



SCRAN FOOD
GASH EXTRA, SURPLUS
SNOTTIE SOLDIER

WATCHES

FORENOON 8A - 12N
AFTERNOON 12N - 4P
1ST DOG. 4P - 6P
2ND DOG 6P - 8P
FIRST 8P - Morning
MIDDLE 12M - 4AM
MORNING 4AM - 8AM

DROBBYING WASHING

SEWING. SEWING

OR JIMMY } 1st Lieutenant
OR NUMBER ONE } Senior Officer
under Skipper

OPPO'S NOSES

TIDLEY NEAT

With Best Wishes
to Pickle
From Dad

This little gift, though
small contains
A wealth of wishes true
Each one for Happiness
and Health-
And each one meant
for you.



A Gift
FOR YOU

Savakies - Soldiers

Shobbing washing clothes
 Sew food
 Sweeping mine sweeping

Matches

Morning 4A - 8A
 Forenoon 8 - 12M
 Afternoon 12 - 4P
 1st Day 4 - 6P
 2nd Day 6 - 8P
 1st Watch 8P - 12M
 Midnight 12M - 4AM

BOOK ONE.

STARTED AUGUST 26th 1942
 NOVEMBER 7th ✓

Melbne to Sydney	5 80
Sydney to Broken Bay + Return	80
Sydney to Melbne + Return	11 60
Sydney to Townsville	11 60
Townsville to Moreaby	6 50
Moreaby 1/2 to Townsville + Return	6 00
20 miles out + return	40
Moreaby to Townsville	6 50
Townsville to Palm Islands + Return	6 00
Townsville to Moreaby	6 50
Moreaby to Thursday Island	4 00
Thursday Island to Darwin	7 50
Darwin to Cape Don + return	1 60
Darwin to T.I. + return	15 00
Darwin to Cape Don + return	1 60
Darwin to Cape Don + return	1 60
Darwin to Union + return	10 00
	<hr/> 96 40

Tel R. Dyer,
HMS. Belemine.

Please give this to Mrs L Dyer
12, Queen St,
Lewney, Vic,
in care of accident.

Aug 26th - Left ~~Sydney~~ ^{Sydney} - sea calm -
warm day - cold night
Goodbye Sydney - wonder how long?

27th Sighted just 2 whales -
faded arch in rock -
beautiful sunny day - close
into coast - bush fire - nice beach
Just kidge of sunburn on arms

28th - Sunburned properly for 1st
time this season - saw
quite a number of whales +
are now no uncommon sight.

Sea came up rough in the
evening - good percentage of crew
sick, myself definitely among 'em.

29th Sea fairly calm - bit of
a wind but still plenty of sun.
Passing close to various islands +
wishing I was on one of them.
Scenery very lovely.

August 26 1942

Left Sydney – sea calm, warm day- cold night. Goodbye Sydney – wonder how long?

27th

Sighted just two whales – past arch in rock – beautiful sunny day – close into coast – bushfires – nice beach. Just tinge of sunburn on arms.

28th

Sunburned properly for 1st time this season – saw quite a number of whales + are now no uncommon sight. Sea came up rough in the evening – good percentage of crew sick, myself definitely among ‘em.

29th

Sea fairly calm, bit of wind but still plenty of sun. Passing close to various islands and wishing I was on one of them. Scenery very lovely.

30th Passed through Whitunday passage.
Islands on both sides of ship.
Really beautiful - in places look exactly
like scenery on Thimberbury river. Saw
small settlement on one island said to
be pleasant resort for rich. Sun still
strong - sea calm and a deep blue
color. Flying fish and whales provided
morning diversion. Am now like a
well done lobster thermidor.

Townsville late at night.

