

# Britain Puts Confidence In Hong Kong Command

(By DOUGLAS AMARON.)

London, Dec. 9 (CP).—Hong Kong, the rocky Far Eastern stronghold which Canadian troops are helping to defend, may develop into a Torkbruk of the Pacific.

Announcement that a Japanese attempt to cross the colony's mainland frontier has been halted by artillery fire is viewed by authoritative sources here as possibly the beginning of a siege similar to that which Empire forces withstood so successfully at the Libyan outpost.

No word as to the part the Canadians are playing in defense of the vital base has been received in London.

The Canadians serving in the Far East are under the higher command of Major-General Michael Maltby, general officer commanding at Hong Kong and a veteran of the first Great War, with all the necessary qualities of leadership for the type of campaign likely to develop.

"I am confident Maltby will give a good account of himself," said a senior officer under whom General Maltby once served as a subaltern.

"He is the ideal officer to command a garrison of this nature. He is always cool and completely unruffled, and has a quiet sense of humor and tremendous powers of endurance. He is extremely popular not only with his senior and junior officers, but with the British, Indian and Dominion troops."

The slim, fair-haired 50-year-old general has been in tight corners before. In 1915, a few years after being commissioned, he took part in a Persian Gulf gun-running campaign. While tracking down suspects, he and a small force of Indian troops suddenly were surrounded by swarms of armed bandits.

"Charge the blighters with bayonets," the future general coolly ordered, and his men cut their way through an enemy force many times their size. He is one of a few officers to wear the General Service Medal awarded for this campaign, in which he also won the Military Cross.

Maltby commanded a battalion after completing only ten years' service and held miscellaneous staff appointments before being promoted to the rank of major-general.

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