

Journalist Wilfred Victor Pennell, OBE

Former Tientsin Rotarian served Hong Kong Rotary Club as President 1954-55

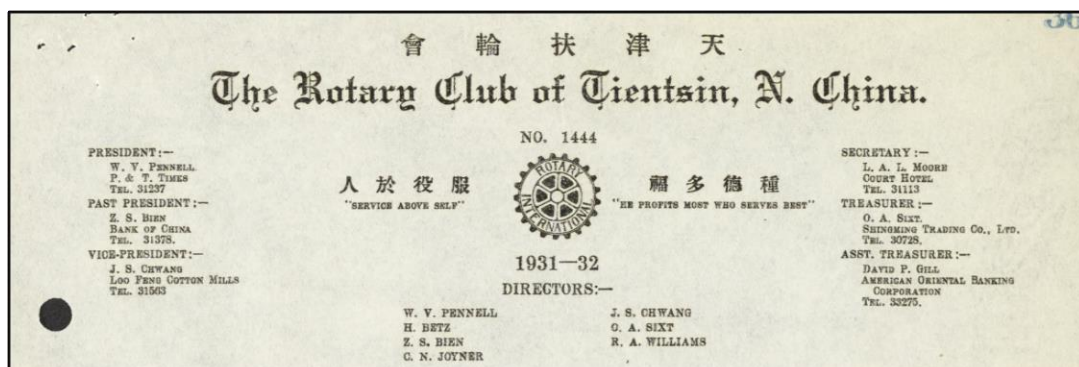
By Herbert K. Lau (劉敬恒) (Rotary China Historian)

15 November 2015



According to the archives of the Rotary Club of Hong Kong (香港扶輪社), Wilfred Victor Pennell (潘納祿), OBE, (1892-1977) was its President in 1954-1955.

Prior to that, Pennell was already an experienced Rotarian in Tientsin (*Tianjin*) (天津) of the Republic of China (中華民國). He joined the Rotary Club of Tientsin (天津扶輪社) in 1925 as an Additional Active Member (增額現職社員) with the Classification “Newspaper Editing” when was then the Associate Editor of 《*Peking and Tientsin Times*》 (京津泰晤士報). He joined the newspaper in 1916 as the assistant to Henry George Wandesforde Woodhead (伍德海) (*Tientsin Rotary Club President 1924-1925*). Nickname “Shiner” in the Club, Pennell served as Director from 1926 to 1931 concurrently to chair the publicity committee. Reporting such Rotary activities in the Tientsin community, in the April 1926 Issue of 《*The Rotarian*》 magazine, Rotarian “Shiner” told the readers around the Rotary World on what the Club was providing service to the Tientsin boys, both of the local Chinese natives and the residents from overseas countries. Pennell succeeded Woodhead as the newspaper Editor in 1930, and later also served Tientsin Rotary Club as President in 1931-1932.



After moved to the British Crown Colony Hong Kong in the early 1950s and served the 《*South China Morning Post*》, Pennell joined the Hong Kong Rotary Club. Again, in the December 1960 Issue of 《*The Rotarian*》 magazine, Rotarian “Shiner” told the global readers of the Rotary World how the Hong Kong Rotarians action on refugee relief:

In Hong Kong, where the problem of the refugee is being met largely by resettlement, Rotary clubs work with many refugee agencies. As W. V. Pennell, a Past President of the Rotary Club of Hong Kong, puts it: “Rotarians are in the vanguard of refugee work here, and some idea of the magnitude of the effort required may be gleaned from the fact that there are no fewer than 78 organizations linked with the Council of Social Service The amount of voluntary relief work done in the Colony is immense---it simply has to be.”

Beginning with the establishment of a holiday camp at Silvermine Bay, to which thousands of refugee children come every year, the Hong Kong Club has to its credit many major improvements in facilities for the million refugees in its midst. It built quarters for nurses and midwives at a settlement in Chai Wan, furnished a motor van for disseminating health information, and recently approved the financing of a refugee community center near Sai Kung, on the eastern side of the Kowloon peninsula. Emphasizing the enormity of the problem, Rotarian Pennell says, “Six walk now where but one moved before.”



