

DOROTHY SHELACH BROWN'S DIARY

(With some explanations and notes.)

12.2.42 - 20.9.45.

N.B. Red underlining - Notes at back.

12-2-42. "Vyner Brooke" left Singapore
14-2-42 " " Sunk.
15-2-42 Picked up from sea by Japs.
Singapore Fell.

16-2-42 Join other survivors. MUNTOK.

17-2-42 = 2-3-42 MUNTOK COOLIE LINES

3-3-42 - SHIP TO PALEMBANG - one
night in School.

4-3-42 = 1-4-42 Small houses. PALEMBANG.

1-4-42 = 22-9-43. "The Garage" "

22-9-43 = 20-11-44 "Men's Camp" "

22-11-44 = ⁷⁶ 9-4-45 NEW CAMP. MUNTOK.

6 or 7-4-45 - 9-4-45. TRAVELLING.

9-4-45 = 19-9-45 RUBBER ESTATE.

LOEBBUK LINGGAU.

5-7-42 - CAPTIVE'S HYMN SONG
AS ANTHEM FOR THE FIRST TIME
AT SERVICE, BY DOROTHY MACLEOD
THE +
MARGARET JAYBORGH.



AN INTERNEE'S DIARY.

12th February, 1942. Daddy, Mother, Dorothy MacLeod and I had all spent the night in one room in Raffles Hotel. There were no boys in the morning and we got some food for ourselves, in the morning. The ballroom was littered with troops - we spent most of the morning sitting in the air raid shelter, and someone from the R.M.V.R. came and opened cases of whisky and brandy etc, which flowed down the deep drains and Mother slept, exhausted and pleasantly intoxicated with the fumes. At 3.15 p.m. Willmott rings up advises boats leaving. Mac arrives with passes and car. Daddy calls Bimbia (our syce) Mother dressed. Load cars. Set off. Terrible crowd of people leaving. Stop outside Mangfields. Unload, and lug cases through gates. Put Mother & Dorothy on lorry with luggage. Get lift in car and pick up Mac & Dorothy. Drive to Laburnum Wharf (moved). A.A.C. guns go off close to. Dive into Godown. Wait turn on launch. Very crowded with Australian Nurses. Get on. Luggage thrown on. Leave for unknown ship. "Vyner Brooke" - very small. (There is no mention here of the leaving on the wharf of Daddy and Mac - these moments cannot be described easily). As we boarded the "Vyner Brooke" we were issued with life-belts by a kindly English sailor. No cabins. Take up a position on deck. When all on, find luggage and stack cases together beneath. For three of us four small suitcases. On deck with us one case each and roll of rugs and cushion for bedding. Mother is given a low stretcher. Told no rations on board! Australian nurses share out theirs. Sail about dusk, 6.30 - 7 p.m. Singapore is a sad sight - all fire and a pall of smoke hangs over her. Sleep on deck. No washing next morning.

13th February 1942. Very little food. Just sit and lie all day. Ship stopped in amongst islands in day light. Matron Paschke (just like Zasu Pitts) organises 'Boat Drill' - (she was superb and took command of feeding arrangements etc.) Given half tin of Asp. Baus & Pot at night. Best meal so far! Shared it with Iza Murray, her sister Mrs. Chambers and husband, and Mrs. Farfel. Very exhausted after Singapore. Thankful for quiet day inspite of water and food shortage.

14th February, Saturday. Food prospects and water grimmer. The journey to Batavia may take longer we are told. Breakfast at 10 a.m. a mouthful of hash and ship's biscuit. Looking forward to Batavia, a bath and a good meal. Long chat with Evelyn Simonds. Olga Neubronner is a little better - she was in a cabin, being pregnant. It is rather hot on deck. Mother looks a little rested and more cheerful. About 11 a.m. plane sighted. Burst of machine gun fire. Ship moves on. 1.00 p.m. Tea issued with little milk and sugar. Syron goes. Ordered to take cover in saloon. Six bombers. Four attacks. Three near misses and thrown off ground. Fourth, a direct hit on boilers. Terrible smoke and wreckage. Go on deck. Fire on deck where we had been sitting that morning. Get near boats. Planes return. Machine gun us. Boats already wrecked.

Ship listing. One boat lowered. Told to go down rope ladder. Mummy descends. I luckily fall. (Forgot also to hold onto life belt but neck did not get broken) (Mrs. Mac goes down rope and takes the skin off her hands.) Swim away from ship - and the kindly English sailor sees me and tells me my Mother is searching for me. So I swim back towards her and find that her boat had capsized, being damaged and she is hanging onto a mast with a Chinese boy and Olga Springer. Malay boy joins us & 3 Australian nurses. Have stretcher to hold onto too. Olga Springer very bad and drowning. Keep away from ship - ship rolls over - all in about under 1/2 hour. Hot oil - raft. Have to pass through patch of oil and a sister produces some clean cotton wool from under the sea so that we can wipe our eyes! Join raft with a badly burnt sailor on it. Settle down to a dismal cold and terrible night. Drift around with currents, see light on shore but drift away. Joy at hearing motor boats - shout - see 10 ships dimly. *Japan*.

February 15th - Sunday. Dawn. About 2 miles from coast. Small Japanese barges continually passing carrying troops to shore. Shout and they take no notice. Reach a Malay fishing boat and 3 get in and try to tow raft. Very difficult and make little progress. A returning barge hears our shouts and turns to pick us up. (Very difficult getting out of water into barge - especially for Mummy). Can hardly stand and so sit over hot engine pipe. Japs cut open coconut and give us water from coconut - mouths very swollen and sore. Take us to shore. Lie down on sand. Many Japs crowd round and stare. One speaks Malay and (as the Malay R.N.V.R. boy does not want them to know he can speak English Mother is the only one who can converse and translates for the Australians). Some give us raisins, peppermints and a bottle of soda water. Air Raid. Lie down under coconut tree. Soon Japs give us a plate of rice, tinned food, rambutans, tin of milk. Mouths too sore to eat, and flies on wounds etc. Rest and dry in sun. Terrific heat. About 2.30 p.m. show us to a filthy Indian or Malay hut. Too exhausted to care much of dirt. Lie on earthy floor. Place full of sacks of floury stuff. Hen sits on a sack and lays an egg! Sleep and rest all afternoon. Find water in stream. Wash a bit. (All smelly with crude oil - seaweed etc in hair etc). Japs show us a wash house - give us more tinned food - very salt so cannot touch it. Mats to lie on. Biscuits. At night they all come in and look at us. The Airman is the most alarming sight in high boots and fur hat, he shines torches on us but goes and gets lovely coffee for us. We ask Johnnie (Malay boy) and Steve (R.N.) to sleep with us in hut. (Now we know how fortunate we were in being picked up by launches that put us down on a part of the Island of Banka that the Japanese officers had made their H.Q.s. They questioned us that Sunday morning as to where we had come from and gave my Mother some vitamin tablets or something to suck to help her - and asked if we wanted to return to Singapore. Had we been able to look seawards all the time we would have seen the Japanese fleet steaming through the Banka straits - This was the sad day for Singapore.) * Gift of God.

Monday, 16th February. Get up and mix egg with milk (nectar, shared between the seven of us). Can eat a few biscuits. Wash and try to get oil out of hair. Japs take particulars of us, names etc. Told to go into a native hut and take any clothes we like. Take sarongs and dress as Malays, and have difficulty with Mother who is rather too outside. However she can wear a 'bajou' back to front. Take a few pots and pans and some sasapirilla (bottled drink). Johnnie & Steve make a small milk pudding. Japs give Ma some Zinc ointment for her wounds and some tablets to suck. Hen lays two more eggs. Lots of pigs and goats around hut - awful smells too. Johnnie & Steve have to go and help Japs unload and carry some heavy luggage. We rest as much as we can being uncertain of what lies ahead. Japs bring fried bits of chicken - can't really eat them as moths too sore still. Drink bottles of soda water, saspirilla; Kambutenc; No shoes, so try binding feet with torn looted sheeting. Told about 5 p.m. to carry what we can and walk. Very exhausted, but start off. Japs pass but no one helps. Walk along a rough track up hill which is difficult for M, but she daren't stop incase she can't start up again - and the bandages on feet trail out behind! Getting dark - pick limes off tree in a garden and get a hand of bananas but too heavy to carry. Pass through a bombed kampong and corpses lying around, some covered with sand, others with only ettap - very eerie. Sentries on a bridge give us a drink of water. Arrive at a queer building with a dim light, and an Indian Officer does not recognise us as Europeans - perhaps he wasn't Indian! Go in and find many Europeans - crowds of people and find others from 'Vyner Brooke'. Dorothy is safe - Olga very ill having had miscarriage and a very rough time indeed. Get her a lime to suck. M. very exhausted - given bowl of rice and a little water; not much room to lie, but try to sleep on floor. Japs in & out all night flashing torches. Many seriously wounded people. Sailor gives us a box of powder and a handbag!

Tuesday, 17th February. Wake. Lav is in open, and in full view of many Japanese, amongst oil barrels. Told to clear out of building and made to sit in sun. Joined by fresh arrivals from 'Mata Hari'. They have slept on picn all night. Soon told to walk carrying any baggage. A fearful walk about 1/2 hr, no shoes, up hill and in sun. Stop and rest twice. M only just makes it and the Japs take us a long way round to a queer looking building but there is a tap with running water. Drink then sort ourselves out. Apparently to stay here. Put 40 into a dormitory. I scrounge a mattress for M. which I find across on the other side. Awful mess everywhere. Men arrive later.

Kuntok - 2 weeks. We are living in Coolie lines (dump for sorting out coolies before sending them off to tin mines.) There are altogether about 600 men, women and children. Many very sick, burns, sores, dysentery. No medical supplies, Amputation, only morphia. 2 deaths. Mother sick most of time. Bad sores on legs and spends two weeks lying on cold slanting slab. Lavs smell foul. We have 40 in dormitory meant to hold 20 coolies. Men as much as 60 in theirs.

Diet. 10.30 a.m. Rice & 1 tsp sugar - one bowl.
4.30 p.m. " " salt "
Dish water tea or coffee - hot - "

Average day. Get up at sunrise. Wait turn in bathroom. (i.e. cold water tank and open coolie latrine) Hot water or tea to drink. Get pail of water for M. to wash in. Sit a little. Wash tea bowls. Wash any clothes when there is room - (those we wore when we left S'pore still smelt of crude-oil etc) Dorothy Mac's hands too bad to carry anything (she skinned them coming down the rope), so am feet for Mother and hands for Dorothy. Eat with M & D in dorm. Vic Wardle has prayers in dorm. M. sleeps most of day. Sit & do X-word perhaps (can't remember now how I came by this one). Talk until afternoon meal. Queue again, sometimes get 'pancake' i.e. baked stale rice. Wash bowls. Walk. Bed! Help M. & D. Sleep on rug on 'fish slabs'. Cold at nights. Sentries walk around flashing torches on us. Ms legs bad all the time and she has fever also - one doctor slaps her on tummy and says she eats too much, but I do not see the joke. D's hands awful. My raw chin and elbows heal luckily.

