

大戰前後

THE WAR YEARS (1937-1946)

1 937年7月，中日戰爭爆發。戰火在短短數年間迅即蔓延至香港，不但對醫院的發展構成沉重的打擊，亦損耗醫院的資源，嚴重影響日常服務。

日軍攻港期間，本院自願為抗日政府所徵用，專責提供醫療服務。在物資日益緊絀的情況下，本院果斷採取一系列緊縮政策，暫停所有施工中的擴建項目，為面對惡劣的環境作好準備。

兵兇戰危，日軍的狂轟濫炸，令每日送院的死傷者不計其數，本院在人手短缺、物資匱乏的情況下幾乎不勝負荷。統領醫療工作的李樹芬醫生迅即召集十二名醫生，分別在三間手術室中日夜搶救戰火中的傷病者。醫院內死傷狼藉，被流彈鎗傷、被砲火擊傷者填塞著醫院每一個角落，寸步難行。即使僥倖擠得進醫院的傷者，不論送院傷勢是輕是重，大都因藥物短缺而失救死亡。醫院裡外一片哀鴻，儼如人間煉獄。

1941年12月25日，日軍正式佔領香港，為三年零八個月的黑暗日子揭開序幕。日治期間，日軍縱兵擄掠，市面一片蕭條；華人動輒得究，為保性命，紛紛逃返中國大陸。李樹芬醫生最後亦因拒絕與日人合作，在淪陷後十八個月逃回內地避難，令醫院更見孤立無援。仍然留守本院的員工被迫變賣僅有資產，支付員工部份的薪酬及照顧餘下約三百五十名病人。直至1945年香港重光，本院的服務方逐步回復正常。

Started in July 1937, the Sino-Japanese war extended its shocking impact to Hong Kong in only a few years. The war had not only dealt a devastating blow to the Hospital's development, but also depleted its resources in providing normal services.

The Hospital was voluntarily placed at the disposal of the Government for medical defence in the face of an imminent Japanese invasion. Stringent economic measures were taken to contain the spiralling management costs, not to mention that all construction projects were suspended for defence preparations.

In the midst of fierce Japanese bombing, already under-staffed and under-supplied, the Hospital was filled beyond its capacity while patients kept pouring in every day with every imaginable injury. As the Medical Officer-in-Charge, Dr. Li Shu Fan quickly regrouped the 12 doctors assigned to the Hospital into three surgical teams, and they operated at a feverish pace. Casualties were mounting and rooms were packed with people, most of whom simply sprawled out on sheets on the floor and some of them lost their lives as medical supplies were in constant short supply. The Hospital was immersed in intense agony and misery.

On Christmas Day of 1941, darkness befell Hong Kong as the Japanese troops took over the city. The Japanese occupation was devastating to many Chinese and they fled to mainland China for their life. 18 months after the occupation, Dr. Li Shu Fan was forced to escape to the Mainland because of his refusal to co-operate with the Japanese government. Literally deserted, the Hospital was compelled to dispose of many of its valuable assets to partly pay the staff and partly meet the expenses of providing treatments to the remaining 350 casualty cases. Only did its services return to normal after the war ended in 1945.