Wilfred Victor Pennell was born in Yeovil, Somerset, England, in 1892, the eldest of the four children of Albert James Pennell (1870-1910) and Clara Annie née Mooney, known as Annie (1870-1932). Wilfred’s siblings, all born in Yeovil, were Dora May (1893-2938), Stanley Albert (1895-1968), Ralph Edwin (1898-1935) and Lily Edith (1902-1985).

The 1901 census recorded the family at 4 Newton Road. Albert gave his occupation as a domestic groom (in 1891 he had given his occupation as a mason’s labourer) and both he and Annie were aged 30, while the children ranged in age from Wilfred, 12, to Ralph, 3.

Raised on Eastland Road, Wilfred Pennell attended Pen Mill School, where his natural talent for writing and English became apparent. By the age of sixteen, he used these skills to begin a career in journalism, joining the reporting team at the 《*Western Gazette*》 in Sherborne Road.

By the time of the 1911 census, Wilfred’s father had died and Wilfred was living with his mother and siblings at 26 Queen Street. Nineteen-year-old Wilfred Pennell gave his occupation as a reporter, Dora was a Glover, Stanley was a printer’s reader, Ralph was a gloving labourer and 9-year-old Lily was a scholar.

Beyond journalism, football was Wilfred Pennell’s second passion. He started his playing career as a striker for St. Michael’s Football Club, then moved on to Pen Mill before joining Yeovil Casuals at eighteen. He made his debut against Paulton Rovers in October

1910 and quickly made an impact, scoring 12 goals in 22 appearances in his first season, often finding the net alongside the legendary Johnny Hayward. After a couple of seasons playing in front of the Pen Mill crowd, Wilfred received a job offer in Chelmsford as a journalist, and he relocated, playing for Chelmsford City.

Certainly by 1916, Pennell was living in Tientsin, Republic of China, with his Ukrainian wife Markovna Lubov née Panchosnik, known as Luba (b 14 January 1896, Ukraine), where their daughter was born - Marjorie Nadia (b 4 November 1918, Tientsin, China - d 10 December 2012, Queensland, Australia). Two more children were to follow; Alen (b 1921) and Audrey (b 1927).

Pennell was then the Associate Editor of the *《Peking and Tientsin Times》*. He joined the newspaper in 1916 as the assistant to Henry George Wandesforde Woodhead---who was also the Tientsin Rotary Club Charter Member 1923 and later President in 1924-1925. Pennell succeeded Woodhead as Editor in 1930.

The family were to return to England as “intermediate class” passengers aboard the Fulda, arriving on 24 March 1935 at Dover, having departed from Yokohama, Japan. Their proposed England address being 56 Turney Road, West Dulwich, London SE21. At this time, Pennell was aged 43, Luba was 38, Marjorie was 17, Alen was 14 and Audrey was 8. Pennell’s occupation was listed as a journalist, Luba’s as a housewife, while the children were all listed as students.

A few years later, Pennell’s career took a significant turn when he accepted a lucrative job offer in Hong Kong. There, he served as the sub-editor of the *《Hong Kong Daily Press》* (孖刺西報) and later became *《The Times》* Asian correspondent for East Asia, all while continuing to play with the Hong Kong Football Club.

However, the outbreak of the Pacific War in December 1941 dramatically changed his life. The British Crown Colony Hong Kong was invaded and occupied by the Imperial Japan’s military forces for three years and eight months. Pennell and his wife, Luba, were captured and interned by the Japanese, enduring horrific conditions. It is not known what happened to their children. Eventually, through a diplomatic agreement, they were freed and allowed to return to the United Kingdom.

The War Cabinet then redirected Pennell’s talents; he was swiftly sent to India, where he became the voice of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) for the region, broadcasting daily war bulletins across Asia in both English and Cantonese, his second language.

