

# THE EARLY DAYS OF HONG KONG SCOUTING—PART 17

## ARCHIVES OF THE PAST – Part 7C

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final Part of an article appeared in the February 1941 issue of the Hong Kong Scouting Gazette, just some 10 months before the fall of Hong Kong to the Japanese Imperial Army on 25<sup>th</sup> December 1941.

### A BRIEF HISTORY—3

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

Compiled by the Secretary from  
Existing records



香港總監 (1934-1950) 候利華會督  
RT REV BISHOP N V HALWARD, MC, MA  
Chief Commissioner (1934-1950)

“.....  
The Rev. N.Y. Halward, M. C., who had held the office of Assistant Commissioner for Training for two years became Colony Commissioner on the retirement of the Rev. Waldegrave. Shortly before he took over, at the request of the Chinese Government in Kwangtung, he had spent many week-ends directing a training course for Scouters of the Boy Scouts of China in Canton. So

marked were the results of his efforts, a great improvement taking place in the relations between the Boy Scouts Association and the Boy Scouts of China, and also the Hong Kong Branch and Canton section of the Boy Scouts of China that he was also awarded the Order of the Silver Wolf for his great services to the movement. Numbers were still increasing yearly and in 1938 Mr. Halward appointed a Chinese District Commissioner either side of the harbour. This proved to be a very wise policy, Messrs.

Quah and Chan amply justified their appointment and a large increase in membership yearly can be attributed to this step. The Association has expanded from a membership of 682 in 1934 to approximately 1,200 at the present day. Several

Troops are not functioning in the New Territories and if funds and leaders were available it would probably be a simple matter to double the strength even now. When South China was invaded, several Troops of the Boy Scouts of China came to Hong Kong and have been incorporated into the Hong Kong Branch, thanks greatly to the pioneer work of the Colony Commissioner in Canton in 1934. The training of Scouters has received a great deal of attention from the present Commissioner and two official and many subsidiary training courses have been run under his direction. Groups have been encouraged to maintain their independence rather than to rely on the Association for all their needs, and public service has been stressed. As far back as October 1937 Govt. warned the Association that its services would be very useful in a time of emergency and special training in A.R.P., messenger and first aid work was instituted. Today, with the Empire again at war, many of the senior members are active members of the Naval and Military and also the civilian volunteer forces, while the Boy Scout Despatch Corps, recruited from the boys themselves, plays its regular part in the colony A.R.P. scheme, many of the past members also being an active service with H.M. armed forces. It is interesting to note that the effect of war on the Branch this time appears to be the reverse of the effect of the Great War and it is gratifying to know that the Branch plays its part in the Empire scheme of defence.”



1940 年民生書院童子軍團  
Scout Troop of Munsang College in 1940