

EPIC DEFENSE OF WAR SEEN AT HONGKONG

By PETER EDSON
WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—United States interest in the Japanese scrap naturally centers on what happens to Americans in the Pacific, but from the standpoint of military history, dramatic interest and the story of a desperate fight with all the heroic qualities of the Charge of the Light Brigade, Custer's last stand or the retreat from Dunkirk, keep an eye on Hong Kong, Britain's last and only strong-hold in China.

Hong Kong got one of the first Jap blows, right along with Pearl Harbor, Manila and Malaya, but the story of the siege of Hong Kong and its defense is yet to come and it has all the makings of one of the epic battles of this or any other war. Hawaii, the Philippines, Singapore, all have a chance. They have their own air defenses, their fleets, their strong garrisons. To get at them, the Japs have to cross hundreds or thousands of miles of sea. At Hong Kong, the Japs were less than 80 miles away in Canton. Hong Kong, because of its mountainous terrain, has only one airfield. Its fleet is negligible and vastly inferior to whatever the Japs may have to bring against it. The Hong Kong garrison is necessarily limited in size. There is no place for that garrison to retreat. Closest friendly territory is the Philippines, 700 miles away. And the orders of the British garrison at Hong Kong were to defend it to the last man.

HALF MILE FROM CHINA
To get the real mental picture of what goes on at Hong Kong you must recall your geography. Hong Kong is an island 10 miles long, three miles wide. It is solid rock, rising sharply from the water line to Victoria peak, 1700 feet high, crowned with the British government house. On the slopes is the city of Victoria. Half a mile to the north across channel straits is the mainland of China. But here the British hold under lease from the Chinese government the famous Kowloon peninsula, a few miles, Cheung Chau and which smaller islands to the west of Victoria, make up the Hong Kong crown colony.

Open on all sides to attack and invasion by land, by sea and by air, Hong Kong held up but did not twiddle its thumbs and await its fate for these three years that the Japs have been in Canton. Life on this powder keg has gone on, though its destiny seemed sealed and the question was not what, but when. The population of two million, perhaps nine tenths Oriental, was not sitting idly by waiting for this inevitable struggle.

Hong Kong harbor, one of the busiest in the east and one of the most picturesque in the world, was heavily mined. The hills bristled with coast defense guns, anti-aircraft batteries, machine guns. Barbed wire entanglements lined every possible landing point. Civilian defense was organized as nowhere else in the world. The rocks were honey-combed with air raid shelters.

AMERICAN LINK
In all this period of defense preparedness, Hong Kong was the most direct link for communications between the Chinese and the United States. Pan American clippers and Trans-Pacific steamships from the rest of the world touched at Hong Kong and dropped their cargoes of passengers, mail and express. By sea, Chinese smugglers ran the Japanese blockade up the China coast to obscure ports where contact is kept with the Chiang Kai-shek forces in unoccupied territory.

By air, daredevil pilots, flying only at night, only in bad weather and entirely without the usual aids to navigation, hopped over the Japanese armies and made Chungking with unbelievable regularity and with only two planes shot down by Jap aviators during four years of the Chinese war. Even one of those was saved, repaired, and flown out under its own power.

That, briefly, is the setting for the battle of Hong Kong. And Hong Kong's defenders—the handful of British regulars, the

Bright Accents For a Smart You.



Household Arts by Alice Brooks

Two-Color Contrast Heights Chic of Smart Cap and Mittens

COPELAND HOUSEHOLD ARTS, INC. PATTERN 7156

Just the thing for winter spots, this cap and mitten set! Made in two contrasting colors of afghan yarn, you can crochet it yourself and add a gay note to your wardrobe. Pattern 7156 contains directions for making set; materials required; color schemes; illustrations of set and stitches. To obtain this pattern send 10

Selective Exercises Should Forge Your Muscles to Form

By ALICIA HART
NEA Service Staff Writer

A long distance runner jogs along for great distances, stretching out for long periods in deplorable exercise which burns up fat without developing muscles, and this athlete is very likely to be thin. On the other hand, a sprinter puts everything into a short dash, drawing a lot of blood to his arm and leg muscles and then relaxing and giving them plenty of time to rest before the next dash, and this runner generally has large, well developed limbs.

On the same principle, says a good trainer, women can use exercise to build up or trim down. Take arms, for instance. A thin arm can be made round and smooth and graceful by vigorous, concentrated exercises. Try lifting a bar bell or some other heavy object—say, your heaviest skillet. Lift up and down over the head ten

times, quickly, twice a day for two weeks. Then increase the number of lifts to eighteen. The idea is to exhaust the muscles as fast as you can, relax, and rest.

