

Stanley POW Internment Camp, Hong Kong
January 1942 – September 1945



The four blocks of apartments on the rise were the pre war married quarters of the Stanley Prison officers. There were two apartments on each of the three floors consisting of two bedrooms, lounge dining room and kitchen, bathroom with an additional separate toilet and servants quarters.

The blocks in the photograph are 2, 3 and the side of 4, on the far side of which the four Halls were billeted in the dining room of apartment 22, top floor.

For most of 1942, we shared the dining room with another mother and daughter. There were 29 persons accommodated in this apartment. (*see plan*)

FLAT 22 Married Quarters
Stanley P.O.W. Camp
 (January 1942 - August 1945)

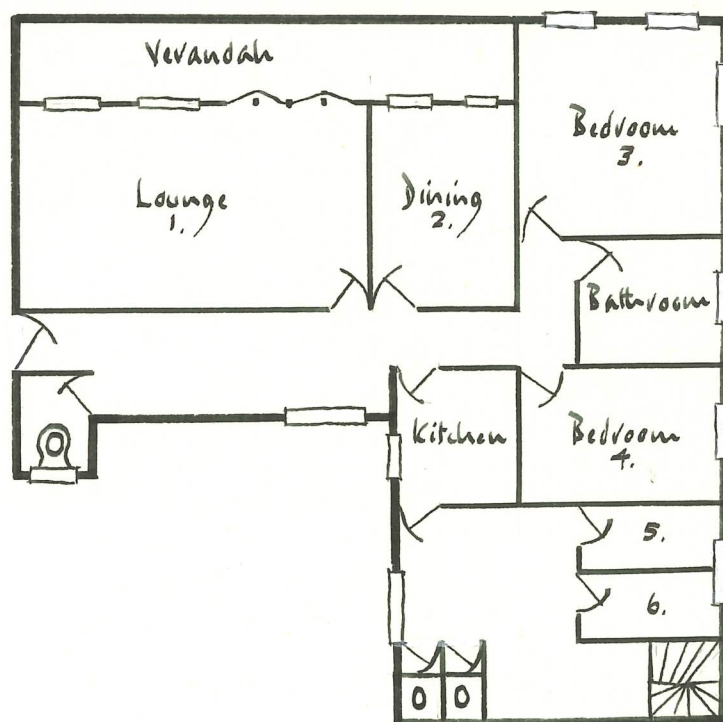
1. Miss Helen Balchin (35) Steno
4. Miss Bascombe (56) DGS Teacher
4. Mrs. Maisie Bruce (32) Housewife
4. Miss Cunningham () DGS Teacher
5. Dr. L.G.Y. Dean-Smith (32) HKU Professor of Med.
 Mrs. Dean-Smith (32) Queen Mary Hosp. Nursing sister
3. Mr. Jack Dinsdale
2. { Mrs. Mabel Hall (38) Housewife
 Master Michael Hall (11) Student
 Master Peter Hall (7) Student
 Miss Sheila Hall (6) Student
3. Mr. Jack Howell (35) Police
4. Miss Pat Loseby (17) Student
3. Mr. Stanley Mason (52) Insurance
4. Mrs. M.B. Mason (46) *
1. { Mrs. Lorraine Money (25) Steno
 Mrs. Elsie Murphy (42) Lane Crawford Manageress
 (her husband, Edward Accountant, H.K. Hotels, went blind
 in Shamshuipo)
3. Mr. Jack Robinson (47) Merchant
3. Dr. J.T. Smalley (52) Surgeon & Physician
1. { Mrs. G. Smalley (37)
 Miss Joan Smalley (30) Steno
 Miss Mary Smalley (27) Steno
2. Mrs. L. Spary (35) Housewife
2. Miss Muriel Spary (11) Student
6. Mr. Tomlinson () Government Chemist
6. Mrs. Tomlinson () Housewife
3. Mr. R.K. Wallace (49) Marine Eng.
1. Mrs. M.M. Wallace (47) Housewife
1. Mrs. Joan Walkden (24) Steno

Sisters

On 9 Jan. 1999, Betty & Peter drove from Sydney in a Ford Falcon to Gosford, 35 miles north of Sydney to meet and lunch with a sprightly 99 year old Elsie Murphy.

