50 British Soldiers Bayoneted After Being Tied Hand and Foot; Women Given Terrible Treatment

Happenings Confirmed by Government of Great Britain—Enemy Ignores Race or Colour Distinctions

Eyewitness Says Horrors Inflicted on People Are of Same Kind as Those of Massacre At Nanking

London, March 10.—(CP)—Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden charged in the house of commons to-day that the Japanese army in Hong Kong had been guilty of wholesale atrocities in the occupied crown colony and declared that the Japanese emperor and government and "the whole Japanese people" were to blame. Fifty British officers and men were bound hand and foot and then bayoneted to death following the capture of Hong Kong; women, both European and Asiatic, were assaulted and murdered, and one whole Chinese district was declared a brothel without exception for the status of any of the inhabitants, Mr. Eden declared. These happenings, previously reported to the government, were not made public until it had confirmation from reliable eyewitnesses recently escaped from the colony, Mr. Eden said.

Like Nanking Massacre

"Their testimony established the fact that the Japanese army at Hong Kong perpetrated against their helpless military prisoners and civil population without distinction of race or colour the same kind of barbarities which aroused the horror of the civilized world at the time of the Nanking massacre of 1937." Mr. Eden continued.

He referred to the Japanese capture of the former Chinese capital on December 13, 1937.

Substantiated accounts at that time said a reign of terror existed for days, with thousands of women raped and murdered and other thousands of the inhabitants killed during the burning, looting and pillage of Nanking.

Japanese statements at the time described the disorders as a "mopping up" operation.

Sir Percy Harris, Liberal member for southwest Bethnal Green, asked Mr. Eden to "make it clear that the emperor, government and whole Japanese people were responsible for these atrocities."

"That is certainly so," Mr. Eden replied.

All survivors of the Hong Kong garrison were herded into a camp of wrecked huts without doors, windows, light or sanitation, he said.

The dead had to be buried in a corner of the camp.

No drugs or medical facilities were supplied, he declared.

He said eyewitnesses had confirmed the reports of Japanese atrocities in Hong Kong; that the atrocities were committed without race or colour distinctions and were the same kind which aroused the world's horror at the time of the Nanking massacre in 1937.

Won't Bear Inquiry

The Japanese actions, he said, apparently would not bear independent investigation as permission was refused for a representative of the Red Cross to go there.

"Two things are clear—to the house, the country and the world—first, that the Japanese claim that they are animated by lofty chivalry is nauseating hypocrisy," he said.

"Secondly, the enemy must be utterly defeated and we can best express our sympathy with the victims of these appalling outrages by redoubling our efforts to ensure his utter and overwhelming defeat."

By the end of January, he said, 150 cases of dysentery had occurred in the camp.

"The Japanese guards are ut-

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terly callous and repeated requests by Gen. Maltby (Major-Gen. C. M. Maltby, British commander at Hong Kong) for an interview with the Japanese commander have been refused," he added. "This means, presumably, that the Japanese high command have connived at the conduct of their forces.

"Most European residents, including some who are seriously ill, have been interned. But, like the military prisoners, they are being given only a little rice and water and occasional scraps of other food."

He declared the Japanese government had refused to allow a diplomatic protecting power or the International Red Cross committee to visit Hong Kong, and placed blame for the atrocities on the Japanese emperor, the government and "the whole Japanese people."

He said the official announcement had been withheld until the British government was "in possession of statements of reliable eyewitnesses who succeeded in escaping from Hong Kong."

He said there was some reason to believe that conditions had slightly improved since late January and early February, when these eyewitnesses had escaped.

Lack Information

He said that the government had no information yet as to the condition of prisoners of war and civilians in Malaya and Singapore, but that Japanese news agencies had reported on March 3 the arrest of 77,699 Chinese who were described as being subjected to a "severe examination."

"It is not difficult to imagine what that entails," he commented.

Ten days after the capitulation of Hong Kong, he added, the Japanese were still bringing in wounded from the surrounding hills and were refusing permission to bury the dead.

Sir John Wardlaw-Milne, Conservative, Kidderminster, asked if Mr. Eden would do everything possible to make the facts public so the people in this country "will at last know what they are up against and put their backs for once into the war."

