

# 1942

*Mum turns 20 in September 1942, this was a black year for Mum. Her university life, her father and her boyfriend were taken from her. At best life was a hungry and boring tedium, at worst escaping the attentions of merciless Japanese soldiers was a terrifying experience.*

## 1942

JANUARY						
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DECEMBER						
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Mum's  
Diary  
Entries

Jan 2  
Japanese take Manila

Jan 31  
2,800 civilians interned in Stanley Camp

Feb 15  
Singapore surrenders

Feb 20  
Hazel's birthday

Feb 25  
Letter from Cedric

March 5  
Letter from Cedric in Sham Shui Po

Apr. 21  
George Kotwall arrested

June 7  
Battle of Midway

Sept 1  
Mum's Dad dies

Oct 1  
Lisbon Maru sunk

Oct 25  
Air raid

Mum's diary pages are hard to decipher, and few and far between for 1942. She told us she was taking university midterm exams, Christmas 1941, when the Japanese invaded. No mention is made in her diaries of a call to nursing duties, or if she suffered harm during the dangerous early days of the invasion when Japanese soldiers engaged in the worst of their atrocities against nurses and their injured charges. Specifically the St. Stephen's College Massacre when many nurses were raped and eight nurses murdered, and the Jockey Club Hospital where numerous nurses were raped.

*"More disturbing were the gruesome details concerning the bayoneting, beheading and torture inflicted upon captured Allied prisoners and Chinese civilians. However, some of the most distressing reports involved the rape and murder of a number of European, Eurasian and Chinese women".*

*"... many of the nurses seemed to have promised amongst themselves not to say anything, feeling that it was "improper to talk about it".*

*"Most, if not all rape inflicted upon the British women was confined to the brief period during and immediately after the battle for Hong Kong; a chaotic time when all women were vulnerable to the vagaries of an occupying force".*

Three quotes from *The Women of Stanley* pgs. 377/8

We know from anecdotal evidence that Mum escaped at least one dangerous incident by hiding in a locker room, and had contact with Japanese soldiers in camps in the role of nurse and on later



occasions translator/teacher— also that she nursed Canadian POW's, and was privy to their plans to escape, probably at North Point Camp. A period of internment may have occurred towards the end of 1941, early 1942 before she was granted third nationality status and a pass (photo left), or later in 1942 when there is a large blank in her diary. When John Charles died in September 1942, with four children (not including Mum and Hazel) and with food very scarce, Mum and her siblings probably would have ended up in Rosehill, however the belief is that her mother Susie kept starvation and internment at bay by selling items of value including bolts of silk on the black market. This

also provided funds to enable the Lang family to eventually escape to Macau.



The Lang Family after the death of John Charles ~1942

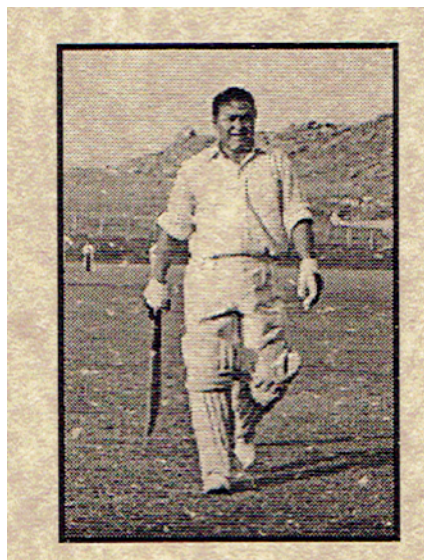
## The BAAG (See also Appendix B)

After the Battle of Hong Kong, Lt. Colonel Sir Lindsay Ride, who was then a professor of physiology at HKU and a member of the HKVDC, was captured and interned in Sham Shui Po. He escaped to China and set up the British Army Aid Group. Initial aims were to bolster moral amongst the British forces and support the Chinese in their efforts against the Japanese. Many of the young men Mum associated with were in the BAAG. Her Uncles Jimmy and George collected information on ship movements in HK harbor for the BAAG. Her brother-in-law, Eddie Gosano, became head of BAAG in Macau, from where downed American pilots were smuggled back to bases in China – often using pirate ships that operated in the Pearl River Delta. The BAAG helped many escaping POWs make it back to free territory in China, or over high-mountain passes to Burma and India.

*“I can still recall the desolation that overwhelmed us at the surrender. Then, recovering, for a time we toughened again, sure that the Allies would return very soon. Then hopelessness again, lapsing into despair. We came to regard ourselves a little bitterly as the forgotten folk—until we learned of the B.A.A.G. and the British Consul at Macao. There, miraculously, were friends, rallying round, beckoning us, assuring us, impatient at times, no doubt, at the slowness of our response, venturing dangerously close, planning, providing, infiltrating at much risk—a resurgence and a rescue service almost without parallel.”*(Gwulo.com)

One of the BAAGS’ primary tasks was to collect intelligence on what was going on in HK during the Japanese Occupation, and get it out to the allied forces. This including de-briefing all who escaped HK. Many BAAG members were caught by the Japanese including James and George Kotwall.

*“It is known now that many of its (BAAG) messengers and its agents in Hong Kong were caught and savagely put to torture and death.”*



Like Col. Ride Eddie was an accomplished cricketer.

As 1942 began military POWs were spread arbitrarily between Sham Shui Po, North Point and Argyle Street camps. Civilian internees were sent to Stanley Camp. These camps all receive mention in Mum's diary.

## Stanley Camp



Stanley in happy times following liberation 1945

January 4<sup>th</sup> 1942 the Japanese issued a proclamation ordering all Europeans, except third nationals and the police, to assemble at Murray Road Parade Ground bringing only what they could carry. They were divided up and moved under guard into various waterfront hotels and brothels. By the end of January all (2,800 men, women and children, the majority British) were moved to Stanley Camp where they would be until August 1945 when the Japanese surrendered. Americans and Canadians among the interned were repatriated in 1942. Much has been written about life in Stanley Camp, however apart from a few references in Mum's Diary – she does not seem to have spent any time there. Many of her friends and acquaintances were incarcerated in Stanley – including Jean Gittins who wrote *Behind Barbed Wire*, an account of her time in Stanley Camp. Also Cedric's father Alfred, Fred Shanks (see pg. 260) and Mr. and Mrs. Ring.

An excellent document is *The Women of Stanley* by Bernice Archer and Kent Fedorowich, available on line. Included amongst the inmates were:

*"A small contingent of Chinese and Eurasian woman and children who claimed British Nationality. This surprised the Japanese (and some white Anglo-Saxons) as they assumed that the term British national meant European"* *The Women of Stanley* pg. 379

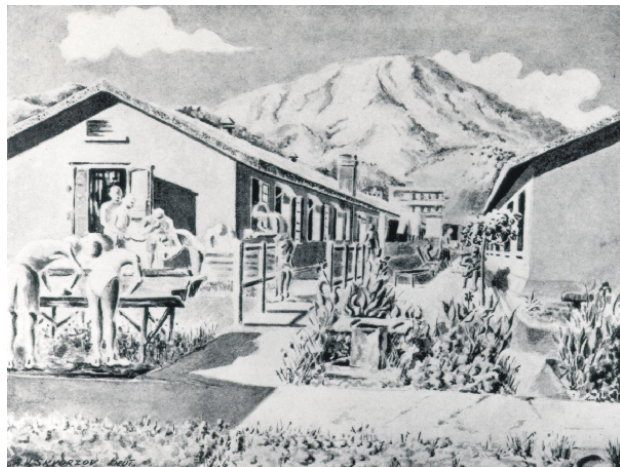
Stanley beach, or close by, was the site of the execution by beheading of Mum's Uncle George Kotwall in October 1943.

## Sham Shui Po Camp (also Shamshuipo)

December 30<sup>th</sup> 1941 6,000 military pow's arrived at Sham Shui Po. Some apparently had already been there for several days, including, possibly, Cedric. In a letter across the barbed wire to Mum he promises her *"a drinking mug which I made out of a tin and a piece of copper tubing engraved CLS prisoner of war Sham Shui Po 25<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1941."* Until Cedric was shipped to Japan in January 1943 Mum made several visits to Sham Shui Po, and corresponded with Cedric by hiding notes in food parcels, or over the fence – a potentially dangerous activity for which others paid with their lives. The only dated letters are February 25<sup>th</sup> and March 5<sup>th</sup> 1942. Also incarcerated here were three of Eddie's (Mum's future brother-in-law) brothers and numerous other male friends and acquaintances from the BAAG, HKVDC and the RAF. Sham Shui Po was a camp strictly for military pow's.

It is probable that surviving Sham Shui Po was a lot harder than Cedric let on in his letters. The following is an account by Norman H. McKenzie, a UHK prof. of English who was moved from North Point to Sham Shui Po January 23<sup>rd</sup> 1942, and like Cedric served on work parties at Kai Tak, and was on the same draft shipped to Japan in 1943.

*"In Sham Shui Po our rations were very inadequate, as they were for civilians outside, but for those not able to adjust to a diet almost limited to rice they led to serious malnutrition. There were frequent funerals, sometimes as many as four on a single day. At one stage my notes record that out of 860 Volunteers 250 were on the sick list..."*



Shamshuipo pow camp

*"Rereading my diaries I am amazed how the mind has allowed the painful grit of daily miseries to settle out of reach – the unnecessary early rising at 4:30 a.m. imposed by our own officers on working parties who were forced in consequence to shiver in icy darkness an hour and a half before the arrival of our ferry to Kai Tak; the painfulness of my pellagra mouth, all ulcers, so that my food or drink had to be taken stone cold. Against this, the determination to keep the brain functioning, for example by asking Piet Allen (a chemical analyst and amateur air-pilot) to march beside*

*me to work, giving me a refresher course in organic chemistry on the way. To this rather than to superior physique I might attribute my being, out of our company of a hundred, among the twenty fit enough for the digging away of a hill to extend the Kai Tak runway. In December 1942 (Mum describes seeing 'the boys' on their way to Kai Tak December 13 1942) there were only 212 men available for fatigue parties out of over 1700 Imperial and British troops."* (Dispersal and Renewal).

## Rosary Hill

A civilian camp established for dependents of those incarcerated in the military camps, or for those who had no other means for survival (see pg. 189).

## Argyle Street Camp

THE ARGYLL STREET CAMP, HONG KONG



In January 1942 Argyle Street Camp was emptied, with the pows moving to Sham Shui Po and North Point Camps. However, after a number of escapes by pow officers and other ranks from Sham Shui Po, Argyle Street was re-opened in mid-1942 as an officers' camp. In 1944 the officers were moved instead to Camp 'N' at Sham Shui Po (see pg. 144).

## North Point Camp



The first interns of North Point were the men of West Brigade who were captured in the battles at the beachheads, Jardine's Lookout (Cedric?), and Wong Nai Chung Gap. After a few months, the Royal Naval prisoners were moved to Sham Shui Po, and North Point became purely Canadian (see *Dark Side of the Sun* by Michael Palmer pg. 44). The Canadians themselves moved out to Sham Shui Po September 26, 1942, at which point the camp was closed. Conditions at North Point Camp were overcrowded and unsanitary. The two main threats that the prisoners faced were disease and the lack of food, which proved fatal for many (see pg. 133).

Escape from these camps was initially easier, and some military personnel made it to China, however in later years the Japanese became more rigorous in their incarceration – and executed many who attempted escape. For the Hong Kong Chinese, by far the majority of the population,

the invasion meant the beginning of years of brutality and starvation at the hands of the Japanese, and hundreds of thousands escaped to unoccupied Mainland China, turning parts of Hong Kong into ghost towns. The military yen became next to worthless as the occupation years passed, and the Hong Kong infrastructure: transport, water and power quickly began to fail, and death from infectious disease (several references in Mum's diary) related to malnutrition, especially in the camps, became common. Finding food was an overwhelming preoccupation.