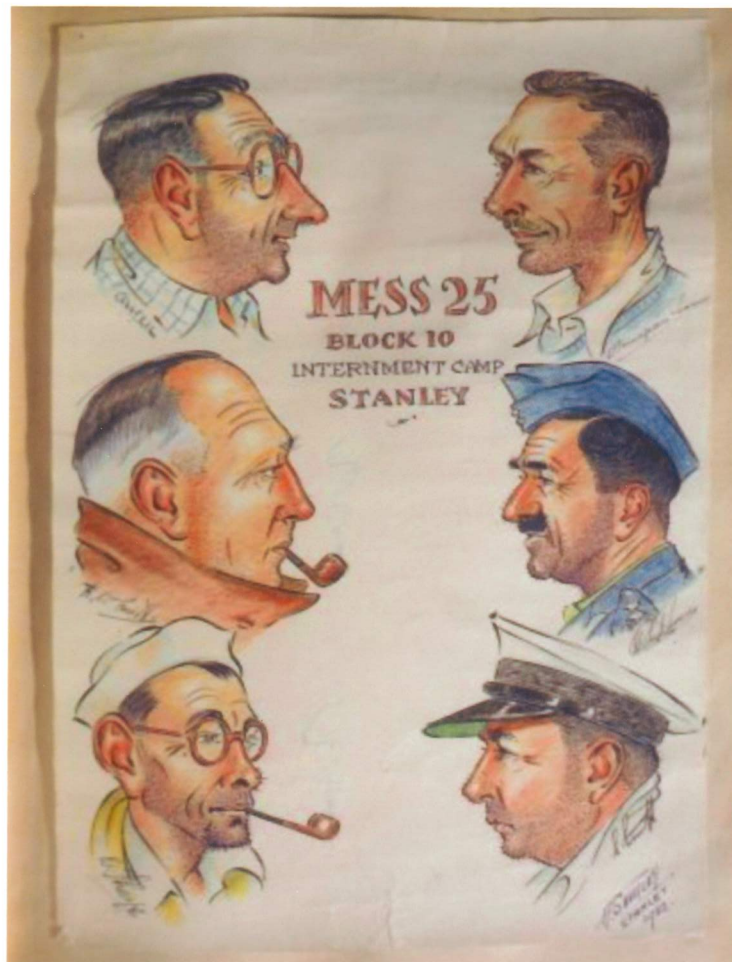
4. Violet Evans, died aged 31

* One time engaged to Jimmy Hall, family arranged him to marry Annie.





1944: Poster for "Midsommer nights dream"



1942: Mess 25, Block 10, Internment Camp, Stanley
Artist: Anton Savitsky

16 January 1945

Air strikes launched in the early morning. The focus for the day's attacks was Hong Kong with ancillary raids conducted against Hainan and Canton. Weather was again a factor, and unexpectedly heavy anti-aircraft fire also took its toll.



*Above and below: Carrier planes strike Japanese shipping in Hong Kong harbor on 16 January 1945.
-U.S. Navy photo in Brent Jones collection*

(see over)

After the first attack by American carrier planes over the Stanley POW camp area, Peter didn't think they would return, as the Japanese had been alerted and would be ready with their anti-aircraft fire. So he left their flat in Block 4, Married Quarters to look for any damage caused by these armoured piercing bullets in order to find one as a souvenir. He found some damage in one of the buildings, but it was unfortunately too deep to extract the bullet.

Mabel became concerned because she didn't know where he was!!

Stanley POW Camp – 16 January 1945



Stanley bullet, by [roblar](#)

On Peter Hall's tenth birthday, 16 January 1945, a US Third Fleet Task Force was off the coast of China. In Operation Gratitude, fighter planes: 'Avenger' 'Dauntless' and 'Wildcat' from the USS Carrier Essex, together with 'Hellcat' and 'Helldiver' from the USS Hancock, flew over Hong Kong harbour attacking strategic ships and other installations. A couple of planes flew near Stanley Camp and were fired upon. In avoiding the gunfire they collided.

In the afternoon, many planes returned and strafed the camp and the prison. This photo shows the armoured piercing bullet head used in the attack. Very sadly, one stray bomb hit one of the camp bungalows killing all 14 POW's.

Kiyoshi Watanabe (uncle John) was born in Japan in 1890. He pastored Lutheran churches for 35 years. In 1935, he attended the Gettysburg Seminary, USA, gaining his name uncle John. In February 1942, he was summoned by the Japanese military to act as an interpreter in Shamshuipo and Stanley Internment Camps.

If a POW came across a Japanese soldier he/she had to salute and would be saluted in return. We kids in Stanley use to go around in 'gangs' of about six. Everytime we came across a Japanese soldier, we would salute individually and the soldier would salute each of us. Eventually, the Japanese announced '*children do not have to salute.*' Luckily children were treated kindly.

We met Watanabe when he gave us some brand new marbles – marvellous. We played various games and our stock of marbles were in a poor state.

Uncle John the kindly Japanese interpreter – see comment below

Peter Hall, Apt. 22, Block 4, Married Quarters, Stanley Internment Camp.

One day, Colonel Tokunaga Isao, the Head Commandment of the entire Hong Kong prison system, demanded to see Kiyoshi. In near-uncontrollable screaming rage, he said, "*You make me feel contaminated, Watanabe! And I feel unclean just standing beside you. To call you a swine would be an insult to the pig. But Mr Lutheran minister, you have reached the end of your road. Get your miserable belongings and get out of the camp but leave your uniform here so I can burn it! Soon the Kempeitai will come for you when you least expect it. For everyone now knows that you are a traitor to your country!*"

ref: <https://hosannae-cluxmundi.blogspot.com>

Note: Colonel Tokunaga was one of five who was later put on trial by the British courts for war crimes committed at Sham-Shui Po and Kowloon, Hong Kong from January 1942 to August 1945. He was found guilty in six of nine charges brought against him. He was sentenced to death by hanging but was commuted to life imprisonment.

Although Watanabe survived the Kempeitai and the war, the Hiroshima atom bomb killed his wife and elder daughter.

"Footprints", the memoirs of Dr Selwyn Selwyn-Clarke (1893-1976), Director of Medical Services, Hong Kong, 1937-1943, is dedicated to **The Reverend Kiyoshi Watanabe**. The Dedication reads:

"This book is dedicated to the Reverend Kiyoshi Watanabe, formerly Officer Interpreter, Imperial Japanese Army, who helped to save lives of many British prisoners of war and British and Allied civilian men, women and children interned in Hong Kong during the Japanese occupation, 1941-1945, at the risk of losing his own. His wife and daughter were killed during the allied bombing of Hiroshima on 6 August 1945."