

clothes in their back yard, and "Licks" - brozed in the gate to say hello, and they all started back in fright and some ran away altogether. Not content with that he charged a hen and chickens and watched delightedly as they flew in all directions. I managed to get them all home without doing any damage however.

~~Saturday~~ Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November 1941.

I let the dog go today and she has stayed, so that is that! We have decided against moving to Slater's bungalow. I like this place and the lovely view which we enjoy. Today I was at home all day, and we did not go out in the evening.

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1941.

Jack managed to spend part of today at home, and I always enjoy Sunday when he can do that. I think he enjoys his work though, except when heavy rain causes some problems. It is like being a farmer, you are at the mercy of the elements.

Monday 1st December 1941.

A new month, with the East waiting and watching the movements of the Japanese. What shall the month bring? I have been so happy here, but one can not ignore the feeling of unease, and of course the war against Germany still goes on.

I had a quiet day at home. Jack had more "susah" on the mine at night, and had to go along and sort things out.

Tuesday 2nd December 1941.

This evening we dined with Rosa and Jim. Rosa had a fine roast duck (one she had fed and kept in her yard. Having plenty of space it is possible to keep a few hens etc in a yard, and it means home fed poultry and fresh eggs.) and this duck was really delicious, with all the trimmings. We are lucky to be able to obtain wonderful sea-food (for the first course) and we also can buy lovely fruits, and imported

cheeses, making it easy, with the aid of a good cook, to provide fine meals.

Rosa and I plan to go to Ipoh Tomorrow.

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1941.

I enjoyed our day in Ipoh. The sais follows us about in the car, and takes our parcels every time we purchase something. We lunched at Pritchards - a poor old lunch too, we thought. Maybe we ate too much last night!

We arrived back in Malim Nawar about 3 p.m. and I had a sleep, and rose and showered and changed before Jack arrived home.

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 1941.

I spent a rather lazy day at home.

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 1941.

I did not go out today. The Japanese situation seems no better. The talks with America are still going on, but so far we do not know what the result will be, but everyone is uneasy.

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December 1941.

Last Tuesday Jack was called up (the Army) but Jim who is in charge here, obtained leave for him. I have been too miserable to write about it, and although he is still here, I am worried that he may have to go at any time if he is called again. He is very busy with his work here, and did not return home until midnight.

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December 1941.

I enjoyed today. Jack spent most of it at home. We had tiffin and a rest in the afternoon, and then took a walk to the mine later. In the evening we played bridge with Rosa and Jim until 11 p.m.

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 1941.

Last night Singapore, Manila, Honolulu and other places were bombed by the Japanese. The fact that negotiations were still going on between America and Japan (for peace!) during these raids shows

the type of enemy we have in the Japs. As if there is not enough trouble and unrest in the world! - now this we will now have to go on to a war footing, and that means black-outs for a start.

This morning I went to see Mrs Munro, and while I was there Mrs Davies arrived. We drove back to Mrs Davies' bungalow just as Helen Yewes dropped in, so we had morning tea.

I spent the afternoon at home. Rosa called in on her way to Ipoh with Joan Miles. Stan (Miss) is in camp. Jack was home early, and we sat quietly talking, had a stengah or two and dined in the dark. The bungalows are built for coolness, not wars, and any light will show outside. Jack had to go down to the mine, and I went with him as he did not have to stay there long. I have never seen so many fireflies before, but I think it was because everything was so dark.

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December, 1941.

Last night was peaceful and quiet, but of course very dark! I did not like going into the bathroom in the blackout, and wondered if there could be spiders or a centipede crawling about!

This morning I went to Kamper with Helen and enjoyed the outing. I bought a few extra stores in case we need it later, and some whisky.

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 1941.

Today brought some very grim news, as England has lost two of her greatest battle ships in the Gulf of Siam; off Kuantan, sunk yesterday by the Japs. It is a great blow, and everyone is feeling bewildered and depressed. It is difficult to know exactly what is happening.

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December, 1941.

Our way of life here is beginning to change. We are no longer having dinner served at night, as it is to

dark. There can be no lights on as the bungalows are open, to keep the air cool within doors at night. So instead we sit and eat sandwiches or rolls of an evening, and I do not mind that at all, a nice change from a late and often heavy meal. I went to the knitting session this morning with the ladies, who are looking worried, and wondering what is to happen next.

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December 1941.

I was at home all day. Jack went to work as usual, and we had a midday meal. In the evening Mr Latimer, + Roy and Jean Williams came in for a while. I shall call this night "Dampened Spirits", as we were all feeling extremely worried and depressed, especially as we are not getting very much news of what is happening.

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December 1941

War has formally been declared on Japan, and the United States has come in also. We have as yet not heard what damage has been done by the Japs, and I think there is a lot of confusion because of the suddenness with which our peaceful world has been turned upside-down. God help us all out of this mess!

