

1944

Mum turns twenty-two. After two years of occupation, life in Hong Kong becomes harder and the Lang family receives permission from the Japanese to leave for Macau.

1944

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
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

MARCH						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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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

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						
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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
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				4	5	6
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		

Feb 16
Name posted for Macau

June 5
D'Day landings in Europe

Aug 31
James Kotwall executed

Dec 25
Christmas card from Connie

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	

From March (1944) to
September (1945) Lang
family are in Macau

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

As the Japanese occupation progressed, life became harder and harder in Hong Kong. The population decreased to less than half pre-war levels, infrastructure crumbled, disease and starvation more common, and the imposed military Yen worthless. Food became scarce and the Japanese more punitive. Men left available for socializing were those considered ‘friendly’ to Japan, including, apparently, Italians. Maybe the Botello household provided a welcome source of food and company for Mum, however Italian expectations of women’s subservience inevitably causes friction between Mum and Mr. Baloni.

Mum continues to visit the Rosehill internment camp, and with the durability of youth, still manages to enjoy life “Wars here but so’s fun.” Clothing, visits to the Peninsula Hotel and reminiscing better times “pow-wow of old times on Laurie’s yacht. Was I transported!” enables her to endure.

On February 16th 1944 the Lang family receive notice from the Japanese that they can leave for Macau; the rest of 1944 into 1945 is spent in Macau. I have found no diary entries for this period.

January 1944

13th Jan 1944. WED
 Read "Brave New World"
 Wound brown wool for
 purse.
 Taught Al. with chicken
 pox.
 Impromptu date - Lazed
 in sun. Declared
 me independant.
 maybe were too mod-
 ern with our emotions-
 What is - is. What
 was - was. What will
 be - shall be. Actually
 he's ruled by his head
 & I'm not - not ~~fact~~
 ruled by my head nor
 part of his head.
 Very 2yrs. married
 If some other year were
 tomorrow - If wishes
 were horses —

Wednesday (should be Thursday) 13th Jan 1944

Read "Brave New World".
 Wound brown wool for purse.
 Taught Al. with chicken pox.
 Impromptu date – Lazed in sun. Declared me independent.
 Maybe we're too modern with our emotions. What is – is.
 What was – was. What will be – shall be. (*R & J Act 4 or Que Sera Sera*).
 Actually he's ruled by his head and I'm not – not ruled by my head nor part of his head.
 Very 2yrs. married. If some other year were tomorrow – if wishes were horses (*from 16th century nursery rhyme*).



14th JAN. THURS.
 Padded cardigan should.
 Washed hair.
 Hellephone. Height
 of frustration listening
 to ea oth.
 Read "Brave (mad*)
 new world". Tho' mad
 it may be an inevit-
 ability. Anyway I'm too
 occupied with the pres.
 Rang up @ twilight -
 End of the line - end
 of the earth.
 Sponge cake - Burnt
 night. & pow-wow of
 old times on Laurie's
 yacht. Was I trans-
 ported!

Thursday (*should be Friday*) 14th Jan 1944

Padded cardigan shoulders
 Washed hair.
 Hellephone. Height of frustration listening to
 each other.
 Read "Brave (mad*) New World." Tho' mad, it
 may be an inevitability. Anyway I'm too
 occupied with the present.
 Rang up @ twilight - End of the line - end of
 the earth.
 Sponge cake - Burnt. Night and pow-wow of
 old times on Laurie's yacht. Was I
 transported!

*"Anyway I'm too occupied with the
 present."*

"Padded cardigan shoulders"

WED. 26th JAN.
 HK avec Toni Baloni.
 Chased 'round town
 for fags.
 Took me down to Glen's.
 Ed was

