



# 1941

*September 1941 Mum turns nineteen years and attends University in Hong Kong. She is living at the Lang family home in Kowloon, but eagerly awaits her father's permission to move into student digs.*

1941

JANUARY						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

FEBRUARY						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

MARCH						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

APRIL						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

MAY						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

JUNE						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

JULY						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			


AUGUST						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SEPTEMBER						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

OCTOBER						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

NOVEMBER						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

DECEMBER						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

 Mum's Diary Entries

**Sept 12**  
Mum receives her ANS 'marching orders'

**Sept 14**  
Mum's Birthday

**Nov 16**  
2,000 Canadian troops arrive in HK

**Dec 7**  
Japanese attack Peel Harbour

**Dec 8**  
Japanese bomb Kai Tak, Mum taking exams

**Dec 10**  
Prince of Wales and Repulse sunk

**Dec 18**  
Japanese Occupation of Kowloon complete

**Dec 25**  
HK surrenders to Japan after 18 days of fierce fighting  
St. Stephen's College Massacre



Mum lived in Kowloon but went over on the Star Ferry to Hong Kong most days to attend university, to socialize with friends etc. This is referred to in her diary as ferry, going over, over to, or just over. As the diary starts in September 1941 she was living in the family home at 9 King's Terrace (Tak Hing Street) and commuting to Hong Kong via the Star Ferry to attend university, church and most social events. She was eager to move into a student hostel and was on tenterhooks waiting for her father's permission. The general tone is upbeat and reflects Mum's excitement at leaving home and entering the HKU social scene. But is she up to the academic rigors? The diary starts with the ominous entry "Over found out I failed home. Miserable" She quickly recovers from this setback

however, and the positive preppy tone resumes with her teasing the sulky boyfriend, relishing 'he said, she said' contretemps and joining various student societies and sporting events. Murmurs of the war to come are reflected in her 'call up papers' from the ANS and her half-hearted involvement in nursing training courses. The choice of rag week costumes has a bitter irony, as we know the hellish reality that lies a few months in the future. Her Christmas exams are interrupted by the sounds of war as the Japanese attack Kai Tak airfield; many of the boys she flirted with and dated would be dead or incarcerated by the New Year.

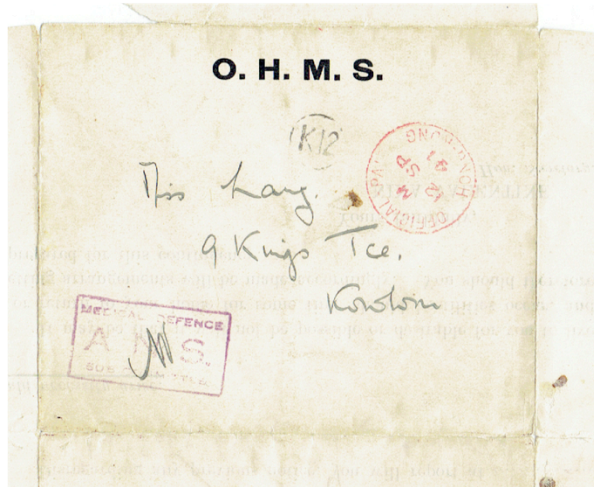
I remember having a conversation with Mum where she mentioned persuading her father to allow/pay for her to go to HKU, it being fairly unusual in those days for women to attend university. I don't believe any of her siblings were similarly privileged, and she was always grateful to her father for allowing her this. Maybe being the eldest daughter gave her an edge; certainly Mum was always a bit of a rebel, her sister Hazel in contrast always being the dutiful daughter (Pc. Antonia). Whatever Mum picked up during her short university career, and more probably during her time as a student at DGS, she paid back in spades teaching English and Cantonese to all and sundry, evident throughout her diary entries. She was a teacher. Even more impressive is her legacy to her Kotwall relatives for whom she found boarding school places at little or no cost, setting them up for the rest of their lives.



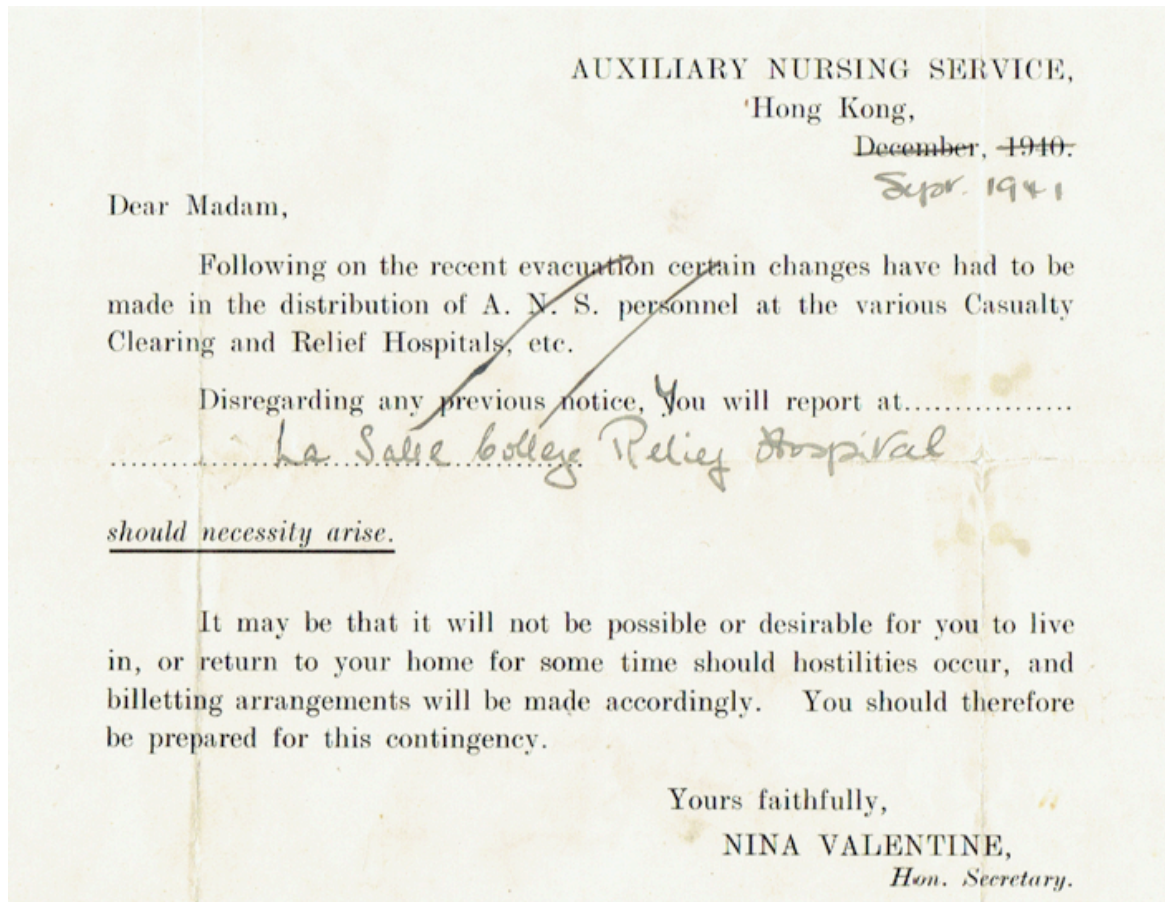
**'I am a teacher of English, not an English teacher!'**



September 1941



Mum's 'call to arms' took the form of an OHMS letter dated September 1941 ordering her to make herself available for nursing duties at the outbreak of hostilities with Japan. The original form letter was dated December 1940, since war with Japan had been anticipated and civilian evacuations already taken place. La Salle College Relief Hospital was in Kowloon. A diary entry 17<sup>th</sup> October 1941 indicates a move to University Hospital.

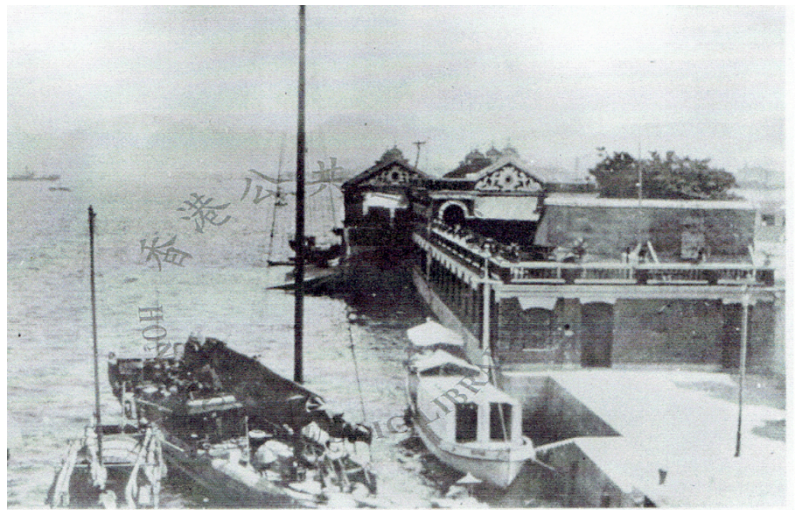


Saturday. Sept. 13. 41.  
 Ced. rang, Paddy + Bax can't  
 make it tonight.  
 ? About Frank Gardner's  
 do tonight.  
 Rang Norman cancell V.R.C.  
 swim tomorrow.  
 Rang Reg. apologized for the  
 other night.  
 Rang Pam - nursing  
 ring again tiffin time.  
 Ced. Sure doesn't want to go. Mum  
 rang again  
 yes or no this aft. don't bother  
 about me. swim  
 laugh. 8th yr. pictures.  
 Can clean car or no U-  
 monos. maybe can hike.  
 madame's for tiffin  
 note for Dr. Herklots.

Saturday September 13th 1941  
 (Mum's birthday is Sept. 14)

Ced. (Cedric Salter) rang. Paddy and Bax can't  
 make it tonight.  
 Question about Frank Gardner's do tonight.  
 Rang Norman cancel V.R.C. swim tomorrow. Rang  
 Reg. (Reggie Broadbridge) apologized for the  
 other night. Rang Pam - nursing  
 Ring again tiffin time.  
 Ced.  
 Sure doesn't want to go because Frank rang again.  
 Yes or no this aft. don't bother about me because  
 swim. Laugh because 8<sup>th</sup> yr. pictures.  
 Can clean car or no tomorrow. Maybe can hike.  
 Madame's for tiffin note for Dr. Herklots

Hong Kong VRC (Victoria Rowing/Recreation Club) 1940. Looking north from Murray Road to the rowing club and swimming pool. Numerous swimming parties were made to the VRC during Antonia and Jonathan's visit to HK in 1963. Mum was always a keen swimmer, and could breaststroke like a pro. The VRC had an annual swim across the harbor, starting in 1906, that thousands participated in. These stopped in 1978 because of the condition of the water, but were revived in 2011.



Dr. G.A.C. Herklots was a Reader in Biology at HKU who in 1941 had been made head of a newly established Fisheries Research Station. Cambridge educated, he was tasked with developing a 'siege biscuit' to provide the HK population with nutrition during what was seen as a possible 3 month siege. Mum was interested in studying Biology at HKU - hence the contact? On October 15<sup>th</sup> 1945 Dr. Herklots provided Mum with a letter of reference, the contents of which suggest he was intimate with her circumstances, and was thus probably an important colleague/ friend.



The following entries 19-21<sup>st</sup> September 1941 are in tiny writing, and were obviously added later in space available.



HKU 1912

at geonester. went up & got  
back my sun specs. met the  
Macveighs. crossed with them  
walked them there self home.  
Tea. read flying bk  
Priny.

\* Ryn uncle Jim. out of bed  
Ryn sea.

Cedric in hospital with malaria  
up was memorial went up on  
Thursday.

---

23<sup>rd</sup> walk with Vi. up to Norm  
Norm to tif. Sut rang. Talk with  
Dad. let me go to U. Out with Mackey  
Rich Daph Win. & Toudein. & 900  
from Teist to Aust. went Para cabanat  
would not home till 2.

20<sup>th</sup> over to uncs. Jim. let me return  
to U. Home. Show with Mackays  
T Jim. Lanau.

19<sup>th</sup> Fri. over found out I failed here.  
miserable.

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September 1941

Over found out I failed home. Miserable.

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September 1941

Over to Uncle Jim's. Let me return to U.  
Home.  
Show with Mackays and Jo\* Lar\*\*\*.

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September 1941

Walk with Vi. Up to Norms. Norm to tif.  
(Norman Broadbridge?) Sut rang.  
Talk with Dad. Let me go to U.  
Out with Macveigh, Rich, Daph, Win. and  
Toudein.  
Going from Teist To Aust. (Australia?)  
Went Para cabanat?  
Violet not home till 2.



