

## Helen Rigby

### Family and Life in Hong Kong 家在香港

My father came off the ship. He worked for the Douglas Line. He was an engineer, but he didn't have the university ... (degree) to become the "Engineer" (rank).

我父親從前出海工作，在船上做工程師，加入公務局時因沒有大學學位所以沒有當上工程師的職級。

At war he was in camp, in Stanley, but then at the end of the war he was transferred here to Argyle Street which was an army officers' camp. The idea was when the Japanese thought they were going to have their retreat they would take these people but technicians, including my father, to retreat with them, blow up bridges and cause troubles. But luckily the war ended and that didn't happen, because they probably wouldn't have been alive afterwards.

二戰時他被關到赤柱集中營，在戰事完結前，又被轉到亞皆老街軍營，目的是當日軍撤兵時可帶同這些工程人員，協助他們炸橋生事。幸好後來戰事結束，這都沒發生，否則恐怕他們都活不過來。

All Europeans, women and children, were supposed to get out of the colony. And we were all evacuated. Every woman and child were supposed to leave the colony because that was in 1940. The war did not start till 41 but the Japanese were on the border. And they thought they might attack.

所有歐洲人，婦女和小孩，都要離開殖民地。所以我們都要撤離。所有婦孺都要撤出香港，那時是 1940 年。雖然大戰 1941 年才爆發，但當時日軍壓境，大家都知道他們要入侵。

### Coming Back After the War 戰後，重返家園

Oh I was home. I was home. When we arrived back my father drove us round the Island and when we got to Aberdeen, the farmers were watering with the human ... (faeces) and the smell was like "I'm home. I'm home". That was a bad smell but I was really excited.

噢，回到家了，回到家了。當我們抵埗，父親駕車接我們駛過香港仔時，農民正用糞便灌溉，那種氣息讓我感到終於回到家了。那氣味雖然難聞但我當時實在興奮。

My father was one of the few who came back after the war and we stayed in Kennedy Road for a very short time and then we went up to Elliot and because in between they changed. I assume the Japanese must have been living there. I don't know ... but someone had been in and stolen everything, so I assume the Waterworks (Department) repaired the front bath, the one overlooking the other bedroom, because that's the only bathroom we had.

父親是少數戰後留港的英國人。我們回來後住在堅尼地道，後來搬到西區瀘水房職員宿舍，因為當中需要一些改動。我想大概曾經有日本人搬進來住，我不太肯定... 不過肯定有人進來偷走了裡面的東西，所以水務局修葺了睡房對開的那個浴室，那是我們搬進去時唯一的浴室。

My father only stayed until I think 1952. He came back in 1947 and went away in 52 only to... as they had to have people back who knew what they were doing and there weren't too many who came back. So that's why we lived at the ground floor at the Elliot. And then that's where I was married from. Our reception was in the house. And my father at some time moved from there to the Stubbs Quarters.

父親留在香港大概直至 1952 年。他 1947 年回來，52 年又離開，因為他們需要一些熟悉這裡運作的人回來而願意回來香港的人不多。所以我們就住進了西區瀘水房宿舍的下層，我也是從那裡出嫁的，婚宴也在屋裡舉行，後來父親遷往司徒拔道的宿舍。

## Friendship and Social Life 鄰舍間的一些人和事

I used to play with the sampan children. I think they were Hoklo and I could speak a little bit of that, but not (now) anymore. As you heard me say I met Chan Wing Chi, well, I did not know he actually grew up at the Pumping Station down at the bottom. His father is the man we all called Ko Lo (literally tall man). He said, your father came to visit the Muriel family. And his father carried me up the hill to the house. I said no body had told me that before.

我時常跟舢舨上的小孩一塊兒玩，我想他們是福佬人，我也會說一點點他們的方言，但那是從前的事了。我跟你說過陳榮枝這個人，我還是最近才知道他在山坡下泵房那邊長大。他的父親就是我們熟悉的高佬。他告訴我，我小時候父親帶我來探 Muriel 一家，就是他抱我走路上山的。我跟他說從來沒有人告訴我。

In those days we did not socialize very much. Oh we spoke, we were friendly but we would never ever in each other's house. We didn't seem to do that. Maybe others did. We never did. The people before we called Gardeners they were there before the war. He too got TV and he left very early and came back for very short time. We were friendly but we never...

