

(A) INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS AND AGREEMENTS1. Treatment of military prisoners and civilians by Japanese Army at Hong Kong, press statements of March 9 and 10, 1942

Disturbing reports of Japanese treatment of prisoners of war and civilians in Hong Kong have been confirmed. A statement on the subject will be made in the United Kingdom House of Commons at noon tomorrow by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and arrangements have been made between the two Governments for the text of this statement to be issued in Canada at the same time. 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 Canadians and other British troops.

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Ottawa, March 10th, 1942.

The United Kingdom Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs made the following statement in the House of Commons at Westminster today in reply to an enquiry regarding the treatment of military prisoners and civilians by the Japanese Army at Hong Kong after its capitulation:

Out of regard for the feelings of the thousands of relations of the victims, His Majesty's Government have been unwilling to publish any accounts of Japanese atrocities at Hong Kong until these had been confirmed beyond any possibility of doubt.

His Majesty's Government are now in possession of statements by reliable eye witnesses who succeeded in escaping from Hong Kong, towards the end of January or early in February. 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 civilised world at the time of the Nanking massacre of 1937.

It is known that 50 officers and men of the British were bound hand and foot and then bayoneted to death. It is known that 10 days after capitulation wounded were still being collected from the hills and the Japanese were refusing permission to bury the dead. It is known that women, both Asiatic and European were raped and murdered and that one entire Chinese district was declared a brothel regardless of status of inhabitants.

All the survivors of the garrison including Indian, Chinese and Portuguese have been herded into a camp consisting of wrecked huts without doors, windows, light or sanitation. By the end of January 150 cases of dysentery had occurred but no drugs or medical facilities were supplied. The dead had to be buried in a corner of the camp. The Japanese guards are utterly callous and the repeated requests of General Maltby, the General Officer Commanding, for an interview with the Japanese Commander