Leave Muntok. Sunday, 2nd March. Told 11.30 a.m. one day to be ready next morning at 5.30 a.m. Jap Time (3.00 a.m.) with carrying luggage, to leave. Married men go that afternoon. We pack! Going to Palembang. Sick people like M. and old people very concerned as to means of getting there. M. not walked for 2 weeks. Told there may be lorry but M. decides she must walk if no lorry. Get late meal uncooked rice. Very little sleep. Heavy rain. Woken early. Given little rice and wrap it in banana leaves. Two pancakes each. Rain stopped. M. walks to gate and we leave her for lorry - hoping there will be one and we do not get separated. We walk off and whatever we were carrying seems very heavy. Much quicker way to pier this time. Lorry overtakes us. Seems a long way down pier. Bitterly cold and dark. Stand a long time. Many lighters tied up. After sometime, Japanese men on lighters woken and we start to embark. Very crowded and standing room only. At dawn we near a 'tub' and this is to take us to Palembang. The very sick and nurses left behind with other men. Monday, 3rd March Sit all day on back hatch. About 250 of us and Mr. Morgan (? Jap?). Gun on bridge. Convoy of 4 tubs. We go first. Not rough but very hot in Musi River and monotonous. Heavy rain. Get all smutty and dirty from funnel. Funny lav at back of ship - a box over the propeller with a hole in it, and one had to hang onto the rear flag - quite a feat with no privacy, but better than the smelly thing the Japs were using. A Jap kills a chicken at our feet and cooks it for his lunch - wonderful smell. Arrive Palembang 4.30 p.m. See big oil fire burning. Only refreshment green leaf tea. Disembark. M. very exhausted. Stand on jetty until 4 ships tied up. Awful dash for toffees by some - disgusted. "Ambulance" - i.e. a lorry with boards missing in the back - drive through streets standing - Malays jeer and wave Jap flags. Awful driving, terrified. M. there (new camp) first. Get meal with potatoes, meat and veg and rice - so delicious and has been cooked by servicemen who have made room for us in a school. Eat, wash and lie on floor in clothes and sleep.

Tuesday, 4th March. Woken very early by Modin (See Morgan?) and told we were going to move into 20 houses so to make up parties of 10

Thought we would go early but eventually not until about 4.30 and in rain! Awful day spent being counted and arranged for houses. Noise frightful, feel almost demented. M. very tired but keeps going. She goes on lorry at 4.30 p.m. and in rain! We walk carrying bundles. Arrive at No.5. No keys and cannot get in until dusk. When in just sweep up rubbish quickly - put down bedding - Dutch bring coffee and soup. Hard to sleep at night though dead tired. Beautiful silence after Nuntok and first day in Palembang.

Wednesday. Mother goes to hospital in town, in a Ricksha dressed in Vic Hardie's pyjamas and a kimono and black socks. She is there for two weeks. I have sort of re-action and bad chest cold and stay 'in bed' - on floor for 3 - 4 days. Seem very weak. Stay at No.5 a month. Some go out sewing loin clothes for the Japs, and earn bread which they share with us. Japs want girls to start a Night Club but it does not work owing to cleverness of the Australian sisters. Rations better, and some can change a little money. A Malay man gives me some bananas and a papaya with tears in his eyes. Max Bat hedges and border plants when rations low. Evening and Sunday services.

Normal day at No.5. Get up about 7.00. Some go early to market. Sewers have breakfast first. Leave in lorry. We have breakfast, as small piece of bread, banana, coffee or tea, no milk or sugar. Do household duties - sweeping, washing etc. Rations arrive. Elevensies. Cold tea or sometimes bread or biscuit. Lunch, Wash up. Rest. Tea. Read, sew, garden or walk until dinner time. Sewers return, dinner. Wash up. Prayers. Bed.

Lunch. Rice and veg. Sometimes pork or duck. Biscuit pudding or pancake or banana. Soup sometimes. Had curry and mamee!

Dinner. Soup, rice veg meat (if any) Fruit. tea or coffee.

April 1st. No sewing. Having breakfast. Police come and say in 1 1/2 hrs. must leave. Pack. Take loaf of bread each. Leave house. Assemble in field. Think we're off on a ship. Very hot. Counted. Dutch men women and children join us. Counted. Men separated from women. Counted. Set off carrying luggage. Men go elsewhere (To jail). Go only very short distance. Stopped. Told to go into houses! Mother arrives on the lorry with elderly and it took us ages to get them into it. Help unload them, so find we have no house! 15 of us in Garage. 12 Dutch people in the house. We can see No.5, and think of the Duck we left hanging up and forgot to bring in the haste, also the flour, rice, sawyer bean sauce, and utensils etc. Here in the garage nothing. No charcoal, beds, food or anything. Rations of rice arrive at midnight. Australian sisters make soup and rice for us that night. Feel we shall be moved away in 2 days, and the Japs say there will be another house, so just rest. After two days have not gone, so start to saw open doors and smash out panels to get full benefit of house. We settle down (15 of us) in the garage as our home - 8 sleeping in the house. Work hard chopping wood, cooking sewing etc. M. has dysentery in June, and carbuncles. poor diet - as will be shown in the next part of diary I kept:-

16th June, 1942. We are still in Palembang and have settled down to a funny routine. Get up 6 a.m. Chop fire wood. Bath. Breakfast 8 a.m. Morning duties:- Sweep rooms and drains etc. Pick rice for eating and rolling. Wash for rolling and eating, coffee and porridge. (We were burning the rice and pouring boiling water on it for 'coffee').. Roll rice. Saw wood. Washing of clothes. Fetch rations and prepare veg. for lunch. Lunch 12.30 p.m. Wash up then rest, and if cooking loaf, watch fire. Bath. Tea. Veggies to prepare for supper. Walk or play bridge. French classes. Supper 6.00 p.m. Prayers 8.00. Porridge. Bed. (Bath - was just water thrown over one, eastern fashion. Bed for us was the concrete floor of the garage with a thin rush mat under us, and sharing a blanket.)

Events which have happened since we have been here:-

When we were first here new people were constantly being sent in. Generally arrived at night. Muntok nurses arrive the Sat. after we came. Day before Easter Sunday.

Camp committee formed and functioning quite well. Houses have Captains and any suggestions are put to committee.

14th June - School for English children started.

Head Roll. All lined up in front of houses IN TWO'S to bow to a Jap General. Miss Cullen had to say 'Kiri' and we had to bow! This happened about Easter Monday. (The bow had to be from the waist).

Fruit came up with rations on the Emperor's birthday.

Rations vary. One day, 1 pork chop for 15 of us!

Many officials suddenly arrive in very grand cars just after a very bad ration day and as they enter camp we rolled a bad box of potatoes over the road and a bad sack of beans at their feet.

Men have sent parcels up to us to be distributed and some have come from - camp also.

Events which cause excitement are comings and goings to hospital.

Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. Teeling die.

Kindness of Dutch people - Nuns are very good at organising games for the children.

We do charades and get invited to do them at other houses.

Birthday parties in camp call for sing songs and games.

Dorothy and Phyllis' Birthdays both seem to be excellent days for food. 'Much' comes to us from outside. (Comparatively speaking!)

A bread man arrived once - besieged by people.

Now we can order goods through the Dutch Commandant to supplement our food ration.

Many upset tummies - we have 5 down at once - including Mother and many peculiar rashes.

Very depressed once by the tying up of a Malay to a post by the barrier because he had been selling food.

Excitement and terrific noise made by guards one night when a guard is shot by the sentry and dies.

We have Church on Sunday mornings in the garage at 9.00 a.m. and 8 p.m. also. Sometimes Miss Dryburgh writes out music for special people to sing. I have sung twice so far.

Some local Eurasians have been allowed freedom and Br. Goldberg (Gervel) goes to work in hospital.

When we first came here we were very worried about hospital as the Dutch nurses and some nuns were shut up here with us leaving very few to help the sick.

The Japs seem afraid of us getting news from outside - so we hear nothing from even rumours now.

Good rations we had to cope with now then once have been long thick telegraph poles - sawing and chopping tough work, and awful to carry. (The fires were only small home-made ones from bricks and bits of scrounged metal etc.)

No carts come from rubbish - we have to bury our own.

Coolies were allowed in after 6 weeks to clear up drains a bit and cut grass, but the work is only half done and they have not come for 2 days now.

Flies and mosquitoes awful. We have no net.

Mrs. Grotius - Dutch lady in the house gets bitten by a dog and eventually is allowed to go to hospital.

Mrs. Heller is allowed to spend her golden wedding day with her husband in hospital.

We now have to brown-out and one day at about 7.00 had to black-out - very difficult with 15 of us trying to eat in a garage by the light of one candle.

More about rations. One day 9 eggs - 6 bad. We used to have to lug the sacks of rice from the barrier to the house. Now the lorry takes them round. Often half the sacks are full of mouldy and very bad rice.

Overcrowding of houses. Some have 36 and 32 women and children! Hence congestion of septic tank.

Very touching scenes when children and nuns are brought here from up country and meet their parents and fellow nuns.

Some pregnant people. So far one birth and one miscarriage.

In our garage:- Miss Dryburgh. Miss Cullen, Macintosh, Livingstone (4 Presbyterian Missionaries). Miss Prouse, Glasgow (Both teachers - Plymouth Brethren) Miss Oldham - Sally (Salvation Army) Mrs. Weir. Mrs. Colley - Army wives. Mother. Morothy MacLeod and Self. Joined us later from Muntok. Mrs. Jenkin. P.S.O. Co. wife. Phyllis Briggs - Nurse and Mischa - orphan, whose Mother died in Muntok, and whose father died on 'Tyner Brooke'.

25th June 1942. Rest from wood chopping. Go to rations. Nyachi arrives in the middle. Very grim face. Takes f.v. to hospital including Katie to see her father (Tecklenberg - surgeon) and Mrs. Hallweg. Mrs. Godley returns in afternoon but Nyachi has confiscated many sacks of parcels - rumour \$100 worth. Guard peeps in garage during prayers and goes away quietly.

