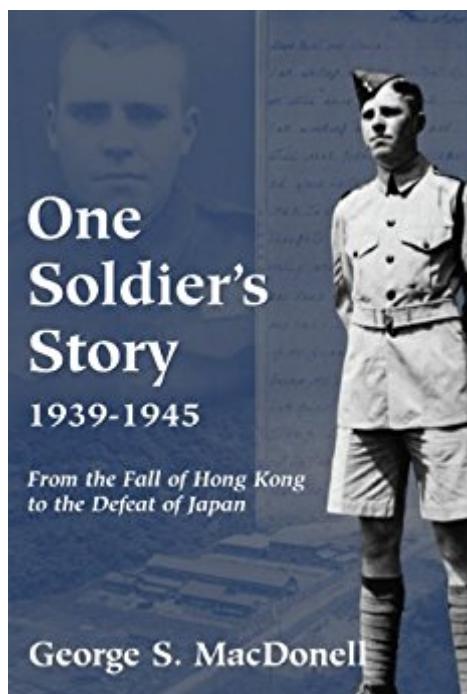


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# One Soldier's Story: 1939-1945: From The Fall Of Hong Kong To The Defeat Of Japan



## **Synopsis**

This is the story of a seventeen year old boy who ran away from home to join the Canadian Army at the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939. It describes the fateful adventures of two regiments dispatched to the Pacific to face the Japanese, and the courage of two thousand young soldiers who, when faced with an impossible task thousands of miles from home, behaved with honour and distinction. Though they lost the battle of Hong Kong, they succeeded in showing the world the mettle of which they were made.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I was so happy to find this book available. I met George S. McDonell when he came into my golf shop in Naples, Florida. Tall, soft spoken, friendly, are just a few words to describe this man. We built a friendship that I am proud of. I never knew about this book or his service to Canada until he came in one day and presented me with an autographed copy of the book. He inscribed, "to one fine man" and signed it. He went on to explain that in the military when one soldier respects another

soldier or man, he will say " one fine man". As he explained it, it brought tears to my eyes to be honored in such a way. I had already read the book and was brought to tears and at times a smile with some of the humor George was able to interject into his account of what happened while in the Japanese prison camp. I am proud and honored to be a friend of this, one fine man. The book is very well written and hard to put down. It's a must read for anyone interested in a small vital piece of history. A forgotten fact, on the day Japan bombed Pearl Harbour, December 7, 1941, they invaded Hong Kong. Let us not forget the Canadian and British soldiers that died or were captured on this sad day in history.

I happened to meet the author recently and during our conversation I found out some fascinating things that most of us know very little about. On the very same day, December 7, 1941 when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor they also invaded Hong Kong. We have a tendency to forget how ruthless the Japanese were as conquerors in China and elsewhere. The author was a young Canadian soldier whose small force was overrun after a fierce fight during which most of the Canadians were killed or wounded. MacDonnell miraculously survived the battle and spent four years in Japanese prison camps before he made it home to Canada. He is in his late eighties now and is a living testimonial to those young men who rose up to defend freedom when they heard the bugle call. Read his book. You'll be glad you did.

This is the remarkable history of those that defended Hong Kong in 1941. The suffering of those taken prisoner by the Japanese is chronicled in explicit and painful detail. Lest we forget.

An exciting book that is well-written. A must read for expats in HK and Canadians. A great book to add to a collection of books on Hong Kong, pre and post colonial years.

Normally, I don't enjoy history books but the story if this soldier had me hooked for two days until I finished it. I would most definitively recommend it!!

Interesting story of a soldier's war against the Japanese in an area which i know well having served in Hong Kong during my National service days.

It is a story about a Canadian soldier, George MacDonell who was sent to Hong Kong and fought with the Japanese during the World War II. In this book MacDonell started with how he became a

Canadian soldier and then described how he was sent to the Pacific War zone during the World War II. When the Canadian army lost the battery in Hong Kong, he became the prisoner of War. He depicted how the Japanese in the Prison of War camp in Hong Kong, then Japan treated him and other soldiers. After years in the prison, he was eventually released in the year of 1945. He then described how he struggled through and became a successful businessman. It is an excellent memoir. The only minor "mistake" is the inconsistent of the names of the place. For instance, the Hong Kong Tai Tam Reservoir sometimes is romanized as "Ty Tam Reservoir." Other than that, the book is well written and organized.

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