

HID OUT A WEEK

Hong Kong Defender Tells of Jap Slaughter

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MANILA, Sept. 19—(CP).—Rifleman William Robert Campbell, Novar, Ont., Tuesday described the bayonetings and shootings of bound and helpless civilians and soldiers, including Canadians, which he witnessed during the week he roamed the hills of Hong Kong after the surrender of the garrison there to the Japanese in December, 1941.

Campbell has his right hand scarred by a severe grenade wound untended while he was in hiding.

He tried to reach Stanley peninsula, where the main body of his regiment, the Royal Rifles of Canada, was forced to withdraw, but the night of Dec. 26 he saw the lights come on over a wide area and knew the battle was over.

On the morning of Dec. 27, from his hiding place overlooking a road, he watched three Japanese officers and eight or nine guards bring six soldiers and a dozen civilian men, tied together with wire and rope, along the road and drive them off onto the grass, where they were shot and bayoneted to death.

Campbell met two British soldiers who took him up a hill to a dugout where there were three wounded Canadians and one unwounded member of the Winnipeg Grenadiers. The group decided to surrender, but Campbell, frightened by what he had seen, remained hidden as, arm in arm, they helped one another down to the Japanese road.

The rifleman heard them shout as they neared a Japanese outpost and about 20 guards, two with swords, ran up. The Japanese separated the wounded men by pushing them with rifles, then slaughtered all of them on the spot.

Campbell remained where he was and left only after dark with a soldier from the Middlesex Regi-

ment, who also had remained behind. While trying, again without success, to reach Stanley peninsula, he came across the body of a British officer tied to a tree. All around the hills there were Japanese, British and Canadian dead.

In the area of Stone Hill, Campbell watched the shooting of seven more civilians from a distance and parades towards Stanley peninsula of hundreds of whites and Chinese bound together and walking "like a chain gang," with Japanese guards prodding them along.

Campbell saw groups of bodies of other atrocity victims on Dec. 29 and while he crept about in his stockinged feet at night the Japanese started bonfires which apparently burned the bodies of those they had killed.

The Canadian lay near Stanley prison for two days while the Japanese marched prisoners along the road, and on New Year's day he spotted a Japanese truck with a Canadian burial party. He hailed it and was taken to North Point prison camp, then to hospital, where he was kept until September, 1942.