26th June. Chop wood from 5.45 a.m. onwards. Miss Prouse helps. Wash up breakfast. Sweep and wash garage floor. Go to rations. Eggs, cucumbers, sweet potatoes and new potatoes. Help Mother roll rice. Difficulty over sending shoes to be mended! Little bully beef (1 tablespoon) and kidney beans with lunch rice. After 'dinner' of rice, sweet potato soup, boiled new potatoe, fried 'bung-ruang' go a fetch Olga and Ida Castle. Gloriously cool evening, half moon and lovely stars. Miss Dryburgh reads us 'Alice in Internment Land'. Sing songs. After porridge go in garden and watch Guards and Mrs. Chan. Bed late 9.50. Rain. Cool but good night. M. up once only!

21st June. Oversleep. Up at 6.30 a.m. and chopping with Miss Glasgow. Miss MacIntosh takes service. 40 present. Roll rice all morning with Mother. Rations for two days - bad beans, tiny piece of pork "Melon" cucumbers. Disappointed over shop. No tinned butter or marger ordered or Klim. 12 bananas and 3 pines though, coconuts and chili, fish. For lunch, sweet potato soup, fish (salt fish, grated) on rice and some chile sauce. Very hot afternoon. Pork too tough for supper. Lovely moon again. Miss Glasgow takes prayers. M. & I visited old Granny Anthony aged 84 in afternoon and walk with Mrs. Parks whose husband died.

22nd June. Oversleep again. Go to chop at 7.00 as guard changes. Half banana on breakfast rice. Roll rice. Sweep garage. Roll more rice and pick over rice. Have pork for lunch. 2 pieces fat, 2 pieces lean, 1 lb long, 1 in. thick. During rest Mrs. Teglenburg brings in shoes for Miss Prouse, Miss Glasgow and Miss Livingstone and at last Mother's powder from Mrs. Grotius who is still in hospital. Two people returned from hospital but not Katie yet. (Katie is daughter of Mrs. Teglenburg, whose father was the surgeon at the hospital, and the T's and Mrs. G were some of the Dutch people in the house in which garage we lived.) We get butter for destitutes and are very glad. Glorious sunset in the evening.

23rd June. Miss Glasgow and I chop from 6.30 - 7.30. Sweep garage, bath, breakfast - butter on rice. M. & I walk down to Olga Neubronner's frigate with butter in tin and then M. goes to Dr. MacDowell about her spots. Miyashi (glum) arrives and takes a few people to hospital including Elsa and Mrs. Teglenburg (another daughter). Have to give Miyashi statement of our money again. Rations. Our turn to dole them out with supervision of Mother Superior. I do cucumbers and smelly cabbages, Miss Glasgow beans and Melons. Eggs also. We get 8. Mother and Mrs. Jenkin roll rice. We pick as usual. After lunch flap fire for cake. Rice sacks and 6 packets of salt arrive. Jap Officer says all torches must be collected. Mrs. Teglenburg, Katie and Elsa return from Hospital. They say no more buying allowed there. Many Military Police about. In afternoon watch game of bridge in Australian sisters' house. Told there is to be a blackout and no lights allowed. Hurry up with meal in dusk and get beds down. Luckily moon is moderately bright so can see a little. Miss Cullen gets bitten by an awful monster like a frog with feelers - in middle of night. Dinner: bean soup, rice, peanuts, fried bringles. Eggs, pineapple.

24th June. Chop, wash, breakfast, sweep, dole out rations as usual. Dole out beans (1 sack) 12 bad cabbages between 12 houses (400 odd people) cucumbers (1 sack) eggs (8 for our 15). Rumour. Two Jap. Generals are coming to Palembang? Mother rolls rice with me in morning. Wood ration. Saw wood a little. Captains of houses meet re buying of food at shop. Lunch. Rice and curry. In afternoon learn another hawker has been caught. M. saw him in the morning being taken to the guard house. One of the 'fat' girls is sent for. Then Miss Livingstone and Mrs. Max Hastings. Everything seems to be O.K. and some parcels come. Eat in blackout - rice, scrambled egg, cucumber and bean soup. Cake, which was given to Miss Livingstone as present. Walk with Stevens & when washing up is over put down bedding. Blackout again. Mosquitoes are frightful.

25th June. Choo, bath, breakfast. Rations come early. Miss Glasgow/dole out 1 sack beans and potatoes. Also cabbages and meat. After rations brush and wash garage. M. rolls rice and then has a hot rice poltice on a boil! We both feel a bit down and depressed about Dad. Wood ration in afternoon. Two lorries. After tea sit with Mummy in garden which has been tidied by Dorothy and Phyllis. Jap officer comes and walks round camp, we think to examine spot of crime (shooting). Only a short visit. We have had our photos taken at Wood ration apparently. It is Mrs. Bieftings's birthday. Glorious moonlight night again. Great commotion before dinner in garage when snake-like object about 6" long drops on my wrist. Very hard to see what it is without lights, but I step on it. Olga's chile sause gets upset on our mat in the bustle. After putting our beds down in dark after porridge, M. & I and Sally sit out in garden for a bit. After going to bed, great noise of motor horns and two cars drive up to camp. Very grand ones and occupants are a mystery. Bad drivers as usual. One gets its gears jammed at our gate, the other one gets into a ditch and a lorry has to pull it out.

26th June. Friday. Rains heavily so I can lie in. Bath and breakfast. Wash up. Cut veg. Rations poor today. Very few eggs. We get 6 between 21 people. $\frac{1}{2}$ sack beans, $\frac{1}{2}$ sack new potatoes rather bruised. 9 small cabbages - between 400 approx. odd people. Committee elected for buying and distributing food. Guards still in a muddle as to how many there are in camp. Special count of children under 12. About 40 odd girls and 52 boys. M. rolls rice and has another rice poltice on leg. Queer Japs arrive at lunch time and talk to Dr. MacDowell. We hear the men in jail are sending food for us next week, so we need not order from shop. After dinner in the evening we celebrate Mrs. Biefting's birthday by a charge in Garage. Just about to begin when Guard says "No lights" so we do it in the dark. Then we sing and have refreshments provided by Dutch. Cheese on rice bread. Coffee with milk and gula Java. Biscuit with apple cheese spread. Glorious.

27th June. Saturday. No axe, so have another rest "in bed" again. (bed being a thin straw mat on a concrete floor). Rations very poor again. Few eggs. cucumbers, beans and cabbages. Miss Livingstone and Katie sore throats. M's boil quite bad and painful. Eat in moonlight as there is still a blackout, but we hope it is the last day. Mosquitoes awful. Sit in garden and sing and talk till bedtime.

28th June. Get up and chop. Sweep room before breakfast. Church taken by Mrs. Jennings. Rations for 2 days, 2 sacks cucumbers, 1 sack melons. turnipy things. Tiny bit of meat and a few eggs. Shop man arrives. Pineapples, coconuts, fish Gula Java, Beans distributed. The Guards come and enquire after Miss Livingstone's health with dramatic shivers, when wanting to know if she had malaria; all conversation in dumb crambo by both sides! She is called "Mata Mata" by them, as she wears glasses!

29th June. Monday. Go to No. 13 and entertain Dutch and Grannie Anthony with "Alice" and Miss Dryburgh's song. Do "Spiral Staircase". Olga has made a gingerbread with flour. Delicious.

30th June, Tuesday. Goliath's with wood ration. 2 lorry loads and we get 20 tree trunks! Mrs. Chen's baby returns from hospital but no one taken inside of child with suspected fractured leg. Katie & Elsie very septic throats and child with Temp 103 - 105 at night.

1st July Wednesday. Coolies come to do Septic tank. They just empty them into drain by road and Australian sisters have to sweep that. House 2 has 1 sack of rice, 2 towels and dress stolen over night. Ration poor again. Speck of meat, 2 cabbages, few beans and turnips. Play a little bridge at Sisters. M's boil is a carbuncle. Get toothbrush from Red X. Celebrate Miss Dryburgh's sister's birthday with songs and acted book titles.

2nd July, Thursday. A pouring wet afternoon - ideal for the delivery of rice! Sacks of course get soaked. Eggs in morning ration come in a sack. My shoes come back from cobbler. Guard in evening comes to garage to tell us to shut doors but finds us playing cards so comes in bayonet and all and says "Trumpen" - smiles and goes out contented, having forgotten lights.

3rd July, Friday. Rations, 6 eggs, 2 bad cabbages, 1 large, 4 small cucumbers. Downy. Japs take Katie and boy with pneumonia to hospital. No room for fracture.

4th July, Saturday. Take boy with fractured leg to hospital. Houses 7 & 8 Australian Sisters have things stolen in night. Natives believed to be after food. Miss Dryburgh read her poem to M & I last night. Play bridge. Do charade in evening. Dutch people, Mrs. Bull and Hinch come. After they go Guard comes in and asks us to sing "Bengleish" Song "Long Way". Bit unsteady and holds bayonette at very dangerous angle.

5th July, Sunday. Miss Dryburgh, Dorothy and I sing trio as Anthem in Service. It is Miss Dryburgh's Hymn. Miss Prouse takes service and gives nice address on "Hope". Very heavy rain in afternoon, but clears enough for walk. Shop man comes with 2 bullock cart loads of goods. £250 worth present from men's camp.

9th July Thursday. Very worried about shop question. Red X funds not obtainable any more. Personally I'm anti shop, although we need the food as rations are so low, but money is scarce and prices ludicrous. One 5lb tin Klim £3.0.0. Clothes and shoes wearing out. Now the Japs expect us to buy soap, which they used to supply in rations. About Monday a P & T (?) Jap Official arrived with message from three husbands in Malaya who are working. They are lucky to know their husbands are well. Miyachi still strict about no rumours; how on earth do they expect us to get any? They will only take two at a time to hospital. Bad scald on leg yesterday in camp but they won't send for the person.

10th July Friday. Water turned off from 12 noon to 7.30 p.m. Dutch time. Sat on 12 rice at breakfast! She scrapped precious butter off my shirt and ate it! M. sits on arched chair at garage door & I sit her feet on the wooden dustbin; it acts as table for us also. We don't use it for garbage.

11th July, Saturday. Rations man can't send up eating bowls as he is only paid £1.200 per week/month (not clear) to cover all rations for 400 odd people - hence their poor quality. Miss Glasgow and I go to the Colijn's room and talk on literature. Mrs. Powell (first for birth of baby) and Mrs. Gregory (bad scalded leg) go to hospital in lorry after it has delivered sacks of rice.

13th July, Monday. Phyllis takes butter down after breakfast to Olga's frig. Two guards follow her in, one tells about making lists, the other spies the piano and plays "Auld Lang Syne". There have been more robberies by Malays. Water is still being turned off. We have to make lists of next of kin, Malayan address and a new item this time, name of ship on which we left Singapore.

