

**Index to the
War Time Correspondence Record Group
of
The Tan Chin Tuan Private Papers**

Wartime Correspondence - “Wartime Correspondence” contains materials on the operations and reorganisation of OCBC during the Japanese Occupation and in the immediate post-Second World War era from 1943 to 1952. Generally, they show how Tan Chin Tuan worked to preserve the assets of the bank by moving the deposits, stocks and securities from Singapore to Britain prior to the Japanese Occupation. The directors of OCBC chose to re-establish its head office in Chungking (Chongqing) in 1942, and Tan was entrusted with this important task.

The only route to Chungking was via South Asia, and after reaching Calcutta (now Kolkata), Tan decided against going to Chungking to set up the office there as he feared the forced transfer of the bank's assets to the Kuomintang government.* This was one of the considerations that led him to register the bank’s headquarters in Bombay (now Mumbai) in January 1945.

There are also materials on the discussions on the setting up of the Oversea-Chinese Association in India in 1943, population statistics, reports on living conditions of Malayan citizens in refugee camps, and the work of Far Eastern Relief Fund in offering financial assistance to families rendered destitute during the Japanese Occupation in Singapore.

Significant folios include:

- TCT_41, TCT_42 and TCT_75 document the transfer of assets and relocation of OCBC during wartime; and
- TCT_52 documents the resumption of bank’s operations after 1945 which include return of property, consolidating debts in occupied territories, registration of damage from the war and others.

Folio No	Title	Content Description	Period
TCT.041	Correspondences - Social & Public Welfare Services	Correspondences relating to Tan Chin Tuan's involvement in Malayan welfare work during the War, sent from his wartime residence of Bombay (Mumbai), mostly with personnel of the Far Eastern Relief Fund. Correspondences includes information gathering (population and conditions of Malaysians in evacuee camps) and requests for personal aid (applications for relief, applications for jobs);	1943-1945

Folio No	Title	Content Description	Period
TCT.042	Personal Correspondences - Lee Kong Chian	Correspondences by Tan Chin Tuan with or in relation to Lee Kong Chian, sent from their wartime residences of Bombay (Mumbai) and New York, respectively. Correspondences pertain to OCBC activities in the War (operations, unfreezing funds, personnel issues), finance issues (stocks, currencies, and remittances), relief efforts (mostly students and schools), information about common friends and acquaintances, and delivery of items (typewriters, pens, desks, calculators, books, pills).	1943-1945
TCT.044	Personal Correspondences - Tan Cheng Lock	Correspondences by Tan Chin Tuan with or in relation to Tan Cheng Lock, sent from their wartime residences of Bombay (Mumbai) and Bangalore, respectively. Correspondences pertain to OCBC activities in the War (operations, re-registration, personnel issues), political position of the Chinese in Malaya and British Empire (with much references to the Overseas Chinese Association (India) and Christopher Dominic Ahearne), information about common friends and acquaintances, and delivery of items (pens, pads). Includes a lengthy exchange with regards to disagreement with how OCBC was run after the Japanese invasion of Singapore.	1944-1945
TCT.52	Personal Correspondences	Correspondences and documents (official and legal) by Tan Chin Tuan after relocation back to Singapore after the War. Correspondences and documents pertain to OCBC operations and reorganisation, legal documents granting Helene Tan and John Laycock authority to act on his behalf, official documents relating to regulations (importing Sterling notes, return of property in occupied territories, return of debt due from enemies, registry of wartime loss and damage), personal assistance (repatriation, job referrals, immigration issues), and personal correspondences (issues about doing business in Singapore, process of resettling in Singapore).	1950-1952

Folio No	Title	Content Description	Period
TCT.75	OCBC - Miscellaneous Papers (Bombay Correspondence)	This folio includes a Memorandum of OCBC with its registered office in Bombay (circa 1940s), statement of receipts and payments handled by Tan Chin Tuan before 1945, handwritten note on value of Rangoon branch assets and liabilities transferred to Chungking, China, setting up branch office in China and certification of registration, establishing a personnel training programme for OCBC (1945), restoration of bank's operation after the end of Second World War (with assistance from Irving Trust Company in New York), appointment of Tan Chin Tuan as Managing Director in June 1945, shipping of equipment needed to resume banking operation in Singapore, cash flows and staff movement in Bombay office (March 1946), negotiations on non-compliance with Indian Companies Ordinance after the war, staff accommodation and deployment, remittance of salary to Tan Chin Tuan, reminders to staff (Chew Chin Bee) to follow up on de-registration of bank in Bombay, steps taken to comply with Bombay's government conditions for de-registration and purchase of selected items (such as diary refills) for Tan's personal use.	1943-1945
TCT.671	Correspondences on Oversea-Chinese Association (India)	This folio contains correspondences and documents related to the setting up of the Oversea-Chinese Association in India during the Japanese Occupation (1943), including discussion on the constitution and rules, Qualifications Register Form, name of donors (Tan Cheng Lock and Mrs Loke Yew donated 500 and 100 rupees respectively), meeting minutes on subscription fees and election of President and Vice President for the Association, updates on meeting with Dr C. J Pao - Chinese Consul-General in Calcutta regarding the setting up of Association and welfare of Chinese refugees in India, balance sheet of the Association (1947) as well as a number of handwritten letters from Tan Siew Sin to Tan Chin Tuan.	1943-1981