"FREE" EXERCISES WILL BURN UP FAT

But if you wish rather to reduce fat arms, use free arm exercises—no weights—and keep at it and at it, repetitiously over an extended period of time. Move your arms in circles, in and out, continue, but not too swiftly. Briskly, this for fifteen minutes daily for a few weeks, then extend the exercise period till you can continue the routine for half an hour at a stretch.

Remember, of course, that beautiful arms are symmetrical, rounded, full, but not overdeveloped.

If you plan your exercise carefully, you can quite easily improve scrawny or too-fat muscles.

BREAD HID VALUABLES

Loaves of bread packed with precious stones were found floating in the English Channel by English and French fishermen after the defeat of the

Spanish Armada in 1588. The Spaniards put their valuable jewels in little cork balls inserted into loaves of bread, and tossed them into the waters, hoping they would be picked up by other Spaniards and thus saved from the enemy.

COWHAND CHAMP

SALINAS, Calif., Dec. 22 (AP)—Homer Pettigrew of Grady, N.

M., is the national cowboy champion. Pettigrew, a calf roper and steer wrestler, compiled 5027 points during the 1941 season to replace Fritz the Truan of Salinas,

the Rodeo Association of America announced. Dolf Aber of Newhall, Calif., was second and Truan third. Looking for bargains? Turn to the Classified page.



Notes on Musical Christmas Gifts

Silvertone Radios

Bring Pleasures That Live a Lifetime

1942 Console Model

10-TUBE SILVERTONE

- ★ Automatic Volume Control ★ Push Button Tuning ★ 12-Inch Dynamic Speaker
- ★ Variable Tone Control ★ Sliced Walnut Veneered Cabinet ★ 10 Powerful Tubes*

\$79.95

Make it a Christmas full of happiness... and music. One the whole family will remember through the years... because you've given them many hours of unforgettable beauty when you give them a Silvertone.

Use Sears Easy Payment Plan On Purchases Totaling \$10 or More

(Also Sold on Easy Payment Plan)

SILVERTONE RECORDER - RADIO COMBINATION



Sears Price Only **\$59.95**

- ★ Dynamic Speaker
- ★ Recorder Cuts Discs Up to 10 Inches
- ★ Tone Control
- ★ 7 Tubes

This beautiful model offers a vast array of radio programs... plus the delightful thrill of making your own records. Walnut veneer.

Table Model COMBINATION



7-Tube* Radio and Phonograph

Sears Price **\$39.95**

- ★ Plays 10 or 12-Inch Records With Lid Closed
- ★ Volume Control
- Encased in a cabinet of modern design, in walnut veneer.
- *Includes Rectifier

CRASH LAID TO ENGINE FAILURE

JACKSON, Miss., Dec. 22 (AP)—An army official today blamed apparent engine failure for the crash of a B-26 bomber which killed the crew of five men.

Col. J. H. Houghton, commander of the Jackson air base, said the plane had taken off yesterday from the air base, made a turn and apparently was attempting to get back to the airport when it crashed, exploded and burned.

The dead were listed as: First Lieut. John E. Doer, formerly of Orchard Place, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

Second Lieut. Claude A. Knight, Ocala, Fla.

Second Lieut. Robert A. Sauer, Fremont, O.

Second Lieut. Leslie M. Shimeall, Chicago, Ill.

Staff Sgt. Harold A. Wissinger, Indiana, Pa.

CROCODILE TONGUES

Crocodiles do have tongues, contrary to popular belief. The organ is fleshy and flat and is attached to the floor of the mouth except at the extreme edges.

Germany's World war gun, "Big Bertha," attained a muzzle velocity of 3400 miles an hour.

FOR HIS CHRISTMAS A Pair of **LINED GLOVES - \$1.25** **DREW'S MANSTORE** 723 Main

Arm Bands Available For Local Air Raid Zone Wardens

Identification arm bands are available at air headquarters for all zone and sector wardens and their assistants. All wardens are requested to call at headquarters and secure a sufficient number of these bands for themselves and their assistants.

All wardens are requested to take first aid training classes, which are being held at the high school on Monday and Thursday, and Tuesday and Friday evenings at 7:30 o'clock.

OLD PLOW HAMES

A pair of dogwood plow hames, carved by hand in 1845, was exhibited among the relics at a recent semi-centennial celebration in Rushton, La.

Scottish maidens once placed snails on slates in the thought that their twisting, crooked tails might spell out the names of future husbands.

FOR "DOUBLE-RICH" HOLIDAY PLEASURE

He peeked at those Gifts he wifed hid away and saw a book of Esquire-Tower Theatre Scrip!

Esquire and Tower Theatre Scrip
Can Enjoy It a Gift Everybody BUY NOW! SAVE MONEY!