Friday, 17th July. Still on poor rations, few eggs, smelly cabbage. I started exercises with Antoinette Colijn yesterday - Mesdijk. (This was her profession, and as she wanted to keep herself from forgetting and try giving her lessons in English, I was the stodge, and it also helped her as she had been shot in the arm - it was crooked.) Afternoons from now onwards will be full. Monday, French. Tuesday - Chorus. Wed. - Bible. Thursday - Choir. Friday - French. Sat & Sun - free so far. On Wed. evening about 12 officers came to camp after dark and visited several houses. They appeared to have had a good party prior to visit. Mother dyes her awful white canvas shoes with permanganate. The wood is terribly green, impossible to chop and hopeless in the fire.

Wednesday, 22nd July. Daddy's birthday. We are thinking a lot of him and conditions in Singapore. Nothing has happened - only rumours. "We're going to Madras or Hongkong before the end of the month. Indonesians (C) were set free today and camp seems quieter without them. They were the fat noisy ones and guard's girl friends. We have not had pork since June 21st.

Tuesday, 23rd July. Yesterday Jap. Officers (4) came here twice - 2 different lots and saw the sick and promised they should go to hospital but only 2. But of course they did not go until today. Mrs. Jennings with dysentery went and the appendicitis case (?) that had been waiting for about a week. We were counted again. Heads of houses and Committee had first "Morning Coffee" to raise funds for Red X, Made £1.37.75. MacCallum with swellings (Beri Beri?) has not been able to go to hospital. Last night Mother was presented with mosquito net, so Dorothy, Mother and I sleep with heads under first time since Singapore. Started discussion group on Sunday evening on Bishop of Truro's "6. pel for Tomorrow". There seems a lot to be put right in camp first before we start putting the world right, and which we have not been properly in for 6 months?

30th July, Thursday. Taps start putting up more barbed wire round the camp. Some of it had been knocked down by their lorries when trying to turn. Mrs. Anderson and 2 dutch ladies return from hospital. Poor Mrs. Powell's baby was still born - a boy. Last night in spite of barbed wire there were more thefts and Mrs. Russell Robert's suitcase

with warm clothes was taken about 3 a.m. The guards were roused but could neither speak Malay nor English and thought someone had escaped so proceeded to count all in No.2 House! More wire is put up this morning. We hear - rumour - that a Red X man may come from Singapore where it is supposed to be working, so have letters ready for home. I wonder what truth there is in this! If only we could hear news of Daddy, Barbara and Claud and Alec and other friends. I wonder if they know where we are? Japs were afraid to enter jungle (undergrowth) after thieves. I have Singapore foot - very painful.

2nd August. Guards at night troublesome in houses. One insists on being taken to lav. Refuses to use outside one. Insists on the house one.

Friday, 7th August. On August Bank Holiday we gave entertainment to Committee in the evening. Next day had a whole fried egg each. There have been more thefts - oily men in houses. Things taken from under people's heads whilst sleeping. More wire is put up round camp. Five sick go to hospital - nine more to go. Dr. is very fed up at having so few medicines. People return from hospital. Guards still insist on entering houses or using lav if they want to. Seven kittens born in House 7 and Currants has five puppies in house 13. Guards came and counted us. Slapped Margot Turner and Miss van der Lay on face. They had not been standing straight. We might be an army or something. (XXXself-censoredXXX) Anyhow the Commandants get Mrs. Muller to interpret and explain we are not accustomed to being hit on face for nothing.

Saturday, 8th August. No rations today. Guards tell children an Armistice has been signed.

Tuesday, 11th August. On Monday Guard tries to present Mother Superior with a bunch of flowers! She does not like to take them so Frau Müller does. Children, Dutch v. English boys have signed 3-day Armistice. They seem to be preparing new ammunition - mud balls. Stones and catapults out of date. Guards seem very chatty and friendly. Quality of rations a shade better. Another Armistice rumour. 'Shop' on Sunday brought very little. He is making a mint of money and we get very little for it.

Saturday, 15th August. Mrs. Weir's birthday on 13th. We did a gipsy show in evening and Phyllis and I forgot both words and music of our song! Mother dresses up - puts dress back to front and pink fichu. Chili earrings and necklace of chilis and pumpkin seeds. Friday. Jumble Sale to raise funds for Red X. Also Boys war on - Dutch v. English. Take each other's forts and English boy gets hit in eye and has to go to hospital. It was Eng. Ammunition and had been foully baked in oven (mud). I help to dole out rations this week. They are far better in quality and quantity.

Thursday, 20th August. Mother dreams Daddy is well and Barbara has had a baby. (Celia Herdman was born 20.6.43). Mr. Soo comes to camp from Singapore and fetches wife and children. Touching scenes of greeting with everyone standing round. He makes great show of bowing to guard.

At rationa Sentry cross at rain wetting ration cards so kicks egg basket violently and breaks 5 - licked up by dogs -. When reported to Higher Guard his comment is "Boggus". Yesterday parcels come from men in jail - bully beef, butter and marg. Mrs. Jenkin's son's 21st birthday. Good feast day in garage! On whole guards seem cheerful. More officials visit camp - most polite. The Resident even hopes we have enough to eat and drink and will be friends after the war! He is going to Japan. Miyachi arranges for any Eurasians or Indonesians who wish to leave camp - find employment in Hotel and eventually return to homes - so they say. Nine wish to go, but so far they are still here. Shall I ever forget sight of Jap. guard running in road to scene of dog barking (they threatened to kill it, but let it off with warning not to bark at them any more) bayonette in one hand, fan in the other! fanning hard as he runs. (We noted how the dogs barked at the Japanese, but were used to the Javanese).

22nd August, Saturday. Counted in road - have to stand in Nationalities Counted by houses in afternoon by guards. Take Hazel to children's party. Spent 30 cts. on sweets for her. Guard buys 80 cents worth of food and gives to children. Proceeds over Fl.30 for Red X.

Monday, 24th August. Miyachi came twice yesterday about people to go free. They leave today. Mrs. Lim went out to him with Mrs. Yauw. She hopes to get in touch with Penang.

29th August Mon. - ? Now we have no Jap. Guards - Indonesians instead. It seems funny not to hear their shuffling feet. Since they went things seem easier. Workmen have come to mend houses. Jap. Officials have come round and seem most concerned at the lack of beds, nets and the overcrowding. Miyachi is trying hard to get more people to leave - Eurasians. We see the men from the jail at 8.30 and 12.30 on their way to and from cutting grass at Bukit Besar. They are too far away to recognise but a good cheer goes up twice a day. The Colijn girls sit on the roof of No.17 and give an Airline Call! Letters are allowed from the jail. People taken to hospital more frequently - in fact we seem to be having a lot of attention - what for? There are Red X rumours - ships coming? More Japs come in afternoon and look over all Eurasians, Dutch, and English.

30th August, Sunday. D- is brought into camp to spread propaganda how well they are being treated. A few go out - some returned as being too fat on fair! People go to hospital. Mother in large Chinese umbrella hat, a bowl of flowers in hand approaches Miyachi and introduces herself as Mrs. E.A.B. of Singapore! Miyachi says Wednesday (for glasses)! and asks if she can have glasses.

Monday, 31st August. Queen of Holland's birthday. Arrange Red, White & Blue flowers for service at 10.30. Most stirring service. A.A. Livingstone says prayer in English. Much news when people return from hospital. Juliana has son? Red X Ship here? We are to go to Portuguese East Africa? Fighting quite close? Guard has displayed orange note-book. - ALL ROT.

Tuesday, 1st September. Miyachi wants 20 British nurses to go to hospital at Pongkor to nurse American and Dutch men. Where are they from?

The Japanese doctor did not seem to know about it. Very fishy I think. Today Japanese Officer comes and says by Saturday Houses 15, 16 & 17 must be vacated. This means 55 extra people have to be housed in fifteen houses, three of which already have 25 - 33 people in them. No reason given and not much chance of extra houses being opened up.

3rd October, Saturday. Barbara's birthday. Hope she's having a better day than us. 55 people have been turned out of 3 houses, and squashed into others. The barbed wire is being fixed and we have less walking space. The water is off from 6 a.m. - 6 p.m. and again at 9.30 p.m. They are swines. Houses 15, 16 & 17 are empty. The Japs said the furniture was to be left, but everything has been moved. The Dutch carried up a huge Frig to our house. I helped Helen & Co. move their stuff after dark. Mother and Mrs. van der Hart kept watch while we moved the writing desk round to back of a house whilst guard sat in the front. Most of the stuff we took via the jungle path at the back of the houses. Mrs. Hutchings & I fixed up cables ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ I typed them ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~. 'Girls' brought news to camp that half Australia overrun and Britain invaded and fallen to Germans! Lots of searchlights last night.

11th October 1942, Sunday. On 9th Olga and 3 others go out to Dr. Hollweg's hospital. We miss them a lot. Miyachi came on afternoon of 8th and they decided to go, but unconditionally. We have awful water shortage, turned off all day, only two houses at the bottom of the hill have a trickle, so we have to carry a lot or else go to the houses outside the wire which have just been vacated and are empty, with vegetables, washing etc. The water comes on after 8 p.m. for a bit and is off by 5.30 a.m. More lists have been made out. 'Pure' English wanted this time. Rumour about repatriation. Commit blunders and many poor 'non-pures' are very upset. I feel strongly about it all and tell Livingstone what I think. Today, Sunday, Mrs. Chan returns to stay in camp looking very down. Husband reported to have kept children & taking them back to Singapore. Sing anthems up at Sisters this evening. Very hot weather.

13th October 1942. Have had two days with plenty of water. Fat Jap. Naval man visited the camp this morning - says he was going to Singapore this afternoon and will be back in 10 days. Helen sent to hospital with malaria - bad.

16th October 1942. When Melwani - the shop - came off Wednesday, Japs came too and nearly didn't allow him to enter. There seems to be a modesty campaign on. Japs say we are not to wear sun-tops, shorts and men's clothes etc! A letter is going to Miyachi. Mrs. Chan gave a fancy dress party for children on 13th - Micha - not invited - sings "All things bright & beautiful" and gets a prize. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Mother has been very stiff for two days. Jess appeared at rations in sabots, white stockings, white dress, apron, long blue gloves, scarf, hat, dark glasses - modesty campaign. "Neptun" - septic tank coolies gape in astonishment.

19th October, 1942. Naval Japs returned with sweets for children from Singapore? 2 sweets each! Two Japs discovered hiding behind dresser

in No.14 after dark. "Whiskers" comes up to inspect wiring and Javanese are to keep Japanese out! We did a charade at Australian Sisters on Saturday night and Market Scene.

24th October 1942, Tuesday. Mother makes pillow - first order! How much shall we earn? Coolies arrive to clear away dustbin rubbish - what can be the matter? and five japs arrive to look for mossies. (Mosquitoes).