31st Just glimpse of Townsville -
big flying boat moved near us -
Town appears to be surrounded by
mountains overlooking it. Sea is bluest
have seen up to date. Sun certainly
got heat in it in these parts. Stepped
ashore for first time in tropical sea
or believe me Laurie it's a sensible sight.
Townsville is quite a nice tropical
town & (numerous pubs). My first
introduction to the tropical style of
housebuilding, with shuttered windows.
Houses built high off ground.

Also learned today that coconuts grow
with an outside skin around them.
Living outside we see down south -
hanged if I knew that before. Bob
described various trees etc - one especially
grows a root from its branches to the
ground then grows as a tree itself.
(Must get its name) basket hill overlooking
town is 999 feet - would have thought
it could have grown later foot.

1st SEPT Thore about 2 pm - Dave
and I climbed to top of basket hill
very hard climb, but well worth it for
the view. Town bigger than we realize.
Sun very hot. Consumed a few cool jigs
after our climb. Saw "Swamp Water" at
Olympia (open air theatre - sat in deck chairs)
2nd Left in afternoon with conveyance
en route to Talle Kuru (New Guinea)
Thus hoping our luck holds -

30th

Passed through Whitsunday passage. Islands on both sides of ship. Really beautiful – in places looks exactly like scenery on Hawkesbury River. Saw small settlement on one island – said to be pleasant resort for rich. The sun still strong – sea calm and a deep blue colour. Flying fish and whales provided morning's diversion. Am now like a well-done lobster thru' sunburn. Townsville late at night.

31st

First glimpse of Townsville – big flying boat moored near us – Town appears to be surrounded by mountains overlooking it. Sea is bluest have seen up to date. Sun certainly got heat in it in these parts. Stepped ashore for first time in tropical rig and believe me Brucey it's a sensible rig. Townsville is quite a nice tropical town – numerous pubs. My first introduction to the tropical style of house-building with shuttered windows. Houses built high off ground.

Also learned today that coconuts grow with an outside skin around the hairy outside we see down south – hanged if I knew that before. Bob described various trees etc one specially grows a root from its branches to the ground then grows as a tree itself (must get its name). Castle Hill overlooking town is 999ft would have thought it could have grown an extra foot.

1st September

Ashore about 2pm – Dave and I climbed to the top of Castle Hill – very hard climb but well worth it for the view. Ts'ville bigger than one realizes. Sun very hot. Consumed a few cool jugs after our climb. Saw “SWAMPWATER” at Olympia (open air theatre – sit in deck chairs)

2nd

Left in afternoon in convoy en route to Falls River (New Guinea). Here's hoping our luck holds –

First night out - & its rough & choppy.
Quite a few sick, but still got my
meals. ^{11.7.45} ~~Swam~~ ^{Swam} with sea.

3rd Wind outside but fresh - so no
sunbathing - sea still choppy and
unpleasant - Water restrictions in force,
no ^(washing clothes) ~~dabbling~~ ^{and} only allowed in
bathrooms certain hours. What a life!

4th Sea showing no signs of
calming down - ship rolling even more
sometimes I wonder whether she will
turn over. Went to sleep in sun & got
legs badly sunburnt, rather sore.

Good news, we are not going to
Tallah ^{NG} ~~River~~. Moreeby is bad enough
but I think I prefer bombers to
cruisers. (if I must choose!) Have been
pretty crook all day - he gets a bad
dose when he is sick. How long
am I gonna last out. (Been thinking
of Mary a helluva lot - just I wish
I could be with my wife for
a few days again)

(Relieved by Hunter)

5th Arrived Moreeby - first view of
this much heard of place - seems to
be all mountains, but as the Japs are
just practically over the other side, the
higher the mts. the better we like it.
Greeted by 20 bombers (ours, thank goodness)
and one fighters. Sea in shallow spot
is some colour green as the water in
Olympic baths Melbourne - I'd swap
right now for a look at Melbourne & Mary
I can see "Hardy" lying on her side.
Never thought I'd really see it when I
saw it on a newsreel at Sydney few weeks
ago. Strong wind springing up -
Sea rough. Got orders leaving
for Townsville tonight - Whacker for a
tough trip.