Wednesday 26th January 1944

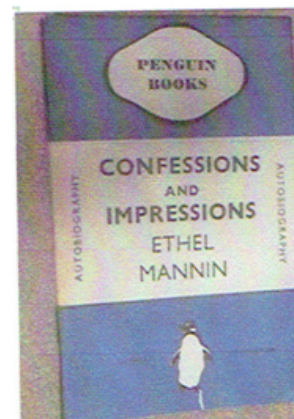
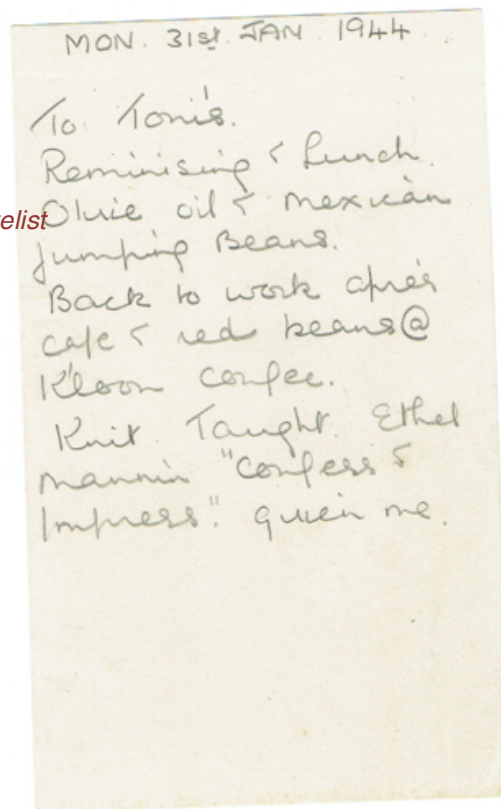
HK avec Toni Baloni (*probably Tony Botello see
 21st December 1945 entry*)
 Chased 'round town for fags.
 Took me down to Glen's.
 Ed was



Beginnings of a sketch of a dress. 1940s women's fashions were about creating a certain silhouette. Wide padded shoulders, nipped in high waist tops, and A-line skirts that came down to the knee. Mum's haute couture specialist III Kwoo and the family sewing amah were called upon to work magic recreating western fashions from hard to obtain fabric.

Monday 31st January 1944

To Toni's
 Reminiscing and lunch
 Olive oil and Mexican Jumping Beans.
 Back to work après café & red beans @ K'loon confec.
 Knit Taught Ethel Mannin (a popular British novelist born 1900) "Confess & Impress" given me.



February 1944

SAT. 5th FEB.
 Tiffin at Toni's.
 Loafed. Shopping
 for shoes. Eating
 & Eating, & Eating.

Saturday 5th February 1944

Tiffin at Toni's.
 Loafed. Shopping for shoes.
 Eating and Eating, and Eating.

"Eating and Eating, and Eating"

SUN. 6th FEB. 44.
 Rosary Church with
 Archie.
 Tony's to breakfast.
 Fooled him that I was
 in bed with flu.
 Soares over. Danced.
 P.m. @ To a lunch
 there. They played
 Ping pong.
 Home to fittings
 Back to tea.
 Evening out with
 Tony. Building his
 castles.
 DEMANDS! again.

Sunday 6th February 1944

Rosary Church with Archie
 Tony's to breakfast. Fooled him that I was in
 bed with flu.
 Soares over. Danced.
 p.m. @ To a lunch there. They played ping-
 pong.
 Home to fittings Back to tea.
 Evening out with Tony. Building his castles.
 DEMANDS! Again.

WED. FEB. 9th 44.
 Rang to apologize.
 Home saw Toni coming off ferry. Should have greeted him.
 Home to find mum has cancelled my dress alterations for more important - sewing up materials - agreed but a dose of her menopausal nerves. Wh. I survived. Several skirts altered & slick new blouse tho'.
 Back met T. coming off ferry again. Should've greeted him again tho'. Back infuriated

to hear Jo & Mary's been up gossiping 'bout me to Glen.
 Later reasoned me with realization that -
 "They say - they must say But be true to principles tho'."
 I must stop being childishly dependant.
 "Man cannot "Live" by feelings alone.
Don't talk so much.
 Listen. Watch. Think.
 Live & learn.

Wednesday February 9th 1944

Rang to apologize.

Home. Saw Toni coming off ferry. Should have greeted him.