27th October 1942. Mother is now the bread winner. Is teaching two Dutch to speak English and does odd jobs - has made two mattresses and a pillow. We have had a lot of rain and the garage roof leaks badly. The ration card gets \$1200.00 a month to feed 335 people - hence our ration! Tomatoes, brinjals and spinach for nearly 3 weeks now! Wakes up this morning by wood ration arriving at 6.30 a.m. Poles 10ft long, circom 15" - dia 5" approx! We have one broken saw, so prospects grim. Short of lorries and wood also apparently in town!

Sunday, 1st November 1942. All Saints' Day. Last night our house went to the concert given by the choir. I was not singing but thoroughly enjoyed being in the audience. They really did very well. Dorothy sang. Nora whistled. Dutch songs. Miss Dyburgh played and also sang. Felt really very homesick in parts. Everyone looked very nice dressed in their best - singing. There is a rumour that a Red X commission coming so we are preparing all we want to tell them - chiefly that we want news of relatives. Rumour hath it that they have come and gone and visited "A" camp. On Wednesday Melwani's Shop at Guard House. Phyllis and I go down but she has sun-top on so is not allowed to write her order. I am decently clad so can order ("decently" i.e. dress - but no knickers!). Thursday. Mrs. Jenkin's birthday. Day of events heralded by the man mending tiles falling through the sitting room ceiling, luckily onto top of only cupboard! Party in evening - Village concert with comb band. Mother is Madam All but Easy - glorious get up and causes much laughter by singing. We had no rice for lunch and ice cream for pudding! 'No news' but take what we like of it - Jesso in Tower being forcibly fed by beekeepers! A distressing rumour of boat with Brit.P.O.s being sunk by Americans on way to Japan, few survivors. Dr. Tanaka will change Straits money for those who have it. He is certainly a friend. Olga sends sweets up to me. She is happy and well and has seen XXXXX K's hus. We now have Japanese and Javanese guard.

Wednesday, 18th November 1942. He and Mrs. Lim have left. Dr. Tanaka (Jap and so good to us) says goodbye to us. Camp committee being reorganised. Miss Livingstone had a terrific birthday on 10th. Visitors all morning. Last week remembered YMCA week of prayerXXXXXXXXXXXX Spoke to Dr. Tanaka at Melwani's shop. He is leaving.

Sunday, 22nd November. A glorious Sunday - bright sunshine and breeze. Had a special service this morning XXXXXDaddy was wellXXXXXX It's wonderful to hearXXXXXXXX but wishes we long to be back. He will know we are here. Dr. Tanaka has left so that on Friday no ambulances came. Sick people taken to hospital on Sat. in open lorry. Sick dogs have been rayonitted.

Sunday 20th November. 'Governor of Singapore' visits us. Seems very interested in our activities and it makes us wonder if we should go back to Singapore if possible. Hear bombing today, believed to be at Pladjoe (5.7.43 What hopes).

Saturday, 5th December. There has been bombing and we now have to have strict brown-out at nights. On 4th a lady and 4 children were brought in from some place about 6 hrs by car away. Mrs. Darlan. @ Mrs. Gibson - Colin and his sister Smith leave - they are to return to Singapore. Rumoured fare cost them \$700!! A young people's club has been formed. I get put on Committee! We are to arrange talks and recreation in various forms for them. St. Andrew's night's concert was a great success. The dances fling and 4some. We sang - I wore new dress and after we went to No. 2 for coffee and cake to celebrate Churchill's birthday. News is supposed to be good and we may be out in 2 months! I wonder? (7.12.43 - Still here).

Thursday 10th December. Mrs. Bull has heard Molly and Robin were picked up from reef by ship due for Australia. Mrs. Bundy hears husband safe in Singapore. Olga been allowed to cable Bishop re Guy. Mrs. Godley & Vic and 4 others to receive parcels from home? I type more next of kin lists. Mrs. Gibson has apparently not left. Muntok rumoured bombed.. XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX A Red Cross packet of cigs shows V over setting sun! XXXXX Brown-out still in force. Very strict in town. We are practising Christmas music, making toys etc for children. Very busy is much patching and converting old clothes. I have been lucky to get new shoes, Mother's are still a problem. Have built a brick oven.

Friday, 18th December. One week to Christmas. Very busy still with toys and music! Mrs. Godley got her parcel yesterday - From S. Africa - Yokohama - Singapore. It is a Red Cross one I think. Last Monday a real man comes to camp - husband of a new woman who is brought here and 3 children. All Dutch people crowd round and chat. Man leaves after about 1/2 hour and proceeds to jail. Jap. Guard shows temper on Wed. evening with Jav. Guard. Knocks off hat - slaps him on face - because he has let the children sing a Jap. song. I typed new list of Singapore relatives and friends etc.

Monday, 21st December. More people brought to camp - rumoured 40 - 200 more to come. We are squashed as it is - no room at all for more!!! XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX No more parcels to jail allowed. Few return from hospital - no more taken. I have a septic ankle. Practice for Christmas singing. Kathleen's Sunday School money spent on toffee sweets, note books and pencils and given out today at a party. The Red X (Camp)? brought material for the Service men - they can't make shorts, poor souls. so they are wearing skirts!! They want to know what the fashion is this season - above or below the knee?

29th December - Friday. Last night Guard shot Karzan twice in neck. Luckily missed Hazel who was sitting close by. Karzan has not died - Dr. McDowell stitches him up with needle and cotton. Bullet goes right

through his neck - but misses vital parts. Boxing Day on Saturday. We sang carols in No.10 garden. Combined Service with Patch - R. Co. car - Another Superior contents. Water is turned off and we have to go to West lawn for water. Guard offers us a bath - but bathroom rather small. In the morning the men sing to us on their way to work - sound and sing quite a lot - it sounds lovely hearing male voices singing! We sang to them on Christmas Eve - on their return from work - 'We Shall All Be Faithful'!!! In the evening we sang carols round the camp.

Christmas Day. Up at 5 a.m. Service at No.12 at 6 a.m. Combined British and Dutch Protestant. Sun shines. Rather a la Sally Army but Miss Brykman gives a good address. Back to a super breakfast of nine partridges and ginger sauce. Toast and butter. Coffee with milk and sugar and a banana. Elsie has hung up his knick-knaws and we watch him open it. Men in jail send meat, onions, new potatoes and fat. Service here at 9.30. The garage is decorated and Mother made a small Christmas tree - cracker and Father Christmas and we look very gay. Marvellous lunch - 6 courses - we sit on floor round a large table of up 4 bed-planks and the two wood trays covered with white sheet and decorated in true lass style. Don't finish until 3 p.m. Have to Olga & Co. at 5 p.m. and call out to them. Children's Lass Tree and presents a great success. They walk up hill with lighted candles at dusk, form a circle and sing carols. At night have a gloriously mad party - play silly games - one made such a noise, James rushes up and asks if it is a snake or cat we're killing and can't be help. Men sent us present of peas, beans, potatoes for New Year. Alf has boil. Wears new blouse and skirt for Christmas.

21.12.41. Al came to sleep in garage under her new net. What a fuss James made! Sally and I cooked supper last night - only rice and bacon and pumpkin soup. Mother went to get grinder and finding Jan Guard hanging in chair waiting for a cup of tea - she hummed and gave the thing to him - turning grinder handle like barrel organ and he thought it funny and said 'Goggas'. Miss Jan gives M. a tin of milk.

22nd January 1942. Robert's birthday. We saw the New Year in with a small party. There was a big one at No.12 - but I wanted then to only do 1/2 of the programme - the rest next day as Japan was at war! Sally took a small service at No.10 and we went to that. R. had a very happy day - lots of flowers and congratulations from friends and presents. Good extra chat, curry and ice cream and stewed apricots for lunch! Money for a dress from Nettie Klassen and Kremer. In the evening we had a small party and called Cinderella. It was a great success. Besides this household I. invited Mrs. Hall, Norton, Elizabeth Simmons and Bennett, Greener and Klassen and Mrs. Robbins.

23rd January. Miss Challen had a birthday yesterday - Today we are all very tired as a result of Christmas, New Year etc. Most people have colds. Last night there was a party. We felt it was a flop but unluckily and quite frankly enjoyed it, especially Jan Guard. The guards are strange. Mrs. Woodford had her face slapped today for waving ~~XXXXXXXX~~ No one has come from the hospital and everything is fearfully dull and last week seemed to go very slowly. Mrs. Pugh has typhoid and there is

now quarantine. Rumour men will move to new attap camp at Bukit Besar tomorrow. Jail wanted for natives who are getting out of hand. Rats are increasing in camp. Some dogs have been destroyed including Currants. Clog knows Day is safe. Ambulance seems to be coming once a week again. Jane Southill and Mrs. Sandy have received parcels from Singapore sent off on 21.12.41 (72). Mother dresses Uncle Bert died on Christmas Eve.

15.1.42. Yesterday the Lord High Executioner of Palembang visited the camp and looked and was furious. No more letters or V signs in Camp else we shall be severely punished. The wood ration is being re-organised and is now very much like a raggedy scrum. But we have to wait for a given signal after the lorry has unloaded the wood before we dash to the pile! The men did not move to Bukit Besar. We are going through very trying times and feel more than ever cut off from the world. There is no news but - lot of our activity.

16.1.42. Mother went to hospital for the day yesterday - she keeps getting boils - but there is no treatment for her there so she came back. The ambulance that should only hold 10 took at least 25 people in it! The men move into the attap camp today. (Antoinette seems to have been getting ~~XXXXXX~~ into camp and was caught yesterday by Jap. Guard who called. Cater? Best of Good and Boo who came with ambulance. He had changed \$500 for us. Also the money and letters caught in hospital has been returned to owners. Four more people have been brought from Tanjong KXX I have a cold. ~~XXXXXX~~ (All from (was crossed out and more).) Mother gets her new dress stuff last Wednesday. She weighs 10st.7 lbs and has lost 4 stone in 10 months.

19.1.42. Had first hot bath! (Mrs. Jenkin's pail) for 11 months and feel cold yesterday. X. has ears done today. Rumour - men were counted every 3 hours yesterday. Their camp is not far off. Rain, rain, rain everyday now, no sunshine.

22.1.42. ~~XXXXXX~~ Still lots of rain. Water turned off all day. Cooking almost impossible but heavy rain at 5.30 enabled us to fill up pots and pans so I suppose we shall be drinking rain water now. Shens all day and must have been bonks at 3 p.m. with ac-sc. The Stubbs family brought back, and baby with bronchitis - No news yet. Day before yesterday, black-out. Lights turned off at main. Same tonight I have heard.

21.1.42. Yesterday Jap. Officer came with list of husbands etc in Changi - Dai's name on it. Great thrill - first official news for nearly a year! They come again on Sunday (today) with news for the Australian Sisters - from their Prime Minister - to keep smiling and chime up - and promises of P.C.s - and parcels etc and better rations and garbage men more often. So we live in hopes still. Finished the month up with a musical service yesterday. It has been a long and dreary month and everyone is a bit on edge now and gloomy. Feel we shall be here for ages. Nisha went to hospital on Friday 'to see Katie' - we miss him a lot. Clog sent Mother a bath towel so now we both have one each. - the 1/2 P.M. O ones were quite finished, we used them for about a year.