All HKU women Grads. 1940

*“Life at HKU was extremely congenial. All students were at that time required to reside in an approved hostel – some were run on the campus by the University itself (May, Lugard and Eliot Halls, now known collectively as ‘Old Halls’) and three were religious in foundation – St. John’s was Church of England, the Jesuits ran Ricci and the London Missionary Society ran Morrison Hall.....They were comfortable places where, in one contributor’s words, they were treated ‘almost like princes’, with servants attending to their needs – not unlike their Oxbridge contemporaries. Many came on government scholarships, with the intention of becoming teachers. HKU was a different place then than it is now with a different organization of faculties so that a student could sign up for courses spanning both the arts and the sciences, unless they joined the medical or engineering faculties.....”*

(Dafydd Emrys Evans from *Dispersal and Renewal: Hong Kong University During the War Years*)



Mum (right) and Paddy Pasco



Monday 22nd Sept. 1941.  
 met Hub Prew on bus.  
 met Wong F & B & Pilsori took  
 25 to 9 over. Saw Conrad &  
 Lockhart at Ferry.  
 Over to U. Chatted with George  
 K. To see Dean Foster.  
 Talked to him as Dad suggested  
 of taking Hist & Biol as extra  
 says can't be done ∴ clashes.  
 even forgot I failed after being  
 so concerned the other day.  
 met Freshers in common room.  
 Pasco very friendly in green  
 silk frock v. sweet.  
 Went to Hist of Eng Lit lecture  
 Keeler. With Pasco all morning  
 can talk to her.  
 Had tiffin with her at Union —  
 she isn't fussy about food.  
 Logic lect 2-3. V Good new Chinese  
 lecturer. Makes Log rather interest-  
 ing.  
 Down to library I left Paddy to see  
 Madame Marty. said she'd see  
 Hsu with a good word for me  
 chatted for a while. Back to  
 library chat with Besh Ahmed.  
 Down town with Paddy. left her

Monday September 22<sup>nd</sup> 1941

Met Iris Prew on bus.  
 Met Wong F and B and Phooi  
 took 25 to 9 over (8:35).  
 Saw Conrad and Lockhart at  
 Ferry. (Star Ferry).  
 Over to U (HKU).  
 Chatted with George K.  
 To see Dean Foster (univ.  
 dean)  
 Talked to him as Dad  
 suggested of taking Hist.  
 and Biol as extra says can't  
 be done because clashes.  
 Even forgot I failed after being  
 so concerned the other day.  
 Met Freshers in common  
 room.  
 Pasco very friendly in green  
 silk frock v. sweet.  
 Went to Hist. of Eng. Lit.



Had tiffin with her at Union — she isn't fussy about food. Logic lecture 2-3. V Good new Chinese lecturer. Makes Logic rather interesting. Down to library I left Paddy to see Madame, Marty said she'd see Hsu (Dr. S. Hsu was a lab. supervisor in biology HKU) with a good word for me chatted for a while. Back to library chat with Besh Ahmed. Down town with Paddy.



at Gloucester. went up & got  
 back my sun specs. met the  
 MacVeighs. crossed with them.  
 Walked them then self home.  
 Tea. read flying bk.  
 Diary.  
 \* Ring uncle Jim.  
 Ring Eva.  
 Cedric - hospital with malaria  
 up war memorial went up on  
 Thursday.

September 22 1941 ctn.

Left her at Gloucester (*hotel*).  
 Went up and got back my sun  
 specs.

Met the MacVeighs?

Crossed with them (*ferry back  
 to Kowloon*)

Walked them then self home.

Tea. Read flying bk.

Diary

\* Ring uncle Jim.

Ring Eva (*Aunty Eva*)

Cedric in hospital with malaria  
 (*a substantial number of  
 soldiers contracted malaria  
 during exercises around  
 HK*)

Up war memorial went up on  
 Thursday



Star Ferry, and Kowloon Terminal with Peninsula Hotel behind.  
 1940's



Ferry (center) with Kowloon terminal in  
 foreground, Hong Kong Peak behind.





Cenotaph Memorial with Hong Kong Club on right. Being Eurasian Mum wasn't allowed in the HKC, however all this changed with the end of the Japanese occupation in 1945, when Mum became a regular customer

**Cedric Lawrence Salter Birthday - 23<sup>rd</sup>. Oct.**

Ced, Cedric. Mum's steady boyfriend until the invasion, worked or was a student at Peel Labs. HKU an Engineering Laboratory. He was a Brit. from London, and grew up in south London and went to school with my Dad. It was Cedric who told my Dad about Mum, that was to lead to Mum and Dad's eventual meeting up in HK, and eventual marriage in the UK, but all that is to come much later (see Appendix D). A photo taken in early 1941 shows him as a handsome Signalman with the HKVDC.



April 1941 HKVDC Corps Signals at Fanling

Photo The Elizabeth Ride Collection

Cedric is center middle row (yellow circle). Above and left circled is Captain Braude See Wed. 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1945.





Cedric (2i) is a constant in Mum's diary until the Japanese capture him and put in pow camp. He comes across as a bit 'clingy' in the diaries, but obviously loves Mum, but is this love reciprocated? Cedric is heavily into cars, and spending time with Ced. meant pottering in the garage with the car, fixing or cleaning the car etc. often to Mum's consternation. I remember Mum telling me about a boyfriend she had with an engine on his kitchen table. Guessing this was Ced.

Ced doesn't like Mum socializing without him and gets jealous. There was also an incident involving a string of pearls thrown into Kowloon Bay.....

A wonderful diary entry dated Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> 1941 sums up my Mum's teasing attitude towards the long-suffering Ced:

"Was giving ced's date up though intuition told me he would come. He came to hostel around 9. Annoyed because could not go to 8.30 lect. at first because of Mr. X outside."

The Mr. X reference probably refers to Cedric's secret Govt. job mentioned in a 6<sup>th</sup> Nov. diary entry:

"Ced could not come to "All this and Heaven too" because had to see me\*\*man about "S4" "secret" Govt. Job."

Cedric drinks pints (probably English type beer) Not a good dancer – too self-conscious according to Mum. He encouraged Mum to try and communicate with him using telepathy. Cedric suffers from occasional bouts of malaria.

Cedric's mother and father, Florence and Alfred were also in HK and Alfred receives several mentions in Mum's diary before he was interned in Stanley. The Salters moved out to HK from south London in the 1920's with Dodwell & Co with whom Alfred was a heating and ventilation engineer. Cedric went on to be an apprentice with Dodwell Motors. Cedric's mother died shortly before the invasion, Alfred remarried – and Cedric's younger brother Michael with his stepmother evacuated to Manila (Empress of Asia) and then Sydney, Australia (Christian Hugins). Source email from Mike Salter January 2008 See Appendix



item. Ada Ciel Self & Ban Yare.  
 Paddy. lost for 1<sup>st</sup> yr. rep.  
 Up to War mem. to see  
 Cedric. met Sheila Harris  
 didn't realize she looked  
 so old.  
 Wonder if Cook wanted to  
 see me? Lovely seeing him  
 again wanted to fling my-  
 self at him.  
 Pas & she left early.  
 Was chucked out about  
 1/2 hr. later lovely walk to  
 tram station. Home.  
 Row: late. Dad said I  
 needn't have gone to see  
 Ced. Mustn't join any societies  
 must stay home & be in  
 by 5. Can't go out until  
 weekends.  
 Wrote to him about  
 staying in weekends. & now  
 I've got my fingers crossed.

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1941  
ctn.

item Ada, Ciel Self and Ban  
 Yare Paddy lost for 1<sup>st</sup> yr. rep.  
 Up to War Mem. to see Cedric.  
 Met Sheila Harris, didn't realize  
 she looked so old.

Wonder if Cook wanted to see  
 me? Lovely seeing him again –  
 wanted to fling myself at him.  
 Pas and she left early.  
 Was chucked out about 1/2 hr.  
 later. Lovely walk to tram station.  
 Home. Row because late. Dad  
 said I needn't have gone to see  
 Ced. Mustn't join any societies,  
 must stay home and be in by 5.  
 Can't go out until weekends.  
 Wrote to him about staying  
 weekends (at Uni.?) and now  
 I've got my fingers crossed.

HK Tram 1940



"Row because late. Dad said I needn't have gone to see Ced.  
 Mustn't join any societies, must stay home and be in by 5.  
 Can't go out until weekends."



\* wednes. 23rd Sept.

living China.  
 Paddy's sun glasses.  
 Pay fees  
 Hockey stick  
 5.15. Hockey

---

Both Paski & I had it. she didn't  
 feel well enough to come in the  
 morning.  
 Came over rather late with the  
 Winyards - tea with Marion.  
 Sh. St. lectures got permission  
 to take tutorials with Paski from  
 Norman.  
 Down union rang Uncle Jim.  
 Pop about hockey & Paski.  
 Chat with Bashir about his  
 monocle & locks of hair.  
 Tiffin with Pauline in common  
 room.  
 French - La Fontaine.  
 Logic.  
French Club Meeting

Wednesday. 23rd September  
 1941 (actually 24th)

Living China.  
 Paddy's sun glasses.  
 Pay Fees  
 Hockey stick  
 5.15 Hockey  
Both Paski and I had it. She  
 didn't feel well enough to come  
 in the morning.  
 Came over rather late with the  
 Winyards. Tea with Marion  
 Sh. St. lectures got permission  
 to take tutorials with Paski from  
 Norman.  
 Down union (*Student Union*)  
 rang Uncle Jim.  
 Pop about hockey and Paski  
 Chat with Bashu about his  
 monocle and locks of hair.  
 Tiffin with Pauline in common  
 room.  
 French - La Fontaine (17<sup>th</sup> C  
*French poet*)  
 Logic  
French Club Meeting

Alvana Cham at DGS sports  
 Pavilion. This could be Cham and  
 her father mentioned later  
 throughout Mum's Diary (20  
 mentions)



*“Chat with Bashu about his monocle and locks of hair.”*

Ahmed Bashir a University student (Arts) who served as a dispatch rider in ARP headquarters. Bashir was believed turned informer, but was executed anyway by the Japanese with 32 other BAAG agents including George Kotwall in 1943.



UHK Sports Pavilion

Mum was a good hockey player, but sometimes stopped the ball with her ankle, which was often bruised as a result. She played center forward

I was elected secretary. nominated by Paski won it from Audrey by 1 vote. Paski pt yr rep. 1 nomin.  
 Walked to Pavilion. Hockey. Paski knows all about goalying 1st. game. V. hot. Have quite a good team now with the greens. Wore Paski's shorts & things.  
 Home - Dad won't decide about Hostel till Sat.  
 Read & copied out notes.  
 Bed.

September 23rd (24<sup>th</sup>) 1941 ctn.

I was elected secretary. Nominated by Paski, won it from Audrey by 1 vote. Paski pt. yr. rep. 1 nomin.

Walked to Pavilion. Hockey. Paski knows all about goalying 1<sup>st</sup>. game. V. hot. Have quite a good team now with the greens. Wore Paski's shorts and things. Home - Dad won't decide about Hostel till Sat.

Read and copied out notes.  
 Bed.

Frances Wong pg. 53



*"Dad won't decide about Hostel 'till Saturday"*



THURS. 24th. Sept.  
 lucky day!  
 Also Paski picked a pin up  
 for me!  
 Both broke our promise  
 I came late & P later still.  
 Phonetics lecture.  
 Tea & chatted.  
 ½ hr work in library - read  
 Hist of the theatre.  
 Tiffin & smoked. Pas. has a  
 lovely silver case.  
 Eng lecture Precip quite inter-  
 esting. Olivia isn't so bad.  
 Paski left w change for  
 show with Neville.  
 Library & chatted with  
 Fifi & Bashu.  
 To see Madame who was  
 talking at her office with  
 Dr. Shu. about me of all  
 things!  
 4pm. Ragging meeting  
 Bea has some swell ideas

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>. September  
 1941. (actually 25<sup>th</sup>)

Lucky day!  
 Also Paski picked a pin up for  
 me!  
 Both broke our promise  
 I came late and P later still.  
 Phonetics lecture.  
 Tea and chatted.

½ hr work in library - read Hist  
 of the theatre.  
 Tiffin and smoked. Pas. has a  
 lovely silver case.  
 Eng lecture Precip quite  
 interesting. Olivia isn't so bad.  
 Paski left to change for show  
 with Neville.  
 Library and chatted with Fifi  
 and Bashu.

To see Madame who was  
 talking at her office with Dr.  
 Shu about me of all  
 things!

4pm. Ragging (*beating up on  
 Freshers?*) meeting  
 Bea has some swell ideas

(For more on Bea see pg. 101)

Neville, Paddy's boyfriend and later fiancée, ends up in Sham  
 Shui Po with Cedric. He is mentioned in one of Cedric's letters  
 smuggled out of camp (pg.116). This was Neville Eric Matthews  
 HKVDC, who like Cedric ended up in Japan, Innoshima.



Enter as convicts. Special victims. Paski has to dance to her own music. \*  
 Down town with Kotewall. Over to boring lecture nursing. Giggled at the back with Pam. Robby was there too.  
 Bought mag. then waited in vain for lift by Goef. or her Pop.  
 Home & just missed Cookie's phone. Dad told boy not to let me know but he did. Rang him at home after dinner. & lucky! he rang me from hospital just aft I hung up.  
 Well be out tomorrow 9am. can see him. Cried with joy!  
 Everybody's going Tin Hat Ball! wish I was.