Home to find mum has cancelled my dress alterations for more important, sewing up materials.

Agreed, but a dose of her menopausal nerves which I survived.

Several skirts altered and slick new blouse tho'.

Back met T coming off ferry again. Should've greeted him again tho'.

Back, infuriated to hear Jo and Mary's been up gossiping 'bout me to Glen.

Later reasoned me into realization that -

"They say - they must say But be true to principles tho'"

I must stop being childishly dependent.

"Man cannot "Live" by feelings alone.

Don't talk so much

Listen Watch Think

Live & learn.

Ko. Up to his. Pleased to see me. Gus there. They went to show with nip boarder. Edge of anxiety for him to come up après but did not.

THURS. 10.
Mum here. Jo's birth- day. She came with Vi. tea upstairs. Air-raid.

WED. 9.
Home all day.

TUES. 8.
Ed to

32533
26-27
26

Thursday 10th February 1944

Mum here. Jo's birthday (*Hazel's birthday isn't till the 20th*). She came with Vi. Tea upstairs
Air raid.

Friday 11th February 1944 (see page below)

Didn't ring. Still decided in intoxicated mood on tram to let be.
Wars here but so's fun. Ferry with T Kachau Ko. Up to his. Pleased to see me. Gus there.
They went to show with nip boarder.
Edge of anxiety for him to come up après but did not.

"Wars here but so's fun"

air raid alarm. T met mum. Sat round in dark could not go with all clear 'cause no light's went eventually. K'loon confec.

SAT. 12.
Knit brown bag, consultation. Sam Kwo. On the edge of unexpecta- ble expectation when @ 4 T comes with Alin do. To his for tea. walk.
Met him almost 1/2 way to his place in blackout that evening.
To Peninsula porch. relaxed. Together.

FRI. 11
Didn't ring. still. Decided in intoxicated mood on tram. To let be. wars here but so's fun. Ferry with Teacher

Saturday 12th February 1944

Knit brown bag.
Consultation Sa*m Kwo (*clothing consultation?*).
On the edge of unexpectable expectation when @ 4 T (*Mr. Baloni?*) comes with Alin do. To his for tea. Walk.
Met him almost half way to his place in blackout that evening.
To Peninsula (*hotel*) porch relaxed together.

Sunday 13th February 1944

Breakfast @ T's.
Soares to tif.
Peninsula tea.
T. up house in evening.
(*see previous page*) Air raid alarm. T met mum. Sat around in dark. Could not go with all clear 'cause no light's. Went eventually. K'loon confec.

W. 16. Taught early. Meet Jo Hotel 10.
 Ah Lau tailors for her clothes.
 To Glen's lunch. News our names
 Rosary Hill. Tea with Kay.
 After mountaineering.
 Rush back. Taught.
 Knit yellow pullover.

T. 15. In all day. Knitting.
 T. rang 10.30 for me
 to K'loon to see him. Tomorrow
 nix. misses me! How
 much?!!
 Poony to dinner

M. 14. To Ts. Soares came
 to magistry.
 Home soft ball with Rob
 T. T appeared.
 Sweet potato tif with him.
 Back to HK.
 Shermozzle over bath
 & glen nix up. She's
 pal anyway.

S. 13. Breakfast @ Ts.
 Soares to tif.
 Peninsula rea.
 T. up house a evening.

Monday 14th February 1944

To T's, Soares came to magistry.
 Home soft ball with Rob and T. appeared.
 Sweet potato tif with him.
 Back to HK.
 Shermozzle over bath and glen (*Glenda Wong?*) ringing
 up. She's pal anyway.

Tuesday 15th February 1944

In all day. Knitting .
 T rang 10:30 for me
 To K'loon to see him. Tomorrow nix. Misses me! How
 much?!! Poony to dinner.

Wednesday 16th February 1944

Taught early. Meet Jo Hotel 10.
 Ah Lau tailors for her clothes.
 To Glen's lunch. News our names up.
 Rosary Hill. Tea with Kay. After mountaineering (*Rosary
 Hill was a steep hike.*)
 Rush back. Taught. Knit Yellow pullover.

