



A Hong Kong Diary Revisited The Family Remembers

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December 25, 1943 - I will feel these years have not been wasted if I will have learned on my return to master my patience and become a more successful father.



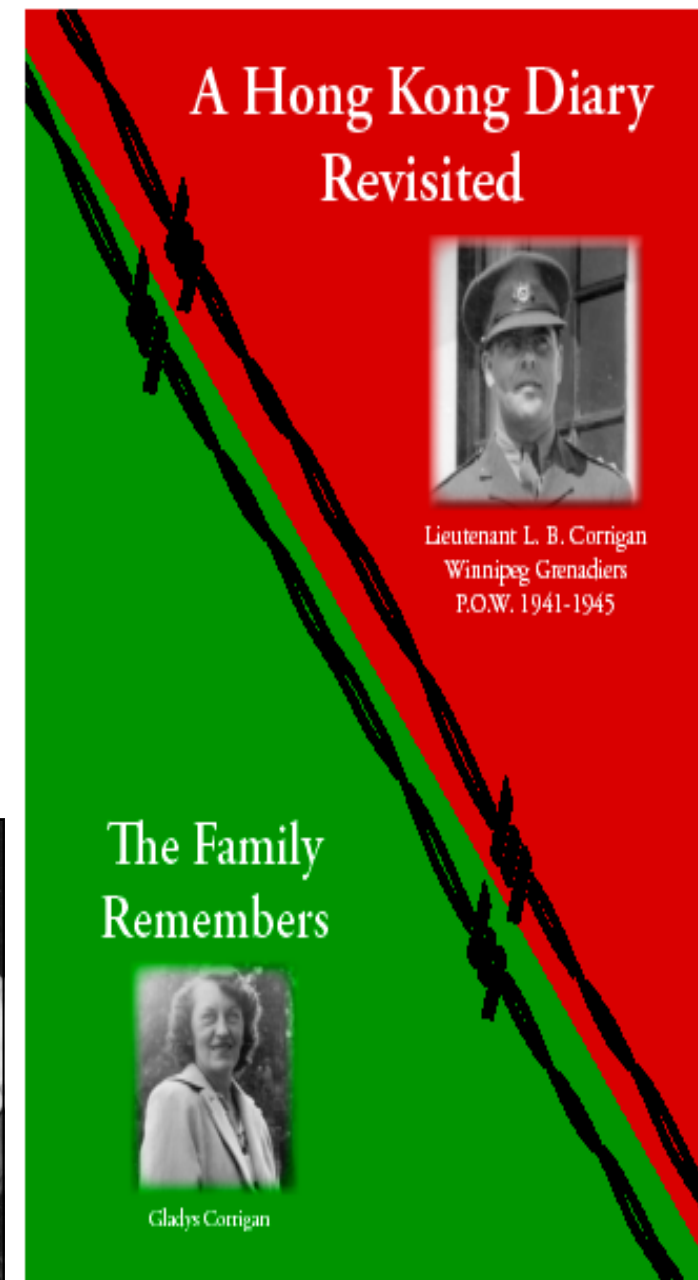
The four Corrigan sisters, 1953

When we as a family talk about Dad's experience in Hong Kong, people are in awe of his story...I know that I'm a better person for having been his daughter.

Kathie Carlson



At the HKVCA Convention, 2005, in Ottawa, the four Corrigan sisters hold a picture of the newly released prisoners-of-war taken in 1945 in Hong Kong.



A Hong Kong Diary Revisited



Lieutenant L. B. Corrigan
Winnipeg Grenadiers
P.O.W. 1941-1945

The Family Remembers



Gladys Corrigan

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And - again - so - hoping this effort has not been entirely wasted and that it will provide a means, in later years, of refreshing my memories of the weary days and months spent as a prisoner of war. Certainly it has helped the passage of numerous otherwise fruitless hours.

In 1941, Lieutenant Leonard B. Corrigan was among the nearly 2,000 Canadians sent by their government to defend Hong Kong. The battle lasted 17 days and the survivors spent the next three and a half years as prisoners-of-war of the Japanese. This is the diary kept by Lieutenant Corrigan during those years, the story of who he was, the family he left at home, and his life when he returned to Canada.

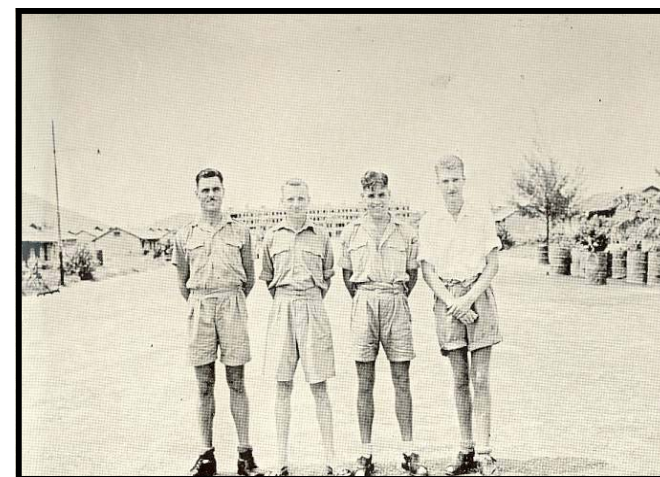
This unique inside story, written by a Canadian Officer, includes daily journal entries that were written and buried during imprisonment and dug up and brought home after liberation.

The letters to and from home during the war - most of which were never received - add insight into the longings of a captive soldier and the family coping at home without him. Lieutenant Corrigan's daughters have added their reflections on the time before, during, and after the war, life while he was a POW, the readjustments to his coming home, and his life until his death in 1994.

June 12, 1942 - Unfortunately, the men were hopelessly untrained and still more hopelessly led. I quite believe that, though ultimate results would have been the same, had we been under the guidance of better superiors, we would have put up a better show - although I believe we did as well, under our circumstances, as could be expected. It is not surprising therefore that a week after the enemy had landed on the island, we had surrendered.

April 10, 1942 - I still cling to the hope that we'll be out of here by fall, though I must admit that I can hardly base my hope on any concrete course of action we're liable to take.

Just the good old Irish wishful thinking, I guess.



Liberated - 1945 - (l to r) Corrigan and fellow POWs