*"Everybody's going Tin Hat Ball!  
 Wish I was"*

Thurs. 24<sup>th</sup>. (25<sup>th</sup>) September 1941 ctn.

Enter as convicts. Special Victims. Paski has to dance to her own music. \*  
 Downtown with Kotewall.  
 Over and to boring lecture nursing. Giggled at the back with Pam. Robby was there too.

Bought magazine then waited in vain for lift by Goef. or her Pop.

Home and just missed Cookie's phone. Dad told boy not to let me know but he did. Rang him at home after diner, and lucky! He rang me from hospital just aft I hung up.

He'll be out tomorrow 9am. Can see him.  
 Cried with joy!  
 Everybody's going Tin Hat Ball!  
 Wish I was.



**TIN HAT BALL**  
**Peninsula Hotel**  
 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3,  
 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Special and Original Attractions

Further particulars shortly  
 Tickets \$5 including supper, on sale from Friday, Sept. 12 at Hongkong and Peninsula Hotels, Anderson Music Co., Ltd., S. Moutrie & Co., Ltd., Tsang Fook Piano Co., S. C. M. Post.

It is advisable to make early reservations for tables.

IN AID OF THE BOMBER FUND

Ball was interrupted for "all men connected to any ship in the harbor to report for duty"

Friday 25th Sept.  
 Went up but ced was funny.  
 Almost

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September  
 1941 (actually 26<sup>th</sup>)

Went up but ced (Cedric) was funny. Almost

(rest of page blank, on reverse below written very faint)

2-slacks  
 1-petticoat  
 Knickers



Pamela Crofton

~~2-slacks~~  
~~1-petticoat~~  
 knickers

Sunday 28th. Sept.  
 Went back to hostel with Pasky.  
 Rooming with Elena Cooke.  
 Awfully sweet girl - intel -  
 light too. Plump & pretty  
 large dark eyes & nice teeth.  
 Went up to ced's to help  
 him mess with car.  
 Stayed for dinner.

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September 1941

Went back to hostel with Pasky.

Rooming with Elena Cooke.  
 Awfully sweet girl - intelligent too.  
 Plump and pretty  
 Large dark eyes and nice teeth.

Went up to Ced's to help him mess  
 with car.

Stayed for dinner.

Mum gets permission to move  
 into university hostel!



Monday 29th Sept. 40.

Ring Pasky.  
 Tell ahmah about light.  
 Ask Bax about Pasky's tif here.  
 Buy book biol 1.  
 Ring home. Ring maple. Ring Ced.  
 Ring dad. Rag meeting. Ring Jo.  
 See about Fre. club notice.  
 Essay.  
 Write Dad.  
 Ring Mrs. Davidson.

---

Biology.

Tea with Pasky in union & bunked Practicals. Went to Eng. instead.  
 Pas had tiffin at hostel  
 Logic.  
 Up to Ced's saw Gustave there cleaned engine. Hostel for dinner. up again & dean was rude when he asked me what was wrong but rang back to apologise

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> Sept. 40.  
 actually 1941 (looks like year notation might have been added later)

Ring Pasky.  
 Tell ahmah about light.  
 Ask Bax about Pasky's tif here.  
 Buy book biol 1  
 Ring home. Ring maple.  
 Ring Ced. Ring dad. Rag meeting. Ring Jo (Hazel, Mum's sister).  
 See about French club notice.  
 Essay.  
 Write Dad.  
 Ring Mrs. Davidson.

Biolog ayu.  
 Tea with Pasky in Union and bunked Practicals. Went to Eng. instead. Pas had tiffin at hostel Logic.  
 Up to Ced's saw Gustave there cleaned engine. Hostel for dinner. up again and dean was rude when he asked me what was wrong but rang back to apologise

Tues. Sept. 30.  
 Bunked Eng to fin essay  
 on Education & Cinema.  
 Bunked Biol for tutorial with  
 Pas & M. Hwang. Pas essay -  
 chub & panorama was v  
 good. read play.  
 Down town saw Dad &  
 met her Pop. Gave dad  
 letter.  
 Up to hers for tea - lovely  
 flat. Gave me photo of her  
 self. She came down w  
 dancing me to Ceds.  
 That \* ! o o car again  
 Left early at his father's  
 suggestion went for walk  
 till after 12!

Tuesday September  
 30<sup>th</sup> 1941

Bunked Eng to fin  
 essay on Education  
 and Cinema

Bunked Biol for  
 tutorial with Pas and  
 M. Hwang. Pas  
 essay  
 chub and panorama  
 was v good. Read  
 Play.

Down town saw Dad  
 and met her Pop (for  
 more on Paddy's  
 father Boris see 1943  
 intro.). Gave dad  
 letter.

Up to hers for tea -  
 lovely flat. Gave me  
 photo of herself. She  
 came down to  
 dancing me to Ceds.

That \* ! o o  
 (expletive) car again  
 Left early at his  
 father's suggestion  
 went for walk  
 Till after 12!

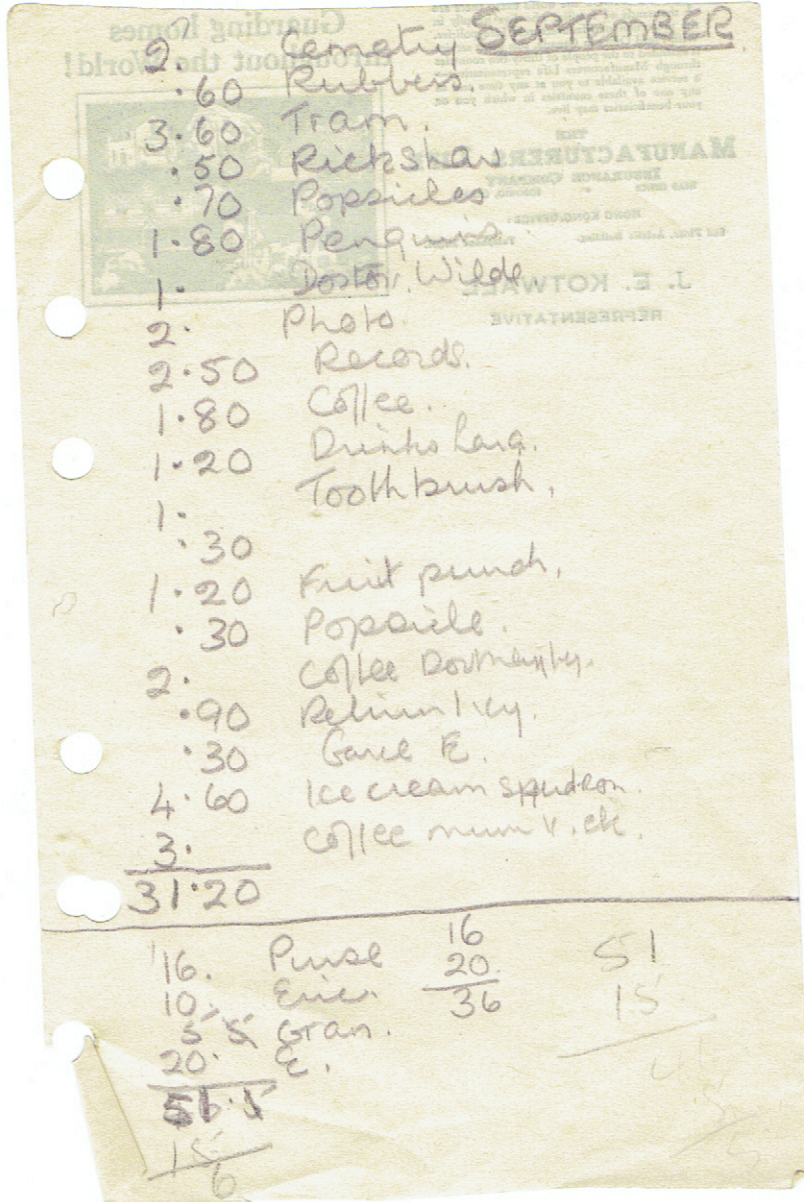


*"That \* ! o o car again"*

Fellow UHK  
 students Lugard Hall  
 1941

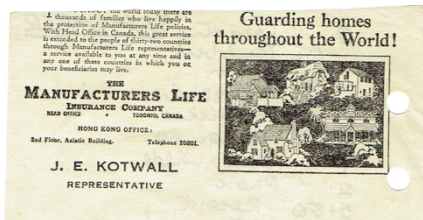


The following diary page is a list of expenses titled September



SEPTEMBER

- 2. Cemetery (sic) .60
- Rubbers 3.60
- Tram .50
- Rickshaw .70
- Popsicles 1.80
- Penguins 1.80
- Doctor Wilde 1.00
- Photo 2.00
- Records 2.50
- Coffee 1.80
- Drinks Laig 1.20
- Toothbrush 1.00
- Fruit punch 1.30
- Popsicle 1.20
- Coffee Dor.May.Ivy .30
- Return Ivy .30
- Gave E. 2.00
- Ice Cream Spud, Ron 4.60
- Coffee mum V etc. 3.00
- 31.20**
- 16. Purse 16
- 10. Eric 20
- 55. Gran 51
- 20. E. 15
- 51.5**



Heading on diary page of last entry indicates Mum's Uncle James' (Jimmy) occupation

October 1941

wed. 1. Oct. 41.  
~~Ring - Maple,~~  
~~Mrs Davidson~~

See Hilda  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 1  
 \* Ask Norman 2 things Curcens  
 \* Ask Audrey Bks.  
 \* Cicely bks  
 Ragging party  
~~Ring Jo~~  
 Write to Mrs. Kelenko  
 Dig up for mag. article.  
 Fill in Fre. log.

---

Change back to winter time,  
 only  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr.  
 Up but not too late.  
 Down to com. room chat with  
 N. wee about raffles.  
 Pasky came - pink shirt waist  
 Ho\*kieh - union  
 Rang Cookie thrown out of booth  
 by Betty.  
 Sh Stones lecture  
 Got duties from salmon.  
 Prepare for article changed subj.  
 Tiffin in union. -----? Joined us

Wednesday 1st October 1941

Ring - Maple  
 Mrs. Davidson

See Hilda?  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 1  
 Ask Norman 2 things  
 Cuireem?  
 Ask Audrey Bks.  
 Ciely (Kotewall) bks  
 Ragging party (university  
 fresher's initiation?)  
 Ring Jo  
 Write to Mrs. Kal\*\*\*\*\*?  
 Dig up for mag. Article  
 Fill in Fre. log.  
 Change back to winter time  
 only  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. (Tuesday Sep. 30  
 HKST to HKT is minus 1 hour  
 (DST end)  
 Up but not too late  
 Down to common room chat  
 with N. Wee about raffles.  
 Pasky came in pink shirt waist  
 (tailored blouse or shirt)  
 Ho\*kieh? in union.  
 Rang Cookie, thrown out of  
 booth by Betty (phone booth?)  
 Sh Stones lecture  
 Got duties from salmon  
 Prepare for article Changed  
 subj.  
 Tiffin in union. -----? Joined us



Cicely Kotewall

For more on Cicely, and life at pre-war DGS  
 See Appendix F



2-3 French

Down town with Pas. 15 min on her rock. met her mother. had ~~with~~ a drink with her in Bh shop with her father. up on bus with Henkin & met Mike Schiller.

Ragging party quite successful rather wild. Walked Pasky to bus with Elena. Miss Buckland - to dinner Rang Ced. chatted with Elena & Latifah.

---

Ring Mrs. Davidson.  
\* Jo. Maple.

---

\* Write Mrs. Valerie.  
\* Do Précis. Rag. Article.

---

French - Essay La lune.

October 1<sup>st</sup> 1941 ctn.

2 - 3 French

Down town with Pas to try on her frock. Met her mother. Had a drink with her in book shop with her father (*Boris Pasco owned a book shop on Ice House Street*). Up on bus with Henkin and met Mike Schiller.

Ragging party quite successful rather wild. Walked Pasky to bus with Elena.

Miss Buckland in to dinner Rang Ced. chatted with Elena and Latifah

Ring Mrs. Davidson  
Jo. Maple  
Write Mrs. Valerie?  
Do Précis. Rag. Article

French Essay - La Lune

*"Ragging party quite successful rather wild."*



Mum (bottom right) with fellow UHK students  
Lugard Hall?

Thurs. 2nd Oct.  
 Back & \* fill Fre. Log.  
 \* Mag. article  
 Bring Pauline's nail polish.  
 \* Phon. curreen.  
 Home. & get stuff.  
 Nursing.  
 Finish mag. article.  
 Back & messed about. - Did  
 not get much done. Pas came  
 late so bunched ~~about~~ to wait for  
 her. Left her early went home  
 & washed hair. Went nursing  
 after tea. Robby & Terry  
 Lockhart were there. Went to  
 dinner at Penin with them &  
 Terry Conrad. met Jo & Norman  
 there. Robby left early. got a  
 LL. & went to Kings with Con  
 & Terry saw "too many girls" not  
 so good. Took me up to hostel  
 in taxi.  
 \* Get bowl & tk from Con.

