

JAPANESE COLONEL IS NOT DISCIPLINED

Hashimoto, Who Commanded Yangtze Area When Panay Was Sunk, Still in Field

HANGCHOW DRIVE PUSHED

Foreigners in 2 Cities Warned to Get Out—Terror Reign in Nanking Detailed

By HALLETT ABEYD

WIRELESS TO THE NEW YORK TIMES.
SHANGHAI, Friday, Dec. 24.—Colonel Kiyomasa Hashimoto has not been recalled. It is learned on the best authority that he is at present actively in the field, leading his troops with batteries of mountain guns in the Japanese advance upon Hangchow, south of Shanghai.

[Colonel Hashimoto was in command of the Wuhu area when the United States gunboat Panay was sunk Dec. 12 and British gunboats were shelled by Japanese forces. Colonel Hashimoto, who is said to have told a British naval officer that he had orders to fire on all shipping in the Yangtze area under his command, had been reported removed from measure.]

Ask Foreigners to Leave

Japanese authorities yesterday requested that all foreign consuls concerned advise their nationals to leave the cities of Hangchow and Haichow, which is famous for the best wine produced in China. This request was based upon the assumption of an "extension of very severe fighting" in those areas.

Japanese authorities said they wished all foreign nationals to leave without delay and remain away from the zone of fighting.

Curiously enough, in recounting episodes in the capture of various towns in the last two days of the advance on Hangchow, a Japanese army spokesman gave the impression that few major engagements had been fought, saying:

"We are gaining the impression that the Chinese are realizing resistance is futile."
At Hangchow there were thirty-one foreigners, including about eight Americans and fourteen women, most of them British. At Haichow there were three Americans, one a woman.

The Japanese army spokesman reported the capture of five towns in the Hangchow area, ranging from 47 to 20 miles away.

Terror Reigns in Nanking
Further corroborative details of the almost complete collapse of the discipline of Japanese soldiers after their occupation of Nanking, resulting in wholesale massacres of civilians, executions of prisoners, and the systematic destruction and looting of property, including that owned by foreigners, were contained in letters received in Shanghai today from American missionaries who remained in China's abandoned capital.

Several of the letters giving an account of the reign of terror that has seized Nanking were written guardedly in carefully chosen words and phrases, indicating that the American writers feared interception of their accounts and possible Japanese reprisals. Others, however, abandoned caution and stated unequivocally that "the Japanese Army has thrown away a remarkable opportunity to gain the respect in Nanking of Chinese and foreign alike." One prominent American missionary states:

"The disgraceful collapse of Chinese authority in this region has left vast numbers of persons ready to respond to the order and organization of which Japan boasts. The whole outlook has been ruined by frequent murders, wholesale looting and the uncontrolled disturbance of private homes, including revolting offenses against the security of women."

Civilians Bayoneted
That writer added that great numbers of dead civilians were victims of shooting and bayoneting. Many of the cases being plainly witnessed by foreigners and reputable Chinese. Squads of Chinese who had discarded their arms and uniforms were tied together and executed, one report adds.

"Thus far there is no trace of Chinese prisoners in Japanese hands other than squads actually or apparently on the way to be executed," a letter said.

Many Chinese impressed into service as carriers of loot taken away by Japanese were said later to have been shot. An American missionary continued:

"Great amounts of food were first taken, but everything else useful or valuable later had its turn. Tens of thousands of private homes, large and small, Chinese and foreign, have been impartially plundered and scores of refugees camped entered and money and valuables as well as night possessions removed during the mass searches."

"Members of the staff of the University of Nanking Hospital were stripped of their cash and watches while nurses in the dormitory were subjected to the plundering hordes."

National Flags Torn Down
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"Under these conditions the terror is indescribable, and lectures by suave Japanese officers that their 'sole purpose' is to make war against an oppressive Chinese Government for the sake of the Chinese people leave an impression that nauseates. There must be a responsible Japanese statesman, military and civilian, who for their national interests will promptly and adequately remedy the harm these

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The commission pledges its best efforts to rehabilitate Nanking, to cooperate with all pro-Japanese organizations in the whole Yangtze area under Japanese military occupation.

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