"Naturally we have to be most careful of the facts before we make a statement," Mr. Eden replied. "That is the only reason why we have not made one sooner. The government felt it would be quite wrong to make any statement unless absolutely convinced of the facts and, bearing that in mind, that being so, in spite of the sufferings of relatives, it was our duty to make it known."

Given Widest Publicity

Mr. Eden assured J. J. Lawson, Labour member for the Chester-Le-Street division of Durham, who wanted to know if the German and Italian people would be advised over the radio of "how the new order is working under their new ally," that the "widest publicity in all languages will be given these atrocities."

In the house of lords, Colonial Secretary Viscount Cranborne made a statement similar to Mr. Eden's and assured Lord Strabolgi, Labour peer, that the whole world would hear "this appalling story."

Replying to questions, Lord Cranborne said the Japanese government is not an actual party to the prisoners of war convention, although it had stated its willingness to observe the spirit of the convention.

"We have been in touch with the International Red Cross to try to get some contact with our people in Hong Kong, but up to now the Japanese have rejected any approach," Lord Cranborne said.

When Lord Strabolgi suggested that Britain should invite the Russian government to use its good offices in Tokio to have something done "for these helpless people," Lord Cranborne said: "That is a new point to me, but I will pass it on to the proper quarters."

"Y" Official Reaches Tokio

Toronto, March 10. — (CP) — Sir Ernest MacMillan, chairman of the war prisoner's aid of the Young Men's Christian Associations of Canada, announced to-day that Russell Durgin, representing the Y.M.C.A., has arrived in Tokio to assist in preliminary arrangements for aiding British and American prisoners of war in Japan.

Mr. Durgin is an American Y.M.C.A. secretary, who has been connected with Y.M.C.A. work in the orient for many years. Sir Ernest said the actual work among the prisoners of war will probably be undertaken by Y.M.C.A. workers from neutral countries.

Winnipeg Mayor Shocked

Winnipeg, Man., March 10. — (BUP) — Mayor John Queen, of Winnipeg, who has a son-in-law with the armed forces captured at Hong Kong, to-day was shocked by the Ottawa and London announcements of Japanese atrocities.

Apparently affected deeply by the report, read to him by British United Press, the mayor's statement was brief and to the point.

"Barbarians of that kind," said the mayor, "can never be permitted to get control of our lives."

Canadians Are Prisoners

Ottawa, March 10.—(CP)—While no specific reports of Japanese atrocities against Canadians have been received, there is no information to show any Japanese differentiation between Canadian troops and British, who are known to have been maltreated, the external affairs department said to-day.

"Disturbing reports of Japanese treatment of prisoners of war and civilians in Hong Kong have been confirmed," said the external affairs department in a statement.

It was issued only a few hours before Foreign Secretary Eden told the British house of commons of atrocities known to have been committed against British officers and men.

Canadian troops taken prisoner at Hong Kong, the British island outpost off the China shore which surrendered Christmas day, are believed to number 1,689.

The Canadian force which landed in Hong Kong in mid-November numbered 1,985 officers and men, and of those taken prisoner the external affairs department said:

"Of all the reports of specific atrocities received up to the present, none are alleged to have been committed against Canadians, but no reports show, however, that insofar as the general treatment of prisoners of war is concerned the Japanese have made any differentiation between Canadian and other British troops."

Two members of the Canadian garrison at Hong Kong have been listed by the defence department as having died since being taken prisoners.

They were Lieut. Orville Watson McKillop, of Portage La Prairie, Man., and Pte. John James Gunn, of Winnipeg.

Almost the complete Canadian contingent which sailed to Hong Kong under Brig. J. K. Lawson, of Ottawa, since listed as killed in action, was composed of members of the Winnipeg Grenadiers and the Quebec Royal Rifles of Canada.

At present a royal commission is inquiring into the sending of the men to Hong Kong, the probe having been asked for in the house of commons after Defence Minister Ralston revealed that 138 of the men had less than the minimum prescribed training of 16 weeks and that a shipload of equipment for the Canadians never reached Hong Kong.

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