Thursday 2nd October 1941

Back and fill Fre. Log.  
 magazine article  
 Bring Pauline's nail polish.  
 Phone Cuireem? (same name as  
 Wed 1<sup>st</sup>)

Home and get stuff

Nursing

Finish Mag. Article.

Back and messed about - Did not  
 get much done. Pas came late so  
 bunched ~~logie~~ phon. (phonetics?)  
 to wait for her. Left her early went  
 home and washed hair. Went  
 nursing after tea. Robby and  
 Terry Lockhart were there. Went  
 to dinner at Penin (*Peninsular  
 Hotel*)  
 with them and Terry Conrad. Met  
 Jo and Norman there. Robby left  
 early. Got a LL. and went to  
 King's (*movie theatre*) with Con  
 and Terry saw "Too many Girls"  
 not so good. Took me up to hostel  
 in taxi  
 Get bowl and bk. from Con.

Too Many Girls Oct 8th 1940  
 Hollywood release in which  
 Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz  
 first met







The Peninsular Hotel



Too Many Girls at the King's Theatre  
Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> 1941

Friday 3rd October 1941

Fri 3rd Oct  
 Finish article \*  
 music.  
 Biology. lecture. met George coming back. Chatted with him & Bill in Union libe.  
 Pasky came & we had drink. She was furious at gossip about her now - apparently she is under my influence according to them. But she is naturally like me & will have the same attitude as I towards them. Lost Sophie's slip of paper. Scrounged around for it & found it. Rang Ced. up & they have acted organizers for tomorrow. Pad tiffed at hostel down town to try her frock on. Had drink with her father. Pad felt bad because he suggested coming tomorrow and tonight. Pad rang her father later & had a row with him. She was broke down - took her back to hostel for a cup of tea & a good howl. met Ced at 7 Gloucester. Had dinner there saw Lady Hamilton drink at Gloucester. Home to his place. & sat in his garage. Home 2:30.

Finish article

Music.

Biology. lecture. Met George coming back. Chatted with him and Bill in Union libe.

(student union library?)

Pasky came and we had drink

She was furious at gossip about her now - apparently she is under my influence according to them. But she is naturally like me and will have the same attitude as I towards them. Lost Sophie's slip of paper. Scrounged around for it and found it.

Rang Ced. up and they have acted organizers for tomorrow. Pad tiffed at hostel, down town to try her frock on. Had drink with her father. Pad felt bad because

he suggested coming tomorrow and tonight. Pad rang her father later and had a row with him. She was

broke down - took her back to hostel for a cup of tea and a good howl. Met Ced at 7 Gloucester. (Gloucester

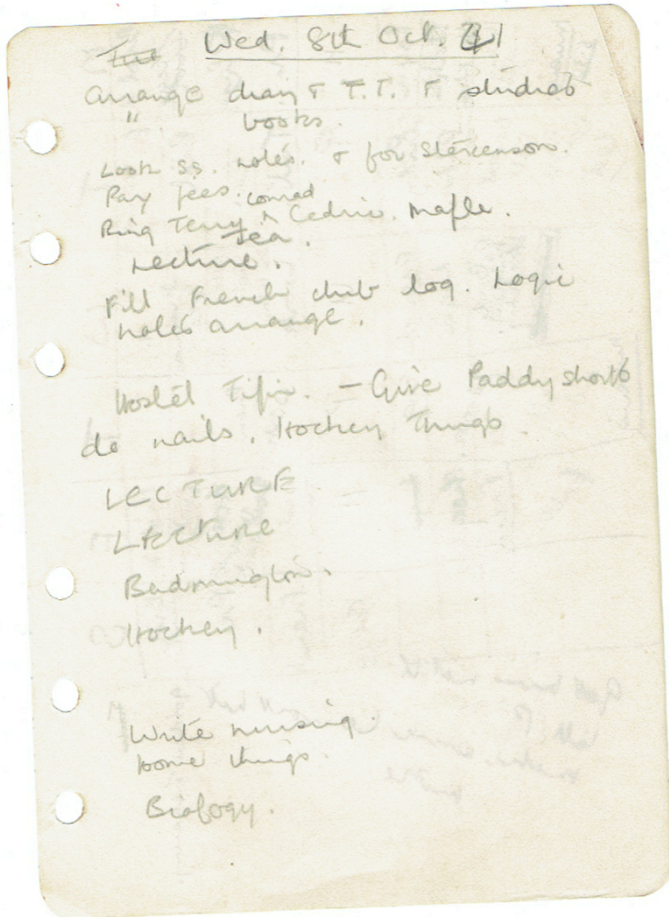
building and hotel, HK, built in 1930) Had dinner there

saw Lady Hamilton. Drink at Gloucester. To his place and sat in his garage. Home 2:30.



That Hamilton Woman  
 starring Vivien Leigh  
 and Laurence Olivier  
 released April 30<sup>th</sup>  
 1941





Wed. 8<sup>th</sup> October 1941

Arrange diary and T.T. and studied  
 Arrange books.  
 Look SS. Notes and for Stevenson  
 Pay Fees  
 Ring Terry, Conrad, Cedric, Maple  
 Lecture Tea  
 Fill French Club log Logic notes arrange.

Hostel Tiffin – Give Paddy shorts  
 Do nails. Hockey Things

LECTURE  
 LECTURE  
 Badminton  
 Hockey

Write nursing  
 home Things

Biology

Lugard, Eliot and May Halls. Photo taken before Lugard was demolished in 1992. These were men’s Halls, Ricci Hall is written on Mum’s diary cover, however this was a men’s only Hall. St. Stephen’s was the Woman’s Hall.



19  41

Friday 17th. October  
Holiday : Confucius birthday. Stayed in all day. Woke up with slight "pender dessus". Washed hair. Letters from A.N.S. Simpson - changed to University Hospital. Letter from Maple. Lesson O.K. for Tuesday. Ced rang several times. Invited Gerkin to his party. He has his poker today. Hope he wins for tonight. Says he should do for this month. Even Cookie balances his budget!! His fishes look pretty with the light on it now.

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October 1941

Holiday because Confucius birthday. Stayed in all day. Woke up with slight "pender dessus". Washed hair. Letters from A.N.S. (Auxillary Nursing service) Simpson - changed to University Hospital. Letter from Maple. Lesson O.K. for Tuesday. Ced rang several times. Invited Gerkin to his party. He has his poker today. Hope he wins for tonight. Says he should do for this month. Even Cookie balances his budget!! His fishes look pretty with the light on it now.



The brand new (Sept. 1941)  
Northcote Science Building  
where Mum studied biology



M	T	W	T	F	S	Feeds
Biol H. <del>Leg</del>	B. V. C. P.	H.		Biol. H.	Biol. Eng.	golden treasury
P. P. P.	Tan.	Discusses see dated notes Sel. S. S. see Milda	Phon.	Work	Pr.	
Pr.	Tut.	works	work	Wash Haw	French	
H.	P.	U.	P.	H	Boys	
Logic	Pr. Study	French	Eng.	<del>Pr.</del>		
Work - 4. K. L.	P. S. S.	Logic	Work	Hoqch		
Hockey match 2.15	Cedric ball cricket	R. Bad Hockey	Work Basket Ball Cricket	French		
Music 5.30	Cedric		music	French		

Mum's timetable; 1941 subjects include:

- Biology
- Logic
- Music
- French
- English
- Phon (Phonetics)

And extra-curricular:

- Basket Ball
- Cricket
- Hockey (field hockey)
- Nursing
- Cedric
- Boys (could be family)

Additional notes:

- Golden Treasury
- Get him to tell P
- Make sure he wont hit Mike

31

Wednesday. 22nd. October 41.  
 Up eightish. Down to breakfast.  
 Paddy's friend came so she  
 missed lecture & came late.  
 Rang Ced bout tiffin tomorrow #

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 41

Up eightish. Down to  
 breakfast. Paddy's friend  
 came so she missed lecture  
 and came late. Rang Ced bout  
 tiffin tomorrow.

NB

~~Give Ced. tie pin.~~  
~~Ring Maple~~  
~~Ask Baccy - coffee.~~  
~~French Log. & letter to Claire?~~  
~~Blazer~~  
~~Contact lenses ring Ken~~  
~~Ring Mrs. Davidson B4 end~~  
~~month.~~  
~~Owe Zaza W4.~~  
~~Bring home journal.~~  
~~Money for Bks.~~  
~~Shoes~~  
~~Photographs~~  
~~Bring back tea tickets~~  
~~Report? my pen and other one~~  
~~Madame's books~~  
~~See about inoculations etc.~~  
~~Jan 5~~  
~~Brown Uniform~~  
~~Biol \*\*\*\* \*~~  
~~See Mrs. Gittins (see pg. 84)~~  
~~Ask about fuzzy coat~~  
~~Congratulate dad on his~~  
~~promotion~~  
~~Bk. Cinema and Education~~  
~~American Club. (the American~~  
~~Club HK was founded in 1925~~  
~~and in 1936 was relocated to~~  
~~the then new HK and Shanghai~~  
~~Bank building)~~

Rings ced's Pint.  
 Give ced. tie pin.  
 Ring Maple  
 Ask Baccy - coffee  
 French Log and letter to Claire?  
 Blazer  
 INVITATIONS  
 Contact lenses ring Ken?  
 Ring Mrs. Davidson B4 end  
 month  
 Owe Zaza W4  
 Bring Home journal.  
 Money for Bks. Razor  
 Shoes Madame's office  
 Photographs  
 Bring back tea tickets  
 Report? my pen and other one  
 Madame's books  
 See about inoculations etc.  
 Jan 5  
 Brown Uniform  
 Biol \*\*\*\* \*  
 See Mrs. Gittins (see pg. 84)  
 Ask about fuzzy coat  
 Congratulate dad on his  
 promotion  
 Bk. Cinema and Education  
 American Club. (the American  
 Club HK was founded in 1925  
 and in 1936 was relocated to  
 the then new HK and Shanghai  
 Bank building)

NB

Pinch ced's Pint  
 Give ced. tie pin.  
 Ring Maple  
 Ask Baccy - coffee  
 French Log and letter to Claire?  
 Blazer  
 INVITATIONS  
 Contact lenses ring Ken?  
 Ring Mrs. Davidson B4 end  
 month  
 Owe Zaza W4  
 Bring Home journal.  
 Money for Bks. Razor  
 Shoes Madame's office  
 Photographs  
 Bring back tea tickets  
 Report? my pen and other one  
 Madame's books  
 See about inoculations etc.  
 Jan 5  
 Brown Uniform  
 Biol \*\*\*\* \*  
 See Mrs. Gittins (see pg. 84)  
 Ask about fuzzy coat  
 Congratulate dad on his  
 promotion  
 Bk. Cinema and Education  
 American Club. (the American  
 Club HK was founded in 1925  
 and in 1936 was relocated to  
 the then new HK and Shanghai  
 Bank building)



Thursday 23rd October  
 Fredjick's birthday 🎵  
 Cold shower. Tidy room & mind  
 Down <sup>See Bet.</sup> early. Study nursing.  
 Order tiffin. Contact lenses -  
 Ring Ken Bax. Lecture.  
 Boy's to tiff. Lecture  
Home. - Snakes shoes. Fish.  
 Clogs. Table lamp.  
 Music bk.  
~~Mum~~ Money. Tailor. Dress.  
 table.  
 Jo - evening dress.  
 any way.  
 Tailor.  
 Nursing. Robby & bandaging  
 Out to dinner with Robby.  
ced. Dinner with Robby.  
NB Ring. Ken Bax.

3hrs.?  
 Clogs. Table lamp.  
 Music bk.  
 Mum Money. tailor. Dress.  
 table.  
 Jo evening dress.  
 \*\*\* way.  
 Tailor  
 Nursing. Robby and bandaging  
 Out to dinner with Robby.  
 ced. Dinner with Robby.  
 NB Ring. Ken Bax.

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1941

Fredjick's birthday 🎵



Eva and Fred King's Terrace

Cold shower. Tidy room and mind  
 See Bet. Down early. Study  
 nursing. Order tiffin. Contact  
 lenses.