The change in tone and the contrast in the content of Mum's diary pre and post invasion is marked. The majority of her social group becomes those given third national passes or individuals released on the 'Guaranteeing Out' system i.e. those deemed no threat by the Japanese. This included Chinese and Eurasians with no obvious links to the armed forces or resistance. Also those the Japanese considered neutrals or allies - Norwegians, Portuguese, Germans, Russians and Italians. Food becomes an increasing topic of diary entries, university has closed and it isn't safe to go out alone, Mum gets bored and depressed. She reads, teaches English, learns Russian, studies shorthand, visits and takes food to friends in camp and watches at street corners and goes to Kai Tak with others hoping to see the "boys" taken out on work parties. Despite the black turn of events Mum still has occasion to reflect on the beauty of her surroundings:

*"weather & scenery were so marvelous – I do love H.K."*

October 25th diary entry

Mum makes several mentions of Sem, and semmy. This would be the Semmelmanns who were Norwegians. Mum received a letter from a Kare Semmelmann dated 6/9/46, (see pg. 407).

## **Eddie Gosano**

Eddie (or Ed in many of her diary entries), presumably Eddie Gosano?, seems to be an important support in her life. Most of Portuguese extraction took advantage of their neutrality and migrated to Macau, however Eddie Gosano chose to volunteer, and being a doctor was much in demand right from the outset of the invasion:

*"Casualties were streaming into the emergency centres in Kowloon. From Monday through Thursday we worked like dogs on casualties without number. Then the Japanese overran Kowloon. All work ended."*

Eddie then went to work on casualties at Argyle Street Camp:

*"My job was the dirty work of cleaning and dressing wounds. There were so many wounded it took long hours each day"* From Eddies' bio Hong Kong Farewell pg. 20.

*[Drs. Newton and Hargreaves](#) are transferred without warning from Argyle Street POW Camp to Stanley. [Dr. Eddie Gosano](#) is Portuguese and hence a neutral so he's allowed to go free. He soon leaves for Macao where he'll help to care for the huge number of Hong Kong refugees and establish a private medical practice. But he also takes over as head of the Macao branch of the*

*British Army Aid Group when Joy Wilson - whose husband's a police officer in Stanley - decides to escape into Free China. June 6 1942 from Gwulo Old Hong Kong*

### **John Charles Lang (see also pg. 95)**

On September 1 1942 Mum's dad died of a heart attack. Mum adored her Dad who was very important to her given her somewhat distant relationship with her Mum. The heart attack was doubtless brought on by the Japanese invasion, and till his death nine months after the start of occupation, John Charles must have wondered how he was to support and protect his family with no job and internment a continuing threat. The Japanese did not take kindly to British government servants, and some civil servants committed suicide rather than continue under Japanese rule. It is likely that his incarceration (length unknown) and a genetically weak Lang heart was a factor. Losing her father must have made Mum feel even more lost and alone, as is apparent in her diary.

*"What's going to happen to me"*

December 13th diary entry

### **Cedric**

Food becomes a common subject in Mum's diaries, and when not pressing her for an answer to his engagement proposal, is even more of a concern for Cedric, interned in Sham Shui Po. Many prisoners died in 1942 from disease caused by nutritional deficiencies including a diphtheria epidemic. While Mum finds solace in books, Cedric, when not laboring on work parties, plans his boat. In response to Cedric's request for input, Mum touchingly requests a fireplace and vegetable patch. I'm not sure she was sold on the boat idea. Cedric seems to make a concerted effort in his letters to downplay the hardship of life in Sham Shui Po, and escapes harsh realities, dreaming of food, and planning out a future life with Mum. Mum eventually realizes her dream of spending time in the Lake District in England (see pg. 421) but for Cedric, even harder times are on the horizon.

*"Officer, Eurasian, asked us to leave and not to go again"*

May diary entry

(Many of the camp guards were Formosan)

Following this entry (date uncertain but possibly May 1942) Mum doesn't try to visit Cedric again in camp, at least there are no further references in her diary, although she does get glimpses of him as he is being trucked out on work parties.

### **American Air Raids**

BAAG Waichow Intelligence report of Oct. 1942 reported the Allied bombing raids over occupied HK. Various eye witnesses reported: no air raid warning was issued and no ARP arrangements made.....general assessment was that the raids not successful from military point of

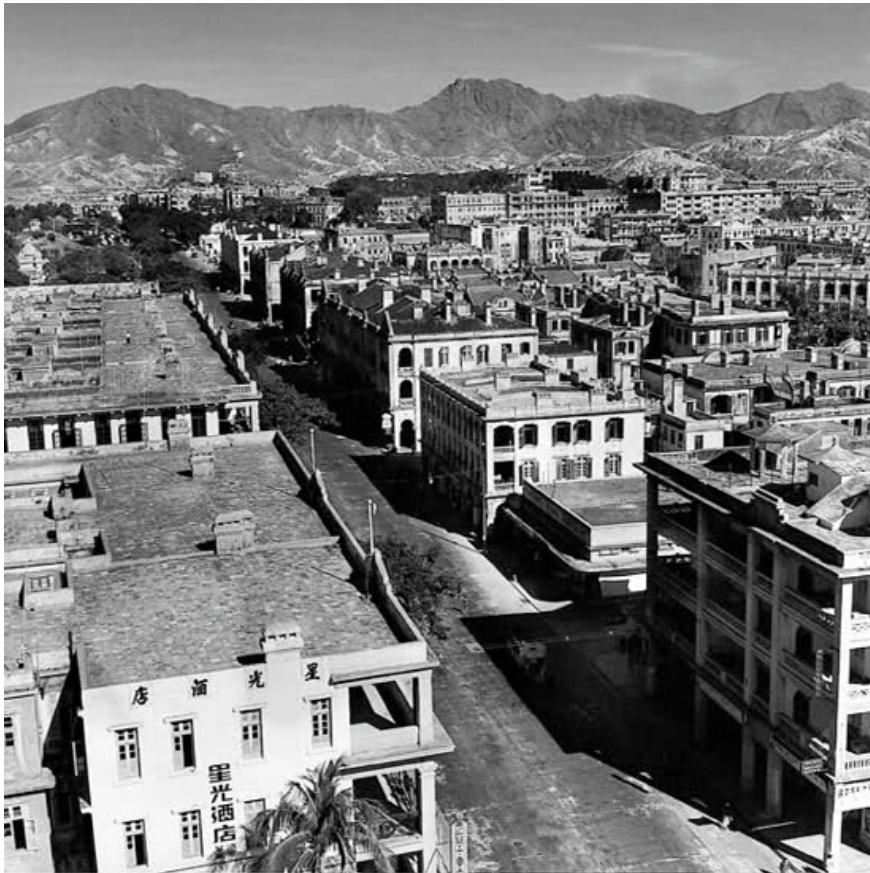


view as the main targets of the docks, power stations, gas works as well as Whitfield Barracks; only the barracks were hit and most bombs missed targets. Damage to shipping was minimal. HK newspaper (Japanese controlled) reported 14 Curtiss X-40's. BAAG noted raids on 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> Oct '42 the first of regular U.S. 14<sup>th</sup> Air Force bombing raids on Hong Kong.

*“In Hong Kong we had our fair share of Allied air raids, with considerable death and destruction for the civilian population (including British Subjects) – more so than was caused by the Japanese attack in December, 1941.”*

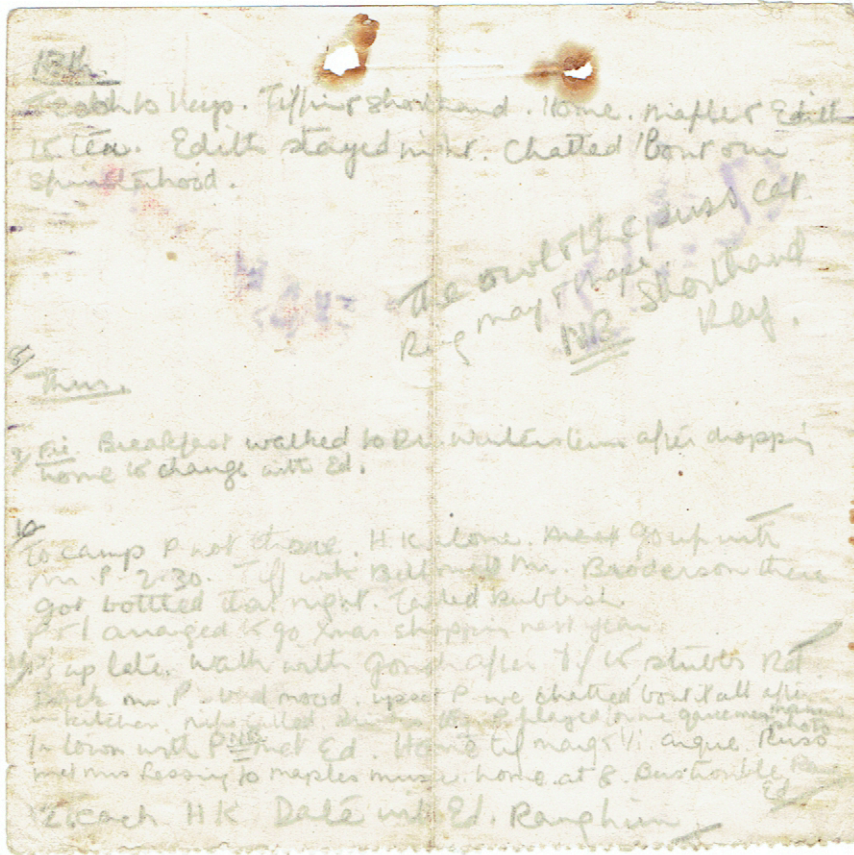
### Guaranteeing Out

Some internees were able to leave Stanly Camp through a scheme known as guaranteeing out, whereby people could return to Hong Kong if they had a neutral sponsor who would promise they'd be supported there. Usually a promise had to be made not to work against Japanese interests (see pg. 131).



Kowloon 1942 from behind the Peninsula Hotel. Lion Rock in the distance. Whitfield Barracks now Kowloon Park on the left.  
Photo Hedda Morrison

January 1942



The following entries (believed to be from January 1942) have been made in tiny writing on one sheet of what could be toilet paper.

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> (believed to be Jan. 1942)

(No entry other than date)

Friday 9 (believed to be Jan. 1942)

Breakfast, walked to Dr. Winterstein's after dropping home to change with Ed.

A Dr. Winterstein is mentioned in gwulo.com as being a member of staff at a large centre for refugees in Hong Kong working under a Charles Mycock along with other doctors – the following is a short extract from an interview given by Charles about his wartime experience on



18<sup>th</sup> December 1941. The Japanese had just turned everyone out of the Taikoo Braemar Dispersal Area for refugees:

*“At 9.30 am. a party halted outside Woodside and I led 19 members of my staff in a body on to the lawn. After the house was searched we were told to carry rice and other material, in company with 30 or 40 Chinese, many with halters around their necks and hands tied to ropes, who had also been commandeered. Dr. Winterstein, Dr. Choy, Tollan, Bell and I with our Chinese staff were added to the fatigue party. I protested but after being beaten on the head with a revolver was forced to submit. The women staff were permitted to re-enter the house. Choy and I with a bag of rice between us were in the van just behind the officer in command, and near the junction with Cecil's Ride lay the body William Seath, A.R.P., shot through the head. On the opposite side of the road were the bodies of two women, one a European with a cloth over the face, (Mrs. Baldwin), and an Amah.”*

10 (believed to be Jan. 10 1942)

To camp, P (*Paddy Pasco?*) not there. H.K. alone. ~~Meet~~ go up with Mr. P 2.30. Tiff with Bill (*female friend of Mums*), \*\*\* and Mr. Broderson there. (*This could be Ragnar Brodersen, a Norwegian who later escaped from Hong Kong aided by BAAG agent T.C. Monaghan who was executed on Stanley Beach October 29 1943 along with George Kotewall and others*). Got bottled (*drunk*) that night. Talked rubbish. P and I arranged to go Xmas shopping next year.

11 (believed to be Jan. 11 1942)

Up late, walk with Gom\*\* after tif to Stubbs Rd. (*Stubbs Road connects Happy Valley and The Peak area on Hong Kong Island*) Back Mrs. P. bad mood. Upset P we chatted 'bout it all after in kitchen. Nips (*japs*) called D\*\*\*\* \*\*\* P \*layed for me gave me tetnus shots. In town with P NB met Ed. Home tif Marg and Vi argue (*Vi could be Vivienne Churn – see Eurasian*). Russ. Met Mrs. Lessing, to Maples music. Home at 8. Bus trouble Ed.