6th ^{Leaving} ~~Leaving~~ about everywhere - dull
day (not sick to date). Ship's you
can your handbags on these
damn things.

First night out and its rough and choppy. Quite a few sick but still got my meals. HMAS Swan with us.

3rd

Wind outside bit fresh – so no sunbathing – sea still choppy and unpleasant – water restrictions in force, no dhobbing & washing clothes, and only allowed in bathrooms certain hours. What a life!

4th

Sea showing no signs of calming down – ship rolling even more - sometimes I wonder whether she will turn over. Went to sleep in sun and got legs badly sunburnt – rather sore. Good news – we are not going to Falls River NG. Moresby is bad enough but I think I prefer bombers to cruisers (if I must choose!). Dave been pretty crook all day – he gets a bad dose when he is sick. How long am I gonna last out. (been thinking of Marg a helluva lot – gosh I wish I could be with my wife for a few days again) (Relieved by Muntar)

5th

Arrived Moresby – first view of this much heard of place – seems to be all mountains, but as the Japs are just practically over the other side, the higher the mts the better we like it. Greeted by 20 bombers (ours thank goodness) and 1 fighter. Sea in shallow spot is same colour green as the water in Olympic baths Melbourne . I'd swap right now for a look at Melbne and Marg. Can see Mardhur lying on her side. Never thought I'd really see it when I saw it on a news reel at Sydney a few weeks ago Strong winds sprung up – sea rough. Got orders leaving for Townsville tonight – whacko for a rough trip.

6th

Leaping about everywhere - dull day – not sick to date. Cripes you earn your hardlayers on these damn things

Left the Taroom about 6 pm - turning
back to wait for convey to take
to Moreby again. That means no
mail for a while after all, hang it.
7th. Buzzed around at 2 1/2 knots
all morning. Boys attempted to catch an
8 footer shark, but he wouldn't play.
Sea still rough & unsettled. Picked up
our convey at 4 pm - 7 of 'em. (4 C's)
Two planes with 'em. So now we are
on our way to Moreby. once more.
8th. Moreby late at night. Dutch
Blacks. Started ferrying ^{4 pm} troops for
the ships to the piers - first two loads
were 800 negroes. Just heard that day
after we left last time 28 bombers (Japs)
were over. Wonder how well we'll go this time.
Can't be worried though. During day
ferried 2 full loads Aussie ashore. 25th 2nd
Tough, good, returned blokes. Ferried some
hospital cases to hospital ship. War is a
bloody curse - when you see those poor
blokes with arm & leg off, you realise
that even more.

First glimpse of New Guinea natives. Dark,
well built, with short curly hair.
Moreby shows ~~no~~ scars of bombing, but
wharves not damaged. Jimmy is about
4 instances, houses been destroyed but
lavatories left standing.

9th. Anchored outside the Point all
day. General clean-up. Lazy day sitting
in sun.

10th. Fuelled (Manubatal.)
11th. At anchor outside - recreation leave
for 2 hours on island. Had a lovely
swim - water cool, clear & freshening.
blinked top of hill on sale & got
good view of native villages at water
edge built on pilings. In at night
for a while. Interested in native
skirts. One bloke was wearing a long
white flowing skirt with a red, white
& blue stripe round the bottom.
Certainly pathetic! 3 air raid alerts
but no actual bombing, thank goodness.
Tom Blaney arrived here today and
looks like fireworks soon. About time
we migrated to healthier places.

Left the Taroona about 6pm – turning back to wait for convoy to take to Moresby again. That means no mail for a while after all – hang it.

7th

Cruised around at 2 ½ knots all morning. Boys attempted to catch an 8 footer shark but he wouldn't play. Sea still rough and unsettled. Picked up our convoy at 4pm – 7 of 'em (4 Corvettes). Two planes with 'em. So now we are on our way to Moresby once more.