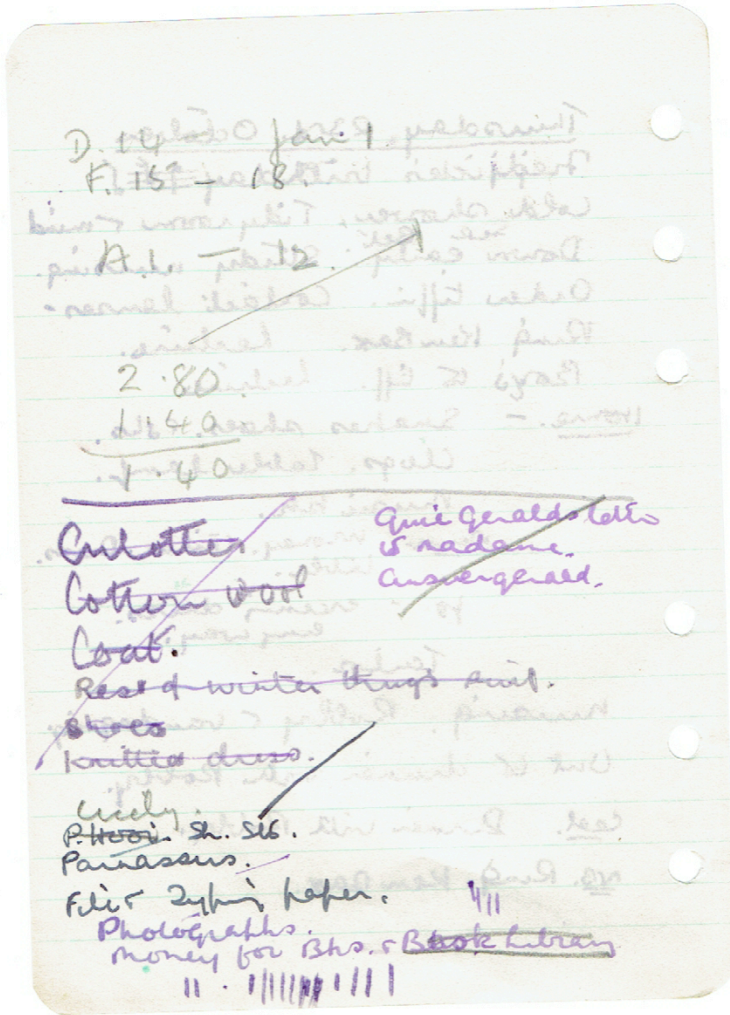
Ring Ken Bax (There was a Ken  
 Baxter from NSW (Aussie) with  
 the HKVDF Signals in 1941)

Lecture

Boy's to tiff. Lecture

Home - Snakes shoes and

Contact lenses were still in  
 their infancy, and covered the  
 whole eye. The first corneal  
 lenses were not developed  
 until 1949. Mum would have  
 been a pioneer - vanity run  
 amock!



Over page, the following in faint pencil:

D.14 – Jan 1  
F.15 – 18

A1 – 12

2.80  
1.40  
1.40

The following list is all crossed out:

~~Culottes~~  
~~give Gerald's letter to Madame~~  
~~Cotton Wool~~  
~~Coat~~  
~~Answer Gerald~~  
~~Rest of winter things \*\*\*\*~~  
~~Shoes~~  
~~Knitted dress~~

~~Cicely~~  
~~P. Hooi Sh. S16~~  
~~Parnassus~~  
~~File and typing paper~~  
~~Photographs~~  
~~Money for Bks. and Bask? Library~~

Hong Kong has a monsoon-influenced subtropical climate. It is mild for more than half the year. There are mild, relatively dry winters, and hot, humid, and wet summers. The wettest month is August, and driest January. At the coolest times of the year from mid-December to February, the temperature may fall to 10 °C (50 °F). In the warmest times (late May to mid-September), it averages 28 °C (82 °F). However, it may reach 33 °C (91 °F). Typhoons, tropical cyclones, are rated 1-10. #3 = rain and winds, #8 = stay indoors and away from windows, all public transport including the Star Ferry stops. 9/10 is rare = hurricane strength winds.



Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 1941

Friday. 24<sup>th</sup> Oct.  
NB. Bet & Robby (bandages.) Bank 3fl. <sup>none.</sup> \*\*\*  
 Cotton wool from home.  
Ring. Ced. - see him & watch.  
 Come up with me.  
 Dad.

NB Bet and Robby (bandages)  
 Bank 3fl. \*\*\*  
 Cotton wool from home.  
 Ring Ced. - see him and watch  
 (probably Cedric doing car  
 maintenance). Come up with me.  
 Dad.

Wed. 29<sup>th</sup> Oct.  
Ring. Mrs. Davidson.  
 Bring bandages to Robby.  
 Paddy's present.  
 Hostel Party.  
 Home.

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 1941

Ring Mrs. Davidson

Bring bandages to Robby  
 Paddy's present  
 Hostel Party  
 Home

Thurs. 30<sup>th</sup> Oct.  
Ring. Mrs. Davidson.  
Ring. Maple.  
~~Common room letters.~~  
 3-4 French Club.  
 4-5 Rehearsal.

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October 1941

Ring Mrs. Davidson.  
 Ring Maple  
~~Common room letters.~~  
 3-4 French Club  
 4-5 Rehearsal

Fri. 31st. Oct. Woke up with premonition of evil.  
 Visa's for tiffin.  
 Biol. lecture. Back & into  
 Hornell to talk clothes with Johnson.  
 Met. Visa & Nancy in Jordan. Tea  
 then home with her. Rang  
 Ced who teased her thro' me & the  
 phone. Looked thro' mags & talked  
 clothes. Tiffin & ate all her bread  
 up. Gave me a lift down to Ced's.  
 to get notes. wh. he left at office.  
 Hung around for a while.  
 To logic & French. - not a breathy  
 moment. Tea room.  
 Paddy & I sat there till 6.30. in a  
 grey world.  
 Home supper. Roast bf yorh pudd.  
 Most of the girls gone to musical  
 concert.  
 Ce whistled below window.  
 up - to his. took. C. came in  
 with girls.  
 Did some work - turned in late.

NB Rang cancel tiffin  
 " Mrs. Davidson.  
 Get shoes.  
 Money for Bks.

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 1941

Woke up with premonition of evil.

Visa's for tiffin.

Biol. Lecture . Back and into Hornell (*Hornell Hall UHK*) to talk clothes with Johnson.

Met Visa and Nancy in Jordan (*Jordan library in the Union*) Tea then home with her. Rang Ced. who teased her thro' me and the phone. Looked thro' mags. and talked clothes. Tiffin and ate all her bread up. Gave me a lift down to Ced's. to get notes which he left at office. Hung around for a while.

To logic and French. Not a breathing moment. Tea room. Paddy and I sat there till 6.30 in a grey world.

Home supper. Roast bf. yorh pudd. Most of the girls gone to musical concert.

Ce. whistled below window. Up to his. Took ~~\*\*~~ (ferry?) came in with girls.

Did some work - turned in late.



Visa in DGS uniform

NB Ring cancel tiffin  
 Ditto Mrs. Davidson for  
 Fri. Get shoes  
 Money for Bks.



November 1941

Sat. 1st Nov. 1941  
 Madames for P.M.  
 C.B.A. Dinner.  
 NB Ring home [Dress. take shoes. teach. clean brushes & combs. Ring Mrs. Davidson.]  
 " Maple.  
 get. history & ren. done.  
 Ring Mrs. Davidson.  
 Went to Eng. & finished Biol. pract. too. Rehearsal for "Man in Bowler Hat". To Madames for diff. wks Paddy. Went for walk to Queen Mary Hospital. Bus back to her place rested. Tea at Gloucestershire. Back to hostel. Rested - bathed - & dressed. Ced didn't ring. Waited. He was waiting for me to ring. Went finally. Annoyed with him till we got there. Had lovely time danced with everybody. Ced couldn't

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November 1941

Madame's for p.m.  
 C.B.A. Dinner (Central Bank Australia?).  
 NB Ring home (Dress. take shoes teach. Clean brushes and combs. Light.)  
 Ring Maple.  
 Get. History and French done.  
 Ring Mrs. Davidson.

Went to English and bunked biology practical too. Rehearsed for "Man in Bowler Hat" (*The Man in the Bowler Hat is a short one-act play by Samuel French 1923*). To Madame's for tiffin with Paddy. Went for walk to Queen Mary Hospital (built in the 1920's in Pok Fu Lam, HK Island). Bus back to her place, rested. Tea at Gloucestershire. Back to hostel. Rested - bathed and dressed. Ced didn't ring. Waited. He was waiting for me to ring. Went finally. Annoyed with him till we got there. Had lovely time danced with everybody.



Queen Mary Hospital 1941

*"Had lovely time danced with everybody"*

be a very good dancer if  
 he wasn't self conscious.  
 met Ken Ponow - Desmond  
 Taylor - Manning - Dagwood  
 Denning.  
 Danced with George Kaifus  
 Leff. Home at about 2.  
 Ced was joy juiced & spoke  
 to me.

Ced. could be a very good dancer if he  
 wasn't self conscious. Met Ken Ponow?  
 Desmond Taylor Manning. Dagwood  
 Denning.  
 Danced with George Kaifus Leff (*could be  
 the same George Leff referred to Happy  
 Valley Cemetery*) Home at about 2. Ced  
 was Joy Juiced (*probably champagne  
 sometimes referred to as Joy Juice*) and  
 spoke to me.

*"Cedric was Joy Juiced and spoke to me"*



The Gloucester in 1950



Monday, 3rd Nov.  
 Lugard for tif.  
 Staff v. Students hockey,  
 Visa's bk.

Biol. pract. Met. Parr Henk.  
 Tiffin at Lugard Down to Logic.  
 In a Monday mood wanted  
 to have tea then see the S.V.  
 Stud. hockey, Paddy listened  
 to Baldy's piano so could not.  
 Then talked music in Black  
 Tea room till almost 6.30.

Home dinner. Ced took Boc home  
 to dinner whist. under window.  
 Walked them up. Then back again.  
 He rang for me to go up again.  
 Had something to eat with them.  
 Dault. partnered with Mr.  
 Salter & won. Then listened to

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1941

Lugard (*Hall*) for tif.  
 Staff v. Students hockey.  
 Visa's book

Biology practical Met Pat  
 and Henk. Tiffin at Lugard.  
 Down to Logic. In a Monday  
 mood. Wanted to have tea  
 then see the Staff vs Student  
 hockey. Paddy listened to  
 Baldy's piano so could not.  
 Then talked music in Black  
 Tea room till almost 6:30.

Home dinner. Ced took Boc  
 home to dinner whistled  
 under window. Walked them  
 up. Then back again.

He rang for me to go up  
 again. Had something to eat  
 with them. Dault? partnered  
 with Mr. Salter (*Cedric's  
 Dad, Alfred*) and won. then  
 listened to German  
 propaganda on radio. Ced.  
 walked me back by 1/4 to ten.  
 Sat up to 12. Singing songs  
 with Elena and Lalijah.

*'Listened to German  
 propaganda on  
 radio'*

German propaganda on radio.  
 Ced walked me back by 1/4 to ten.  
 Sat up to 12. Singing songs with  
 Elena & Lalijah

Tues. 4th. Nov. 41.  
 Sophie to tiffin.  
 10:30. Stand Bash tea.

Tuesday 4th November 1941

Sophie to tiffin  
 10:30 Stand Bash tea.

Wednesday 5th Nov  
 Up late. Got letter from  
 unknown admirer.

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 1941

Up late. Got letter from unknown admirer



The Hong Kong Shanghai Bank building built in art deco style in 1936 in Central HK. The tallest building even in 1963 when Mum took Antonia and myself for a HK visit. It was the first air-conditioned building (no verandas) and amongst other offices contained the American Club mentioned in Mum's diary entry October 22<sup>nd</sup> 1941. Now it is totally dwarfed by surrounding glass and steel buildings. Photo. 1940's.



Thursday, 6th Nov.

Went to Queen Mary's to see about hospital term but was stupid & did not arrange B4. So could not decide anything. P. joining VAD.

Late for Phonetics did not go.

Boys came up for Cuff. Rehearsals Ced could not come to "All this & Heaven too" ∴ had to see mermaid about "S4" "Secret" Govt. job. Was impressed by Bette Davis in the show.

Met him afterwards & went home with him for dinner. Then back to hostel to be telepathized to by him at 11.

Ced did solo tricks in pm. over. to U.

Letter from Mrs. Gittens to join D.O.G.A.

Bash wants protection from Madelene Huang.

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November 1941

Went to Queen Mary's to see about hospital term but was stupid and did not arrange B4 so could not decide anything. P. (Paddy) joining VAD. (Voluntary Aid Detachment)

Late for phonetics, did not go.

Boys came up for tiffin.

Rehearsals, Ced could not come to "All this and Heaven too" (1940 movie starring Bette Davis)

because had to see me\*\*man about "S4" "secret" Govt. Job.

(Cedric joined the Signaling Corps. Maybe he was good with radios and telepathy!) Was impressed by Bette Davis in the show.

Met him afterwards and went home with him for dinner. Then back to hostel to be telepathized to by him at 11.

Ced did solo tricks in pm. Over to U.

Letter from Mrs. Gittens to join D.O.G.A.