“News our names up”

This is probably the Lang's family permission to go to Macau – successful applicants names were posted by the Japanese at a public location and eagerly scanned. It is likely that Susie's (Mum's mother's) Parsee Macau relatives took them in or helped them find accommodation. It is believed that Susie used the Lang's family prewar friendship with their family dentist/spy turned Japanese Imperial Soldier, Mr. Yamasaki (see pg.155) to get permission from the Japanese to leave for Macau. Certainly with George and Jimmy's involvement with the BAAG known to the Japanese, it would not have been long before the Lang family received the attentions of the Kempeitai. No more diary entries found for 1944, but other documents and letters provide clues as to Mum's movements. It's probable that the Lang family moved to Macau some time late February 1944 and didn't return until after the Japanese surrender August 1945. The typed letter below to Mum from Connie, Mum's Macau identity card, a card from pupils she taught in Macau and an addressed letter from Fred Shanks – all indicate she was in Macau. The address given was 23, Rua Horta Da Companhia, Macau, now (1969) renamed Rua De D. Belchior Carneiro.

See below the final communication with Mr. Baloni. N.B. the Peninsula Hotel was renamed the Toa by the Japs.

19  44

Miss Phyllis Lang

HK, 21st June, 1944.

Dear Phyl,

Your letter dated the 15th of last month was handed to me yesterday by the present occupant of No.5 Austin Avenue. It is regrettable you were not informed earlier of my change of address. I decided early in May to move to the Toa Hotel. My room number is 225 on the second floor of the building.

Do you recall the first occasion we shared together a sofa in the lobby of this same hotel and how a rude individual was forever interrupting our conversation by grunting? Perhaps the fact that it was a black-out night might enlighten your memory. I strongly suspect your feelings towards me then were already "warmer than warm". Anyway, this same grunter, who told us he was an Indian but looked more like a red one than anything else, has been in hospital for sometime now. I have not been able to look him up as I have been kept busy myself, what with regular bridge-parties, but I hear "this sanguinary fool" is consorting with demi-mondes who wear nothing but their kimonos. No doubt he was suffering from throat trouble.

It was most unkind of you to speak of my friendship as lacking in sincerity. I may not be an angel but I have never failed a friend in fair or foul weather. I fear you misinterpreted the various and admittedly inconsistent attitudes I was forced to adopt towards you. Candidly, girl, you are too sweet to merit the unscrupulous attentions of a bounder like yours truly. I dared not egg on a situation which might develop to ridiculous proportions, highly embarrassing and disappointing to both you and I.

Please do not sink down to the level of the ordinary tit-for-tat type of correspondent and write me often and lengthier letters, and endeavour to make them even more interesting than the first two.

Yours truly,
Tom



Mum's Uncle James (Jimmy) Kotewall was executed by the Japanese 31st August 1944 (see Family)

Portuguese Household; The Rainers (Lucia and Sylvia) and Mum (front right) in Macau (undated, probably before the war)



The following letter probably concerns weekly meetings of DGS girls organized by Joyce Symons in Macau. Donald was Joyce's brother KIA. (see editors notes 1945). Connie (Kotewall or Lum?) is also mentioned often in Mum's diary.

Colegio de Santa Rosa de Lima,
Macau.
Wednesday.

Dearest Phyllis,

I feel that I must make you understand that what Pat mentioned over coffee last Monday evening, was meant for the three of us; as you know we have always been candid towards one another. Assuming that you feel it your duty to repeat it to Joyce by way of settling the matter; needless to say you would only be stirring up ill-feelings amongst the girls, and hurting Joyce.

Her one ambition at present, is to unite us all; don't you see that your interference would only cause the splitting up of a much needed assembly; since you yourself feel sure, will produce results in the distant future.

I must admit that Pat was wrong to have said that our men were fools! They were not; men like Roy, Donald, Bill and scores of others died for a purpose. They died that we might live, and I am proud of them.