9.2.43. Yesterday was the worst day spent yet. Everyone seemed scrappy and crotchety. The XXX and the XXX have been fighting again so the great committee decide to alter housing. All XXXXX go to 8 - some have to sleep at 12 and 5. We have to loose Paddy and Miss Prouse - but the joke is they are going to eat with us! We are furious and I am very outspoken to XXX. After all who really cares - this is a queer life anyhow! The water has been off all day for about a week and there are rumours of a change of abode so everyone is unsettled. O gets (Olga) XX through to us. Very good news especially as H.C. has gone back to camp. I type a services list today and try to forget Camp friction!!

12.2.43. Alec's birthday yesterday. On 10th Mrs. Mackintosh had letter dated ~~12th~~ 14th December from husband in Singapore with message for us that Daddy was well. We have had to sign Malay notices to the effect that we won't try to escape. (Some were signed in pencil and returned to be done again - Japs furious about something) Rumour of a move still persistent. We have done a year now!!

25.2.43. Miss Dryburgh's birthday on 21st. Mother makes her a patchwork apron of pieces from Choral and Church Choir dresses. Also finishes and wears her new green dress. Birthday party and show on Monday great success. 'The Drunkard's Legacy'. For the past week garbage cart and wood come every day! Also cooking pots and spoons, mugs and brooms come on rations lorry - why all this notice taken of us? Jap feeds pet monkey in old No.15 garden and girls in 14 see Monkey go wild and bite Jap where he 'didn't ought' - Jap in agony dances about and rushes into No.15 - Great glee at No.14. Trouble at hospital - letters found in XXX's belt. People nearly stripped and searched - no more letters to go down, and now we can't even visit the waris when going down. Japs come to camp today in search of telephone fittings. Mother made a life mattress for P.2.00 - food money for us - we've nearly run out again! No soap to be bought.

7.3.43. Mother and I made more lilos last week. Our rations are fearful now. Are these the lean days? Miss Livingstone showed Kato the bad kangkong and since then we only get one basket of mixed veg - kangkong - cucumber and bringle and a little meat. Yesterday for 360 people, 60 cucumbers and 60 kangkongs. The men, bless them, have sent bananas. I think they are getting the same as us. Those from hospital say the XXX are just ravenous poor things and just bolt their food. Priceless remark from Mrs.X - 'Daddy's hounds chased rabbits, hares and jugged hares'!! Jap Dr. seems to be tired of the war - hopes in 2 months there will be peace - What hopes! Last night guard - young one - pokes head in to garage when we are going to bed and admires me in a kimono - I think he feels a little homesick, but I don't like it much! Rumours the AmericansXXXXX. No sign of raid or blackouts here! How do these rumours get about?

11.3.43. Yesterday Ash Wednesday. Rations terrible - today and for a week now. Yesterday 3 cucumbers and 2 bunches of kangkong and one handful beans for 14 people for 2 meals. Japs visit the camp - trouble with the British - we are too proud! XXX Malay guard brings news of Olga, soap to come later

Japs say we are best fed Cunn and take photo of fat Kong! Library meeting in garage. Poor Mrs. Anderson asks if she might feed with us as she is on 'Red X' and funds in her garage can't support her! Mrs. J gets letter 3 months old (censored) from Jail and 2 more today - most recent 25th February. More cards to fill in today - same as before with addition - Place of Origin - Speciality & Remarks to be left blank!!!

14.3.43 Official cards arrive - but not sufficient for whole camp. As usual things are badly arranged and unfairly proportioned - however - Mother & I are to share a card. We were inoculated last night against dysentery - so far no effects. A year ago was the day the Japs asked for John Sinclair and me for the Club, paying us £1 1.00 - with 30 cts commission to go to Mrs. Chan!! Rations terrible. Wood ration fearful - it takes four of us to carry one tree trunk and we are expected to chop it on about two stalks of kangkong! Mrs. Anderson has breakfast with us. We had a party on Miss Prouse's birthday - Did the 'Scene Shifters' - quite good.

16.3.43. Wrote P.C. to Mercantile Bank 'Will you kindly inform R.A. Brown (P.O.W.) & Mrs. C.A. Herdman that Mother & I are well & interned here. We have lived for the past year in small houses, amongst friends, doing our own work & with plenty of fresh air & sunshine. We heard in Jan '43 that Father, R.A. Brown, was well and interned in Singapore. This is the first time we have been allowed to write home. The last letter from Barbara Herdman was received by us in Singapore on 12th Feb. 1942, stating that she and her husband Pay. Commander C.A. Herdman R.N. hoped to be in Cornwall for 2 more years. Please ask Mrs. Herdman to deal as she thinks best with Smith's Imperium, High St, Swanage, Dorset, and keep our goods as they are now our sole possessions. Our love to all relatives and friends. Signed - Hope you are all well Love Mother.' Dexter stops garbage men and retrieves quite a lot of good cabbage leaves from dust cart which men have brought in. No. 11 have cabbage for lunch. Mother sends thimble on rations lorry to have holes mended! (It came back but unended!)

21.3.43. Had my hair cut short. It doesn't look very nice but is tidier and cooler.

25.3.43. My birthday and such a happy one. Heaps of flowers and presents and Mother has made me a lovely patchwork work-bag - so pretty. A very happy party in the evening & I ask eight people. Mother takes part in the charade and the 'Scene Shifters'. Rations fearfully bad.

27.3.43. The rations are better, but we are without salt and had no water in our tans all yesterday. The carrying of pails and tins up and down the hill is very tiring. June Bourhill very ill. Suspected typhoid. Jap doctors very concerned about the state of the drains and septic tanks. Yesterday the Jap Guard on duty would only let people get water if they would bow to him - so we get water elsewhere!

30.3.43. I give my first English lesson to Sister Horroneyer! I doubt whether she understood anything. These are the rations we are supposed to receive:-

Meat	50 gr per person per day.	Casualty?	5 gr per person per day.	} These not r ceived at all yet.
Rice	500 gr per person per day.	Tea	5	
Salt	5 gr per person per day.	Sugar	5	
Vegs	300 gr per person per day.	- (We had 100 gr only for) 2 - 3 weeks).		

6.4.43. Three days Air Raid Exercises - hence no meat or fish in rations. Yesterday instead of meat we had 1 fish for 26 of us! Air raids may explain queer Javaneese in uniform - Jap, & police - carrying pole - with which he presents arms and carries it like a rifle. Perhaps he is an A.R.P. Warden! A2 is getting very queer. Prize remark to Dorothy - 'How hard do you have to throw down a snail in order to kill it?' Hobbs starts a creche for children in House 10. We start practising country dancing in No. 8. for St. George's Day. We get Soya Bean Sauce, tea & sugar in rations and more salt! Men send us chopped wood - they are doing the hard work for us in their camp. They asked a year ago if they might do it for us. Jap. Doctor says goodbye - he is too busy with military - so we will get another I suppose.

9.4.43. Mrs Scheynburger returns from hospital. Prices in town exorbitant, tin, large tin, Fl.70. - 2 paper note books, worse than this one, Fl.3.00. Dr. Teglenburg has had to stop his outside clinic and not allowed to bring from it any instruments or drugs etc. Mrs. Owen and two others very ill with terrible pains like poisoning - and all sisters at No. 8 are sick - they go down each day. Weather fearfully hot - water shortage - garbage men don't come regularly & Nestun hard to get. We had air raid practices and queer Wardens appeared - men with broomsticks! All people from House 9 & 10 were sent down to guard house after one alert! Apparently plane had taken photo of us out at rations and people should have been in houses - also a Dutch woman checks guard and goes after women so they are annoyed, but I still wonder why Nos. 9 & 10 were picked upon. Penrice is punished in hospital for some stupid offence (talking to Alice) - has to kneel down before Japs for sometime - then stare at a photo for 5 or 10 mins. Sugar ration we were given works out at 1 teaspoon per person per day! Mrs. Tomps sent up carrots and tomatoes to Dutch in this House and Mrs. Beestink gave us 2 carrots and 2 tomatoes! Quite lost though in stew for 16!! Rumours. The news is good! but there is no news!

14.4.43. Wednesday. Today is Daddy & Mummy's 33 Wedding Anniversary. Last Saturday Dorothy gave a song recital from the window of No. 7. We sat in the road. I have not enjoyed anything so much since we came here. In fact many felt like that. On Sunday during Church Japs came into camp and visited Mrs. Chan and others, they are wanting an European cook to cook for the Governor! Mrs. Maylor applies for the post. Terrific excitement everywhere - Cater tells Commandants the Families and married are going to live with their husbands. How, when or where is still a mystery. On Monday Lucille Angus is whisked down to the Guard House to see her Aunt & within 1/2 hour has left camp - is going to return to Singapore. We also lose the big boys, 8 or 9 of them. They are ordered to Guard House Mothers not allowed to go & and are not even consulted - examined and told to be ready by 2 p.m. to go to the Men's Camp. We are

sorry to lose them - especially those with no relations there. They will find their families - but some by Dickson. Letter from Jail yesterday only 2 weeks still. Men, unattached, and their kind regards and those to all unattached women and are sorry they will not be able to join us with us. Message came with the word out by mail! To be honest about for chopping our wood for us - that and carrying water are our greatest burdens I think. Yesterday had an awful bout of "rest-sickness"! Think of the lovely evenings when Batchela & Co could come and eat with us. How good they looked in their new kit and how nice I felt in my evening dress & clean & lovely - & how they did appreciate my looking nice - and the little dinners we would have at home - and the tennis parties and all the fun - Oh dear - However it is good to have had such good times - so that we can remember them.

15.5.43 Mrs. Fremont yesterday at hospital, after coming out of surgery (I'm not sure whether she had had a tooth out or whether it was just a normal picture) put her hand to her face thereupon the guard flew at her with cracks - and accused her of swallowing a secret message - made her say Ah - felt her all over and made her take off her shoes! Perhaps he thought it would come out at her toes!!!

15.5.43 We have been having a terrible spell of heat - no rain for days & the sun is grilling & to add to all this - no water - Two or three times a day, in fact all day at intervals we have to go down to the 14 or 15 or Clara House and carry buckets up the hill. It is awful, every drop has to be carried. We do go and get baths and wash down the hill - but it is all a huge nuisance. The rations are very poor and much less. We wonder how long this will go on for. On Easter Sunday 15.5.43 we had a Service at 7 a.m. I felt ill & lay down most of the day. On Sunday we had a concert from the Choral Group & Country Dancing. I did Country Dancing - Christchurch Sells, Newcastle and Picking Up Sticks - all most exhausting. A piano has come to us from No. 14. Nothets' pupils are stopping. They are afraid of their money as they think they will be here a long time still. Nothets' pupils supposed to sail for Singapore the Thursday before Easter. It is supposed to have gone there in our interests.

