

The Bank of East Asia, Ltd

HONG KONG.

Christmas 1941 St. Stephens College
Hospital Stanley.

When the Japanese troops landed on the island of Hong Kong I decided to make my headquarters at St. Stephens College Hospital Stanley. A lot of wounded Canadians had been evacuated to there. On December 23rd the hospital was shelled even though we were flying the Red Cross Flag. The Operating Room was destroyed. Mr Ashton Rose made arrangements to evacuate the more serious cases to the Stanley Prison Hospital. It was suggested to Lt. Col. Black & Capt. Whitney that all staff and patients be moved to the Prison Hospital as St. Stephens College was in a very bad position.

The Bank of East Asia, Ltd.

HONG KONG.

They could not see the necessity of such an evacuation.

On Christmas Eve I went to bed in the M.I. Room between eight and nine o'clock. The M.I. faced the hills from which we expected the Japanese to make their attack on Stanley St. Col.

Black, Capt. Whitney R.A.M.C. and Capt. Hickey R.C.H.S.C., a patient in hospital also went to bed in M.I. Room. We had not been in bed very long before the expected attack started. The M.I. Room was not a healthy place, broken glass and the odd bullet flying around. We got up and dressed and went into the main ward of the hospital. This ward was lit up with two or three hurricane lamps. There was a great deal of confusion. All the sisters were

The Bank of East Asia, Ltd.

HONG KONG.

there. Everyone was restless and wondered what was going to happen. We did our best to quieten the patients and make them as comfortable as possible. During the night I was asked by Lt. Col Black to go out on the hospital Veranda and ask some officers and men, who were undergoing them to be as quiet as possible, so that they would not disturb the patients unduly nor get attract attention of the enemy to the hospital. Between five and six o'clock as I was preparing to hold Christmas Communion Japanese troops entered the hospital by both North and South entrances. I was near the North entrance. As the Japanese came in I saw the bayonet wounded soldiers in bed. All patients and staff who could walk were taken

The Bank of East Asia, Ltd.

HONG KONG.

out of the main ward and put in a near by storeroom. We were searched at the door and steel helmets and Respirators taken from us, also gray cash and prayer book. The storeroom was dark. As it began to get daylight we were moved from the storeroom to a smaller room on the first floor. During this move the nursing sisters were separated from our party. As I was walking along the corridor I saw one of the Japanese soldiers slap the face of one of the sisters, kick her and hit her over the head with a steel helmet. About 90 men pushed into the small room in which I was. We could not all sit down. The wounded took turns in sitting down or lying down. While we were in this

The Bank of East Asia, Ltd.

HONG KONG.

room a Japanese soldier took our wrist watches and rings. Another gave us a few cigarettes and a tin of ~~hot~~ milk, while yet another threw handfuls of 303 bullets into our faces.

Sometime during the day two soldiers came in and forced Reflema Henderson out. When they had gone and closed the door we heard screams which I believe came from Henderson. Next Reflema MacKay was taken out and the same thing happened. They tried a third but the third victim slammed the door in their faces. It is strange to relate that we were not bothered after that. During the morning at the request of the men I told the story of Christmas and read some prayers. We all thought that it was our last

The Bank of East Asia, Ltd.

HONG KONG.

they might finish us off.

Late in the afternoon soldiers came in smiling said that we were now friends & let some of us move to a larger room. They gave us some water.

We were all up early on the morning of the 26th. and were given a fair amount of freedom. I made a tour of the hospital to see the extent of casualties and damage to the hospital I found Anderson & MacKay dead, very badly mutilated I found the nurses worn out and in a very nervous condition. Three were missing. By sign language we tried to find out from the Japanese where the other three nurses were. Sgt Mack Galt's William Hickey were killed. I organized

The Bank of East Asia, Ltd.

HONG KONG.

parties to pick up the dead. to ~~bury~~ ^{cremate} them. I was ordered by the Japanese to ~~cremate~~ ^{cremate} all the dead. We built a funeral pyre of bloody sheets & blankets old chairs and tables. I was not allowed by the Japanese to make a list of the dead. During the day one of the sisters came to me and said a Japanese soldier wanted her to go with her to show her where the three missing sisters were. She wanted Sgt. Peasegood & myself to go with her. The missing sisters were shown to us under a clusli of bushes dead, but covered with blankets. I identified the three of them. Their bodies were cremated. I was told in presence of Sgt. Peasegood by sister that officer

The Bank of East Asia, Ltd.

HONG KONG.

had told her on Christmas Day that all inmates of hospital were to be killed to avenge the death of the younger brother of one of the officers attending & consolidating position at St. Stephens College. Some time during the day I was sent for by Japanese officer. He spoke very good English. During our conversation I spoke of murder of the nurses. He replied that nothing could be done about such things in the heat of battle.

One of the sisters told me that sometime between our capture & morning of 26th she had been forced to burn dead bodies and used by the Japanese soldiers as they desired. With the help of Lt. Stoker of H.K. V.D.C.