IT'S "DOUBLE-RICH"

NOW QUART \$2.25 PINT \$1.20

86 PROOF. THIS WHISKEY IS 5 YEARS OLD. COPR. 1941, SCHENLEY DISTILLERS CORP., N.Y.C.

GIFT SPECIALS

REDUCED TO CLEAR BEFORE XMAS

- 17 ONLY DRESSER SETS—3 pieces—comb, brush and mirror. Worth 1.50..... **88c**
- 31 ONLY DRESSER SETS—3 to 5 pieces, in attractive gift boxes, values to 2.98..... **1.44**
- 16 ONLY DRESSER SETS—Many with new lucite handles, values to 3.98..... **2.44**
- 24 HASSOCKS—Several sizes and styles. Blues, tans, reds and greys. **1.00** to **4.44**. Were 1.39 to 5.49
- Stainless Bronze and Steel Smokers. 1.88**
Large Circulator Type. Room for Glasses. A regular \$2.95. Value. 40 Only. Now
- 14 ONLY CEDAR CHEST-STATIONERY SETS. Sell regularly for 1.29..... **1.00**
- 13 ONLY MEN'S TRAVELLING KITS—5 only complete with fittings. Val. to 7.95..... **5.88**
- 5 ONLY MEN'S BRUSH SETS. Regular 1.00..... **88c**
- 27 ONLY PEN AND PENCIL SETS—In attractive box. Worth 1.25..... **88c**
- 9 ONLY SEWING CABINETS. Regular 1.19..... **1.00**
- 11 ONLY DRESSER SETS—3, 5 and 7-pc. sets in attractive boxes. Worth 5.00..... **3.77**

EXTRA SPECIAL!!

5-Lb. Fruit Cakes 99c
While 360 last—Were 1.19

- 9 MEN'S WOOL DRESSING ROBES—Attractive colors and patterns. Worth 5.65..... **4.44**
- 3 ONLY BEACON ROBES for men. Worth 5.95..... **4.99**
- WOMEN'S FULL FASHIONED SILK HOSIERY, Sizes 8 1/2-10 1/2, all shades. Reg. 1.00 3/4 for \$2.50..... **88c**
- 600 PAIRS CHILDREN'S WOOL MITTENS. Regular 59c..... **39c**
- WOMEN'S ALL-LINEN HANDKERCHIEFS (boxed), Reg. 25c..... **19c**
- 10 ONLY BATH ASSORTMENTS—Includes bath mat, 2 bath towels, 2 face towels, 2 wash cloths. Regular 3.98..... **3.44**

Toys and Plenty at Sears

Reduced to Clear Before Christmas

Sears "BIG 3" Play Kitchen

San Diego Jr. Sink **2.22**
Prosperity Jr. Play Kitchen **2.22**

Were 2.98 **NOW 2.22**

Faithful copies of actual Sears merchandise... completely equipped to gladden a little girl's heart. All electrical parts are imitation.

Dolls and Accessories Reduced

- Doll with real braids and wardrobe **\$1.88**
- Diaper Doll with Layette in Travelling Case **\$1.88**
- 18-inch Mamma Doll **\$1.88**
- 18-inch Sleepy Doll **\$1.88**
- "Magic Skin" Baby Doll **\$2.98**
- Soft Plush Cuddly Dollie **\$1.69**
- Little Misses Dresser Set **\$2.98**
- Doll Dresser **29c**

Slashed! Trikes, Wagons, Sleds

- 30-inch Flying Arrow Sled **\$1.98**
- 48-inch Snow Bird Sled **\$3.69**
- 26-inch Little Pal Wagon **\$1.49**
- 28-inch Flying Eagle Wagon **\$3.29**
- 30-inch Red Streak Wagon **\$4.19**
- Elgin Racer Tricycle **\$10.49**
- Elgin Junior Tricycle **\$6.79**
- 8 1/2-inch Wheel Pedal Trike **\$1.79**

Miscellaneous Toys and Games

- Snips **66c**
- Doctor and Nurse Set **88c**
- Little Family Doctor Kit **69c**
- Game of FLIX **29c**
- Jelly Roger Paint Sets **59c**
- American Derby **98c**
- Rocket Shot Game **69c**
- Boy Hunter Target Set **59c**

1500 BOOKS -- GAMES

More than 1500 really inexpensive gift books and games, including such games as The Wizard of Oz, Pick-Six, etc., and books like Charlie McCarthy, Hobbycraft, Animal Stories, Coloring and Cutting Books. Values to \$10.

3c Ea. **7c** Ea. **10c** Ea.

SEARS, ROEBUCK AND CO.