12 (believed to be Jan. 12 1942)

Teach HK Date with Ed. Rang him.

*“Inoculation squad dirty, unshaven, three were university students. One very bullying and bad mannered. Japanese silent throughout. Chinese always perform in their presence.”* April 15 1942 from Henry Ching's Diary

13 (believed to be Jan. 13 1942)

Teach to Keys? Tiffin and shorthand. Home. Maple and Edith to tea. Edith stayed night. Chatted 'bout our spinsterhood.

Written in larger writing tangentially across space on page the following:

The owl and the puss cat  
Ring May and Maple  
NB  
Shorthand Key

17. With Bill.  
 16th. Quons H.K. Bills.  
 15th. Ivys Teach. breakf. Quons.  
 Ed. over.  
 14th. Teach Ivys for till home. Maple & E to tea. E stayed  
 night.  
 14th. Am. with Mrs. Lab. card from Mr. Salt & Shanks.  
 J.D. George also over with Jony. went to Russ. till  
 4. met Mrs. see bought cattle brought glo home.  
 tea. gave to her for her birth day. Eto left. Con  
 max dropped - had some tea. visited me up on Sun.  
 Practised. Read Lady Chatterley.  
 8th. Shortland. Teach. over next door to Alice's bought  
 3 hats, Mary came over to do French had some  
 tea. were reading 'Kate'. Did Russian after  
 dinner.  
 7th. Church to madame's. enjoyed day with  
 her. Chatted about the world today, & the English,  
 Communion, China, life. sent me French post  
 letters. asked me to go up after to do French with  
 her. met & walked down with Mr. Hole from Bank  
 6th. Washed hair. to Editha. stayed night.  
 Chatted best Loree & Marie with Maple. Over to  
 Aunt Eric's for a while.  
 5th. Teach. Shortland. Teach. Russian. Chari  
 Practise. departed home.

14<sup>th</sup> (believed to be Jan. 14 1942)

Teach Ivys (Mum's Aunty Ivy) for till home. Maple and E to tea. E stayed night.

15<sup>th</sup> (believed to be Jan. 15 1942)

Ivys teach breakf. Quons (Questions?).  
Ed over

16<sup>th</sup> (believed to be Jan. 16 1942)

Quons H.K. Bills (Bill is Mum's female friend).

17 (believed to be Jan. 17 1942)

With Bill



## February 1942

5<sup>th</sup> (believed to be Feb. 6 1942)

~~Teach~~ Shorthand teach. Russian. Choir practice (*probably at St. John's Cathedral – Mum's friend Bea was a member of the choir there*). Depressed. Home.

6<sup>th</sup> (believed to be Feb. 7 1942)

Washed hair. To Edith's stayed night. Chatted about love and marriage with Maple. Over to Aunt Eva's for a while.

7<sup>th</sup> (believed to be Feb. 8 1942)

Late Church. To Madame's (*Madame is Mum's French teacher and confident at HKU*). Enjoyed day with her. Chatted about the world today, The English, communism, China, life. Lent me French books and letters of D.H.L. (*DH Lawrence*) Asked me to go up often to do French with her. Met and walked down with Mr. Hide from bank.

8<sup>th</sup> (believed to be Feb. 9 1942)

Shorthand. Teach. ~~ove~~ next door to Alices? bought 3 hats. Marg came over to do French, had some tea, we're reading "Kate". Did Russian after dinner.

9<sup>th</sup> (believed to be Feb. 10 1942)

AM. with Mrs. Leb. Card from Mr. Salt (*Ced's Dad*) and Shanks (*this could be Frederick Shanks whom Mum received a card from pow camp – see pg. 261*) J.D. George Alice over mah jong. Went to Russ till 4. Met Mrs. See. Bought cakes brought Glo home Tea. Gave Jo hat for her birthday (*Hazel's B'day is Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>*). Glo left con (*Connie*) Max dropped in had some tea. Invited me up on Sun (*Sunday*). Practised. Read *Lady Chatterley*.

*"Met and walked down with Mr. Hide from bank."* See pg. 149

Mah Jong was a hugely popular pastime with Mum's Aunts. The clacking of ceramic tiles and staccato Cantonese made for a noisy congenial atmosphere. Mum was not a fan, and always found an excuse such as a headache to avoid playing. She preferred to go somewhere quiet and read.

19 42

Feb 25<sup>th</sup> 1942

Darling Phyllis

You have no idea how much I look forward to your visits, how much better I feel when I see you again. Nothing seems so bad after all and it won't be for long anyway. Darling thanks a million for the cakes and tin food you brought me, it was marvellous. The first time you came I never saw you. I wasn't told until too late that you were at the fence, I ran over but you had gone and I felt awful. As I was returning, Broadbridge called me and gave me those wonderful cakes. Darling I couldn't stop the tears coming to my eyes, and can't even now. When you are probably getting the same food as we are and yet you bring me this stuff. Sweetheart I'll never be able to forget that. Those cakes were the best thing I ever tasted. I had one every night I got into bed and ate it as I was thinking of you. Please Phyllis love look after yourself (first because?) I want to find you just as you were before, not 1lb lighter. Darling I tried to get a letter over to you before but it didn't work and I (lost out/it?) also drawings of our boat and food menus for our first trip. But never mind love, I'll make some more, you too darling and we can pick the best from the two. Oh darling when I think of the good times we're going to have I don't mind this at all; and when it's all over we'll say it was worth going through because it'll make us really appreciate it all. Do you remember those (Wiseman?) Gimlets, Gloucester Manhattans and Hi balls? They'll taste a 100 times better after this. The last Gimlet, Hi ball and Manhattan I had with you, and the rest will also be with you. Darling this boat will certainly have a fireplace for you and something much better than a vegetable plot, our own bar where you can mix your own special drinks, radio and cabin nice and cosy with plenty of cushions and warm lights, just think of the fun in making the breakfast of ham, eggs, sausages, tomatoes and mushrooms in one of the bays about 6am with plenty of hot coffee, waffles, honey etc. Darling, Neville and myself have been sitting in bed at nights and I said how nice it would be if the four of us were living in a house like mine and he agreed and we (.....?) started planning the house etc. and were very pleased about it. What do you think about it? Sweetheart that's why I asked you if you would become engaged to me but you didn't seem so keen on it. Well that's alright. I enjoyed myself as we were, and hoped it would never end but darling I would like an answer because you are the only reason I'm staying in this place if you didn't want to be engaged yet nothing will keep me here. I have fixed everything up and would escape from here and try to make for Chung King? And join the Chinese airforce. My flying instructor has gone already. We could still carry on after that, if however you don't mind being engaged I wouldn't want to risk losing you by being caught. The engagement could be the same as Paddy's for the time being and announced later when we decide the best time. Neville and myself are both (due?) for leave at the same time and thought how grand it would be to have honeymoon on boat and in England and that caravan you dreamt about in the Lake District, remember?. Darling what wouldn't I give for one of those evenings at the Gloucester with you now. It was wonderful just sitting there talking to you. But it won't last much longer. Roosevelt has confirmed (in his?) speech that everything will be cleared up out there within 9 months. Then it'll be fun all the time, now (.....?) the time (.....?) to waste before and how I used to turn up my nose if something didn't happen to suit me, but now I'm changed and I'll be the happiest man alive as long as I have a bed to sleep in and something to eat. The last bed I slept in was Dec 6<sup>th</sup>. I suppose it's much the same with you darling. I have palled up again with Felix (Dunnet?) and find him very decent, has been telling me all about his house etc. and made me envious. Darling please design your ideal house, size, furniture, radio, (daybed?) etc. and let me see it later. I'll do the same. Make it in plan looking down from above, arrangement of furniture etc. Darling I'll try and get you a letter across somehow every time you come and let you know how things are getting on here. I have to go on parade in a few minutes darling so in case I don't write anymore after parade (it'll be dark) I say cheerio darling. I'm always thinking and dreaming of you.

Lots of luck and kisses Yours always Cedric

Could be Norman Broadbridge Lance Corp. 2239, Hazel's boyfriend.  
Neville Eric Matthews was Paddy Pasco's boyfriend/fiancé



On the reverse March 5<sup>th</sup> 1942

*Bring me things, you must have them yourself. Recently we have been having good meat stews and there is really*

Darling thanks for coming to see me again. it was wonderful seeing you so close. you look fine. Please darling don't nothing to complain about. We have been promised flour in a few days then we can make our own bread, the ovens are finished already. Darling forget all I said about escaping. The news was bad at the time but now it's good and it won't be necessary (cos or cause) we'll be out in about 10 weeks, that means that 3 months from now the boat will be ready and there'll be no stopping us. Since drawing the boat I have given my idea of the cabin furnishing (drawing of small copy on letter) What do you think of it? Don't forget to draw your ideas sweetheart. Most of my spare time I am picturing you and me sailing in this boat with (weekend?) supplies aboard. All these lovely dishes we want, catching fresh fish and shooting wild duck for ourselves! Darling there is some talk of the (vols?) being disbanded but I don't believe that. But I do know that the Americans have taken Manila and it won't be long sweetheart. Darling make out the food menu for a weekend on the boat. I've done it dozens of times and keep on doing it just for the fun of thinking what fun it will be. Well darling I had better try and get this into the handle for you. If I have any time I may put something in the other handle. Cheerio love, see you as usual 10pm every night.

Love Cedric

This was all written round different views of 'the boat' with the following notes.

This is what the boat will be like darling. Would you please make the cabin arrangements so we can get it done as soon as possible. It will be made from an ordinary lifeboat and only take a matter of days to convert.

This is what the cabin will be like darling. Can you make it look like home? Radio portable, little bar, cupboards, fireplace, electric light and fittings bunks etc. Make enlarged drawings of these.

These letters were obviously hidden in the handles of something, with the exchange happening at 10:00 pm on a regular basis.

*"We used all kinds of tricks to pass messages out [of Shamshuipo]. At that time my brothers sent in a wicker basket containing the parcels and we undid the handle and put in a little bit of paper [message] and did it up again."* From an oral account by Raymond Mok (HKVDC and BAAG) Imperial War Museum archives.

The Japanese weren't driven from Manila 'till 1945 – Cedric's information was way off, however the current rumor was that 3 months would see the end of the war, and that the war was going well in Malaya. Mum was not alone in supporting a boyfriend in Sham Shui Po. RAF man Donald Hill was in Shamshuipo POW Camp.

*"Today someone gives him a parcel brought by his Chinese girlfriend Florrie: a large tin of cocoa, milk, butter, soap and biscuits. He goes down to the fence and finds her there; she tells him she was interned in Stanley for two weeks and then released:*

*That girl saved my life...My God, she smuggled food into me. It's something I'll never forget. I think she saved my life."*

6<sup>th</sup> Feb 1942 extract from Gwulo.com



19 42

ARMY FORM C 2129.

# MESSAGE FORM.

SERIAL No. OF TELEGRAM.....

	SYSTEM	SENDER OR	READER
OUT			
IN			
TIME OF DESPATCH.			

FOR POSTAGE STAMPS AND DATE STAMP.

