

Canton, CHINA.  
June 11, 1938.

Sir:

A recent Reuter despatch, quoting a Japanese spokesman declared: "Accurate bombing of Canton was carried out despite very heavy anti-aircraft fire".

May we, foreign physicians of Canton and witnesses of the events of the past 14 days, call attention to the "accurate bombing" on June 6: Judging by the results it was aimed chiefly at a large central section of the open city of Canton, between the Electric Light plant and Taai Ping Road, from east to west and south to north, from the Pearl River to Wai Fuk Road. This district contains a large number of hospitals and doctors' office - a quiet zone: The accuracy of the airmen's aim is attested by the fact that a bomb struck the Paul Doumer Hospital (French), and destroyed the operating rooms, X-ray equipment and laboratory, just as they were prepared to operate upon people who had been bombarded elsewhere. Bombs fell perilously near several other hospitals, shattering glass in same. Are we to assume that the Japanese airmen wish to destroy hospitals in Canton along with other private property?

One bomb, aimed accurately at the new Wing On Tong building, struck the Bund between it and the River. Hundreds of refugees were standing under the shelter of this building, and many of these were killed and injured. Another bomb was "aimed" for a group of sampans in the river. Scores of these were destroyed and many of the occupants killed. The Red Cross Headquarters, close by, narrowly escaped destruction. During the morning, planes swooped over Shameen, the foreign Concession. Hundreds of civilians in the city were killed and wounded by the bombing and machine gunning of the Japanese airmen. At the Canton Hospital alone 160 wounded non-combatants were treated. Many of these required amputations and other major operations. In these bombings, from the explosive force of the bombs, from bomb fragments and from falling structures, the dead often far outnumber the wounded. Hundreds of wounded were taken to other hospitals. We have seen extremely few cases wounded by anti-aircraft shrapnel.

In the last 10 days of persistent and severe bombing of the city of Canton, we know of no genuine <sup>military</sup> establishment having been bombed here. In fact, there are very few such. No wounded soldiers have been admitted to our hospitals, but only civilians. At least one doctor and many Red Cross workers were killed and injured while rescuing wounded people.

The Japanese spokesman declares that the bombing was "accurate". We must therefore assume that it was their deliberate intention to bomb the places mentioned, and civilians and private property throughout this great city. Furthermore, bombs were dropped from a great height, hence discrimination is quite impossible. It is, therefore, our firm conviction that the Japanese military forces have determined to ruthlessly destroy the people of Canton and their public and private buildings. If this is not so they can prove it by ceasing from this wholesale massacre of Canton citizens.

As physicians, devoted to the SAVING of human life, we vigorously protest against this determined policy of the Japanese air force to ruthlessly destroy human life.

Signed by: Doctors W. W. Cadbury, C. A. Hayes, R. L. Lancaster, F. Oldt,  
" T. D. Stevenson, J. O. Thomson, P. J. Todd.

*We desire publicity  
and action. Thanks -*

*J. O. Thomson M.D., F.A.C.S.  
McCall '39.*