After he moved to Hong Kong again and joined the *《South China Morning Post》* 《南華早報》, Pennell served Hong Kong Rotary Club as President in 1954-1955. He was author of some books including: *《The Threat of a Third Revolution in China》* (1930); *《A History of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce 1861-1961》* (1961). For his “public service in Hong Kong”, Pennell was appointed Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) in January 1964 by Queen Elizabeth II. In his later years, Pennell retired to Spain.

In 1974, at the age of 82, Pennell penned a semi-autobiographical book titled 《A Lifetime with the Chinese》. This book provides a detailed record of the major historical changes in modern China that he witnessed, including the end of the treaty ports and concession system, the War of Resistance Against Japan, and the Japanese invasion of China.

Rotarian Wilfred Victor Pennell, OBE, passed away in Spain in 1977 at the age of 86. He was a Yeovil lad who led an extraordinary life but, to Yeovil fans, he was a Glover who wore the green and white shirt with pride. Even in his old age, his playing days at Yeovil remained a clear memory, a testament to his enduring connection to the club despite his many remarkable achievements.

Some books by Wilfred Victor Pennell

《The threat of a third revolution in China》 (Tientsin Press, Limited, 1930)

《Pioneer Days in Tientsin》 (Tientsin Press, Limited, 1931)

《Tientsin, North China, the Port, its History, and Rotary Club activities》(天津紫竹林)(1934)

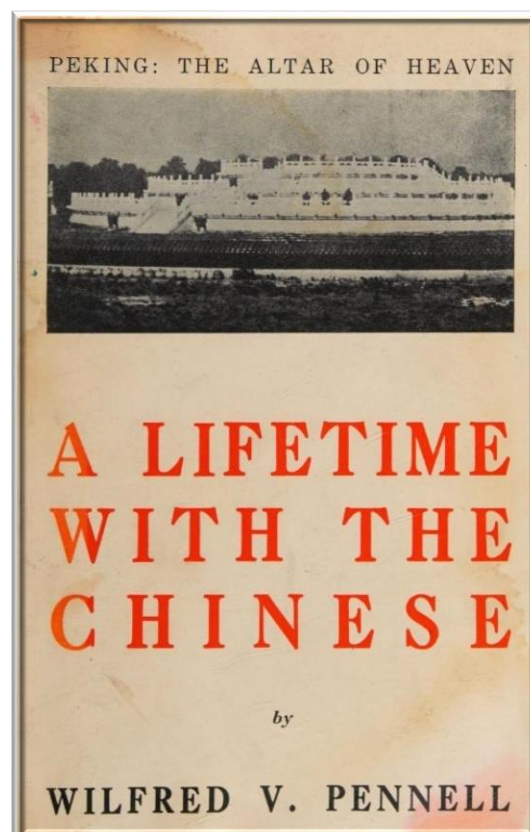
《Annual Report 1960 of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce》 (1960)

《History of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce 1861-1961》 (1961)

《A Lifetime with the Chinese》 (Hong Kong 1974)

Article in 《The Rotarian》 Magazine April 1926

《When East Meets West》



日軍攻佔天津記事

作者：潘納祿 (W. V. Pennell) 撰 / 張桂敏譯

(原載《天津文史資料選輯》第 91 輯，天津人民出版社，2001 年 10 月)

[譯者按：1937 年七七事變後，日本帝國主義瘋狂增兵天津，妄圖控制華北，侵佔全中國。7 月 29 日凌晨，駐津中國軍隊激於民族義憤，奮起反擊。在東站、中央火車站、海光寺、東局機場展開激烈戰鬥。日軍出動飛機、大炮對市政府、省議會、公安局、南開大學等十幾處狂轟濫炸。市區濃煙瀰漫，人民遭受重大災難。時坐落在英租界的《京津泰晤士報》(英文)派出記者對此進行了採訪，由主筆潘納祿撰寫了二十多篇報導。在該報 8 月 1 日和 7 日刊登，後輯成專冊。這裡選譯 8 篇，供讀者參考。文章除標題和小標題《一封公開信》外，其他為原文。]

