



bid for freedom at any cost rather than the result of any carefully prearranged plan.

I had by chance met in the camp an Army captain who knew the layout of what were called the new territories of Hongkong—a strip of land extending about twenty miles inland. The captain joined the doctor and myself, and the three of us made the break together. I should mention here that I had promised to provide, as my contribution to the escape plans, an aeroplane to take us out of Free China when we arrived there. I didn't know, of course, that we had no Air Force there at that time. But the other two believed me, and so I was able to go along with them.

Five minutes after we got outside the compound the sentries spotted us and immediately opened fire. Bullets were flying in all directions, but I feel sure now that we did not provide a definite target and that the shots were fired indiscriminately. Although we had been told that the Japanese would shoot escaping prisoners on sight, we wore our uniforms.

Our prison camp was on a small promontory on the China coast opposite the island of Hongkong. After we got out-

side the compound we entered the sea and swam across the bay, of which the promontory formed one end. The swim took about forty minutes. We still had to cross that brilliantly-lit main road, and so, on leaving the water, we crept along by the side of the road in the hope of finding a suitably shaded spot to cross. While we were doing this two native dogs barked, and as we threw ourselves into a ditch a Japanese patrol passed at the double. We waited until we thought the Japs could no longer hear us, and then climbed on to the road, crossed it, and made our way into the surrounding hills. We had felt exhausted after our forty-minute swim across the bay, but we were able to march over the hills for four hours without stopping. As dawn was breaking we entered some thick foliage and there slept through the day.

We resumed our journey at dusk, heading due north with the idea of reaching the East River, which runs east and west across the Kwantung Province. When the moon came up about 11 o'clock, however, we discovered we were lost. We were in the fortifications of the Shingmun Redoubt, and