



*Kay Christie, Nursing Sister 1911 to 1994 Member of "C" Force sent to the Battle of Hong Kong 1941, POW from 1941-1943
www.hkvca.ca/historical/accounts/christie.htm*

Lieutenant Kay Christie: WWII

Kay Christie was a Toronto nurse with seven years' experience when she signed up for the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps. Late 1941 she sailed to Hong Kong with two Canadian infantry battalions. The

British military hospital where Kay served was under heavy Japanese shelling until the British surrender on Christmas Day 1941. Then hell began. In Kay's words remembering 50 years later, "In one hospital the Japanese soldiers lined up all the females, many of whom were just young girls. These women were mostly British, who had been employed as secretaries or teachers and so on, or they were wives of British business men or army officers. They were such a wonderful group who worked so hard at their volunteer duties in the hospital. As one of the soldiers stood in the doorway with a machine gun, the others took the younger girls, laid them on the floor and raped them while the mothers could do nothing but stand by helplessly and watch." Kay spent 21 months as a POW behind barbed wire in the Far East. The conditions for all Hong Kong captives were hellish and it is a tribute to the dedication of medical personnel such as Lieutenant Kay Christie that 1,400 Canadians ultimately returned home. Kay was made an associate member of the Royal Red Cross in recognition of her service in adverse conditions.