8th

Moresby late at night 7th. Pitch black. Started ferrying 4am troops from the ships to the piers. Just two loads were 800 negroes. Just heard that day after we left last time 28 bombers (JAP) were over. Wonder how we'll go this time. Can't be worried though. During day ferried 2 full loads Aussies ashore. 25th Batn. Tough, good, returned blokes. Ferried some hospital cases to hospital ships. Wars a bloody curse – when you see those poor blokes with arms and legs off you realize that even more.

First glimpse of New Guinea natives. Dark, well-built, with short curly hair. Moresby shows scars of bombing but wharves not damaged. Funnily in about 4 instances, houses been destroyed but lavatories left standing.

9th

Anchored outside the Point all day. General clean-up. Lazy day sitting in sun.

10th Fuelled.

11th At anchor outside – recreational leave for 2 hours on island (Manubatah). Had a lovely swim – water cool, clear and freshening. Climbed top of hill on isle and got good view of native villages at waters edge built on pilings. In at night for a while. Interested in native skirts. One bloke was wearing a long white flowing skirt with a red, white and blue stripe around the bottom. Certainly patriotic. 3 air raid alerts but no actual bombing thank goodness. Tom Blamey arrived here today so looks like fireworks soon. About time we migrated to healthier places.

12th In afternoon went out 20 miles to pick up 2 Yank pilots who had been forced down in sea at 5.30pm on 11th. Porters guided us to their float. These Yank floats are sure well-equipped. They not much the worse for their experience. Communique probably reads "One of our planes failed to return, but the crew were saved".

13th Participated as victim of mock air raid. Planes raided us. We sent out enemy report & other planes flew to our rescue. Our report picked up by Thursday Island, finally broadcast by ^{Wireless Station} D'Almeida with result that everybody must think B'maine is machine gunned. Bad blunder on part of N.O.I.C. St. Morsey who engineered whole foolish scheme. Hope the buzz doesn't reach my good wife. Recreation leave to our island about 1pm. Another be-oo-tiful swim. Gosh the water's cool & clear here. Been thinking of today being Sunday & what I'd be doing if I was with Marg.

14th Left 5/30 am with one ship en route to Townsville. Stores pretty low now - eating mostly tinned stuff. Fair day, but sea & by no means calm. Hate it.

15th Fair day - not a sight of ships or land.

16th Beautiful calm day, clear skies - hope it lasts. Australian Subant. Phoenix & 4 Yank destroyers joined in forenoon. Boy, they look formidable. Bring on your Japs. Arrived Townsville about 11 pm.

Got mail & letters from Marg. Oh boy, they did my heart good.

17th Left noon to get as far as Tadee screen for fleet at Palm Island. Incidentally Palm Island simply beautiful place. Drizzling rain. These islands are heavily timbered with tall palm trees, hence the name. Quite a few houses ashore. Boys say it's a home for inebriate aborigines.

12th

In afternoon went out 20 miles to pick up 2 Yank pilots who had been forced down in sea at 530pm on 11th. Fortress guided us to their float. These Yank floats are sure well-equipped. Men not much the worse for their experience. Communique probably reads "one of our planes failed to return but the crew were saved".

13th

Participated as victim of mock air raid. Planes raided us. We sent out enemy report and other planes flew to our rescue. Our report picked up by Thursday Island, finally broadcast by Bella wireless station with result that everybody must think C'maine is machine gunned. Bad blunder on part of N.O.I.C Pt Moresby who engineered whole foolish scheme. Hope the buzz doesn't reach my good wife. Recreation leave to our island about 1pm. Another Be-oo-tiful swim. Gosh the water's clear and cool here. Been thinking of today being Sunday and what I would be doing if I was with Marg.

14th

Left 520 am with one ship en route to Townsville. Stores pretty low now – eating mostly tinned stuff. Fair day but sea by no means calm darn it.

