

support could come by the Chinese operating in the rear of the Japanese landward attack. The Chinese, despite all their efforts, were not able to influence the outcome of the battle. It remained for the British, Canadian and Indian troops making up the garrison of Hong Kong to face heavy odds and to fight it out, as they did.

5. Operations of the Canadian force. Our information regarding operations at Hong Kong, as the house knows, is meagre.

The first indication of action was contained in a telegram of December 8, naming two signalmen slightly wounded in action. On the following day, December 9, a telegram referred to one company of Winnipeg Grenadiers dispatched as reinforcements to Kowloon brigade. On December 10 information was received that this company was still in reserve and not yet employed. On December 12 a telegram reported that pressure had developed on left flank at Kowloon, but the situation was stabilized by all available reserves including one company of Winnipeg Grenadiers. On the 14th, however, a message reported Canadian troops not yet seriously engaged. On December 15 one rifleman was reported missing.

On December 19 it was reported that a battalion of Canadians, with other troops, was holding a line from Stanley peninsula and hill to the northwards. On December 22 we received through the Admiralty news that a counter-attack from Stanley had failed and that casualties included about one hundred Canadians. A second counter-attack by a company of the Winnipeg Grenadiers had also failed. The same telegram described the troops—presumably all troops, not only Canadians—as very tired, and noted that casualties were heavy and included Brigadier Lawson, believed killed, and Colonel Hennessy, killed by shell-fire.

On December 25 we learned of the intention of the governor of Hong Kong to surrender. An Admiralty message on the 27th added the name of Major Lyndon as missing. On the 28th seven Canadian other ranks were reported as wounded and one missing. This telegram was delayed from December 20. Later a delayed unofficial message mentioned Staff-Captain Bush as wounded in action.

I know that in this house, as throughout Canada, there is deep and heartfelt sympathy for the families and friends of the brave men who have been reported as casualties at Hong Kong, as well as for all of those who are enduring this long period of anxious suspense through lack of news.

On December 29 we received another Admiralty telegram reporting a delayed message of December 22 sent by Lieut.-Colonel J. L. R. Sutcliffe of Winnipeg, who by that time had assumed operational command of our force. His message stated "Canadian troops part prisoners, residue engaged, casualties heavy . . . troops have done magnificent work, spirit excellent."

That is a message for us to remember.

The defence of Hong Kong is in accordance with the finest traditions of Canadian armies. All ranks fought it out to the last, and more cannot be asked of any man. May I conclude in the words of the London *Times*. Referring to the fortitude and heroism of these men of Britain, of India and of Canada, and what they achieved at Hong Kong to help save freedom for us all, the words express far better than I can do what is in our hearts:

The heroic defence of Hong Kong was not only beyond price as an inspiring example of valour and devotion; it also gained a footing in precious time, and, whether or not it may prove to have rivalled in that respect the decisive achievement of our forces in Crete, the invader would have gained vital days, if it had been decided to yield the colony without a struggle.

Hon. R. B. HANSON (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to say at the very outset of the few remarks which I wish to make on this subject that I think the country owes the minister (Mr. Ralston) its thanks for having made an objective and explicit statement about the situation at Hong Kong. In addition to other reasons, I am interested in the fate of those who may be survivors of Hong Kong, because I recall that the Royal Rifles of Canada trained in my province during part of the year 1940, and that a very substantial number of the men were enlisted from New Brunswick. I can say that four sons of one family enlisted from the little town of Upsalquitch—their name is Macdonald—and last Thursday or Friday I had a call from a young woman whose brother, a young man twenty-two years of age, I think, trained at Camp Borden as a rifleman, was among those mentioned by the minister as having been selected for the reinforcement of the battalion which went overseas. I communicated with the minister and he was good enough to reply, with as much promptitude as I could have expected, as to the fate of these gallant young Canadians.

I offer no criticism at all of the government for having sent these two battalions to Hong Kong. If we are to be in a total war, and to undertake a total war effort, aside altogether from questions of prospective manpower, and methods by which that may be