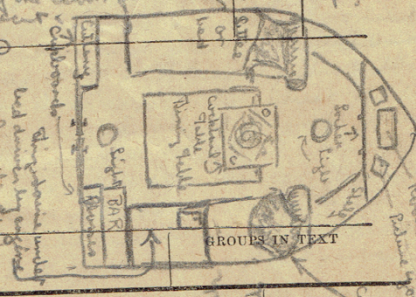
March 5<sup>th</sup> 1942

## CALL IN OUT

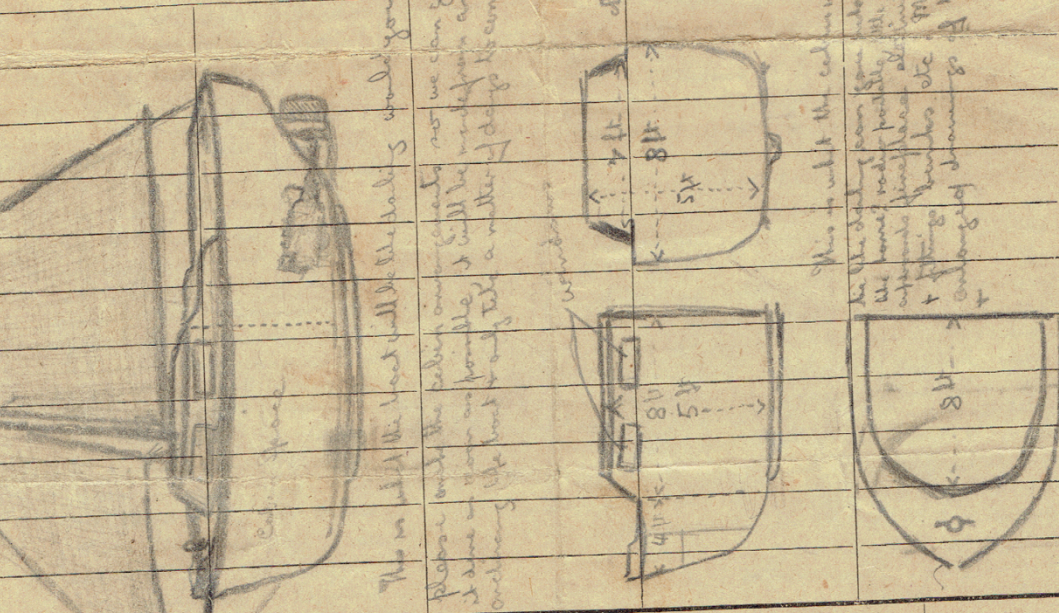
*Looking, thanks for coming to see me again. I was worried about seeing you as you are doing so well. Please don't forget to bring me things, you must know them yourself. Recently we have been having good meat steaks & this is really why to employ about. All have been promised food in a few days then we can make our own bread, the reason one finished already. Looking, forget all & say about escaping. The news was good.*

PRIORITY PREFIX TIME HANDED IN (P) SERVICE INSTRUCTIONS (and Office of Origin (P)) WORDS (P) CHARGE

*SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS. Showing the boat I have given my idea of the cabin from which what do you think of it? Don't forget to draw your ideas sweetie. Most of my spare time I am looking, you & me TO board in this boat with a with ends supplies fresh fish & other food dishes we want, catching but I don't believe that. I do know that the Americans have taken Manila & it won't be long sweetie. Looking, make the food menu for a week and on the boat I've done it dozens of times & keep on doing it just for the fun of thinking what food to be. Well looking I had better try & get this into the hands for you. I have time & may put something in the old bundle. Cheers love, see you on usual 10 PM every night. Love, Cedric.*



ORIGINATOR'S NUMBER DATE IN REPLY TO NUMBER



TIME OF ORIGIN. T.O.R. FOR SIGNAL USE ONLY.

DEGREE OF PRIORITY and ORIGINATOR'S SIGNATURE. \*THIS MESSAGE MUST NOT BE SENT BY WIRELESS. IF SENT BY WIRELESS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT { \* AS WRITTEN \* IN CIPHER \*ORIGINATOR TO DELETE LINES NOT REQUIRED.

May 1942

Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. 1942.  
 Very wet day. Camp on bus. Fight there with Ced. who as usual did not come out till late & then left a post refusing to move even for insistence of norm! Ignored him & talked to mamma & Kaif. & tried to make out who signalling man in green was. For them. Finally looked at him & he kissed so forgave him (temporarily)  
 Oh yes! then he didn't come round to the corner road!!! He got wet tho'. but so did I & it was fun.  
 Jo & I spent most of day with Mrs. Sem. after Thorgesen & Mackenzie left for HK. we made coffee! & had bread'n everything. Chatted & laughed 'bout her sons & child.

Friday May 15<sup>th</sup>. 1942.

Very wet day. Camp on bus. (Sham Shui Po) Fight there with Ced. who as usual did not come out till late and then behind a post refusing to move even upon insistence of norm! (Norman Broadbridge?) Ignored him to talk to mamma and Kaif and tried to make out who signalling (sic) man in green was - for them. Finally looked at him and he kissed so forgave him (temporarily!)

Oh yes! Then he didn't come round to the corner road!!! He got wet tho' but so did I and it was fun.

Jo and I spent most of the day with Mrs. Sem. After Thorgesen and Mackenzie (Norman?) left for HK we made coffee! and had bread'n everything. Chatted and Laughed 'bout her sons & children.

*"Mis. Sem. Must've been listening to some 5<sup>th</sup> column dribble. She's so pessimistic poor dear and she's anti-British to a certain extent too and oh dear! She doesn't think we'll win in Europe."*

ven. She shouldn't have told  
 me that Keare would - this diary  
 saying he loved me & thought his  
 heart would break when he saw  
 me with Ced. Never imagined  
 there was that at all in him, that  
 he was capable of such sweetness  
 I feel so guilty as tho' I love him  
 too - Oh dear! I wish I knew  
 what I was all about! Cedric I'm  
 sorry - Gosh! Who ever it was  
 that said that even at 20 a girl  
 doesn't know her own mind is  
 gosh darned right! Mamma  
 baked & gave us a loaf. Said  
 she'll take me to Canada to  
 marry Pete! Had some apple  
 pudding & left - said she'd  
 teach for I, Norwegian. Had  
 mis-sem. must've been listed.

She shouldn't have told me  
 that Keare? (this is 'K'  
 Semmelman the Norwegian  
 who was at this time in  
 Sham Shui Po who  
 corresponded with Mum in  
 1946 - see letter pg. 408)  
 wrote in his diary saying he  
 loved me and thought his  
 heart would break when he  
 saw me with Ced. Never  
 imagined there was that at  
 all in him, that he was  
 capable of such sweetness.  
 I feel so guilty as tho' I love  
 him too - Oh dear! I wish I  
 knew what I was all about!  
 Cedric I'm sorry - Gosh!  
 Who ever it was that said  
 that even at 20 a girl doesn't  
 know her own mind is gosh  
 darned right! Mamma baked  
 and gave us a loaf. Said  
 she'll take me to Canada to  
 marry Pete! (Kea's brother)  
 Had some apple pudding'n  
 left - said she'd teach Jo  
 and I Norwegian.

Mis. Sem. Must've been listening



Cedric I'm sorry - Gosh! Who ever it was that  
 said that even at 20 a girl doesn't know her  
 own mind is gosh darned right!

Mrs. (Mamma) Semmelman caption on  
 reverse reads 'To Phyllis with love from  
 Peters and Kaires, Nelly. Dog is Rex.

is some 5th column dribble:  
 She's so pessimistic poor dear  
 she's anti-British to a cert ext.  
 (Wb. & D. dear, she doesn't think  
 well wis. - Europe.)

to some 5<sup>th</sup> column dribble. She's so pessimistic poor dear and she's anti-British to a certain extent too and oh dear! She doesn't think we'll win in Europe.

On the back of this diary entry is a list:

Nan - ~~23476~~ or 6 23765.  
Beddo - Cuiel.  
 H.K. - Tighten Specs.  
 Luigi - Books.  
 Sophy - For Whom Bell's Toll.  
 Joyce - Priority.  
 Con - Fw TBT. - wau.  
 W. - After many a summer.  
 Glo - 3 or so.

Fri  
 Teach Bob.  
 Rms from  
 H.K. or Beddo.

Thur  
 6. Rm. Brekf  
 camp  
 To Yvons Tif there home  
 Sew for her  
 Beddos get Yvon home  
 Bob & yv there  
 Beds?

Wed  
 Rd  
 Bed at 11.

Tue  
 6. Rm Brekf  
 camp.  
 To Yvons.  
 Tif there  
 home.  
 Sew for her.  
 Beddos get  
 Yvon home.  
 Bob & yv there.  
 Beds?

Mon  
 Rd  
 Bed at 11.

Nan - 23665 or 6 23765  
Beddo - \*\*iel  
 HK - Tighten specs.  
 Luigi - Books  
 Sophy - For Whom Bell's  
 Toll (Hemmingway pub.  
 1940)  
 Joyce - Pre\*\*\*\*  
 Con- Fw TBT - wau  
 Vi\* - After many a summer  
 (Aldus Huxley 1939)  
 Glo - 3 or so

Wed  
 Rd  
 Bed at 11.

Thur  
 6. Rm. Brekf  
 camp  
 To Yvons Tif there home  
 Sew for her  
 Beddos get Yvon home  
 Bob & yv there  
 Beds?

Fri  
 Teach Bob.  
 Rms from?  
 H.K. or Bedo

The following page has no day/date/year but has been placed here as it records a visit to camp by bus and mentions Mrs. Sem as with the May 15<sup>th</sup> entry.

Up early. did room. To Mrs. Sems on bus sans fare. Laichees & drink there. Walk to camp with Mrs. Karpusheff & Mrs. S. only saw Norman Officer Eurasian asked us to leave & not to go again. Bus home sans fare. Listened in Manila designed Chinese dress. Tiff. Waited 20 mins at Alhambra for Sophie who had hair permed quite successful. Chatted with her home Doug & Ren here. Doc Lo came mistaken for Pat Osb. Ren rjo to HK. Showered.

Up early, did room. To Mrs. Sems on bus sans fare. Laichees and drink there. Walk to camp with Mrs. Karpusheff and Mrs. S. Only saw Norman (*Broadbridge?*).

Officer, Eurasian, asked us to leave and not to go again. Bus home sans fare. Listened in Manila (*radio?*). Designed Chinese dress. Tiff. Waited 20 mins. at Alhambra (*the Alhambra was a prominent building, theatre, on Nathan Road*) for Sophie who had hair permed, quite successful. Chatted with her. Home. Doug? and Ren here.

Doc. Lo came, mistaken for Pat Osb. (*Osborne?*). Ken and Jo to HK (*Ken, Mum's eldest brother*). Showered

*Officer, Eurasian, asked us to leave and not to go again.*

June ?

Tuesday 9th May.

Did room & sewing. (before)

Tidied desk. Painted Robin.

Baths & Beddo came. (pleasure)

As usual it is a bit of an escape being with Beddo. We talked about if? Birth Control. Temperance. War Babies. Happiness Future. Baboons (Japs).

Had cup of coffee Kowloon Confec. Cigarettes walk.

Luigi Guts joined us. Walked him home to Granville Road then self home.

Supper then with son & J. Madar to Yvon's café.

Home. down garden in Bed mood as usual.

*"As usual it is a bit of an escape being with Beddo. We talked about if? Birth Control. Temperance. War Babies. Happiness Future. Baboons (Japs)."*

## June 1942

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May (can't be right maybe June 9<sup>th</sup> 1942)

Did room and sewing.  
Tidied desk. Painted Robin (brother).  
Bath and Beddo came.  
As usual it is a bit of an escape being with Beddo. We talked about if? Birth Control. Temperance. War Babies. Happiness Future. Baboons (Japs).

Had cup o coffee Kowloon Confec. Cigarettes walk.  
Luigi Guts joined us. Walked him home to Granville Road (one of HKs main streets) then self home.  
Supper then with son and J. Madar to Yvon's café.  
Home. Down garden in Bad mood as usual.



Yvonne pgs. 122, 124, 125



TO PHYLLIS  
 IS FROM  
 Robin.  
 1942.

Photo of Mum's youngest brother. Robin would have been 8

Wednesday  
 Cooked breakfast but was not allowed to have it 'cos I helped myself to tea after helping boys.  
 Finished tidying desk.  
 Went with Rob to get Yvon.  
 Got some things for her and took her there.  
 Up and did Glo's hair. To her mums with her to get Yvon.  
 Bathed Bob.  
 Read.

Wednesday June 10<sup>th</sup>

Cooked breakfast but was not allowed to have it 'cos I helped myself to tea after helping boys.  
 Finished tidying desk.  
 Went with Rob to get Yvon.  
 Got some things for her and took her there.  
 Up and did Glo's hair. To her mums with her to get Yvon.  
 Bathed Bob (Robin).  
 Read.

Sunday. 21st. June.

St. Theresa's 10. o'clock mass  
with Ivy. We had Chinese  
tea-cakes for breakfast.  
Dropped in for hell. to hers  
after ~~camp~~ church. with  
Connie & Ching. To Eileen's  
at Grampian Rd. Con was  
there was asked to stay  
for tiffin. To Ivy's after tif.  
with Eileen. Con went home.  
Borrowed naughty book from  
Eileen. It scares me. must  
return it immediately.  
D.H. Lawrence. Translation  
on "love". Played with Chestnut  
very sleepy all p.m. to Eib  
for tea home. dinner René  
Rossetto. madam hungs  
up - evening.