Pat is a very unhappy person and inclined to say things to hurt; she does it to watch reactions on others. Knowing this I feel that you should not take what was said seriously. I suggest that you drop the matter and let us all continue our friendships where we left off. Bickering will not help to settle the matter, but example will. So here's to better attempts.

Connie

Colegio de Santa Rosa de Lima,
Macau.
Wednesday.

Dearest Phyllis,

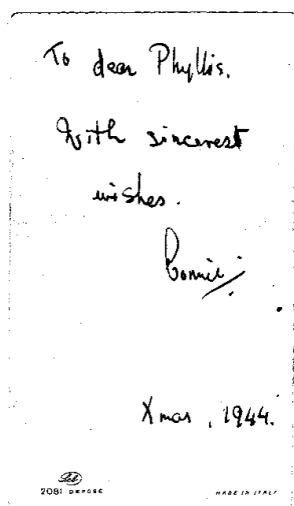
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Connie



The Lang Family Head for Macau

The following extract from a letter sent by Grandma Susie to my Dad, March 1963, gives a glimpse of the Lang family's departure from HK.

"I know I can imagine what a time you had to pack up the 3 and send them to me, when you said you are 41 and can't go through again it reminds me when I am 40 I pack up 7 of us to go to Macau and with no less than 70 pieces included furniture clothing about 10 big trunks crockery and had 3 sewing amahs in to make them all new things since I had all the materials etc. bought before the war and Phil and Hazel was just at the fussy age 21 & 20 and I must admit that I have spoilt them by dressing them up well. By the time I arriving in Macau I have look 20 years older. People had gone few months ahead of me was shock to see me in that state more dead than alive. I don't want to think of those times any more. I only know that god is merciful to me and has helped me after my husbands death."

Wartime Macau

When Hong Kong fell in 1941, the Portuguese colony of Macau was left as a neutral enclave surrounded by Japanese-held territory. The day following the Japanese attack on the British Colony of Hong Kong, the Governor of Macau stated, *"This geographic place that is Macau is remarkable for its tranquility from the ravages that extend right through the Far East"*. Although the Japanese respected the neutrality of Macau, under the flag of Portugal, the Japanese Kempeitai (police) operated in Macau with almost the same authority as the Portuguese police. Why the Japanese chose not to occupy Macau, especially as they must have been aware that Anglo-American resistance networks were based in the colony, is debated, and there are several

differing theories. Some believe it was the direct result of the brilliant negotiating powers of the ‘strong man of Macau’, Pedro Jose Lobo, others put it down to their faith in the Immaculate Conception – declared the Patron Saint of Macau in 1942, and called it ‘the miracle that saved Macau’. The real reason was probably more prosaic, Japan had economic interests in Timor, another Portuguese colony, and it is probable that the government in Lisbon acceded this to safeguard the neutrality of Macau.

Many of the refugees from Hong Kong were Portuguese citizens so governor Teixeira could legitimately offer them the protection of the Portuguese flag since Portugal was neutral, however many of the refugees from Hong Kong were British subjects so the Portuguese government could not offer them direct help since that would violate the terms of neutrality which was vital to the survival of Macau. John Pownall Reeves, the British consul in Macau, remained during the war and continued his work, being a lone bastion of the British flag for thousands of miles. Governor Teixeira convinced the British consul John Reeves to accept responsibility for the care of the Macanese who were British subjects, so John Reeves provided a subsidy to all British Subjects living in Macau, which was to include the provision of relief to 9,000 British subjects who had become refugees from occupied Hong Kong.

There were many resistance organizations operating out of China, Hong Kong and Macau. The eastern shoreline of the South China Sea is very jagged and full of coves where one could hide during the day and sail during the dark nights. The fishermen were very familiar with the myriad of islands and islets, which dotted the coast from Guangdong, south through the island off Hanoi into the Gulf of Tonkin. This was perfect for pirates, smugglers and freedom fighters.

