

opinion

Remembrance Day voices we really need to hear

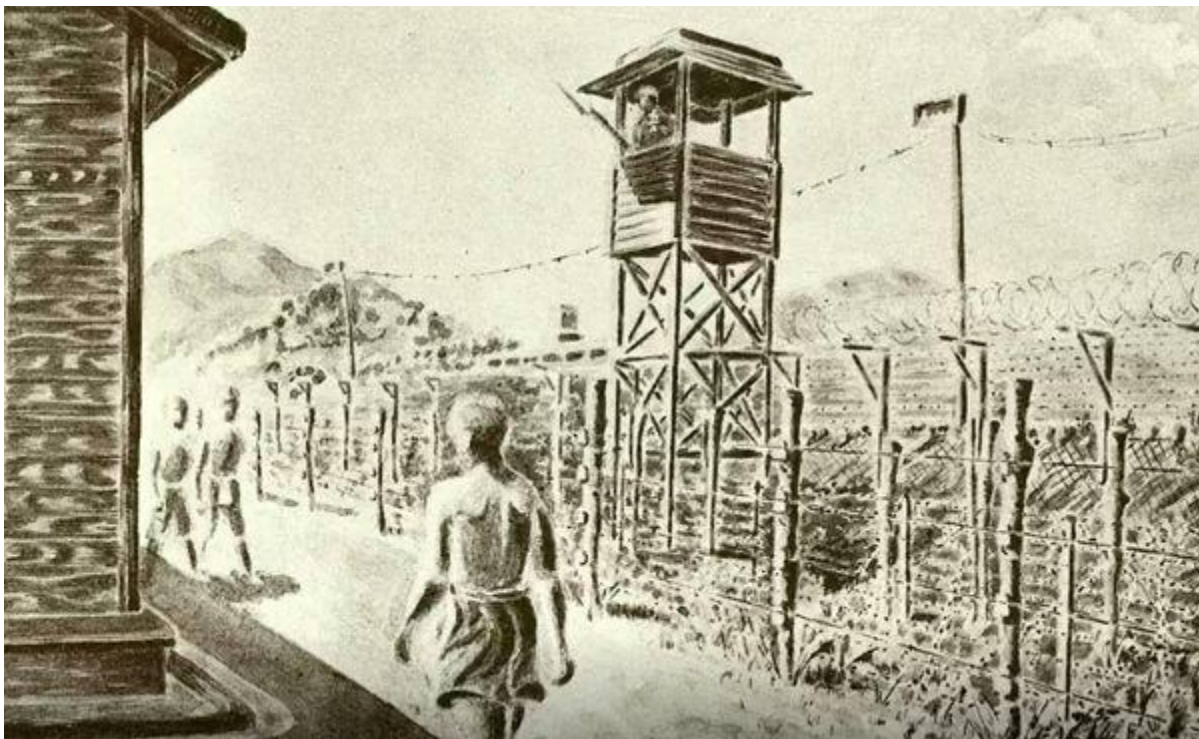


[John Doyle](#) Television Critic

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The Fence (streams CBC Gem) was made to commemorate the anniversary of the beginning of the Battle of Hong Kong on Dec. 8, 1941, in which Japanese forces attacked the Allied soldiers defending the city. It is easily one of the most powerful documentaries to watch on this Remembrance Day or any other day.



(Courtesy of CBC Gem)

About 2,000 Canadian troops were in Hong Kong when the Japanese army came; there was one savage battle, and most were interned. One veteran says, “People didn’t know anything about us for four years, whether we were all dead or what had happened.” Survival was their focus under horrendous conditions and ceaseless ill-treatment. Canadian filmmaker Viveka Melki does an

astounding job, delving deep into a painful history and explaining how a revisionist-history movement in Japan tries to erase this particular portion of the past.

One veteran remembers with remarkable calm when the enemy invaded a hospital for wounded soldiers: “They killed the doctors, raped and murdered the nurses and then killed all the injured soldiers.” A total of 1,689 Canadian soldiers became prisoners of war. Some starved to death as prisoners. In the end, you know that none of these biographical stories are in the least bit false.