

HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

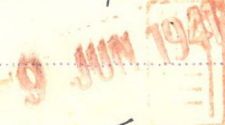
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Circular to Members

6th June, 1941.

Dear Sirs,

Hong Kong Volunteers: Conditions of Exemption from Parades

The Chamber has been asked by the Government to intimate to employers that it is considered too many applications for leave from Volunteer parades have been submitted since the new training scheme was introduced on 21st April whereby attendance is required on one-half-day a week (plus evening parades and occasional week-end exercises).

In asking that employers will use every effort to make employees available for full training, the Government draws attention to the fact that the reduction in the length of the weekly parades which the new system entails, was instituted for the convenience of employers, and the view is expressed that the conditions of exemption from parades notified in the Gazette of 28th March, 1941, are evidently not generally appreciated. These conditions provide that exemption must be obtained before the parade in question is due to take place and it is also stipulated that the only applications which will normally receive consideration will be those on behalf of men who are actively engaged on the production of war material; such applications must state clearly the reasons why leave is required, and the maximum amount of training any man can do.

The Chamber is also asked to emphasise that all applications for exemption from parades must be addressed in the first place to the Commandant, Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps, who will forward them to the Colonial Secretary's Office with his recommendations.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.