This evening Jack and I went over to see Rose and Jim for a while, and we also called in to hear Roy Williams gramophone - radio-gram I think. He is always tinkering with radios.

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 1941.

Jack spent most of today at home. I have a bad cold. We went for a walk to the Rombong in the cool of evening, and I went to bed early. Jack made me a very hot whisky and lemon drink, and I took three aspirins.

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December 1941.

I went to Rosa's bungalow this morning, although the day was fairly hot. She was sorting out clothes to send to evacuees. While I was there we had our first air-raid warning. We put cushions on the dining-room table, and waited almost an hour. I don't think the table and cushions would have been much use if a bomb had dropped! The "all clear" siren went and I returned home. Jack was calmly reading the paper, and hadn't moved from the cane lounge upon which he was reclining!

During the afternoon I wrote to Bora Bateman, a friend in Penh to whom I owed a letter.

At 5 p.m. the air-raid siren went again. Jack was at home, and wouldn't get out of the bathroom where he was having a shower, so I decided not to get "rattled", but it is not a happy feeling! After a while the "all clear" sounded, and the weather became very overcast and thundery. Jack now has received (today) a supply of bullets for his rifle.

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 1941.

Mrs Davies is having an air-raid shelter made, and she asked me over to see it, so that I would know where to come during a raid. We were having morning tea at her bungalow when the air-raid alarm sounded, so we made our way to the underground shelter. Helen Jews joined us there and we sat there for about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour. Eric Davies came along then and told us that it would be safe to come out, but told us that the "L.D.C." had issued orders for women and children to pack a weekend case, and drive down to Kuala Lumpur "until the situation had cleared". We were told to be ready to leave in 20 minutes!!!

I packed a few things into a case just as Jack

arrived home for teppin about 11.30am. We both felt upset and confused. I did not pack very much - a few changes and some toiletries. I hated the idea of leaving Jack, and left most of my clothing, and my new dressing table set which he bought me in Singapore - I left on the dressing table so that he would feel that nothing was different, and that I would be back after the weekend.

Rosa arrived in her car to pick me up, and she was in tears, which did not make parting from Jack any easier, and I'm afraid I also became upset. However, Jack said it was better to go, because if things worsened the men would have a better chance on their own.

I felt ill because of my cold. Mrs Davies and Helen Jews set off ahead of us in a small car, and Rosa and I picked up Mrs Huxphories and her baby boy, John, at a Rest House on the road to K. L., and other cars joined us as we drove South, until the road was one long convoy, and we crawled along at a slow pace in the heat of the day, and each smelly village made me feel worse - and sick in my stomach, as well as upset and worried. At one stage of the awful journey we saw Jap. planes flying over the road but they did not attack us - they probably had other targets. We at last arrived at Kuala Lumpur at about 6 P.m. feeling very tired, and we found upon arrival about 50 women and a lot of children, all from mines in the North, and all standing around wondering what to do! Rosa decided to ring Mr Bill Warren the Company's No 1 man, at his home, and we were astounded to find that no one in K. L. office knew anything about the evacuation!! So then began the task of finding accommodation for all those people, and Mr Warren was very helpful, and arranged for K. L. personnel to take them into their various homes. He also

provided Rosa and I with a room to ourselves in his very large home, and also there were rooms for Mrs Davies, Mrs Humphries, Helen, and a Mrs Barton and her mother. Rosa and I were feeling so very depressed, and it was midnight before we could get to sleep. This has been one of the worst days I can remember, and I wonder when I shall see Jack again.  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 1941.

This morning we began trying to sort out our situation. There is a general air of confusion and anxiety. Rosa and I went out and had lunch at the Hotel Majestic and I was able to see something of this beautiful Eastern city, which has some glorious buildings, and wonderful homes set in lush gardens. Mr Warren's home is very luxurious, a fine big place which is to me, more like a hotel than a private home. He has been very kind to us, and his phone has been ringing all day long, and the situation is not yet clear. Some of the women talk of going back home, while others wish to go to Australia.

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 1941.

Another day of worry. Jack and I have been married 3 months today, and now we are apart, with no idea what is going to happen, and I feel so sad and worried about him, and when I shall see him again. What a lot can happen in three short months - alas!

And so today's stay in beautiful Kuala Lumpur has not been one which I shall remember with joy, but Rosa and I are trying to make the best of things.

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 1941.

Rosa and I spent the morning in town, and Mrs Cameron, Mrs Barton, and Mrs Humphries came with us. I went and had a photo taken, and applied for a Passport, and later in the morning Rosa and I went to Anglo-Oriental office and were able to see Mr Warren and Mr Coates, both are directors of A.O. and told us that they thought we