Bash wants protection from Madelene Huang



"Back to hostel to be telepathized by him at 11"

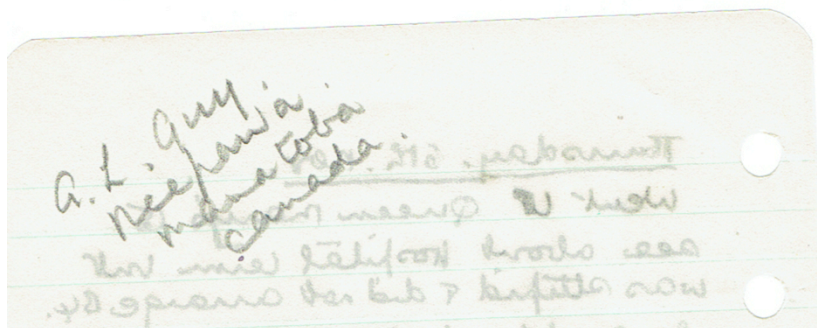
### “Paddy joining VAD”

The VAD, The Voluntary Aid Detachment was formed to provide civilian aid to military nurses in the two world wars. One of the more famous members in the First World War was Vera Brittain, author of *Testament of Youth*. In HK the VAD became the nursing detachment of the HKVDC – the Hong Kong Voluntary Defense Corps, with over a hundred female members in 1941. Its popularity may have been in part because civilian women were subject to evacuation in 1940, but VAD members were not. It seems, from the names in the list, that almost all the members were European, with very few Eurasians and no Asians, so it may have been that for racist reasons Mum was precluded from joining, however the ANS, the Auxiliary Nursing Service apparently had no such scruples. Members of the ANS were largely Chinese, Eurasian and local Portuguese, with a very few Europeans.

### “Letter from Mrs. Gittens to join D.O.G.A.”

Diocesan Old Girls’ Association. Mum and Jean were both former pupils of Diocesan’s Girls School and Mum went on to board and teach there in 1945. 10 years older than Mum, Jean Gittens was a member of the Eurasian intellectual elite in pre-war Hong Kong and the daughter of Sir Robert Ho Tung (see Eurasian). Jean was interned in Stanley Camp and wrote *Behind Barbed Wire* – an account of her internment.

### The Canadians Arrive



This was written on the corner of one of Mum’s diary pages, much as Dad later wrote his name and address in her diary.

On November 16 1941 two battalions (1,975) Canadian Soldiers arrived to reinforce the Hong Kong Garrison. The Royal Rifles of Canada (from Quebec), and The Winnipeg Grenadiers (Manitoba). Alvin Lester Guy was with the Winnipeg Grenadiers, was injured 22/12/41 (shot in knee) later transported to Japan (Tatsuta Maru) and worked in the Omine coal mine. Died 1982.

November 1941

A. L. Guy  
Neepawa  
Manitoba  
Canada



Caption on reverse reads “ P’s Canadian boy friend 1946” Is this Mr. Guy?



Fri. 7th. Nov.  
 Annib for tiff.  
 Fill in diary.  
 To report. Fount. Pen.  
 Common Room.  
 Down & Telephone. Ced. Teleph. Lab.  
 Tel - Simpson - Davidson - <sup>for?</sup> Maple. <sup>Rec. tonight.</sup>  
 Biolo. <sup>p.m. Packed for Tues.</sup>  
 Tiff - Down for cash check.  
~~Reads ~~also~~ ~~Madame's~~ ~~office~~ ~~tea~~ ~~teleph.~~~~  
 Log. French.  
 7pm. - Dinner.  
 8.30 - Aviation in Far East.  
 Biology.

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November 1941

Anni's? for tiff  
 Fill in diary.  
 To report Fountain Pen  
 Common Room  
 Down and Telephone. Ced. Teleph. last  
 Job?  
 Lect. tonight  
 Pm. Packed? for Tues.  
 Tel - Simpson - Davidson - Maple.  
 Biolo.  
 Tiffin  
 Down town cash check.  
 Read and sleep. Madames office. Tea.  
 Teleph.  
 Log. French.  
 7pm. - Dinner.  
 8.30 Aviation in Far East.  
 Biology.

Monday, 10th.  
 NB. French concert invitations.  
 Letter back to Hector. T also to  
 thank rest. <sup>Tiffin this post-  
 honed till Fri.  
 aft.</sup>  
 Ring maple.  
 " Hazel.  
 Pauline coat.  
 Report pen.  
 3-4. Rehearsals

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November 1941

NB French concert invitations  
 Letter back to Hector and also to thank  
 rest.  
 Ring Maple  
 Ring Hazel  
 Pauline coat  
 Report pen  
 Tiffin post-poned till fri. aft.  
 3-4 Rehearsals

This 'to do' list is in addition to regular diary entries, and dates are not in any particular order.

N.B. ~~Armistice Day 9am. Inter~~  
~~Varsity sports.~~  
~~Tues. 11th Nov. Inter. Play.~~  
~~Thurs. 14th. 10am Mrs. Dimp.~~  
~~Practice Music & Ring.~~  
~~Maple.~~  
~~Ring Mrs. Davidson.~~  
~~Monday Debate.~~  
~~Nov. 25th. French Club Concert.~~  
~~Tues. 11th Nov. Armistice day. P. 11.00.~~  
~~Fri. 14th Nov. Music discuss. group.~~  
~~MON. 10th. Frances to tif. T.C.N.~~  
~~N.T.C. to lif. with Elaine & Eliza. Lecture.~~  
~~Fri. 14th. Hazel. Eilea to dinner.~~  
~~DEC. 12. Fri. Gone. Display.~~  
~~TUES. 13. S. Guy Tea party.~~  
~~MON. 12. Music meeting. Dress Rehearsal~~  
~~Wed. 19. Sat. 15. Hockey. Again.~~  
~~Dec. 17. Romance of Honey Bee.~~  
~~TONIGHT Cathedrals~~

Tuesday 11th November 1941  
 NB Armistice day. 9AM.  
 InterVarsity sports

Friday 14th November  
 Music discuss. group  
 Hazel. Eilea to dinner

Saturday 15th November  
 Hockey. Again

Thursday 6th November  
 10 am Mrs. ?  
 Practice music and ring Maple  
 Ring Mrs. Davidson

Monday 10th November  
 Debate Frances to tif. TCN

Friday 21st November  
 NTC to tif. with Elaine and  
 Eliza. Lecture.

Friday December 12th  
 Gone Display

Thursday 13th November  
 S ? Tea Party

Monday 17th November  
 Nursing meeting  
 Dress Rehearsal

December 17. Romance of Honey Bee.

TONIGHT Cathedrals



MONDAY. 17th. Nov.  
 Walk Ced. down to Bus stop  
 then on to Biology & took down  
 notes!  
 Back to tea & learn lines.  
 Practical.  
 Up to Lugard for my ink bottle.  
 dogie.  
 Rehearsals & forgot most of  
 my lines. Had headache.  
 Dr. Mack kept cutting & I was  
 annoyed. Went down town  
 for ANS. enrolment. found I  
 went on wrong day & had to  
 wait 2 hrs. for Ced to his room.  
 came home with him. to  
 Rehearsals. & did OK.  
 Ced waited  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. outside  
 the Gym (wrong place). for me  
 in the rain.  
 Got back to hostel early.

Monday 17<sup>TH</sup> November  
 1941

Walk Ced. down to Bus stop  
 then on to Biology and took  
 down notes!  
 Back to tea and learn lines.  
 Practical.  
 Up to Lugard (Hall) For tif  
 with Henk Logie  
 Rehearsals and forgot most  
 of my lines. bad headache.  
 Dr. Mack kept cutting and I  
 was annoyed. Went down  
 town for ANS (Auxillary  
 Nursing Service) enrollment.  
 Found I went on wrong day  
 and had to wait 2 hrs. for  
 ced to his \*eolon.  
 Came home with him. To  
 Rehearsals and I did OK.  
 Ced. waited  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. outside  
 the gym (wrong place) for  
 me in the rain.  
 Got back to hostel early.

Cedric Lawrence Salter



TUES. 18th NOV.  
 Got letter to go out with Bertram Lay on Sat.  
 Biol. to tearoom with Visa.  
 Ced ~~threw~~ threw sugar at me there from Bills table. Drove up to Peel Lab with him.  
 met him at Wiseman's for tiffin. Does not want me to go on Sat. but will not say so.  
 met Pat at 3. down to Hennessy Rd. & had photo's taken besides A.N.S. one. Back to town & tea at Gloucester & chat with Mrs. Pasco. Had a drink in Gloucester with Pat. Tea at macs. with Ced. up to gym for play at 8. Had 2 gimlets & was v. happy. But Ced said I was Best. left early with him because of his father.

*"Ced threw sugar at me there from Bills table"*

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 1941

Got letter to go out with Bertram Lay on Saturday.  
 Biology. To tearoom with Visa.  
 Ced threw sugar at me there from Bills table. Drove up to Peel Lab (Peel Engineering Laboratory UHK estab. 1934 – demolished 1981) with him. Met him at Wiseman's for tiffin. Does not want me to go on Saturday but will not say so.



Peel Laboratories

Met Pat at 3. Down to Hennessy Road and had photos taken besides A.N.S. one. Back to town, tea at Gloucester and chat with Mrs. Pasco. Had a drink in Gloucester with Pat. Tea at macs. With Ced. up to gym for play at 8. Had 2 gimlets and was very happy. But Ced. said I was Best. Left early with him because of his father.

Gloucester Hotel also Gloucester Building was a favourite watering hole for employees of Jardine Matheson



WED. 19th. NOV. 1941  
~~10-10-30. - French. Chat with Patricia.~~  
~~Ring Ced - Poker. Bertie cavash for music. tonight.~~  
 Lecture. Back to hostel early to  
 Biology. ring ced.  
 Pat. to tif.  
 French. \*Bring home journal.  
 Logic.  
 Nursing Enrolment

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 1941

~~10-10:30 - French Chat with Patricia.~~  
~~Ring Ced - Poker. Bertie cavash for music tonight.~~

Lecture  
 Back to hostel early to Biology ring ced.

Pat. To tif.  
 \*Bring home journal  
 French.  
 Logic.

Nursing Enrolment

FRI. 21st. NOV. 1941  
 Visa for tif.

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November 1941

Visa for tif.

Hong Kong from The Peak 1940



Wednesday 26th Nov 1941  
 Wrote letter for Cedric  
 unknown address.  
 Went to French Club Concert.  
 Went to short stones lecture.  
 Neville came up to tiffin. Notice  
 too short for Ced.  
 Went to hockey but fagged out  
 after short knock around. So left  
 early after tea with Bash there.  
 Dropped in to French office to see  
 about concert.  
 Played around with Hector's  
 car.  
 Was giving Ced's date up though  
 intuition told me he would come.  
 He came to hostel around 9.  
 Annoyed ∴ could not go to 8.30  
 lect. at 1st. ∴ of Mr. X outside.

Tuesday November 25<sup>th</sup> 1941

5.45 French Club Concert  
 Went to Stone's lecture.  
 Neville came up to tiffin. Notice too  
 short for Ced.  
 Went to hockey but fagged out after  
 short knock around. So left early after  
 tea with Bash there.  
 Dropped in to French office to see  
 about concert.  
 Played around with Hector's car.  
 Was giving Ced's date up though  
 intuition told me he would come.  
 He came to hostel around 9.  
 Annoyed because could not go to 8.30  
 lect. at first because of Mr. X outside.

NB Letter for Cedric  
 Def. about Dates

Went to see most boring "Male Train"  
 (1941 Hollywood movie starring Gordon  
 Harker and Alistair Sim)



NB Letter for Cedric  
 Def. about Dates  
 Went to see most boring "Male  
 Train".  
 Tea & sandwiches at Gloucester  
 up to peak.  
 In after 1<sup>am</sup> arrangement  
 with Elena so had to ring  
 her at 1<sup>am</sup> to say I was there.

Sandwiches at Gloucester and up to peak.  
 In after 1am.  
 Arrangement with  
 Elena so had to ring



## December 1941

And so the last diary entry of 1941 is for Wednesday November 25<sup>th</sup>. Later (December) entries, as on the ‘to do’ list page 86, I believe are up coming activities rather than diary entries. What happens to Mum for the remainder of 1941 is uncertain. An account by Dafyd Emrys does little to further our understanding of details:

*“The life of the university came to an abrupt halt with the invasion. Those men involved with the Volunteers and the support services were called ‘to the colours’ and some women found that they had a useful role to play also. But curious though it may seem, information about the precise cataclysmic events happening all around was not easy to come by. Some were drawn directly into the front line and paid the ultimate price; others were lucky but only just. Many went home but some women had a horrendous time....”*

Dafydd Emrys Evans from *Dispersal and Renewal: Hong Kong University During the War Years*

Sir Lindsay Ride’s (prof. of Physiology at UHK and Commander of BAAG) account is a little more illuminating:

*“On Sunday, 7 December, the Volunteer Defense Force was mobilized, and this affected over one hundred members of the University. On Monday shortly before 8.30 a.m. other students began to assemble at the Great Hall for the degree examinations, unaware that the Japanese had already launched their offensive (Mum was there and remembers hearing the explosions and sound of firing – with some relief since her exam was curtailed and she did not feel she had revised enough Pc. between Mum and Antonia) When the Kai Tak aerodrome was attacked about 8 a.m., the noise of bombing and anti-aircraft fire was thought by many to be just part of the training exercises for our troops, who were known to be at war stations. When the truth became apparent, examination chairs and tables were moved out of the Great Hall and beds were moved in. In a few hours an emergency hospital, mostly staffed by University people, was ready to receive both sick and wounded.”*

Lindsay Ride from *Dispersal and Renewal: Hong Kong University During the War Years*

Presumably Mum responded to her ‘call-up’ ANS letter (see start of this 1941 chapter) that required her to present herself at La Salle College Relief Hospital (moved to University Hospital see page 72). We know that she nursed Canadian soldiers at some point as both Antonia and I remember her mentioning this, however like many others who suffered at this time, she was mostly silent on her nursing experiences. A diary entry in 1943 (pg. 157) refers to talking of her nursing experiences with Paddy Pasco.

