

# Garrison of 6,000 Troops, Including Many Canadians, Capitulates to Japanese

## Enemy Destroyed Water Supply—Governor and Military Commander to Discuss Terms of Surrender To-day

Ottawa, Dec. 26.—(CP)—An anxious nation waited to-day for more detailed word from Hong Kong of the fate of Canadian soldiers who fought night and day for two weeks against overwhelming numbers of Japanese. Beyond the announcement that fighting had ceased there was little definite news, but a statement by Defence Minister Ralston last night suggested that there had been no unconditional surrender.

### To Discuss Terms

"An outstanding fact in to-day's news," Col. Ralston said, "is that the garrison under these adverse conditions has so convinced the enemy of their determination to fight it out to the last and has succeeded in inflicting such severe losses upon the attackers that, instead of unconditional surrender, the governor and the military commander are, according to a Japanese report, in a position to discuss terms under which fighting shall cease."

It was known here that Canadian casualties in the battle of Hong Kong were heavy, but it appeared definite word of their identity and their numbers might not be available for some time.

"Everything possible is being done to obtain particulars of our casualties as quickly as communication will permit," Defence Minister Ralston said last night.

He said Hong Kong and its defence would stand as "a sombre but glorious page in the record of the Canadian army"

### Valuable Time Gained

Prime Minister Mackenzie King declared the Canadians' stand might prove to have had far-reaching consequences. It held a formidable force at a time when it was of extreme importance to gain time to gather Empire forces to face Japan's attack.

It was believed the man who led the Winnipeg Grenadiers and the Royal Rifles of Canada (Quebec) into the orient, Brig. J. K. Lawson,

was among those killed.

Word that fighting had ceased on Hong Kong reached here from the British colonial office as Christmas day drew to a close. Resistance in the island outpost had ended and with it the first full-fledged battle in which Canadian units have taken part in this second Great War.

"News that fighting has ceased in Hong Kong marks the end of one of the most gallant episodes in the history of Canadian arms," declared Colonel Ralston.

There was virtually the same scarcity of news about the Hong Kong fighting as there was of the fate of the Canadian soldiers. But what news there was left no doubt of the manner in which the Canadians fought.

"In spite of incessant dive bombing, of constant shell fire and heavy odds in numbers, the garrison has fought on, meeting attack with counter-attack, and taking advantage of every situation to make the invaders pay dearly for any advance," said the defence minister.

Indications were that first defi-

nite word of the Canadians might come through the channels of the Red Cross association when lists of prisoners are tallied. That may take some considerable time.

Last night the defence department issued the nominal roll of the Canadian forces who went to Hong Kong. They were men recruited in every military district in the Dominion. Their trip to the orient from a west coast Canadian port was their second jaunt outside the Dominion in defence of the Empire.

Early in the war they undertook guard duty in the British West Indies and so were seasoned garrison troops.

### To Stack Arms

Tokio, Dec. 26.—(Japanese Broadcast Recorded by AP)—British, Canadian and Indian troops at Hong Kong, estimated at 6,000, were reported to have been ordered to stack arms by noon to-day in con-

formity with yesterday's surrender to the Japanese.

The disarming was begun following the British command's formal acceptance early this morning of demands presented by representatives of the Japanese army and navy

The Japanese demands provided:

1. Stationing of a "certain number" of Japanese troops for maintenance of order.

2. British assumption of full responsibility for cessation of hostilities and prevention of "unforward incidents."

3. That decisions on further details of the surrender should be made later.

Meanwhile, Seki Yano, Japanese consul-general at Hong Kong, together with 22 other Japanese nationals, including members of the consular staff, who had been interned by British authorities since the start of the Far Eastern conflict, have been freed.

Escorted by a British official, Japanese army and navy representatives found part of the consular staff at the consulate-general and other Japanese, including Yano, living in a tent camp on Stanley peninsula—all unharmed.

It was learned, meanwhile, that the final Japanese military action against Hong Kong was at 5.50 p.m. (4.50 a.m. E.D.T.) on Thursday, when the Japanese bombers dumped their last loads of bombs.

The surrender came at 5.50 p.m.