一、一封公開信

親愛的居民朋友們：這星期，我們無暇從辦公室觀望窗外，並記下諸位感興趣的過往居民的活動。不過，諸位對過去幾天裡，我們對周圍事件的非正式報導會更感興趣。如果可以簡單介紹一下政治背景，我提醒諸位，在相當長的一段時間裡，如專家所說，中日關係陷入了僵局。所謂僵局，包括東京與南京之間的政治問題及本地區的地位和經濟合作問題。

當日本人提出某些要求，而中國人卻委婉拒絕時更出現了僵局。低聲下氣，從來不能壓住囂張喊叫。你們完全可以知道這樣的摩擦，會產生什麼樣的後果。

在月初，顯而易見，日本人準備用慣用的辦法打破僵局。憤怒有增無已，出現了一種不祥之兆。報紙警告中國人變得太傲慢。其實不然，他們實際上除了拒絕按照日本人的條件去談判之外，別無他事。即使對個人來說，這也是一種普通的權利。如果你不同意他的價錢，或並不需要他的貨物，店主絕對無權把你拉進店裡強行交易。就是這樣，不僅東京的報紙，上海及中國各地的日本報紙都警告說：中國若不恢復理智，一場事變將不可避免。

潘納祿

1937 年 8 月 1 日

二、軍事行動開始

行動於星期四(指 1937 年 7 月 29 日)凌晨 2 時在北倉開始。中國軍隊佔領了車站，幾乎與此同時，在天津各處都開了火。保安隊攻佔僅有少數日軍把守的西站和中央火車站(今北站)，並對東站進行圍攻。戰事進一步發展。據傳，或許是午夜離津開往山海關的上一趟日軍列車，

或許是將于清晨 6 時半返抵天津的日軍列車，因鐵路受破壞而出軌了。雖然過去了 3 天，我們仍沒有得到塘沽方面的消息。

我們在等待日軍司令部宣佈「獨立行動」，即對北平周圍的中國軍隊發動進攻中。度過了平靜而不祥的一天，而星期四早晨的行動卻使全市陷入一片混亂。

戰鬥在該地區全面爆發，驚醒了所有的人。幾乎沒人再安然入睡，我當然也不能。必須立刻採取應變措施。早晨 6 時，英租界正式宣佈進入緊急狀態。軍隊、義勇軍和輔助隊被動員起來，嚴陣以待。

清晨 3 時，東站成為爭奪的中心，保安隊包圍了東站。但由於日軍守備力量的強大，而未能佔領。因一兩周以前，日軍軍列運來大批兵力。對東站加強了攻擊，直到完全控制了東站。保安隊進入意、俄租界的邊緣地帶，在郵政大樓房頂安置狙擊手，並以郵政總局對面的保安隊支隊部為基地。

三、攻擊日軍飛機場的失敗

正當大隊的保安隊向靠近萬國跑馬場的日軍軍用飛機場前進之際，機場上的四十多架日本軍用飛機已經集合，包括多架轟炸機。保安隊太遲緩了，沒能對機場採取突然襲擊。當保安隊到達鄰近的機場時，日軍飛機已起飛了，並對他們轟炸和掃射。數以千計的市民都站到大樓房頂上觀看這一景象——這種場面在天津尚屬首次。但是，更猛烈的轟炸接踵而至。在這期間，處於萬國橋和車站之間的中國軍隊，控制了靠近車站的地帶。據日前一位官方人士透露，這是日本人企圖控制的一條路線，位置非常重要。星期三那天對鐵路的攻擊（指中國軍隊進攻豐台車站），破壞了日本人在天津基地與豐台前線的交通。打亂了他們的計畫，但與這裡保安隊的行動造成的破壞不可同日而語。日租界和駐東站的日軍均被包圍，而在靠近賽馬場的飛機場和東局子，兩軍沒有交火。