15.5.43 Life is truly great! People seem to be cracking in our house and what with the water carrying (it is luckily running in the garden, but pressure not strong enough for the house so we took the water off) cooking & and all the house work, drains, bathrooms etc., it is all most hectic. Our rice ration is cut down more than half and the Japs have given us tapioca chips (terribly cheap food - given to the poorest convicts) and some very hard beans which are hard to digest. There are few spare moments - but Lolly is putting on a show for C.U.C - a Scene from 12th Night - and I am helping. No more parcels to go to Ann's Camp. Mother's lessons with Klassen & Kroner have stopped & Mrs. von Baum may leave Camp. The rats at night are terrible & keep us awake and we have no washing soap. Oh! for a rest, cleanness, and someone to make a fuss of me! We are all feeling the same and still no news from anywhere.

Friday 14th May 1943. What a week! Yesterday was quite zero day for us. Mother was upset and made me lots of orange squash & sugar Sisters at house No.1 gave me. I am going to see the Dr. today - anyway the only thing we can do is to rest as much as possible when not working. So many of us have crocked up! The water ran in the house yesterday - first time for ages. More tapioca, chips and beans came yesterday. Mrs. Leyland died in hospital on 11th May. Two people go on 12th to funeral of Vic Wardle is fetched from Men's Camp. He was kept in Guard House while Ambulance fetched the sick people for weekly visit to hospital. Mother and I watched him in rain walk from Guard House to Ambulance. It was good to see him and he whispered a message to Helen to give to us. Much counting and Japs are being quite beastly. Still no news of Olga. Mrs. Leyland's goods are sent to Guard House and new mosquito net she bought is missing when Mrs. James goes to collect things. Hence all yesterday Javanese & Jap guards question and how could they possibly have taken it and what would they want with a \$14 net?! Culmination - house to house search while we are resting - Commandants, Interpreters - Javanese & Jap Guards - they ransack our luggage - walk all over our beds & generally cause a commotion - by knickers almost fall off in my rush to get Prousy to come over and unlock a small attache case they found in the trunk with the props! Findings - perhaps it was a towel and not a net - FCOIS - it is really just like a comic opera to see these men in action! Dorothy has terribly sore legs with some queer rash. Men who came to do the water metre was very sad about conditions - things must be very grim and a great food shortage

24.5.43. Monday. Empire Day. We have been told to open the sardine Reserve Ration today in case it goes bad with keeping. Mother has the most awful carbuncle & looks and feels awful & so thin. Today is my first "day off" - but as Mother is sick it won't be much of a rest. A week ago yesterday Mrs. Maylor went out as housekeeper to the Governor. Japs wanted Halcyon to go too, but she refused. Mrs. Y's exit was most amusing - literally pushed out of camp by children as car driven by a Jap would not start. She came back in two days time - did not like it!! No house wanted her here - she is at present in No.10 as Mrs. Chan went out when she came back, some say to Shore, others, back to Cabaret!! Work here still awful - water question grim - no soap - and frightful heat - How long? Kato returned from Singapore but no news of letters or money for us! The P.O. wives had news from Changi and Mrs. van Ray from her soldier husband - interned in Formosa - working in garden?

30.5.43 Sunday Mother went to hospital on Wednesday 26th May for her carbuncle which was really terrible - also she hopes to get reading glasses and two teeth fixed on plate. I miss her terribly and want to try and get down there for a rest also. Life here is too hectic - there is no hope of resting at all. Water is scarce & I have only 1 cake of toilet soap & have had to try and wash all Mother's dirty bandages, clothes with only water & sun. It all seems so terrible, but we still carry on and hope the end is near. Mrs. Chan returned yesterday to collect more belongings. She wore the Mata Hari on her bosom. Yesterday I did perhaps rather an awful thing - helped a Nun put the R.C. sermon in Dutch into good English. I fear my knowledge of my own language is limited - I certainly don't understand R.C.

believe so it was not a huge success, perhaps the English R.C.s can make sense of it - I felt rather bad doing it - it all seemed such false doctrine.

6.5.43 Sunday. Water on at 4.30a.m. and we go out in starlight & fill up tanks etc. Jap flag at half mast - Admiral supposed to have died somewhere. At 2 p.m. Ambulance arrives and we go to Guard House & Sgt Fox examines us. He can't think how I managed to go without glasses for 16 months and tells me they cost Fl. 10 - Fl. 20. Anyhow luck's in and I can go. Perilous drive down, and what dust - red laterite. On arrival we stand in row and are searched - the Sikh guards make me feel wild - they look so like the British Army Sikhs, in fact are, and so are all their clothing. We stand for ages whilst they look through everything - then those coming out are told not to talk to us and stand in a row facing us!! Then we are allowed in. Mrs. Sinnott collapses completely - sick people go off to wards. I boldly ask the Jap Officer if I may speak to Mother who is sitting in the garden & he consents. She looks better, has put on weight & oh! what a blessing to her - she has her glasses! It is lovely seeing her & I talk to her a long time. Have my eyes tested and can get glasses if Red X Funds allow. Mother seems quite cheerful and is getting 1 egg - 2 bananas & milk, if any, a day. I have blood test - 75%. Water question bad in hospital. K's carbuncle better but not quite healed and she was to have typhoid injection. Dr. Goldberg really seemed quite sweet. Back again in Camp. Try hard to get a bath, but no water. In the evening Mrs. van der Hout starts fortnightly recital from our house but Japs come and stop it - as the Nippons are very sad and they don't like to hear us being happy. Also on Sunday I went to Sally's service and heard her and Mrs. Corinth Testify on something and the guards stop us singing hymns.

4.6.43. Monday. Mrs. Anderson's birthday today. Last week Fri or Sat at 4.30 a.m. had earthquake shock and one the following night also. Quite horrid. On Sat. night Mrs. v.d. Hout gave song recital. Didn't enjoy it much as I don't like her voice. It sounded in one Dutch song like a cross between cockerowing, hen laying an egg and clucking, and cat purring & I had to laugh. Miss Dryburgh very ill on Thursday and still - malaria - temp 105° & 104° up & down. Mischa sleeps in garage with us. More soya beans come into camp & now we are getting to like them better. Food rations very poor - still no water and we carry. Report that Mother is O.K. & may come out on Wed. I do hope so.

Monday 21.6.43. Mother returned last Wednesday. Looking better for first. Put on 2½ kilos but weighs under 10 stone. Water still grim. Special news. Japs gave us coconut oil yesterday. Object to us giving concert on Sat. It is to be held on Tuesday but there will be moon then. Miss Dryburgh better - convalescent. Glorious weather but sun fearfully hot - early mornings lovely. Barbara Lavalette gets stung all over with wasps. Anyone dealing with black market to be shot on sight.

Monday 25.6.43. All house Captains and Commandants summoned to Guard House this morning - we wonder what for - another theft from Joan's house - coinette's skirt! Last Tuesday Choral gave concert in this house.

enjoyable evening. Very conducted. Guard, Gilbert, offers £1.100 for Ann's watch. Something fishy about it all. Joss has something to do with it after they say. Water is on in garden a bit after rain. Hospital water very grim. A2 comes back and tells us they were without for a bit. When Mother was there they were not allowed to talk to men so when W. de Jong (changed to a Dutch Lady) was husband was there, he and a man sat together & Mother and Mrs. de Jong sat together and she spoke to Mother and he spoke to the man, so really husband and wife were talking to each other & Mother and man looked intelligent & said 'Yes & No' & 'really' etc now and then & the guard walked round then but never knew what was happening! They are very strict down there. Joss gave us more bones - better kind, but Mother still can't digest them. The meat is bad today. Bananas rotten in the shop yesterday. Milwani does not come anymore.

Monday 5.3.43. Another holiday come round! Have septic thumb & 2 feet plus toe! Life very difficult!! Rumour that war at home is over & things now concentrating out East! Certainly there has been a lot of shipping lately and troops supposed to be leaving. Elise Cross (Swiss) informed there is no sea communication with Singapore and she can't even write to her husband. It is absolutely impossible to change Straits money now - so those who rely on this will soon be out of funds - so will all British then - I wonder what will happen. Japanese Doctor on Wednesday speaks quite good English - previously he refused to - spoke German, but interpreter was used for Jap-English. He was quite decent too. Tuesday night they had a huge heat up plus geisha girls at old No.17. For 4 days Guards especially Gilbert were drunk & Gilbert has since become most familiar - alas some of the stupid women are to blame - Joss worst offenders. They seemed keen on buying watches and jewellery. All points to the fact that they might be leaving. On Thursday Miss Dryburgh talked on Mandala-John with piano illustrations - we sat in garden - a beautiful night. Mrs. Kremer asked Mother to continue with one English conversation class a week. My class with Nans has ceased - three cheers - & Mother's other class except with House 1 Nans. Phyllis came back on Wed from hospital. Javanese Guard seem more pleasant, but still no workmen come to camp. Prices rising in hospital & sugar & soap unobtainable there.

Sunday 11.7.43 in at last! Hospital has had none. Miss Prouse returned yesterday says - a teacup full in morning to wash with and at night whatever has been saved from drinking. On Thursday an iguana runs past Dorothy in back garden! is caught in drain by guards - about 1 metre long. We are counted now twice a day, 7.30 & 5.30 p.m. Jap guards at beginning of week were still dokey and Gilbert quite tight when he came to count us. Javanese guard counts & next day Mr. Yamasaki of G.S.B. by thumb gathered & curse so Mother has to do all washing for me. Lots of ships tooting - fearful rations. Nicky & Alice gave concert yesterday. Musical comedy etc, Alice plays very badly. There has been some important German visiting the place - no guards were strict about lights & 'Googie' rushed us shouting all the way from Guard house to stop Dorothy singing on Tuesday night - She was just singing "Oh to be in England!"

Kong asks us to moonlight tea party at 9 p.m. tonight. It was a lovely evening and most enjoyable. Monday, Dogs have all been taken to guard house to be examined. Van came at 1 p.m. and took most of them away in cages, leaving only the old and 1 dead ones. Mrs. Taylor insulted Javanese Guard who called in Jap. Grumpy - who slapped her face at least 5 times - all this at night. At Counting having done 6 houses, Grumpy remembered Captains hadn't bowed, so started again with many shouts and grunts. No one knew what he wanted - Javanese Guard had head punched because he couldn't understand and we had to wait for ages on road. On Tuesday they bowed and Guard (shy one) was so overcome he didn't know what to do and Javanese Guard counted us this morning. WED. he couldn't face it! I am to go to hospital for visit & get stuff for my thumb this afternoon. Dr. said on Sat (Jap Dr.) if Mothers want to go to see their children and very very sick in hospital - they must not pretend to be ill, or have bad teeth or eyes - they must ask to go and permission will be granted!!!!

