JAPS HAD FACTS ON HONG KONG'S VITAL DEFENCES

Fall of Colony Was Due Largely to Efforts of Fifth Column

EFFICIENT SYSTEM

Chungking, Jan. 29.—(UP)—British officers said to-day the Japanese had developed one of the most efficient spy systems ever known, and had maps showing the details of every defence zone of Hong Kong before its fall.

Two days after the war broke out a Japanese officer boasted at Shanghai, it was said, that Japan also knew the exact strength of the defenders in the Philippines and Malaya.

The fall of Hong Kong was attributed largely to fifth column work. Air raid shelters had been interconnected with defence tunnels, the officers said.

They reported that Japanese troops appeared suddenly from the tunnels, behind British lines, and caught the defenders between two fires, forcing surrender.

The only American to escape from the city after its surrender said 1,500 American nationals there when it capitulated Christmas day were safe at last checking.

He was F. W. Kendall, a consulting mining engineer from Pasadena, Calif. He said he learned from trustworthy sources before he left that the American colony had been spared harsh treatment by the Japanese.

Americans volunteered during the siege for hospital and firefighting duties, helped with communications and acted as truck and ambulance drivers and directed traffic.

One of them, six-foot-two-inch-tall Dr. S. C. Moulthan, of San Francisco, a chiropractor, was said to have loaded a motorcycle sidecar with gun cotton and driven to the waterfront. He blew up two large ships to block a strategic inlet to Hong Kong harbour, then scuttled nearly 40 smaller craft to keep them out of Japanese hands.

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