCH

Compiled by the Secretary from

Existing records

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 The Branch grew rapidly under the leadership of the Rev. Waldegrave. The scope of membership was greatly increased and the Association set on a round footing. Numbers grew from 384 in 1921 to 682 in 1934 when the Rev. Waldegrave retired from the Colony. But numbers alone were only a small section of the improvements effected during his regime. Sea Scout training had been started in May 1921 with the kind assistance of the staff of H.M.S. Tamar: 4 members from each of the existing Troops at the time were selected and a beginning was made. It was left to Mr. Waldegrave however to start the first Sea Scout Troop which he registered and became Scoutmaster, (and eventually Group Scoutmaster) of in October 1923. The Group exists to the present day and up to the time of the recent evacuation, consisted of a Wolf Cub Pack Sea Scout Troop and Rover Sea Scout Crew. During his visit to the Colony in the early twenties, H.R.H. The Duke of Windsor presented a banner for annual inter-troop competition and the Sea Scout Group have won the Banner on many occasions. With the growth of the Branch, the need for the proper training of its leaders and a camping ground for the boys was becoming more pressing every day. Thanks principally to the



Deep Sea Scout Camp at Sai Wan Campsite

efforts of the Colony Commissioner, Barker's Bungalow was purchased in July 1929, and although the purchase made a heavy in-road on Association funds (the Branch bears a heavy overdraft to this day as a consequence), its use has been invaluable and has done a lot to improve the standard of work throughout the Association. One of the Association's most pressing needs at the moment is sufficient funds to pay off the overdraft to that further Groups can be started in poorer class districts, and to rebuild the bungalow itself which has fallen into disrepair through lack of funds. Another urgent need which was solved through the efforts in the first place of Mr. Waldegrave was the institution of a constitution and protection ordinance, the latter being passed and becoming law in 1927. 1929 was the inauguration of the Deep Sea Scout Branch of the movement, and as Chaplain in charge of the Seamen's Institute, as well as Colony Commissioner, the Rev. Waldegrave was in an ideal position to assist with the formation of the China Fleet Deep Sea Scout Troop. The splendid assistance rendered to Scouts all over the East by this Troop is well known and appreciated by every Branch in this quarter of the globe. In 1927 Scouting spread to the New Territories, Mr. Justice Fraser, M.C., then District Officer North starting a Troop at Tai Po Kau. The Troop exists to this day and is now sponsored by the Shun Tak School. At the same time, Mr. Routley, then Land Bailiff for the Territories, started a Troop at Un Long. This Troop lapsed shortly after Mr. Routley transferred to Hong Kong, but another Troop was started in the village a year or two ago and is still functioning. The Rev. Waldegrave returned to England in August 1934 and in recognition of his tireless work for the Branch was awarded the Civil Membership of the British Empire by His Majesty the King. A year or two prior to his retirement, the late Chief Scout had awarded Mr. Waldegrave the highest Scout award, the Order of the Silver Wolf....."



21st & 22nd (NT) Troop at Un Long (Circa 1927 or 1928)