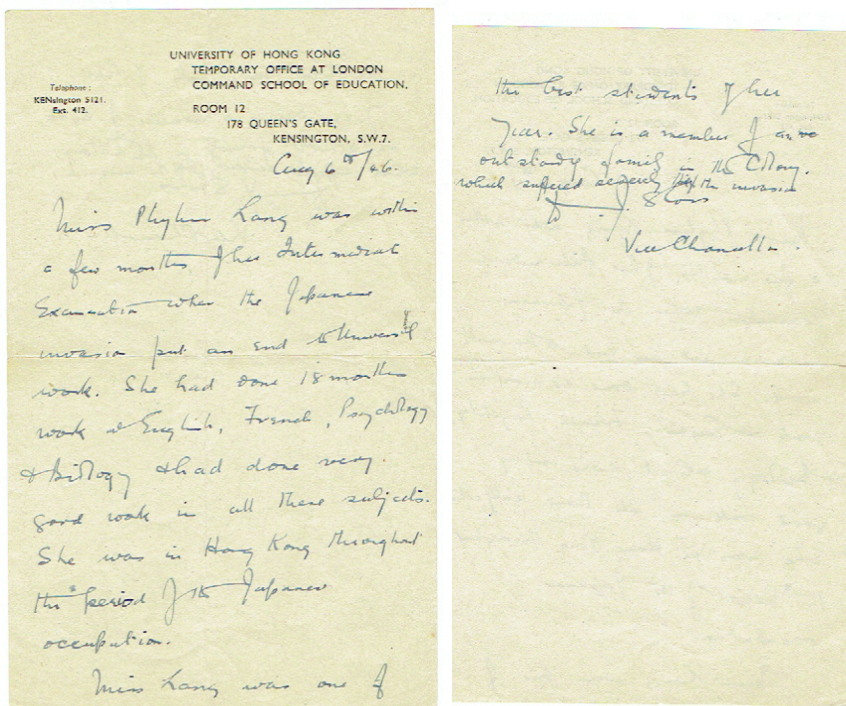
Gwulo.com relates the following regarding what happened to ANS nurses after the surrender of Hong Kong.

*“The auxiliary nurses dispersed and returned home following the surrender of Hong Kong. Earlier, at the La Salle College relief hospital following the withdrawal from Kowloon, those who were unable to return home were temporarily held by the Japanese in the Chinese YMCA in Waterloo, and subsequently moved to the Kowloon Hotel.”*

*“Members of the ANS were not interned as such; the few who were interned individually responded as “enemy nationals” to the internment order in January 1942. It appears the ANS was regarded as having been disbanded with the surrender of Hong Kong on Christmas Day, 1941. After the war Florence Wong and her two daughters each received HK\$486.00 as pay and allowances, presumably for the 18 days from mobilisation to the surrender. They were also informed that they were eligible for the Defence Medal.”*

For more information on the ANS in Hong Kong see <http://www.rhkmsw.org/occasionalpapers/>

The following is a letter of support from the vice-chancellor of HKU Duncan Sloss, written when Mum was in the UK in 1946, and gives some idea of Mum’s academic progress prior to the Japanese invasion. It describes her as having “some eighteen months work” at the university. This would mean she started at HKU in 1940 and thus it’s possible that some of her early diary entries may be for 1940.



*“Miss Phyllis Lang was within a few months of her Intermediate Examination when the Japanese invasion put an end to University work. She had some 18 months work at English, French, Psychology and Biology and had done very good work in all these subjects. She was in Hong Kong throughout this period of the Japanese occupation.”*

*“Miss Lang was one of the best students of her year. She is a member of an outstanding family in the Colony which suffered severely during the invasion.”*



## The Japanese Invade Hong Kong

The Japanese invasion from China, across the Gin Drinkers Line started on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 1941. Indications of the fast approaching Japanese Invasion are not obvious in Mum's Diary, but a closer reading reveals the first rumblings, like distant thunder of an approaching storm. This reflects the somewhat nonchalant attitude of the Hong Kong population in general. Arrogance of the British regarding the capabilities of the Japanese soldiers (poor eyesight, unable to fight at night etc.) no doubt played a part, however indications are that at the higher levels of British Government – the outcome of the Japanese invasion was predicted, and seen as inevitable.

*“If Japan goes to war there is not the slightest chance of holding Hong Kong or relieving it. It is most unwise to increase the loss we shall suffer there.”*

Winston Churchill 1941

*“There was a feeling that if Japan really did go to war, there was not the slightest chance of holding or retrieving the Colony. The garrison was symbolical more than real. Only token resistance was expected. In other words, the saying went, “HK, you are on your own.”*

*Hong Kong Farewell* E. Gosano

European ‘non-essential’ civilians, wives sons and daughters of colonial staff were compulsorily evacuated to Australia and Manila, however this was unpopular with many who avoided evacuation, and some even returned before the invasion. Most of these ended up interned in Stanley Camp for the duration of the war.

Joyce Symons writes of the evacuation: *“by the summer of 1941, the first signs of war reached Hong Kong when the Government decided to evacuate all expatriate women and children to Australia. This was a strong hint that Japan would soon declare war itself. Discrimination also came out into the open, with angry voices raised in the Legislative Council when the Government refused to evacuate other local groups – Eurasians and Portuguese – despite their possession of valid British passports. Marjorie (Joyce's sister) and I tried to register for evacuation but were turned down by the authorities who said they didn't know what to do ‘with the likes of you’. However, ‘the likes of us’ were ordered to share in the war effort, with our young men conscripted into the volunteers and trained for battle, and everyone with a non-Chinese name having to take on some kind of war work. I was incensed when some Eurasians escaped all this, simply by adopting Chinese names.”* Looking at the Stars pg. 23

*Once hostilities commenced, families still in Hong Kong, separated from families and news, even when they could plainly hear the gunfire. Often they relied on no more than the bamboo wireless, and the South China Morning Post (which stayed in print throughout the battle, shedding a page or two each day until – by 25 December – it was a single sheet).* Banham pg. 215.

On November 6<sup>th</sup> 1941 2,000 Canadian soldiers arrived, one who wrote his address on the back of one of Mum's diary pages. Mum mentioned nursing injured Canadian soldiers, and trying to dissuade them in their escape plans. In recent times this contingent of troops has been strongly criticized as a token force, and a needless sacrifice of ‘colonial troops’ by the British. The

Canadian's vehicles and heavy guns never arrived, being diverted to help the American's defend Manila, and they had no air support. The few British Naval Ships and fighter planes left rapidly or were destroyed in the early days of the invasion.

The fight put up by the Canadians and various supporting forces has been much maligned; untrained, inexperienced, and poorly led are criticisms often voiced, however, more recent literature on the subject indicates that over the 18 days prior to surrender, fierce sustained fighting occurred with many acts of extreme heroism. The valiant attempt to defend Hong Kong in the face of overwhelming odds is now well documented, and I found it fascinating reading, but I will leave it to the reader to search this out. Hong Kong surrendered to the Japanese December 25<sup>th</sup> 1941.

## The HKVDC

The Hong Kong Volunteer Defense Corps (existed pre-war as Hong Kong Defense Corps) was made up of 2,200 all ranks. As well as British living in HK, it included Eurasian and Portuguese members. During the Japanese invasion:

*“The local No. 3 Eurasian machine gun company was half destroyed. These locals were descendants of British who had married Chinese wives in early HK. They were a separate community called Eurasians who had become affluent but were not considered pukka English.”*

E. Gosano *Hong Kong Farewell*

*“The defenders who fought hardest were Eurasian volunteers defending their own homes and families’*

Banham pg. 147

Many of Mum's boyfriends were members of the HKVDC and died in the initial fighting (Pc. Antonia, see photo. pg. 432). Three of Mum's future brother-in-law's brothers, Luigi, Jerry and Zinho Gosano were of Portuguese extraction, and although the Portuguese were considered neutral by the Japanese, they chose to fight with the British and served with the HKVDC ending up as POW's. Mum's boyfriend Cedric also served with the HKVDC and shared a similar fate. Jean Gittins, Eurasian, and like Mum a DGS and University Student made the following remarks regarding the effects of the Japanese invasion:

*“The Japanese occupiers re-divided the city in terms of race and loyalty, interning soldiers and eventually confining most British and other allied civilians in camps at Stanley. Meanwhile, Chinese and Indians were not to be interned, nor were the sprinkling of Germans who were now allies of Japan. The Eurasians and the Russians, Norwegians and others, although free, were required to carry ‘third national’ identification passes”* Gittins 1982:32



Eventually Mum had one of these passes, which she later refers to losing (misplaced, not taken away, see pg. 209).

Colours were first presented to the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps (HKVDC) in May, 1928. These Colours were buried in December 1941 to prevent them from falling into the hands of the invading Japanese. Those who buried them died as pows and did not reveal the hiding place. Attempts to find them after the war were unsuccessful.

For further information on Eurasians in the HKVDC, including mention of Litton and Broadbridge, names that crop up in Mum's diary, see Occasional Paper #30 Eurasian Volunteers <http://www.rhkmsw.org/occasionalpapers/>

### **John Charles Lang (Mum's Dad)**

Records found on the website [hongkongwardiary.com/searchgarrison/nonuniform](http://hongkongwardiary.com/searchgarrison/nonuniform) indicates that Lang, J.C. of 9 Tak Hing St. Kowloon was interned at the New Asia Hotel Room 407 (no date given). This was one of the hotels the Japanese used in January 1942 to intern civilians before moving them to Stanley Camp. Was John interned initially since he was a HK government employee, then released being Eurasian? In any event, the stress on John and the whole Lang family following this event must have been considerable. The following account from Gwelo Old Hong Kong gives evidence of the probable sequence of events, with John being released from the 'January hotels'.

*“With every other group there was some ambiguity - Belgian bankers in town were at first treated as enemies and then allowed to live where they chose (although under Kempeitai approval), a self-defined 'white' British subject was refused internment because he was from Ceylon (Sri Lanka), Eurasians seem to have had a degree of choice as to whether or not to enter Stanley (according to Wenzell Brown someone came round the January hotels and told them to go home, but there were a fair number in the camp nevertheless), and, on the evidence available to me, black people did too - and so on.”*

### **Cedric Salter**

Cedric Salter was in the thick of the fighting from the start. Captain Braude, who Mum was later to teach Cantonese to, had the following to say about Cedric.

*“3556, Sigm, Cedric Lawrence Salter.*

*Recommended for a decoration in recognition of his exemplary conduct in the face of danger, both on the Mainland and on the Island. He volunteered for dangerous tasks without hesitation and his superiors, both Volunteer and Regular, thought very highly of his courage and daring. Reference should be made to 2/Lt M.G. Carruthers, Sgt. Walker of Armoured Cars,*

*Lt.Col. S.E. White of Royal Scots. As a Thompson sub-machine gunner, he carried out a number of hazardous tasks at Wong Nei Chong Gap and Tytam Gap. He was with Capt. Fieldon R.A. when that officer was killed. At this time they were carrying out a recce in the enemy lines, Salter and two officers, having volunteered for the task. I ultimately gave him the task of assisting with the maintenance of 'ROSE', Fortress Observation Post, at the Peak, which I was maintaining under shellfire. He was always one of the first to volunteer for any task which appeared to be more hazardous. (signed) A. N. Braude, Captain. O.C. Corps Signals, H.K.V.D.C."*

Both Lieutenant Colonel S. White of the Royal Scots and Second Lieutenant M. Carruthers of the HKVDC are mentioned in *The Damned* by Nathan M. Greenfield. These accounts suggest Cedric was in action early on in the battle for Hong Kong (December 10<sup>th</sup>) in defense of the Gin Drinkers Line and later (December 19<sup>th</sup>) in action defending the power station on the north side of the island. The latter was a remarkable action in which a small band of First World War veterans called The Hugheseliers, many in their 70's, repulsed repeated Japanese attacks. Carruthers' arrival with 24 HKVDC's in three armored cars was ambushed, and only 6 including Carruthers made it to the power station.

