

Canadian Commander, Aide Die at Hong Kong

Ottawa, Dec. 23.—The bitter fighting at Hong Kong, where a British garrison is still holding out against the Japanese onslaughts, has taken toll of two well-known Canadian military leaders, Brigadier J. K. Lawson, commander of the Dominion forces at Hong Kong, and his Chief of Staff, Colonel Patrick Hennessy. The death of Brigadier Lawson was reported, but not officially announced, while the death of Colonel Hennessy was confirmed.

The death of Brigadier Lawson brings to a close a distinguished military career which started in the first Great War, when he went to England with the 9th Battalion, C.E.F. He was commissioned lieutenant in 1917 and in 1919 became adjutant of the 13th Brigade, C.M. G.C., and was appointed to the permanent force with rank of captain in 1920. He was transferred to the Royal Canadian Regiment three years later.

Held in high esteem by men of all ranks, Brigadier Lawson was intimately acquainted with modern methods of warfare, and he took a prominent part in organizing training programs following his appointment as director of military training in May, 1940. At the time of his appointment he was raised to the rank of colonel. Last month he was named brigadier, and he led his units, the Winnipeg Grenadiers and the Quebec Royal Rifles, into Hong Kong a short time later.

Born in Yorkshire, Brigadier Lawson was educated at Worcester Public School and London University. In 1912 he was stationed at Edmonton with the Hudson's Bay Company. Following the war of 1914-18 he was posted to Kingston and later to Toronto. In 1923 he attended the staff college at Quetta, India, the first Canadian Army officer to do so. Returning to Canada, Brigadier Lawson spent three years as general staff officer at Military District No. 1 (London, Ont.), and then went to England on exchange to the War Office. In 1931 he returned to Canada.

Colonel Hennessy was a native of Cork, and rose from the ranks to become a distinguished officer. He served in the Imperial Army before the first World War and came to Canada shortly before its outbreak and gained a commission in the Canadian Army. He served as staff captain of the 5th Brigade and later was appointed to the post of D.A. and Q.M.G. of the 1st Canadian

Division in France. Following the war he held these posts in Military District No. 10. He also held high posts in Toronto and M.D. No. 11. Following a period at M.D. No. 1, Colonel Hennessy went to Camp Borden, where he organized the R.C.A.S.C. training centre, first of its kind in the Dominion. Later he went to Ottawa as director of organization at National Defense Headquarters.

Colonel Hennessy is survived by his widow; two sons, Lance-Corporal Brian, at the R.C.A.S.C. training centre, Camp Borden, and Ralph, in the navy, and one daughter, Joan.

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