那個年頭我們社交活動不多。我們會交談，彼此也友好，不過不常跑到別人家裡去。或許其他人會這樣做，但我們不會。之前那一家人，名叫 Gardeners，戰前已經住在這裡，他們有自己的電視機，戶主早出晚歸。我跟他們算是友好的，但不怎麼 (交往)...

Also too at that time we didn't have a lot of furniture. We had the government stores who used to give you the furniture. And if you invited someone for dinner. The amah would have different China(wares) on the table and the person you invited would say, "oh, that's mine!" The amah used to ring up and say, "oh, you are coming to dinner.... you have to lend us (the wares)" because we didn't have anything. After the war you didn't have anything. You'd lost everything. So it's a different time and relations to even now or even in the 1960s. It was totally different.

況且那時我們沒有太多家具，都是由政府供應。偶爾邀請朋友到訪用膳，桌上放著不同款式的碗碟，然後朋友說：「噢，那不就是我的！」家傭一般會在事前致電對方，借用所需餐具，因為那是戰後，我們什麼都沒有。所以那是一個不一樣的年代，人們之間的關係也都與現在甚至六十年代全然不同。

We did had a cook boy for a while but then I got just an amah and a baby amah. Sometime there was a wash amah, but not always, just sometimes. We had a very good amah. She baked beautiful cakes. And then we got another amah, Ah Chun. She was just lovely. And she married one of the workmen who lived in the Workmen's Quarters. She married him and stayed with us for a long time. And then when we went on leave, she had to have an operation. The doctor said she could not work. She had two boys. So she got another amah to come to look after Ah Chun.

我們家裡有過一個廚師，後來只請了一個家傭和一個專責照顧嬰兒的，有時候也有個負責清潔的。我們那個家傭很好，做蛋糕很出色... 後來又換了另一個，叫阿珍，人很好，她之後還嫁了給住在毗鄰工人宿舍的一個工人，婚後仍然有一段長時間幫我們打工，後來我們回英國休假，她要動手術，醫生說她不宜再工作，她已有兩個孩子，於是她請了個傭人照顧自己。

## Memories of the Elliot Site & Staff Quarters 建築 . 印象

戰前沒有地磚這東西，廚房浴室的地板都是以灰泥鋪設，睡房、飯廳、起居室和走廊則是木地板，但不是拼花圖案那種木地板。從前兒子在火爐前浸浴，那個火爐很精緻，不是髹漆那種，而是染上去的啡褐色，手工十分精緻。所有窗都裝有百葉，可活動開合，百葉裝在最外面，然後是防盜欄，最後是玻璃窗。我搬過許多次家，西區瀘水房宿舍印象較深刻。

In those days, before the war, there was no such thing as tiles on the floor. The kitchen and that of the bathroom was just plain cement floors. Bedrooms, the dining room, lounge and hallway were all wooden floors, but not parquet, just slightly where upstairs, yes. One of my sons being bathed in front of the fire. The fireplace was very nice and all the woodwork was not painted. They were

stained brown and that was really very nice. All the windows had shutters. They opened and closed. They were slotted. The shutters were actually on the outside, and then we had the security and then the windows. So I moved around a lot, but Elliot was very well known at that time.

廚房常有老鼠出入，也有蝸牛，很大的日本蝸牛，聽說最初是拿來吃的，但後來野生大量繁殖，要把牠們殺掉。

There were rats that ran around, in the kitchen, because they could all get in. And then the snails, big Japanese snails. They were huge I think they got them to eat and then when they went wild they had to kill so many of them.

另一次，我走過濾水房外面，在石壘旁看到另一邊的濾水池裡有許多金魚。據說是他們從中國大陸買回來，趁農曆新年時轉賣的。我不知道後來怎樣，也不曾告訴其他人。不知有沒有人發現，牠們在那裡待了幾天。

And then another time I used to walk round the cabin of the plant or just walk around, and right at the curb that we could not get round the other day. The filter beds wrapped around the corner of the back. Two of the filter beds were full of goldfish. They had brought them in from China to sell for the Spring Festival. I don't know what happened. I don't think I have told anyone before. I don't know if anyone found out. They were in the reservoir for a few days.