My research on Cedric became totally confused when reading Banham's book '*We Shall Suffer There*' which contains references to a military Cedric Salter who avoided internment by posing as a Norwegian, and later escaping to China. This was totally at odds with Mum's diary entries, which indicate, along with Cedric's letters, that he was interned in Sham Shui Po POW camp in HK, and ended up in a work camp in Japan. Email contact with Tony Banham (June 21<sup>st</sup> 2016) confirmed my unlikely conclusion:

*Jon,*

*Thanks for getting in touch.*

*Yes, there were indeed two!*

*Salter, Cedric D. Private 3052911 Royal Scots. Ambulance Driver H.K. Hotel Detached Es. Escaped, hid in Hong Kong for many months, finally reached BAAG and was interviewed 29.3.43*

*Salter, Cedric Lawrence Signalman 3305 HKVDC W/T Op. (XD3)*

*The latter is your man. He was a wireless operator in Number 4 Armoured Car in the HKVDC Armoured Car platoon. He was liberated from Innoshima by the Americans and you can see his name on their liberation roster.*

*Regards Tony*

Cedric wrote the following note to Mum, probably when he was at the Fortress Observation Post at The Peak shortly before Christmas and the British Surrender. Cameroon is believed to be a card game resembling Poker.





Darling Phyllis,

I've been thinking of you all morning and have been very miserable cause I didn't think I could see you today. I started this letter just after phoning you. I am ringing again in 20 mins. Do you know I was actually crying when I was speaking to you and my eyes are filled with tears now. I get a lovely view of HK and Kowloon from here but unfortunately cannot see your place. I am just round the corner somewhere near where Paddy used to live. The phone just went darling and I thought it was Mr. ady? Its OK to go but it was someone wanting to know if we could see anything.

Well love I'm just back from that long talk with you and have had a look round. I shall be ringing you again at 4:30pm. I do hope to get away tomorrow morning. I want to get you some kind of present for Christmas. I know what one will be – a bottle of nice/rice port? which you need. I can't think what else to get you though, knickers, handbag, fountain pen, something which you can keep forever, please darling telepathize to me this evening what you want. I shall be doing 3 hrs guard tonight so I shall send you something. Darling the machine gun fire seems much further away today than yesterday, so I hope that is a good sign, and believe it is. Darling I love you .

LOSER  
BUYS  
BEERS



**CAMEROON**



LO  
B  
BE

	NAME	High Cam.	Low Cam.	Aces	Kings	Queens	Jacks	Tens	Nines	Total
1	Danling Pylhis,									
2	Since I don't think I could see you today. I started this letter just after the when I was speaking to you & my eyes are still wet from your 30 mins. Do you know I was a lovely view of HK + Kowloon from here but unfortunately I can't see your place I am just round the corner somewhere near where Paddy used to live The place just west of the hotel. I thought it was OK to go but it was someone wanting to know if we could see anything. Well love for just that long talk with you & have had a look around. I want to get you some kind of present for Christmas. I know what one will be - a bottle of something which you can keep forever, please don't forget to me this evening what you want. I shall be doing tought so I shall send you something. I shall be doing Danling I love you.									

ER  
YS  
ERS



**CAMEROON**

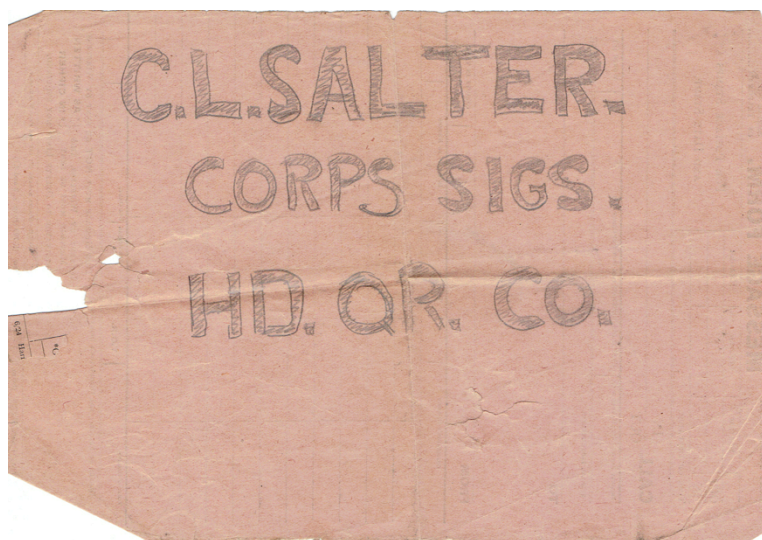


LOSER  
BUYS  
BEERS

	NAME	High Cam.	Low Cam.	Aces	Kings	Queens	Jacks	Tens	Nines	Total
	seems much fuller every today than yesterday. I hope that is a good sign, and believe it is. Danling I love you.									



Cedric was interned early on in the invasion, initially at North Point, and later Sham Shui Po pow camps. A mug he inscribed with ‘*Sham Shui Po Christmas 1941*’ indicates he was already interned there before the bulk of the military internees arrived in the New Year. With Cedric’s incarceration, any relationship with Mum ends, although she does at great personal risk get food through or over the camp fence to him, and receives letters from him smuggled out in the handle of a container (see 1942 diary entries). Ced’s father Alfred was interned in Stanley Camp.



## Eddie Gosano

*“The suffering of the soldiers wounded or trapped in Kowloon is perhaps even greater than that of the civilians: four doctors (Newton, Uttley, Hargreaves and Gosano) are taken by the Japanese from the Kowloon Hotel to the internment camp in Argyle Street where there are about 150 wounded troops (out of 950 in total). There’s no operating theatre, no instruments, few dressing materials, almost no drugs, and no nurses, but they do everything they can.”*

From Gwulo Old Hong Kong 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1941

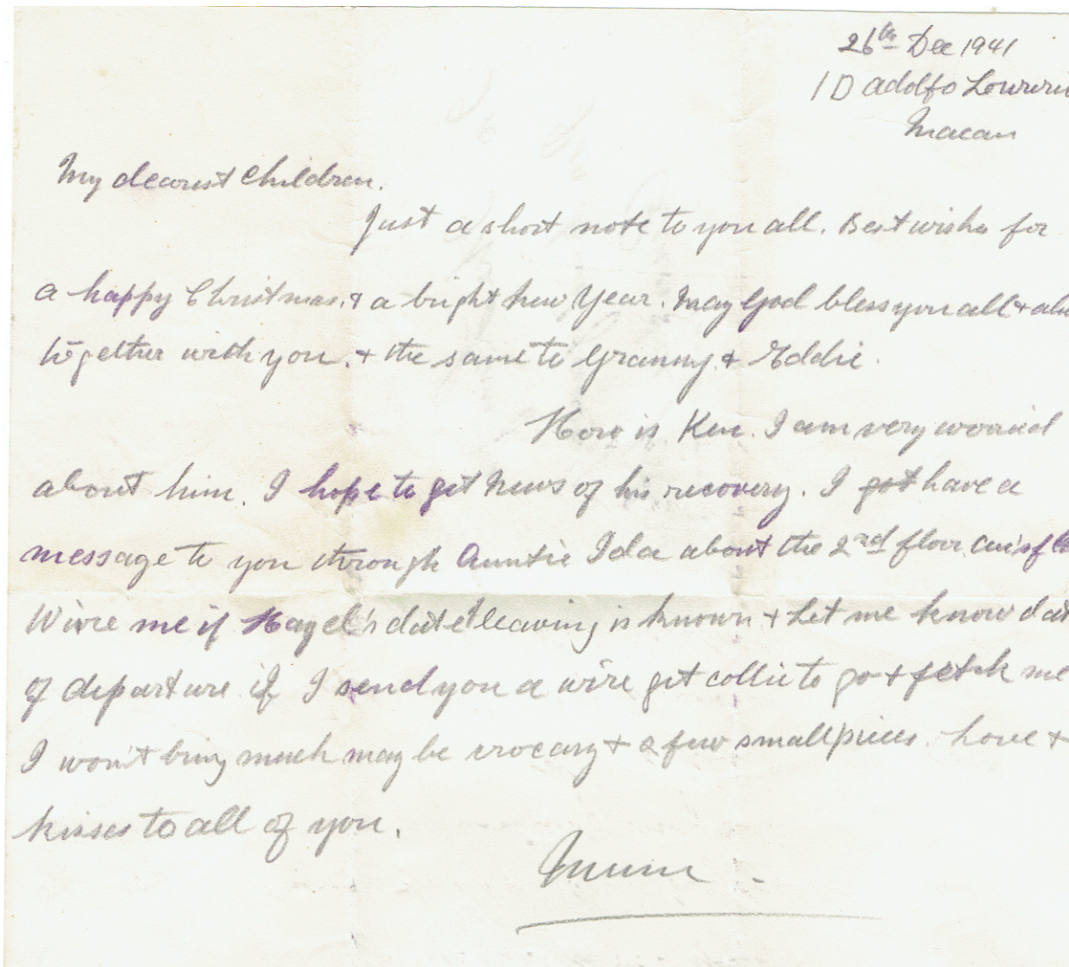
Mum’s future brother in law Eddie Gosano, who married her younger sister Hazel (Jo) was a General Surgeon for the 600 bed Queen Mary Hospital and volunteered to stay and treat the wounded in the days following the invasion.

*“Casualties were streaming into the emergency centres in Kowloon. From Monday through Thursday we worked like dogs on casualties without number.”*

Eddie went on to treat numerous casualties in pow camp before becoming a pow himself. He was eventually given a 3<sup>rd</sup> National Pass, released, and moved to Macao, pursued his medical practice, courted Hazel and also found time to become the head of the BAAG in Macao. During his time

in HK, following the invasion, Mum's diary indicates he was a frequent visitor and strong support, as he was for the whole of the Lang family during their time as refugees in Macao. I think Hazel eventually forgave my Mum, who she thought was having an affair with Eddie prior to their marriage. Certainly, when as an 11 year old in 1968, and I got to visit my Uncle Eddie in San Francisco, Hazel and Mum seemed to get on OK, but what do children know...

The below letter indicates Grandma was in Macau at the time of the Japanese invasion and British surrender



26<sup>th</sup> Dec 1941  
10 Adolfo Loureiro  
Macao

My dearest children,

Just a short note to you all. Best wishes for a happy Christmas and a bright new year. May God bless you all and always together with you and the same to Granny and Eddie.





How is Ken. I am very worried about him. I hope to get news of his recovery. I have a message to you through Auntie Ida about the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor \*\*\*'s flat. Wire me if Hazel's date of leaving is known and let me date of departure. If I send you a wire get collie to go and fetch me. I won't bring much, may be \*\*\*\*\* and a few small pieces. Love and kisses to you all.

Mum

## Bea Hutcheon (nee Greaves)

Bea is a student at UHK, mentioned in several of Mum's Diary entries. Like Mum she was Eurasian, served in the ANS and eventually fled to Macau. She married Robin Hutcheon who for many years was editor of the South China Morning Post. Bea describes her wartime experiences which are eerily similar to Mum's including mention of the same people mentioned in Mum's Diary (see Bea's Experience at the end of each years diary). I was able to contact Bea, by email (see pg. 307).

## Bea's Experience

*"December 25<sup>th</sup>, 1941 was the worst Christmas in Hong Kong's living memory and mine particularly. My two brothers were fighting on different fronts. John was an Australian POW in Greece (but later escaped) and Stan was in the HKVDC's 4<sup>th</sup> Battery at Pak Sha Wan, missing in action but later confirmed killed on 19<sup>th</sup> December. I was half way through my third year in the Arts Faculty studying economics and politics. At that stage I had no fixed career objective in mind. I was 19 years old and enjoying my studies as well as sport – hockey, tennis and athletics. Life was happy though the clouds of war on the horizon made us all wonder what lay ahead. When Pearl Harbour was bombed life changed dramatically. It was 8<sup>th</sup> December (7<sup>th</sup> December in Hawaii east of the International Date Line). I first heard of it walking to the University that day to complete mid-term exams when I met a friend who told me there would be no need to go as war had begun. I was advised to go home where I lived with my uncle and aunt (my parents having died in Shanghai years earlier) and to await advice from the University. My next instruction was to become a volunteer nurse under Dr John Mackie who was conducting first aid courses, and present myself to a local hospital in the mid-levels. For the next several days I assisted in treating minor and small-scale injuries which got worse as the intensity of the Japanese shelling increased."*

*"One of my few recreations was to attend St John's Cathedral on Sundays where I was a member of the choir; otherwise it was dangerous to venture out, with sporadic shelling and air raids by the Japanese invaders. When finally Hong Kong surrendered on 25th December we celebrated a low-key Christmas with friends and a religious group at Nethersole Hospital, and then went home to prepare for the long occupation, hardly a time to think of peace and goodwill."*

*"During the attack on Hong Kong, I used to go out occasionally with my friend Cicely Kotewall (later Zimmern) to sketch scenes, under the tutelage of a Vietnamese artist. But once Hong Kong fell I was advised by my uncle not to go out under any circumstances."*



Hong Kong Volunteer & Ex-Pow Association of NSW Occasional Papers No 10 Macau Refuge  
1942-1945. Sydney, August 2012 © Hong Kong Volunteer and ex-Pow Association of NSW  
2011