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June 1942

St. Theresa's (on Prince  
Edward Road, Kowloon  
Tong) 10 o'clock mass with  
Ivy. We had Chinese tea-  
cakes for breakfast.

Dropped in for Nell to hers  
after ~~camp~~ church with  
Connie and Ching. To  
Eileen's at Grampian Rd.  
(Kowloon) Con was there  
was asked to stay for tiffin.  
To Ivy's after tif. with Eileen.  
Con went home.

Borrowed naughty book from  
Eileen. It scares me. Must  
return it immediately D.H.  
Lawrence translation on  
"love". Played with Chestnut  
very sleepy all p.m. To Eib's?  
for tea. Home dinner René  
Rossetto. Madam Hungs (a  
Phoebe Hung is Sir Robert  
Kotewall's daughter) up in  
evening.

Eileen is probably Mum's  
neighbor and best friend  
Eileen Van Bergen who  
was dead by the time of  
Mum's next diary entry in  
October.

*"Borrowed naughty book  
from Eileen. It scares me.  
Must return it  
immediately"*



October 1942

Saturday. 10th. October. 42. 卐  
 Another 卐 is here. This year it  
 is important by the fact that we  
 are advised not to go out. Anti Jap-  
 anese activities on China's nation-  
 al day in annexed Hong Kong.  
 Well I'm writing my diary again  
 after a lapse of months. When I  
 especially should have written be-  
 cause of such important events - Black  
 pages in the history of my life. Pages  
 written by the Japanese. - The deaths  
 of Daddy & Eileen Van Bergen. I  
 will never forgive the nips. I loathe  
 them with all my powers & senses of  
 feeling. But also I love - just as  
 I hate Japan I love Britain.  
 I live for Britain and the  
 future. One wonderful thing

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October 42

卐 (could be shinto gate  
 symbol)

Another 卐 is here. This  
 year it is important by the  
 fact that we are advised  
 not to go out. Anti  
 Japanese activities on  
 China's national day in  
 annexed Hong Kong (*the  
 National Day in The  
 People's Republic of  
 China is celebrated  
 annually on October 1<sup>st</sup>*).  
 Well I'm writing my diary  
 again after a lapse of  
 months. When I especially  
 should have written  
 because of such important  
 events - Black pages in  
 the history of my life.  
 Pages written by the  
 Japanese - the deaths of  
 Daddy and Eileen Van  
 Bergen (*Eileen, the sister  
 of Connie Kotewall,  
 daughter in law of Sir  
 Robert Kotewall, was  
 Mum's bosom friend prior  
 to her death, see below*). I  
 will never forgive the nips.  
 I loath them with all my  
 powers and senses of  
 feeling. But also I love -  
 just as I hate Japan I love  
 Britain. I live for Britain  
 and the future. One  
 wonderful thing I have ctn

*"Well I'm writing my diary again after a lapse of  
 months. When I especially should have  
 written because of such important events -  
 Black pages in the history of my life. Pages  
 written by the Japanese - the deaths of  
 Daddy and Eileen Van Bergen"*

JOHN  
CHARLES  
LANG.

Who is Eileen Van Bergen?

*"We have been spending quite a lot of time with Connie Kotewall – she is the daughter-in-law of the late Sir Robert – separated from his son who is a rake. I have known her as long as anyone and was bosom friends with her sister Eileen who died in the war"*

From a letter written by Mum to Dad in 1963

I have gained, or regained my religion - in that I gain my peace, my happiness. I have found out how to live - for others through tolerance. TOLERANCE - the secret word to gain happiness - to live beautiful life. My activities these days are uncolourful. I am lucky in that I am adaptable mentally as well as physically. I am quite resigned to this situation - to the extent that I seldom see hope - maybe it is not resignation alone - it is complete confidence in the future - I have patience where this a great test to concerned but none with little trials - where my immediate happiness & satisfaction is concerned I am selfish, intolerant to child

gained, or regained my religion - in that I gain my peace, my happiness. I have found out how to live – for others through tolerance. TOLERANCE – the secret word to gain happiness – to live beautiful life.

My activities these days are uncolourful. I am lucky in that I am adaptable mentally as well as physically. I am quite resigned to this situation to the extent that I seldom even hope – maybe it is not resignation alone – it is complete confidence in the future. I have patience where this, a great test and concerned but none with little trials – where my immediate happiness and satisfaction is concerned. I am selfish, intolerant to childishness.



John Charles Lang 1941

shness.  
 In all sincerity I think I am a better person - more sincere, tolerant, undemanding, understanding, less lazy.  
 I realize the futility of Dad's life. In his way he did his duty. In his way he was a good father. He gave - everything. He took - very little

In all sincerity I think I am a better person more sincere, tolerant, undemanding, understanding, less lazy.

I realize the futility of Dad's life. In his way he did his duty. In his way he was a good father. He gave - everything. He took very little

October 23<sup>rd</sup> 1942.  
 Happy birthday to my Fredjickle but oh so many much happier returns.  
 A year ago today (sigh). But never mind a yr ago today, when us 4 had tiffin together. Then me being naughty & stealing off to dinner with Robbi - Then dinner again with Mr. Salter & Ced & manhattans & dances with both of them - it was just lovely.  
 Well today -  
 The weather was delightful. - The cold just come round. Woke crack o' dawn down to Kai Tack with Jess Wong. Saw boys but no ced yet. Tho Glo' said she saw him yesterday.

October 23<sup>rd</sup> 1942

Happy birthday to my Fredjickle but oh so many much happier returns. (Fred, Eva Lang's son)

A year ago today (sigh). But never mind a yr. ago today, when us 4 had tiffin together. Then me being naughty and stealing off to dinner with Robbi - Then dinner again with Mr. Salter and Ced and manhattans & dances with both of them - it was just lovely.

Well today-

The weather was delightful - the cold just come round. Woke crack'o dawn down to Kai Tack (airport was greatly expanded by Japanese using POW labour) with Jess Wong. Saw boys but no ced yet.

Tho Glo' said she saw him yesterday.

## POW Enlarged Kai Tak Site

### Hundreds Employed To Remove Hill

Evidence that POW were required to remove the hill at Kai Tak from its site in order to enlarge the air strip was given by Lt-Col J. A. Bailie, formerly of the Winnipeg Grenadiers, now in Hongkong as Canadian War Graves representative for the Pacific theatre, during the trial of Col Tokunaga Isao, Commandant of all POW camps in Hongkong and four of his staff before No. 5 War Crimes Court yesterday.

Col Bailie said the Japanese demanded a quota of 800 men to work on the airfield each day, and on many occasions it was necessary to take unfit men out in order to meet this quota. The work was hazardous, he added, and the prisoners suffered a few casualties through cavings on the face of the hill.

#### Construction of Air Strip

The quota of 800 men who were required to remove the hill at Kai Tak in order to enlarge the air strip comprised Imperials, Canadians and HK Volunteers, Col Bailie said. The prisoners were required to take their breakfast at 4.30 a.m. each morning and assemble for roll call at 6.30. After the parade the men were loaded on to ferries, tugs or barges and taken by water to Kai Tak. On numerous occasions unfit men were sent along with the work party as the Japanese demand for the quota had to be met every day.

The prisoners took their noon-day meal with them. It usually consisted of two small buns. Their work started at 8 a.m. with a break of an hour for lunch at noon and then continued to as late as 6 p.m. each evening. They had to remove the hill from its site and take the soil to the lower levels of the airfield about 1,000 feet away. The work was hazardous and hard and there were several casualties through cavings in the hill. After the day's work the men were taken back to camp by water transport, arriving back about 8 p.m. They ate their evening meal in the dark, and after a wash it would be about 10 p.m. before they went to bed. Due to the general sickness throughout the camp it was necessary to keep fit men working 14 days at a stretch in some cases.

The work parties had little rest at night, Col Bailie added, as they slept on communal bed-boards which were infested with bed bugs. Although they made representations to the camp commandant to supply them with disinfectant to control the bugs and for the removal of the

Communal beds, the requests were refused.

### Hundreds Employed To Remove Hill

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Col. Bailie said the Japanese demanded a quota of 800 men to work on the airfield each day, and on many occasions it was necessary to take unfit men out in order to meet the quota. The work was hazardous, he added, and the prisoners suffered a few casualties through cavings on the face of the hill.

Got up dawn to Kai Tack. did  
 not see Ced. with Jess Wong & Bro.  
 Back to hers back there to teach.  
 Gordon cried - frightened me.  
 Stayed to tif. to hello Maxwells  
 there. Bunked music 'cos I didn't  
 practice. Tea there then to K.T.  
 just missed them 'cos they left  
 early. (lovely 1st day of winter).  
 Back to con's Jo & I had hair  
 cuts there. Fought with Ken Rosselet  
 over returning him money. Home  
 on bus with Ezra Abraham.  
 Spent evening read Friedlander's  
 bk. Bed early.



Nancy Maxwell, Max is mentioned several times pgs. 202 - 258

Got up dawn to Kai Tack. Did not see Ced. with Jess Wong and Bro. Back to hers breakfast then to teach. Gordon cried - frightened me. Stayed to tif. to hello Maxwells there. Bunked music 'cos I didn't practice. Tea there then to K.T. Just missed them 'cos they left early. (lovely 1<sup>st</sup> day of winter). Back to con's Jo and I had hair cuts there. Fought with Ken Rosselet over returning him money. Home on bus with Ezra Abraham. Spent evening read Friedlander's bk. Bed early.

There are a number of people described as having been released from Stanley Camp under the Guaranteeing Out system. Ezra Abraham was one such, listed as British he was a broker with Tester and Abraham Exchange brokers. He is listed as died December 7th 1946 and is buried in Happy Valley Jewish Cemetery

Con - Connie - Connie Kotewall? The daughter-in-law of Sir Robert Kotewall is mentioned frequently in Mum's Diary, she was obviously a close friend. Also Bobbie Kotewall, daughter of Sir Robert.

Cedric letter 3 - the following letter is undated, but placed here as it mentions work parties to Kai Tak.

Hello love I don't know how interesting this is going to be cause I haven't got much time & the time here is going quite well, we go out on working parties about twice a week sometimes to the park & sometimes to Kai Tak, the work is hard but good for me, digging etc. We have planned a club in here, I thought it a good idea to have a club somewhere in Central just for people we know, membership limited to 75. Food & drinks to be at cost price & everything run by ourselves. I suggested that you would be pleased to prep or cook & again to see that the boys were doing their stuff in the kitchen & put up expenses the making of cakes etc. for which you could have your show free there, coffee etc. whenever you were down down. It's an idea anyway, but not until after the boat is gone. The same of course is for you. You have written piles of letters to me at N.P.C. what a pity. I have received two from you, one of which I have brought you home no idea how pleased I was even though it was apparently written between a big letter. I want like this "Here's another one & its troubling for words -" remember that one dear? The other was about you wanting a fireplace in the boat & a vegetable plot. Remember the happy days we spent at the waterfall when we both tried to get in the tent & you tearing your costumes. The bottle of beer & ginger beer we hid, we will get them & keep one bottle each for souvenirs. Thinking again please don't deny yourself food to bring me, this is what we honestly get now. Breakfast in the morning about 9.30 AM of 1 belly can full of rice & about 1/4 belly of good soup. In evening about 6 PM I have belly rice & 1/4 belly stew usually with meat. But don't believe me those potatoes you gave me were the best I ever tasted, I think them on the tin added a little butter salt and meat & they were go-gos. I still remember that in you gave me, also tin of M+V which you sent me you see some. I'm not going hiking - only got your things you would laugh if you could see some sometimes cook over the little stove I got from the city factory its jolly good & its going to keep it later. We have tea & it with that milk you gave me made the best cup of tea I've had in my life, will you teach me how to make cakes after this, I want to make big chocolate cream cakes & eat them whilst they are still hot, but you can make beautiful cakes, I want to spend all day in the kitchen & you making wats you sit down on the sofa with a belly of your home grown & lemon & just eat & drink for hours & talk about what we are going to do. Just put those 10 weeks on the wall or I have done & cross off the days & just see if we're not together by then. - I bet you - anything, remember? There are lots of things. See remember that I didn't do before now that I have time to think about them, most important was why wasn't I clean for you instead of always hugging, also why didn't I eat home and cream cakes, waffles etc. I never even used to think of them. Why I didn't keep my own little stock of booze, I shall certainly in future & this will be really good from it. Just stated in your journal, by and by I'll get what I want from accounts etc. had just finished dinner, & I feel very satisfied though still fairly after the tin of M+V with just to celebrate see you so close, shall heat it up in the old stove & that of your things, worth full. Well that's about all now & I'll be happy if you have done it. I'll be happy in the other hand. Darling that's to say of you & I'll be happy to see you as I usually do. Yours darling for ever & ever love James & Cuddles X X X & K X