日本人坦率地承認，未曾預料會出現這種局面，因而沒有準備。幾乎所有中國軍隊被派遣到前方作戰去了。如果這次行動，有一兩個師的中國正規軍和炮兵一起從背面進攻，也許日軍又將是另一種結局。即使河運被切斷了，佈置在海河兩岸的中國軍隊仍可對大沽村莊駛來的補給船隊及河南岸的據點開火。在舊德國租界，出現過一次有趣的場面。一群保安隊在大連碼頭，圍著餐桌開懷痛飲啤酒。大量啤酒是從一艘運船上繳獲的，船上還裝有日本軍用貨運汽車和其他軍用物資。該船是從日本駛到大沽口的。

外國租界實施緊急管制，禁止所有軍隊攜帶武器入內。即使允許日軍通過法租界，他們也很難強行通過萬國橋。因為該橋被保安隊所控制，對所有往來的日本人開槍，鄰近的行人也很危險。日本人曾經對隔絕在天津海河下游工業區許多僑民的安全，表示關心。並發表聲明說，他們準備派遣軍隊去保衛紗廠，或是將他們帶回日本租界，但均未能實現。

四、驚人的轟炸

處於這種困境之下，他們決定充分利用空軍。下午，轟炸機騰空而起，對市政府大樓、舊北寧鐵路管理局大樓、中央車站、北寧公園、保安隊總部、八里臺地區的村莊和南開大學進行了4個小時的狂轟濫炸。轟炸機編隊定時起飛，當飛行隊投彈後，便飛回離市區3英里的飛機場，然後另一隊接著起飛轟炸。飛機的掃射和轟炸，幾乎持續不斷。在房頂上站滿了觀看的人。投下的炸彈頓時引起大火，南開大學教學樓、中央車站的北寧鐵路辦公室和政府的各種建築，都淹沒在煙柱和火光之中。

日本軍方發言人星期五解釋說，轟炸市區主要建築和南開大學是清除「抗日分子」的最好辦法。在步兵和炮兵進攻時，可能對租界的外國居民有很大危險，因為流彈和彈片都可能落到租界內。每個人都感到，如果真是這個原因，那倒是很大的關照。但是，對於遭受轟炸的人們卻是很壞的事。

五、保安隊撤出市區

星期四的轟炸停止之後，夜晚比較寧靜。星期五早晨也是如此。保安隊主力撤出天津市區的新聞，帶來了非常局勢即將結束的希望。日軍開始派出巡邏隊到市區和舊奧租界巡邏。

然而到了下午，日軍又對天津公共設施實施了第二輪大轟炸。與此同時，又對未被大火燒毀的南開大學建築進行了炮擊。市區相當多的地段遭到了轟炸，範圍包括：通往中央車站主要道路住宅區的澤真里、新天里、昌齊東里，政府附近的造幣廠；河北和賈口兩個服務市區的電話交換臺；南開學校和匯文專科學校的周圍地區。幾個外國人設法進入南開大學校園，看到被炸的廢墟。此時，一隊日軍來到校門口的小橋巡邏，並支起一架機槍。為躲避日軍，他們繞過岸邊的小河灣，藏在路邊職工宿舍的後面。他們幸運地離開了那裡。這時轟炸機已經起飛了。

在市區各處，南開及八里台周圍村莊，巨大的煙柱和爆炸的火焰到處可見。儘管大學當局斷然否認校園裡有中國軍隊，但日軍仍用汽油焚燒南大校園周圍的樹木，以摧毀中國軍隊藏身之地。實際上，大學還是被破壞了，損毀了所有珍貴的設備和著名的圖書館。如果不是報復的話，似乎也太粗暴和殘酷了。

六、在陋室之外

目睹河上和沿岸的景象，遠比轟炸更令人觸目驚心。碼頭擠滿了各種船隻，為安全起見，舢板、長船、帆船、汽艇和駁船集中停泊在英、法租界的岸邊。每一條船上都擠滿了難民，幾乎都是窮人，他們大多數來自河東地區。裹小腳的祖母懷抱著嬰兒，衣衫襤褸的男人、女人和孩子帶著小包袱。他們站在雨中，充滿了恐懼。船上喋喋不休的嘈雜聲，即使在槍聲中也能聽