18.7.43. Sunday. Went to hospital & Dr. Teglenburg decides to take off thumb nail - not so good. Jap. G.S.B. man stands in doorway & watches proceedings. Roars with laughter - not so funny for me. However it still looks pretty grim and mushy. Blood curdling yells in night - when Jap Guard finds Javanese Guard asleep on duty - so wakes him. Much face slapping! and this morning Dr. goes to guard house with figures for counting and finds Jap. guard asleep! Counted 1 hour later therefore! Water actually runs in the taps up here. We've taken off water & fixed pipes up with rubber tubing - much rain on Friday night - garage is leaking badly. Snakes about also - see two lately. Dr. Smith very amusing on hospital day. Has samples of at & ur (?) and Jap very infuriated in the searching. Mother has a lot to do for me, washing etc - I hope she is not too tired.

21.7.43. Shop prices. Coconuts 22 cents each. Gula - 30 cts a cake.
25.7.43 " 30 " " Klim. \$1.50 or more.

2.8.43. A bad fortnight. Mrs Bull taken to hospital with typhus. A lot of sickness in camp - tummy upsets - rather like poisoning. Mother has had it, Phyllis and Mische. My thumb cleared up but has gone septic again. Guards last week were awful. One at Counting - slapped people (including Dr. McDowell) who were not on road if their names were not on hospital list. Three people fainted at counting at having to stand for so long. He was reported to officials on Wednesday. Lists we made out 9 months ago brought back for re-typing and new lists made out - very nicely as they are to go to Tokyo for our exchange!! What hopes - it has taken them all this time to decide they want them different and we thought the old ones had at least gone somewhere already!! Joan Waddams & I work on them all week with Dorothy Costes help. Ann Murray's Variety Show huge success. It takes place in this house 7 - 9 p.m. We had permission to put it on. Only one more night - next Wednesday. The Guard came and sat on our dustbin 1 at night, raised to window level & watched the whole show. He was thoroughly amused and laughed a lot at burlesque of Ena's

Scarf dance 'Albert' & the Eternal Question. Understood Camp song too I think. Coolies have cut all grass & trees, hedges back etc in the attempt to get rid of rats. Red X funds ran right out one week & we all got a little anxious. Molly & I read from Shakespeare at C.U.C. - Macbeth - Duncan murder scene and with Olive, the Sleep Walking. Teddy gave the talk. We make Soya bean milk & Cheese now.

8.8.43. Have built larger fire place. Rations very poor & there is a lot of sickness and tummy upset. Mother has it & also a tired heart so has to rest as much as possible and not go up & down the hill. Oh! How we long to go away. On Wednesday we got the lists finished & Japanese took them off. Wanted them tied in bundles, arranged in alphabetical & alphabetically. Lets hope something really comes of these! Last night of show a huge success and we have a party afterwards in No.2 garage. Guard enquires Nos. of Germans & Russians in Camp. Rice short and all food poor.

16.8.43. Great consternation! Guards find children playing with ammunition. It is difficult to explain to officials that come to search that the 'bombs' are from used soda syphons!! Mrs Bull reported collapsed & Hazel is whisked out of camp on Friday. Mrs. Stevens collapses, Mother and I have upset tummies and feel ghastly. Kind friends give us present and we are able to get M. some eggs. She takes Dexter's hen eggs raw. Pink tree opposite simply beautiful again.

23.8.43. Sunday. In the middle of three days manoeuvres. When siren goes a lot of times all people have to congregate in this house & No.10. No.10 is everything disturbed. Air raid Wardens with poles very amusing. On Tuesday Camp made Fl.450 for Red X through house to House buscar & sale of foods etc. This house made Fl.29.00 with eats, music and also dancing - 5 cents per person per dance. Very cold weather now. Rations get worse every day.

30.8.43. Monday. Yesterday we had a combined Dutch & English Service for Queen Wilhelmina's birthday tomorrow. It was taken $\frac{1}{2}$ in Dutch & English. Mona's father dies & she goes to funeral. Vic sends love to us. Nice to be remembered! Mother is making a doll for £1.2.00 for a Dutch Lady!! It is most attractive.

5.9.43. 500 yds cotton voile have arrived to clothe the Camp! Shant we be decent! Also cooking pots, 20 for 14 houses. In fact anything we ask for seems to come! Rations though are very poor. Jap guards still anxious to buy suitcases.

12.9.43. The material has been given out. Mother has two vests (pink floral stripes) & 1 yellow & green pillow case & I have enough for nightdress & pants of the latter material. We all practically have chronic diarrhoea. Most weakening.

13.9.43. Monday. The hospital was moved with only a very little notice and were all cleared out in two hours. Women, Luna & Dr. Goldberg installed in small house opposite the Guard House. Men back to their respective camps. Thursday my nightdress is now

finished. Three people have been moved from camp. Numbers now 410 I think. Nations very poor indeed.

Friday 25.10.43. On Monday 21st men seen moving from their camp & on previous days. We were warned a move was probably in store & on Tuesday at 11.45 Japs tell three houses to be ready to leave by 1 p.m. Phyllis & I were cooking but it was not our house. Hectic day. We are to go to men's camp - hear it was buggy & dirty. M. falls down hill by 10.11 on Monday night - hurts knee. Tuesday we move here. Men & I come with luggage. Strip our house. There is nothing here Olga and the girls also restored to us. Marvellous. Six months behind bars. Our Congsi has split. Missionaries together with Mischa. We are sleeping in long dormitories. Kashes or Dutch being brought in. Dutch on one side, English on the other. Hospital also here. I've rust my glasses. Can't see. I'm heart tired so she rests a lot. No rice. Very hectic days sorting ourselves & cleaning up. I believe 75 more to come here. Nos. English 218, Dutch over 100. Kashes of natives. ~~Brithman~~ Dorothy Thomas & baby & Mrs. Chen back.

29.9.43. Monday. Some of the bigger boys were taken away at 4 a.m. with food for 14 days to join their fathers etc. Destination unknown. Beanie & David go.

11.10.43 Monday. We are settling down here. Have had three days strict manoeuvres and blackout - stopped suddenly. Mrs. A & Phyllis sick today. Lot of tummy quick trots, infect everyone the same. Food had but able to buy bananas daily. Men X. given only oil & Gula. Mother goes on with her lessons. Mrs. Naylor comes to our dorm. after fight with an Armstrong, only ? separates them and stops fight! Sally has to go to her place. Olga in hospital, bad eye also Miss Cullen.

16.10.43! 'Friendly' or Robert Young the Guard says goodbye - Terrific rain & roofs leak & compound is thick mud. Lots of colds & bad turnies still. There are 51 in our dormitory. We eat at tables just outside. The cockhouse is to our right, guardhouse to the left. Sirens blow twice - not manoeuvres



○ = WELL
□ = COCKHOUSE
WATER

20.10.43. Person in hospital, Czech, I think tried to commit suicide last Monday - only a new arrival to camp. Removed to asylum or died, not sure which. Coolies building shed for children to play under. More new arrivals from Tanjong Main? Mother has lost 1 lb. round bust & 1 lb round hips in the last year. Yesterday 19.10. oil, sugar, salt, rice, beans & canlec ration sent for one month.

22.10.43. Friday. Rats born in Tweedies summit! I nearly pick one up - a big black one when getting wood to chop from bench the fire place. Lots of rain & much mud still

15.11.43. Monday. This is really a very monotonous life & we are still here contrary to all odds. Vives with measles in Dutch have had between them about 30 days from home. Its nearly 3 years now without a word! A few things have happened here. Covered playground has been built for children - also used for as Church, shop, auction room etc. We had community singing and a scratch concert one night. I am in charge of wood rationing for our block. We are being sent green tree trunks again - shaved and quite impossible to chop. Fire in dorm when blackout material caught fire by our bed. I threw water over light & it was out quickly. Much sickness, typhoid, relapsing fever, sunstroke, the itch, & still the 'trots'. I've got it again & Mother has it still. Prices of gals & eggs terrific. Mother is making a doll for order. She has just recovered our hats and we look very smart & now also I have a mattress. People still being questioned and sent have been allowed out. Food very poor but we still have a little money to buy fruit etc.

18.11.43. Evelyn & Dorothy Thomas left camp yesterday. Evelyn would not be persuaded not to go. Rats, rats, rats; they eat our clothes, bananas etc on shelves & lay their young in our luggage etc.

25.11.43. Small boy dies in camp hospital. He had had pneumonia - funeral on Sunday. Bess in our dorm. Colley finds then in her net - So large - rats - the trots etc. Life is not such fun. When we go to the lav - the needles bite our bottoms - and it is all very ghastly, but we do manage to joke about it. Mother has made another doll. Rations still very poor. A lot of sickness & I believe a sort of measles among Dutch children. Last night in the middle of a huge rain storm, some Jap officials visited us. Luckily we were all in bed 9 p.m. and lights were very low. We have to be very strict with blackout now. Much air activity. Community singing and concert last Saturday night.

6.12.43. Nicholas Day. Yesterday, on the Eve, Dutch gave the children a party & 4 Black Peters (Audrey, Jeff, Barbara & Pip) gave out oex & Gula. After a terrific rain storm - we all got wet, atap blew off roofs - no coolies came to repair damage, so Nora & others, including St. Katherine went blocks & do repairs. Very poor rations. Hospital liver - one portion 75 cents - one egg now 26 cts.

7. 12.43. Harris's monkey, tied on fence by house plays havoc in Mrs. Petersen's kitchen upsetting rice pot - throws bottles off shelf - upsets and eats salt! much air activity these days.

22.12.43. I am up for first time after a week of fever, high temp & shivers - malaria or swamp fever - I hope not malaria as I have not had it before. No water in camp now for 2 days - so we are reduced to drinking well water - and what a well it comes from. Terrific rain over a period of 10 days - sun out at last.

26.12.43. Sunday. Xmas Eve - better in time. Busy finishing off toys. Dutch children's Nativity play. Sing carols round camp. Marget & a few others go right out & bring back large Xmas Tree. Each individual table is decorated somewhat. Combined service on Xmas morning. Pork also - present from Chicago. 'Uncle' comes to visit us & comes congenially. Visit Nurse & Hospital. Boxing Day - eggs fried in pork fat & washed potatoes & delicious plum etc & coconut stewed red with gals - Xmas lunch delicious with macaroni & dried pork & a good much Xmas Pud.