Hello love, I don't know how interesting this is going to be cause I haven't got much time and the time here is going quite well. We go out on working parties about twice a week sometimes to (Tai Po?) and sometimes to Kai Tak, the work is hard but good for me, digging etc. We have planned a club in here, I thought it a good idea to have a club somewhere in (Central?) just for people we know membership limited to 95. Food and drinks to (?) at cost price and everything run by ourselves. I suggested that you would be pleased to pop in now and again to see that the boys were doing their stuff in the kitchen and perhaps to supervise the making of cakes etc. for which you could have your chow free there, coffee etc. whenever you were downtown. It's an idea anyway but not until after the boats going. The name of course is Phyllis. You have endless piles of letters to me at NPC, what a pity, I have received two from you, one of which Neville brought. You have no idea how pleased I was even though it was apparently (?) between a big letter. It went like this "Here's another one and it's too funny for words \_\_\_\_\_" Remember that one darling? The other was about you wanting a fireplace in the boat and a vegetable plot. Remember the happy days we spent at the waterfall when we both tried to get in the tent and you tearing your costume. The bottle of beer and ginger beer we hid, we will get them and keep one bottle each for souvenirs. Darling again, please don't deny yourself food to bring me. This is what we honestly get now. Breakfast in the morning about 9.30am of 1 billycan full of rice and about ¼ billy of good soup. In the evening about 6pm 1 large billy of rice and ¼ billy of stew usually with meat. But darling believe me those potatoes you gave me were the best I ever tasted, I boiled them in the tin, added a little butter, salt and (mint!!!!!!?) and they were gorgeous. I still have the last tin you gave me also a tin of M&V which you sent so you see love, I'm not going hungry – only for you. Darling you would laugh if you could see me sometimes cooking over the little stove I made from the empty potato tins . It's jolly good and I'm going to keep it later. We brew tea on it and with that milk you gave me made the best cup of tea I've had in my life. Will you teach me how to bake cakes after this, beautiful cakes. I want to spend all day in the kitchen with you making eats then sit down on the sofa with a bottle of gin, lime juice and lemon and just eat and drink for hours and talk about what we are going to do. Just put those 10 weeks on the wall as I have done and cross off the days and just see if we're not together by then \_\_\_\_ I bet you \_\_\_\_\_ anything remember. There are lots of things I can't understand why I didn't do before, now that I have time to think about them, most important was why wasn't I nicer to you instead of always bullying, also why didn't I eat more (cut?) cream cakes, waffles etc. I never even used to think of them. Why I didn't even keep my own super stock of booze, I shall certainly in future and there will be nothing lacking from it. Just started writing again by oil lamplight which I made from cigarette tin, have just finished dinner and I feel very satisfied though shall probably open that tin of M&V tonight just to celebrate seeing you so close, shall heat it up on the old stove and think of you with every mouthful. Well darling I must close now and get this hidden. If you have found this letter just look in the other handle. Darling I hope to dream of you and the times ahead tonight as usually do. Yours darling for ever and ever love, kisses and cuddles xxxxxx

*“The Japanese quickly realized that the pow's were a potential labour force. The first Shamshuipo work parties were to the Taipo Road to clear demolition charges placed there before the invasion by the Royal Engineers. Next, work started on extending Kai Tak airport.....”*

from Banham, *We Shall Suffer There* pg. 34

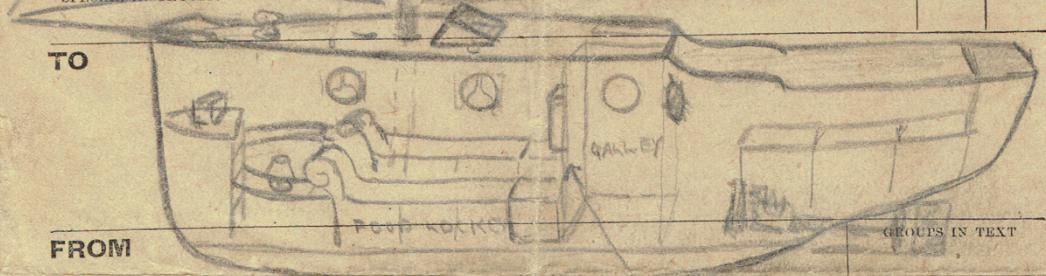
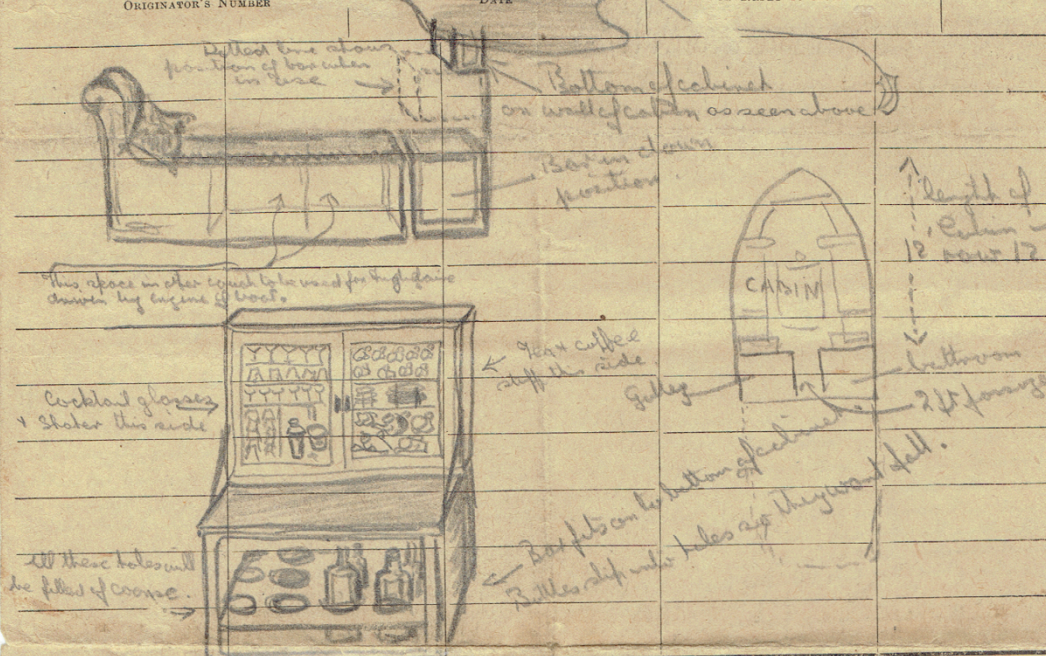
NPC probably refers to North Point Camp where Cedric may have been first incarcerated. By the end of January 1942 most 'regulars' were marched to Sham Shui Po, and North Point eventually became an exclusively Canadian camp. By all accounts it sounds that it was one of the grimmest of the camps. M&V was meat and vegetable army rations that came in a tin





19  42

**MESSAGE FORM** OF TELEGRAM.....

	SYSTEM	SENDER OR	READER	
OUT				FOR POSTAGE STAMPS AND DATE STAMP.
IN				
TIME OF DESPATCH.				
<b>CALL</b>		IN OUT		
PRIORITY PREFIX	TIME HANDED IN (P)	SERVICE INSTRUCTIONS (and OFFICE OF ORIGIN (P))		WORDS (P).
SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.				CHARGE
<b>TO</b>				
<b>FROM</b>	GROUPS IN TEXT			
ORIGINATOR'S NUMBER	DATE	IN REPLY TO NUMBER		
				
TIME OF ORIGIN.	T.O.R.	FOR SIGNAL USE ONLY.		
DEGREE OF PRIORITY and ORIGINATOR'S SIGNATURE.		<p>*THIS MESSAGE MUST <b>NOT</b> BE SENT BY WIRELESS.          IF SENT BY WIRELESS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT <b>* AS WRITTEN</b>  <b>* IN CIPHER</b>          *ORIGINATOR TO DELETE LINES NOT REQUIRED.</p>		
NOTE.—SPACES MARKED (P) ARE FOR PAID WORK ONLY.				
(14762) Wt. P.6262/W.2730 180 m. lifts (3 kinds) 6/24 Harrow (E.799 (Items 1, 2 and 3.))				

Cedric letter 4a

Phyllis darling, many thanks for coming again today, it was lovely seeing you again even though for only so short time and the food you bought love, you must know exactly what I fancy. I have been thinking of pineapple for a long time, but please darling don't send me it when you yourself can do with it, I did get those Butter (.....?) and scones and were they good and we had buttered scones and I thought I was in Wisemans with you again. Darling I would rather see you than have all the food in HK so you know what to do, we can't get any money here, some people brought some in with them and can send it out, but mine is still at (Bodwells?) and army pay we can't get till we are out. So please love don't spend any more of your money except on yourself. Certainly you can have the stove I made and also a drinking mug which I made out of a tin and a piece of copper tubing and engraved CLS prisoner of war Sham Shui Po 25<sup>th</sup> Dec 1941. We can use them on the boat just to make us appreciate even more the fun we shall be having. Darling you say that you have been hearing BBC news, but are you sure it wasn't a Jap station on BBC wavelength as they have been doing that. It was 10 (....?) from last time I saw you that means I'll be with you before 9<sup>th</sup> May which is my father's birthday. I'm glad you like the club idea, the name would be the 85 club cos that's the number of members but more important is the boat, I spend most of the day drawing out every detail and planning food menus, I have improved upon the boat as you will see by copy of drawings I have put in a bathroom and galley where we can cook. The size of the rooms will only be 3X3X6 ft but that's enough to cook in. It's the usual for boats. I have also given my idea of the decoration inside. It's practically the same as for the other boat as you will see, but the cabin is longer as its carried right to the front of the boat. I'm also very proud of the collapsible bar, I'll put a small sketch in for you to approve of, the original which I would love to send you would take up too much room, it made my mouth water for I drew all the whisky and gin and lime juice bottles in it and it looked real good. Love I'm terribly sorry you came three days running and I missed you, darling some days we have to go out on working parties for the Japs either to Kai Tak digging trenches or out to Tai Po repairing the roads, I always volunteer to go when I am not expecting you because everyone must have their turn and if I didn't go then I might get detailed to go on a day when you are coming. The work is hard but I like it and is keeping me very well, I will come out better than I came in love, you will notice that in every respect. No love I'm not having a relapse. I don't have such things, it's for that tall fellow who was in my office. He got mal after me and has had it 5 times in here and is worried about not having any quinine, so if you could get it for him he will be very thankful and so would I darling. It is risky sending notes darling that's why you must be very careful, watch the bag very carefully as I hand it over. I shall point out the man who carries it across so you can see if the note is found or not. If it is found don't claim the sack. Of course I long for more letters from you but i would rather you didn't take the risk. I'm glad the house is still OK, my clothes probably won't fit the Japs so I have hopes of getting that new suit of mine back, do you know I never even tried it on. I suppose all my radio stuff is gone but that doesn't matter because (Boris?) said he would fit me up with my own transmitting station. That means I shall be able to speak to people (amateur radio chaps) all over the world, even get messages to my people in London, we can also speak from the boat to the house, what do you think about it? I think the name of the "cottage" ideal, do you think it will suit the boat. If not what do you suggest? I'd like something like "So What" just to show anybody that we're going to enjoy ourselves and nothing's going to stop us no matter what they think about it. This will make you laugh darling, I am trying to make a still for making alcohol! It's a weird contraption and is intended to make alcohol out of rice, it should work, I'm trying at the moment to make yeast out of nothing with a little success, one bottle nearly blew up the other day. I just removed the label from the tomato can, I shall draw the boat on the back if it is better than this. I'm glad I don't smoke darling for we had our first issue of cigarettes yesterday. I'm using mine for exchanging for mess tins made from aluminium to use on the boat later, also carrying packs. We got one packet Golden Dragon each and have been debited 90c for it. Darling we sampled some of that jam on rice and it was lovely, also the sauce, it's my favourite, how did you know? The (potatoes?) do you know what I think of them. I now have 2 tins. I have invented lots of new kinds of cake and desserts which I would like you to help me cook later, they make your mouth water, the trifle is the special. At the bottom is sponge soaked in sherry, then a layer of strawberry jelly with mixed fruits, then a layer of mixed icecream then another layer of sponge and sherry followed by a layer of custard, sliced bananas, then a layer of whipped cream with glazed cherries and dobs of blackcurrant jam on top. We are having a big one of these each the first time out on the boat, but maybe I better leave that to you, there can be 2 or 3 primus stoves, one for making tea and others for chow etc. Everything must be designed to take up as little space as possible, for instance the cupboard above the bar on the