The British and allied forces united with the communist Chinese factions in the struggle against the Japanese. There was a group called the “East River Column” (ERC), based in the Pearl Delta, led by the Chinese Communist Party. This group controlled the inaccessible mountain passes in the region. The ERC maintained radio contact with the leadership of the PCC through powerful radio stations hidden in the New Territories in Hong Kong, the Island of Lantau and the Salesian School in Macau. Despite many attempts to locate these radio stations by the Japanese they were never discovered. These radios operators were also communicating with the British intelligence network (M19), which operated out of Chongqing, the capital of free China from 1937-1945 and the seat of the nationalist government, the Kuomintang.

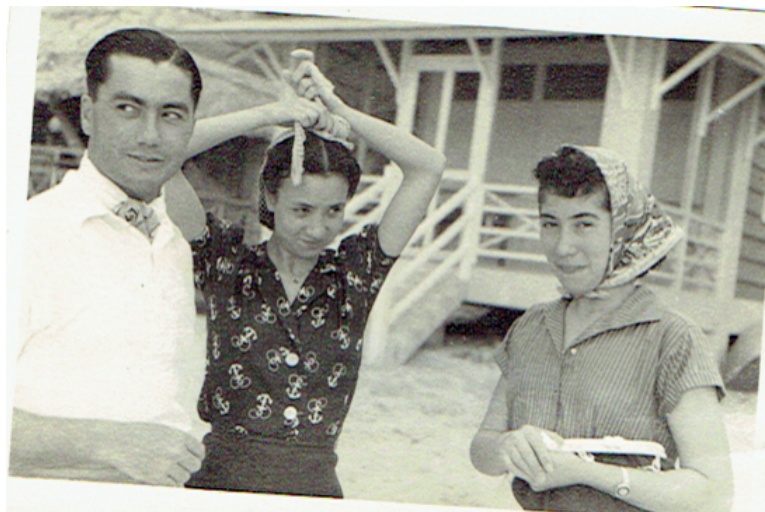
M19 was the operational name of the British Army Aid Group (BAAG), created during the occupation of Hong Kong to restore the moral and prestige of the British after the fall of Hong Kong and Singapore. The organization was entrusted to collect military information and organize the escape of prisoners of war from the Japanese camps and return them to their operational units.

*“Many members of the Macanese community were secretly involved with the BAAG, including A V Ozorio, Dr. H. Ozorio (Dr. Ozo), **Dr. Eddie Gosano** (Mum’s brother-in-law see 1945 editors notes), code name “Phoenix” and Leo D’Almada e Castro. Many of our boys were smuggled to India to join up with the British and American troops. Many British and American pilots who were shot down in China owe their lives and freedom to the members of the BAAG. They were rescued and smuggled to Burma or India through the high mountain passes between Burma, India and China”.*

From: UMA NEWS BULLETIN – Spring Issue 2011



40 mile straight-line distance HK to Macau



Mum, right with Reggie (Rogerio) Lobo who accompanied Eddie Gosano on the mission to return Hong Kong to British rule following the Japanese capitulation. See pages 247, 253 and 342.



Photo taken by Mum of Macau in the 1940's



Contemporary Macau, gambling capital of the world

19  44

From:- G.A. LAWRENCE (British)
Military Internment Camp, Hong Kong.

10th August, 1944.

Dear Susie,

Am writing to address overleaf in the hope this will find you. It is now over six months since I have heard from Jimmy and Doris, and I am getting worried. I sincerely hope nothing has happened: please let me have the news. Love to you all.

Lawrie.

香港軍押留所
檢閱済



To:- MRS. JOHN LANG (BRITISH)
ROSAHY HILL
or c/o INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS,
HONG KONG.



まがは便郵

19  44



The above letter was sent to Grandma Susie by pow mail to her presumed address at Rosary Hill and forwarded by the Red Cross to Macau. Could this be the same Laurie that Mum refers to in her diary. Probably by the time Susie received the letter, Jimmy would have already been executed by the Japanese (August 31st).

The question for everyone now - in town and in the camps - is simple: will the war end before the food runs out? 1944 15th April

As a seemingly endless occupation drags on, half a dozen Hong Kong miles divide families and friends as effectively as the Atlantic.

24th April 1944 re communication between Rosary Hospital and Stanley Camp

Gwelo, Old Hong Kong