### Take Pride In Gallant Deeds

London, Dec. 26.—(UP)—Britons mourned the loss of Hong Kong to-day but took pride in its gallant defence by British, Canadian and Indian troops, and promised that it would be restored to British sovereignty

Military authorities here knew nothing of the fate of the men who were now prisoners of the Japanese, and had only Japanese reports of the surrender on Christmas day after a stand against odds which, it was known from the first, were hopeless.

"We have nothing to add to the Hong Kong government's message," a commentator said. "Nothing is known of the final stages of the fighting and it is questionable what we will ever get on it. I do know that one of the great difficulties at the end was water supplies."

Sir Mark Young, governor, had advised the colonial office that military and naval commanders had told him that no further effective defence could be made.

It was emphasized also that although the Japanese were attacking in Malaya and Borneo, Hong Kong, aside from the Channel islands off the English coast which the Germans seized early in the

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war, was the only part of purely British territory under enemy control.

Military experts said that the loss of Hong Kong meant that after 100 years, during which Hong Kong had been a key point in the Empire life line, Britain had now been deprived of an important advanced striking base for the day when the allied general offensive starts.

Otherwise, they said, the loss was insignificant, because Japanese encroachment in China had long ago destroyed its value as a naval base and a port.

It was admitted that the British must rewin Hong Kong to make a really effective attack on Japan when the day comes, and first control of the surrounding area must be seized.

#### Announced Surrender

The fall of Hong Kong was announced late Christmas day in the following colonial office communique:

"The governor of Hong Kong regrets that he has been advised by military and naval commanders that no further effective resistance can be made, and that he is taking action in accordance with that advice.

"It will be remembered that the Japanese effected a landing in strength at several points on the island December 18.

"To many it seemed that the end must be near. But for seven days under relentless artillery fire, not only from the mainlands but from the heights of the island, the garrison fought on, resisting three demands to surrender. The water supply soon gave cause for anxiety. Important reservoirs fell into Japanese hands.

"Water mains were destroyed by the bombardment. The public works department struggled bravely to effect a remedy, but the enemy destroyed the pipes again and again. Two days ago there remained but one day's supply.

"Military and civilian casualties were heavy, but under the inspiring leadership of Sir Mark Young, the governor, the morale of all was admirable.

"So ends a great fight against overwhelming odds.

"The courage and determination of the Royal Navy, and troops of Britain, Canada and India, as well as local volunteer units, including many Chinese, will be remembered."

Hong Kong's last communique, issued at 3 p.m. yesterday, Hong Kong time, just before the surrender, was received here early to-day.

"There were renewed attacks," it said. "Our troops are defending their positions gallantly

"There had been some street

fighting in the direction of Wanchai and also renewed dive bombing and artillery fire."

#### Singapore to Bear Brunt

Singapore, Dec. 26.—(CP)—The Christmas day fall of Hong Kong after a week of fighting upon the island itself was expected by observers to-day to signal intensification of the Japanese offensive against Singapore.

Hong Kong's garrison, under assault by land, sea and air since the outbreak of the Pacific war, was forced to yield the island, the heart of a crown colony established by Britain at the mouth of the Canton river 100 years ago, by the overpowering numbers of the invaders.

(London officials said destruction of all water supplies handicapped the Canadian, British, Indian and Chinese defenders.

(The colonial office commented: "So ends a great fight against overwhelming odds." The foreign office, while giving no figures said "military and civilian casualties were heavy"

(A Chungking statement said Hong Kong's defence was an inspiration "to all the allied forces."

(Domei, the Japanese news and propaganda agency, said a 15-minute parley of Japanese authorities late yesterday with Sir Mark Young, governor and commander-in-chief of Hong Kong, led to an unconditional surrender. The governor met Lt.-Col. Tokuchi Tada, of the Japanese staff, at the Peninsula hotel in Kowloon. He was quoted as saying: "I am here to become a prisoner by ordering the entire British forces to cease all resistance." He remained at the hotel overnight under Japanese guard, Domei said.)

Commenting on Hong Kong's fall, Domei claimed specially trained "swimming troops" who located British mines in the one-mile channel between Kowloon mainland areas and the island made possible the first landings the night of December 18.

"The aquatic soldiers exploded the mines with rifle fire," the news agency said, "and cleared a passage for skiffs to follow"

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