4b

Left hand side of the cabin contains the tea set etc. the stuff which is not necessary in the galley, to match that cupboard we have another on the right hand side of the cabin containing stuff required in the galley but unlike the other cupboard is opened from the back which is in the galley, therefore you have a recessed cupboard in the galley Well darling Ive drawn the boat on the back, what do you think of her? Isn't she better than the other one. It is the same size tho, has a bigger cabin and the other two places. I believe todays paper said something about Germany landing in England and the Russians being pushed back. That's the funniest thing for a long time. They tried it after Dunkirk and failed and the Japs say they have done it now which is of course lies, they are getting the wind up love, do you imagine the Germans would attempt a landing in England when the Russians are pushing them back, no darling, it won't be love. America will be in action pretty soon and you can imagine what that will mean to Japan, it seems pretty ridiculous to me , just think of Britain, Russia, America, China Vs Germany, Italy, Japan. You will see darling, there's nothing to worry about. Sweetheart I wish I could include more letters with this but we didn't have much time. I've been on duty, tomorrow we are duty company and I shall have to dodge something to get down to see you, but I'm good at that. I did it today. Of course I meant what I said about being engaged darling. This certainly wouldn't make me do something I didn't want to do. Keep putting me off if you like but say yes when I get out and that evening will be an evening neither of us will ever forget. I'd love your "yes" now but it would be nice to have a first little indication anyway. I think I know you're too nice to say no. I told Bones about you staying with his Mother in Law, he thanks you and wishes you to tell her that (Irene?) is OK and at Stanley with the 2 children and that Mr (Deacon?) is OK and how is Mrs Deacon? Sweetheart, space is running out and I could go on writing to you all night. The time is now 4.30pm and lights are supposed to go out at 9.30 so I'd better close my love and get this letter hidden for the morning, take no notice of the other cans in the bag. All my love darling . Thinking and dreaming of you as usual, kisses and hugs Sweetheart xxxx



Cigarettes were a universal currency during the Second World War with inflation making local monetary currencies increasingly worthless (see pg. 357).

Dodwells not Bodwells, Dodwell and Co. was where Cedric and his father worked.

19  42

Phyllis DARLING,  
CEDRIC LAWRENCE SALTER  
SHAM SHUI PO PRISONER OF WAR CAMP 5

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR VERY NICE PARCELS AND LETTERS  
PLEASE SWEET DONT SEND ME ANYMORE AS YOU MUST NEED IT YOURSELF AS YOU CAN  
SEE I AM DOING FINE, I WEIGH 172 LBS AND AM STILL AS FIT AS EVER. I HOPE YOU HAVE  
HAD AS MERRY AN XMAS AS CAN BE EXPECTED, DO YOU REMEMBER WHERE YOU SPENT  
LAST XMAS NIGHT? I WAS TERRIBLY SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR GREAT LOSS  
BUT HOPE BY NOW YOU ARE NOT FEELING TOO BAD OVER IT. I HAVENT BEEN ABLE  
TO GO TO HIATAK AS I AM WORKING IN THE KITCHEN. HOWEVER WHEN THEY CANT  
GET THE NUMBER THEY TAKE FROM THE COOKHOUSE STAFF, THATS WHAT HAPPENED  
YESTERDAY WHEN I SAW YOU AND YOU CERTAINLY LOOKED GOOD. YOU WILL BE  
SURPRISED TO KNOW THAT I AM NOW GOOD FRIENDS WITH REGGIE WHO ALSO WORKS  
IN THE KITCHEN AND WE HAVE KOTS OF FUN TEASING HIM OVER HOW ANNOYED  
HE USED TO GET WHEN YOU WENT OUT WITH ME. WE ARE GETTING PLENTY  
OF OIL IN NOW WHICH IS A GREAT HELP IN COOKING, BILLS BROTHER  
WENT TO THE SAME PLACE AS EIWEN, DID YOU KNOW? MANY THANKS  
ALSO DARLING FOR GIVING NEWS OF MY FATHER, PLEASE LET HIM  
KNOW ABOUT ME AGAIN, HOW IM LOOKING, HOW MUCH I WEIGH ETC..  
TELL HIM TO PUT BACK THAT 30 LBS, DID HE GET ANY REDCROSS  
PARCEL AS WE GOT A VERY GOOD ONE. IM KEEPING MOST OF  
IT FOR XMAS. HAVE ALSO MADE SOME RAISIN WINE WHICH IS  
PRETTY GOOD WITH MY REDCROSS ISSUE, TRUST ME. APART FROM THE  
NORMAL COOKING I MAKE WITH ONE OTHER CHAP PIES, PASTIES, DUMPLINGS  
ETC. SO YOU CAN SEE THAT IM PRETTY HOT STUFF IN THE KITCHEN  
NOW. WELL MUST CLOSE NOW HOPEING YOU ARE STILL LOOKING  
AFTER YOURSELF. LOTS OF LOVE CEDRIC.

9/8

Scie des Prisonniers de Guerre

MISS P LANG  
9 KINGS TERRACE  
KOWLOON.

香港停虜收容所  
檢閱濟

停虜郵便



Phyllis Darling

Many thanks for your very nice parcels and letters, please sweet don't send me any more as you must need it yourself, as you can see I am doing fine, I weigh 172 lbs and am still as fit as ever. I hope you have had as merry an xmas as can be expected, do you remember where you spent last xmas night? I was terribly sorry to hear about your great loss but hope by now you are not feeling too bad over it. I haven't been able to go to Kai Tak as I am working in the kitchen. However when they can't get the number they take from the cookhouse staff, that's what happened yesterday when I saw you and you certainly looked good. You will be surprised to know that I am now good friends with Reggie who also works in the kitchen and we have lots of fun teasing him over how annoyed he used to get when you went out with me. We are getting plenty of oil in now which is a great help in cooking. Bill's brother went to the same place as Eileen, did you know? Many thanks also darling for giving news of my father. Please let him know about me again, how I'm doing, how much I weigh etc. Tell him to put back that 30 lbs. Did he get any red cross parcel as we got a very good one. I'm keeping most of it for xmas. Have also made some raisin wine which is pretty good with my red cross issue, trust me. Apart from the normal cooking I make one other chap pies, pasties, doughnuts etc. So you can see that I'm pretty hot stuff in the kitchen now. Well must close now hoping you are still looking after yourself. Lots of Love Cedric.

The above letter from Cedric is undated but must be following Mum's dad's death September 1942 and before Cedric's transport to Japan, January 1943. The thinly veiled reference to 'Bill's brother going to the same place as Eileen' probably refers to his death. Unlike many of Cedric's letters, this one was not smuggled out of camp but sent by pow mail, and thus would have been subject to censorship.

Oct. 24th

H.K. met Ren Ros on way to  
 D.F. Tif with him & Lopez. decided  
 to buy cash sweep tickets with  
 money. To Pasco's met Von there.  
 Tif again. Left to get Ron's photos.  
 To Madames in bed with Dengue -  
 Beri Beri - Malaria. but OK now  
 suggest I go to Red Cross for help.  
 Talked new horrible times. Soph.  
 came with news of Ida - that.  
 Met Mr. Sutter (Swiss) there.  
 Home. Laughing over Ced's beef  
 steaks. Walk with Guy Ken  
 & fr. after dinner.  
 Beautiful cold day.

October 24<sup>th</sup> 1942

H.K. met Ken Rosset On  
 way to D.F. tif. with him and  
 Lopez. Decided to buy cash  
 sweep tickets (probably  
 horse racing - the HK  
 Jockey Club resumed racing  
 at Happy Valley April 25  
 1942 - pari-mutuel bet was  
 10 yen.) To Pasco's met  
 Von there. Tif. again. Left to  
 get Ron's photos. To  
 Madames in bed with  
 Dengue - Beri Beri - Malaria  
 but OK now suggest I go to  
 Red Cross for help. Talked  
 new horrible times. Soph.  
 came with news of Ida in  
 stan? (Stanley?) Met Mr.  
 Sutter? (Swiss) there.  
 Home. Laughing over Ced.  
 and beef steaks. Walk with  
 Guy Ken and fr. after dinner.  
 Beautiful cold day.

October 25th. #2.

"Air Raid"! of Allied planes  
this p.m. It was just too scrum-  
ptious —

Date with Thoresen's today to  
spend day with them & friends  
over Garden Terrace. H.K.

Waited  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr. for them at Ferry.  
Contrib.  $\frac{1}{2}$  catty sugar. Nell's

son came too up Garden Ter-  
race. Wonderful cold sunny day!

Met Mrs. Flow Boil daughter  
Shirley. Two looney goons, the  
misses Loreins. Rather boring  
time. Norwegian & girls stupid.

But weather & scenery were so  
marvelous — I do love H.K.

Then. P.m. I went out with girls  
for walk to end of May Road when.

October 25<sup>th</sup> 1942

"Air Raid"! of Allied planes  
this p.m. It was just too  
scrumptious-  
Date with Thoresen's  
today to spend day with  
them and friends over  
Garden Terrace H.K.  
Waited  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr. for them at  
Ferry. Contrib.  $\frac{1}{2}$  catty  
Sugar. (1 catty was 604  
grams) Nell and son came  
too up Garden Terrace.  
Wonderful cold sunny day!  
Met Mrs. Flow Boil  
daughter Shirley. Two  
loony goons the misses  
Loreinas. Rather boring  
time. Norwegian girls  
stupid. But weather and  
scenery were so  
marvelous — I do love H.K.

Then p.m. I went out with  
girls for walk to end of May  
Road (below Peak HK)  
when

"Air Raid"! of allied planes this p.m.  
It was just too scrumptious — "

Bang! anti-aircraft attack  
 machine gun & there were our  
 planes over us. We were rather  
 frightened at first then we dashed  
 back to garden terrace. Anti-  
 aircraft smoke all over K'loon  
 1 huge fire. Another shock -  
 after viewing raid I turned round  
 to see a little boy fall off verandah  
 fixed him up. Left after tea.  
 Another raid while coming home.  
 walking with 2 Norwegians. Took  
 cover in Peninsula. Came home.  
 Everybody merry. Botelhos  
 Edguin came up for chat.  
 Raid not reported yet thro' Allied  
 news. only H.K.

Bang! Anti-aircraft attack  
 machine gun & there  
 were our planes over us.  
 We were rather  
 frightened at first then we  
 dashed back to Garden  
 Terrace. Anti aircraft  
 smoke all over K'loon.  
 One huge fire.

Another shock - after  
 viewing raid I turned  
 round to see a little boy  
 fall off verandah. Fixed  
 him up. Left after tea.  
 Another raid while  
 coming home. Walking  
 with two Norwegians.  
 Took cover in Peninsula.  
 Came home. Everybody  
 merry. Botelhos  
 Edguin came up for a chat.  
 Raid not reported yet thro'  
 allied news, only H.K.

October 1942 the first American air raids start – proof that Hong Kong was not forgotten by the allies “Air Raid! of allied planes this p.m. It was just too scrumptious” These are a great moral booster “Took cover in Peninsula. Came home. Everybody merry” however these raids later caused civilian casualties in Stanley Camp and elsewhere.



