

FALL OF SHANGHAI.

Above Shanghai there hangs a pall of smoke --- in the city, the Doomed Battalion. In this huge warehouse across the Soochow Creek a gallant band of Chinese troops made a ^{last} ~~gallant~~ stand against the advance of 40,000 Japanese. ~~Chiang Kai Shek's~~ crack 88th Division made a suicidal attempt to stem the tide that flowed relentlessly against Shanghai. The ^{G. B.} ~~Camerton~~ British News cameraman, only 75 yards away, gambled his life against these pictures. In the foreground, Japanese soldiers draw the fire of hidden machine guns, hoping to reveal ~~the secret~~ the secret of their whereabouts. And then a desperate ^{attempt} ~~dash~~ by Japanese volunteers to smash down the lower windows. Setting fire to a nearby shed the Mikado's troops endeavoured to smoke out the Doomed Battalion, but under cover of that very smoke, ~~still~~ 388 survivors escaped to British lines. They left behind 200 dead.

Retreating Chinese made good their promise to cover their way with only burning ruins. What buildings bombs and shells had left untouched, the desperate defenders put to the torch. Inside the International Settlement fire fighters mobilised to prevent the spread of flames into that small oasis of peace, in a war-ridden city. Meanwhile, ~~troops of the white nations~~ stand guard.

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Now across the Railway Bridge of Soochow Creek begins to flow the ever-growing stream of pitiful humanity --- women and children and old men --- for in this modern age of civilization the innocent suffer more cruelly than the guilty. / Civilian Chinese mass by the thousand at the gates of the International Settlement --- here they know is shēater to be found from the horrors and barbarism of war. The foreigners in this land of China open their gates, but only a small proportion can be admitted. The swelling forces of human misery threaten to swamp the concession. Nameless ~~horrors~~ terrors are behind them --- safety is before them --- but all too soon comes that dread moment that stamps the hideous cast of fear upon those faces ---- the gates of mercy close. There is no room for more. /

Outside, they are left to meet what fate they may. For some death brings the peace that life denied them. /

*Revised
and
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