

“Black Christmas” Testimonies of Canadian Hong Kong Veterans

Handout to accompany Prezi presentation: Canadian Hong Kong Veterans and Allied POWs in the Asia-Pacific War: Wounds and Closure

Excerpt from testimony of Kay Christie, Nursing Sister of the “C” Forces

Full testimony available here: <http://www.hkvca.ca/historical/accounts/christie.htm>

[...] At another auxiliary hospital, on Christmas morning, Japanese troops burst in and began bayoneting the patients on the floor. I remember one of these young fellows, a young Canadian lad of about 17 who tried to escape and those soldiers went after him, constantly sticking their bayonets in his arm. This went on until lie (he) just played dead and they finally stopped sticking him. His arm had to be amputated when he was returned to the British Military Hospital.

By this time they had killed a lot of the other patients, so they dragged their bodies into a smaller room and took the mattresses and tossed them on top of these corpses.

Then they went after the nursing sister and the volunteers. They stripped them, they slapped their faces with their Red Cross arm bands and started raping them on top of the mattresses that had the corpses underneath. This went on and on. Then for some reason, which the four girls who survived could never figure out, they took three of the volunteers and, after raping them, cut their heads off and piled their naked bodies outside. One of the patients in the hospital at the time was a British officer whose wife happened to be one of these volunteers. He recognized her screams and he went stark-staring mad, completely out of his mind [...]

Excerpt from testimony by Captain James Barnet of the Canadian Chaplain Services, given at the War Crimes Trial for the Far East, 1 December 1946

More testimony excerpts available here: <http://battleofhongkong.com/23.htm>

[...] On the 26th of December 1941, in the morning a Japanese NCO (Non-Commission Officer) or officer told me that I could move around. I immediately began a tour of the hospital to see what damage had been done and what casualties there were. I noticed that a number of our allied men, I would say approximately seventy, had been bayoneted in their bed and were dead. Others were seriously wounded (bayonet wounds), but I cannot say how many.

I can definitely say that the patients who were bayoneted in bed were not armed, nor were there any armed troops in the hospital [...]