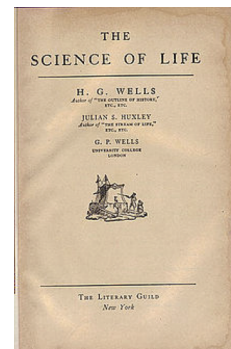
November 1942

Sunday, Nov. 8th.  
 C.H.  
 Went to St Joseph's. 10. am. mass  
 Pasco's there. P. received 4th. letter  
 from Boc. saying he saw me &  
 condolences for Dad. Walked up  
 to their new Bowen Rd. home. Quite  
 a nice walk & the coziest house.  
 Grey. on a lawn. 1, 2 room wing  
 shelled but under repair. on  
 a hill ~~over~~ view of harbour.  
 surrounded by pine. Asked to  
 spend a week-end sometime  
 both P & I were amazed! Tea.  
 went around house. Gave green  
 frock to Bill. Downtown with Mr.  
 P & P. shopping. market. Stanley  
 St. wanted to buy \* wells Hux. 'Science  
 of life. Mr. P says will get for me.  
 Inv. to come home for dinner & night.  
 Beautiful Chinese dinner. Jap called  
 Played gram. Hot bath (said told me  
 of her ideal bath & diner. Slept quite well

Sunday Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> 1942

Went to St. Joseph's.  
 (Catholic church on Garden  
 road) 10 am. mass Pasco's  
 there. P. received 4<sup>th</sup> letter  
 from Boc. saying he saw me  
 and condolences for Dad.  
 Walked up to their new  
 Bowen Rd. (scenic road nr.  
 Peak Tram) home. Quite a  
 nice walk and the coziest  
 house. Grey on a lawn. 1  
 room was shelled but under  
 repair. On a hill ~~over~~ view  
 of harbour. Surrounded by  
 pine. Asked to spend a  
 week-end some time both P  
 and I were amazed! Tea.  
 Went around house. Gave  
 green frock to Bill.  
 Downtown with Mr. P & P  
 shopping. Market. Stanley  
 St. (Central HK, the Market  
 is still popular with tourists)  
 Wanted to buy \* Wells Hux  
 Science of Life (HG Wells &  
 Julia Huxley 1932) Mr. P.  
 said he will get it for me. Inv.  
 to come home for dinner  
 and night. Beautiful Chinese  
 dinner. Jap called. Played  
 gramophone. Hot bath Pad  
 told me of her ideal bath  
 room and diner. Slept quite  
 well

"Beautiful Chinese dinner. Jap called."



Monday, 9th Nov.

Head birdsong at dawn.

Cold bath with Paddy lovely!

Breakfast down garden fried-egg.

~~into town~~ <sup>cross over</sup> with Mr. Pasco. Gave me his views on life going into town. Believes in marriage immediately after. met Mrs. Landau on ferry. then me to teach Mr. P. to Argyle camp. walked home with Vanovitch after collecting black shoes resoled. altered tropical skirt. to semmy. but she was not in "jilted" so was jo who went on her own. Wandered round K'loon tong to look for jo. had cup o'tea with Ada then on to see Maple. Dropped in Maxwell's. They're taking lessons from Maple now. Home & Mr. Fukui was there early. Gave him 1 1/2 hr. lesson. He likes English he says. & is really frightfully decent. - conversations. Coming to cook dinner for fam on Sun. said he'll buy tooth powder for us.

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 1942

Heard birdsong at dawn. Cold bath with Paddy lovely!

Breakfast down garden fried-egg ~~into town~~ cross over with Mr. Pasco gave me his views on life going in to town. Believes in marriage. Immediately after met Mrs. Landau on ferry. Then me to teach and Mrs. P to Argyle camp (Argyle Street Camp was a pow camp for officers 1942-44) walked home with Vanovitch after collecting black shoes resoled. Altered tropical skirt. To Semmy's but she was not in "jilted" so was jo who went on her own wandered around K'loon tong to look for jo - had cup o'tea with Ada then on to see Maple. Dropped in Maxwell's. They're taking lessons from Maple now. Home & Mr. Fukui was there early. Gave him 1 1/2 hr. lesson. He likes English he says and is really frightfully decent:- conversations. Coming to cook dinner for family on Sun. said he'll buy tooth powder for us.

*"Mr. Fukui was there early. Gave him 1 1/2 hr. lesson."*

*"He would turn up at the house dressed in a kimono with sake in tow and cook teriyaki for the family. They taught him to sing "There will always be an England." J - you couldn't make this stuff up, could you?"*

(source Derek Lang email July 2016)

Tuesday 10th Nov.  
 C4  
 Walked in to teach with Binkie.  
 Children unattentive to-day.  
 Lot of gunfire reports. Air  
 raids? Practice? Saw Gordon's  
 ducks feed. He wants to be a  
 farmer. Got paid. 10 M.Y. 2.50 pd.  
 Walked home. Tiffin. Hair wash.  
 Tea with Archie. Practice Pack.  
 Bed at 9. Dead tired. I wonder  
 if my October letter from Ced  
 has now gone astray. New moon  
 & I made a wish for Semmy.

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November  
 1942

Walked in to teach with  
 Binkie (dog). Children  
 unattentive (sic) today. Lot  
 of gunfire reports. Air-  
 raids? Practice? Saw  
 Gordon's ducks feed. He  
 wants to be a farmer. Got  
 paid. 10 M.Y. (Military  
 Yen) 2.50. pd. (per day)

Walked home. Tiffin. Hair  
 wash. Tea with Archie  
 (brother). Practice Pack.  
 Bed at 9. Dead tired. I  
 wonder if my October  
 letters from Ced has now  
 gone astray. New moon  
 and I made a wish for  
 Semmy.

In Hong Kong the military yen was forced upon the local population as the sole official currency of the territory. Since the military yen was not backed by gold and did not have a specific place of issuance, the military yen could not be exchanged for Japanese Yen. Forcing local populations to use the military yen officially was one of the ways the Japanese government could dominate the local economies.

December 1942

Sunday, 13th Dec.  
 Church St. Jos. Bill, Pad. Mrs.  
 P ill not asked to go up. Over  
 to Maryo's. Chat with Bill on  
 rather a serious talk. FUTURE.  
 Lunch there. Over K'loon &  
 traileed round with her & her ma.  
 Kovach a bit then home. Albert  
 Chan brought records over. Bought  
 cakes & P. Baldwin's "Alimony"  
 with her. into her's for a bit then  
 to Kai Tack. Saw boys Norm  
 Jack v. well.  
 Down Glos' & cuemp tea & cakes.  
 Chat. Planned her future  
 flat. "Katherine Bldgs"  
 What's going to happen to me.  
 "Write" / / /

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>  
 December 1942

Church. St. Jos. (St. Joseph's church Garden Road) Bill. Pad. Mrs. P (Pasco) ill not asked to go up. Over to Maryo's? Chat with Bill on rather a serious talk. FUTURE. Lunch there. Over K'loon and traileed around with her and her ma. Kovach a bit then home. Albert Chan brought records over. Bought Oakes? and F. Baldwin's "Alimony" (Faith Baldwin was a popular US romance author) with her. Into her's for a bit then to Kai Tack. Saw boys Norm Jack v. well. Down Glos' (Glocester Hotel) in evening. Tea and cakes. Chat. Planned her future flat. "Katherine Bldgs." What's going to happen to me. "Write"?!!!

"What's going to happen to me."  
 "Write"?!!!

The reverse of this entry for 13<sup>th</sup> Dec has what looks like a shopping list as follows:

Oil, sugar, milk, tea, cocoa.  
 Raspberries,  
 Tooth powder, soap.

Wakamoto, Beans, Pineapple,  
 milk /

<sup>Oil, fat.</sup>  
 Sugar, Tea, Peanut Butter, ✓  
 Raspberries, salt, Peanut  
 Butter. Toothbrush, Soap T.  
 Powder, Pineapple, Wakamoto.  
 Beans, milk, cocoa.

2.80.	2.80.
1.30.	.32.2
3.20.	<u>.80</u>
	3.92

Oil, sugar, milk, tea, cocoa,  
 Raspberries (sic),  
 Tooth powder, soap

Wakamoto, Beans,  
 Pineapple, milk.

Sugar, Tea, Oil, Fat, Peanut  
 Butter, Raspberries (sic), Salt,  
 Peanut Butter, Toothbrush,  
 Soap T. (tooth) Powder,  
 Pineapple, Wakamoto,  
 Beans, milk, cocoa.

2.80.	2.80
1.30.	.32.2
3.20.	<u>.80</u>
	3.92

Japanese nutrition food company Wakamoto was founded in 1929, nutritional conditions among the Japanese people were poor at the time, and they started by selling a product made mainly of beer yeast that was called Wakamoto, using characters that mean "the source of youth".

Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> December 42.  
 CH.

Do room. Practice.

\* Money for Ben. Walk - Teach.  
 Bk. from <sup>prep lesson.</sup> nells. Walk out.

Pm Study Russian. 3.30.  
 Lesson. Beddo's.

\* ask Jerry catapult.  
 music manus. letter to Mr. S.  
 Diary. (maybe). Vib.

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December  
1942

Do room. Practice.  
 \*. Money for Ben. Prep  
 lesson. Walk in Teach.  
 Bk. from nells? Walk out.  
 pm Study Russian. 3.30  
 Lesson. Beddo's  
 \*ask Jerry catapult.

Music manuscript. Letter  
 to Mr. S.  
 Diary. (maybe) Vi's  
 (Vivienne Churn?).

*“Met and walked down with Mr. Hide from bank”*

Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> 1942 diary entry

**Charles Hyde** from the Dark World’s Fire, Tom and Lena Edgar in War

‘Ginger’ Hyde was one of those bankers kept outside Stanley to help liquidate their own banks, interned in the Sun Wah Hotel. He was taken by the Kempeitai on suspicion of a whole raft of ‘crimes’. *He was, to his immense credit, guilty of them all.* He was active in the BAAG raising money to provide extra food and medical supplies to be smuggled into Stanley, he’d been listening to an illegal radio and passing the news on to other uninterned Allied civilians, and he was ‘running’ two of the most effective BAAG agents in occupied Hong Kong - Chester Bennet and Marcus Da Silva.

He was tortured by the Kempeitai, shortly after which several operatives were arrested including the two above and Selwyn-Clarke. It is thought that he may have revealed his contacts during torture, however extensive research by Banham and others have put doubt on this. He did, however, accidentally implicate Boris Pasco – who was ‘guilty’ of allowing his bookshop to be used as a meeting place for the resistance. Boris was released after two weeks internment and it is thought, not tortured, and so must have been able to talk his way out of the situation.

Hyde was also involved in helping Indian officers escape who were being threatened with mutilation by the Japanese. A letter to a Captain Ansari was intercepted by an Indian informer. (for George Kotwalls involvement in this see Appendix A).

*“The banker [Charles Hyde](#) is arrested for his role in a plot to help [Captain Mateen Ansari](#) escape from Ma Tau-chung Camp. The plot had been infiltrated by Japanese intelligence - in fact, it might have been instigated by them - and a letter written by Hyde with regard to the plan falls into the hands of a pro-Japanese Indian”. From 21<sup>st</sup> April 1943 entry on [Gwulo.com](#)*

Hyde’s extensive resistance activities lead to his execution along with Mateen Ansari and George Kotwall and 30 others, October 29<sup>th</sup> 1943 (see Appendix A).

## Bea’s Experience

*“On the one occasion I attended a church service, I was “spotted” by a Japanese officer who turned out to be a former civilian now in uniform. He later approached a friend (and neighbour) with an offer of marriage and the promise of a few bags of rice (100 catties or 120 lbs) for my family. Rice was already in short supply and would have been a welcome addition to their dwindling larder. But the alarm this caused prompted my home-bound uncle to propose my immediate departure to Macau where I had a cousin, recently married to a Hong Kong Portuguese doctor who was then working in a clinic for the British Consul-General, Mr John*

*Reeves. Dr Germano Ribeiro had moved to Macau shortly before the surrender. My cousin Alice arranged for me to travel to Macau in a junk which left the Western District of Hong Kong darkly at the dead of night. I wore Chinese clothes and a head-scarf and carried a small bag with personal belongings. After an all-night crossing (cold but calm) we arrived in Macau the next morning. I made straight for my cousin's house, and that became my home for the next three and a half years."*

Picture of Bea on pg. 434.

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