



On Christmas Day of 1941, Hong Kong surrenders to Japan. It is known as “Black Christmas.” In the following months, we hear that many villages have been burnt down. Businesses close down, food becomes scarce, and thousands of people are starving. Many die from starvation, and many disappear. Mr. Chan, our neighbor, along with other young men, is forced to work as a slave on remote islands. Girls are taken away, too. I see young women, including my music teacher, Ms. Lee, covering their faces with dirt and disguising themselves as men. They are afraid to be taken away by the Japanese army.

