

FALL of Nanking

“EXACTLY four months after the outbreak of Sino-Japanese hostilities on the Shanghai peninsula,” a New York *Herald Tribune* correspondent cabled from Shanghai last week, “Nanking, China’s abandoned capital, for the third time in its more than 2000 years of history, was captured by an alien foe when the Japanese military forces completely occupied the city.” Manchurians had taken it in the seventeenth century, and also the invading British army in 1842.

The current war broke out early in July in North China, where the Japanese occupied Peiping, ancient capital of China, and Tientsin. In mid-August Japan attacked Shanghai by land, sea, and air. It fell in mid-November. In November, also, a Nine-Power conference met at Brussels, Belgium, to try to make peace; but Japan refused to attend, and after three weeks the conference disbanded.

After the fall of Shanghai, the Chinese capital was moved from Nanking to Chungkung, far inland. Meanwhile, vast areas of North China, down to the Yellow River, had been occupied by Japanese invaders.

Following the fall of Nanking—considered by some critics as a decisive battle in history—a spokesman for the Japanese army declared that the city’s capture meant an end to “the main center and origin of disturbances to peace in East Asia. Nevertheless, since the spirit of anti-Japanism is being kept alive, hostilities have just begun.”

To this, Quo Taichi, Chinese ambassador to England, replied defiantly: “Capture of Nanking will by no means mark the end of China’s resistance.”