見。由於擁擠，船上的人們甚至連胳膊都活動不了。如果有人突然從這一側挪到另一側，我擔心超載的船隻就會有翻船的危險。在付款給船夫後，這些難民到達了英租界的碼頭。

英租界工部局的大批員警，在河岸間隔地站立著，只允許百姓離船前往特別一區。由於難民的到來，英租界人口已增加一倍。他們是天津戰爭開始以前進入的。路障緊急設置起來，以預防侵入的危險。

七、在被破壞的地區旅行

星期日，本報兩位工作人員到中央車站周圍遭受轟炸和攻擊的地區巡視。他們提供的綜合報導，會使你感興趣。

中央車站附近遭受嚴重損毀的建築，是老北寧鐵路管理局。這個眾所周知的紅磚標誌，現在僅剩下一個仍在冒著煙的燒焦的空殼。

在大經路上，位於中山公園（那裡的時鐘指著 7 點 30 分）和中央車站之間的尚未竣工的灰磚公共講演所，被擊中多處，裡面正燃著火。在大經路北側，向車站延伸四百多碼的臨街商店和房屋完全被毀壞，離大街 50 碼的房屋都帶有燃燒的痕跡。

從舊奧租界右邊到河北體育場，到處都能看到日本軍隊，他們仍在進行掃蕩。

中央車站通往河北體育場的路上，我看到一個異常的景象：一群中國人正從北寧鐵路公園往車站搬運東西。經詢問一個青年人，他顯然已是第二次，也許是第三或第四次回到公園拿東西了。他們聽到消息，日本人正在把公園建築物中的傢俱、裝飾品、用具搬走。其中有硬木桌子、雕刻精美的椅子、雕塑、玻璃器皿、碗櫃、凳子、藤制傢俱，甚至裡面的廢紙簍也帶走了。

公園內有一座巨大建築物，朝路這邊開有一扇古色古香的中式大門。這個建築也被完全燒毀了，據悉這裡就是工業試驗所。

金鋼橋兩側及市政府前的建築物，遭到了嚴重轟擊。一時間這個有歷史意義的市府衙門，變成了一堆冒煙的廢墟，但日軍仍嚴密把守著。該橋東馬路一側的巨大建築物，因受到多次轟炸，已面目全非。而東馬路本身，除了受破壞的電車線和幾處孤立空曠的商店，看不出什麼炮擊的跡象。所有的商店都關閉了，街上除了日本兵在各個據點把守路障外，空無行人。經日軍司令部准許發給其中一位新聞記者的通行證，成為我們工作的護身符。在持續兩個多小時的巡訪中，只遇到了一點麻煩：在金鋼橋附近，一名日本士兵企圖拔掉汽車上的英國國旗。他的同袍勸阻了他，並向記者解釋，既然已攜帶官方通行證，旗子就沒有必要了。驅車繞東站前面整個地段巡視，燒焦的死屍和騾子仍舊堆在小巷、路上，惡臭熏天。日本人好像正忙於大清掃。大量的破壞是由大火造成的，現在已經熄滅。曾經作為貨棧和小販經營之所的建築物，只剩下一個個外殼。

一些日本兵出現在郵政總局，一個哨兵在郵局門口站崗，被切斷的高壓線凌亂堆在上面。樹木被連根拔起，磚頭滿地都是，但看上去道路還算整潔。

八、員警重新在市區出現

星期一夜間，中國的行政中心全部被接管。在市區，穿著黑色服裝的員警（以別於穿卡其布的保安隊）重現在街頭。在原北洋總理高凌霨的主持下，成立了一個治安維持會。一時間，這裡存在兩個團體，一個是由年長的常住居民組成；另一個是由親日的政客組成。前者解散了，後者宣佈他們的任務是恢復信任和秩序，解決難民問題和處理死者。

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中國--1937年7月下旬天津戰役，日本帝國軍隊攻占天津。