15th

Fair day – not a sight of ships or land

16th

Beautiful calm day – clear skies – hope it lasts. Australia Hobart Phoenix and another 4 Yank destroyers passed in forenoon. Boy, they look formidable. Bring on your Japs. Arrived Townsville about 11pm. Got mail 8 letters from Marg. Oh boy they did my heart good.

17th

Left noon to act as ASDEC screen for Fleet at Palm Island. Incidentally Palm Island simply beautiful place. Drizzling rain. These islands are heavily timbered with tall palm trees hence the name, Quite a few houses ashore . Boys say it's a home for inebriate aborigines.

18th Picked up mail to post for
Shet, also couple of chaps from
Hawaii with appendicitis & left about
10am. ~~Went ashore in Townville~~

19th No pay yet - got sub from
cabin & went ashore in Townville -
nothing to do. Went to see
"Jennine Touch" in evening. Night at
present are beautiful. Most blokes sleeping
on upper deck.

20th Beautiful sunny day - took
advantage of sun to do clothesing.
The air got off for couple of hours
& went for a swim - water very
warm, but this is the climate
that suits me. Wish Marg was
here with me & then things would
be perfect. We could go on Sunday
pup to Magnetic Island etc - do boy.
Incidentally I'd like to get across
to Magnetic Island. It looks great
from here, with its swimming baths &
shady picnic grounds.

21st Called out in ~~am~~ headed
for Morley again - ^{SOLDIERS} smoothies in company.
Sea calm at present & if it
stays this way ~~that way~~ this sea
line will suit me fine.

22nd Sir's birthday - wish I could
have sent her something besides a ^{telegram} one.

Another sunny calm day - passed out
through reef about midday or probably
won't see land for few days again.

Who cares? if I can't be with Marg.

23rd Picked up Swan & 2 others
Now sit in company. Beautiful calm
day again.

24th Sub scare this forenoon.
Dropped couple charges but no
sub. Gun fired "Repel aircraft"
just him. Everybody searching for
planes till gun fired "Delay
aircraft - repel submarine".
Hope he is not as silly when
aircraft really come. Morley has
had rigids last 2 days - hope
they're finished by time we arrive.

18th Picked up mail to post for Fleet also a couple of chaps from Aussie with appendicitis and left about 10am.

19th
No pay yet – got advanced pay sub from canteen and went ashore in Townsville – nothing to do. “Feminine Touch” in evening. Nights at present are beautiful. Most blokes sleeping on upper deck.

20th
Beautiful sunny day – took advantage of sun to do dhobby-ing . In arvo got off for a couple of hours and went for a swim – water very warm, but this is the climate that suits me. Wish Marg were here with me and then things would be perfect. We could go on Sunday trips to Magnetic Island etc – oh boy. Incidentally I’d like to get across to Magnetic Island – it looks great from here with its swimming baths and shady picnic grounds.

21st
Pulled out in arvo headed for Moresby again – swotties (soldiers) in convoy. Sea calm at present and if it stays this way this sea time will suit me fine

22nd
Sis’s birthday and I wish I could have sent her something besides a wire (telegram). Another sunny calm day – passed out through reef about midday so probably wont see land for few days again. Who cares? If I cant be with Marg.

23rd
Picked up Swan and 2 others – now sit in convoy. Beautiful calm day again.

24th
Sub scare this afternoon. Dropped coupla charges but no sub. Ben piped “Repel Aircraft” – trust him. Everybody searching for planes until Ben piped “Belay aircraft. Repel submarine”. Hope he is not as silly when aircraft really come. Moresby has had raids last two days – hope they’re finished by time we arrive.

Arrived in Moresby about 6 pm.
"Bartlamaine Terry Service" again in
operation. Couple of loads of returned
mattresses landed. 6th Div. men (F.A.)
- look in pink of condition for fighting,
contrast to film star Yankees.

25th At anchor inside all day.

26th Windy, but warm day -
went alongside Liberty ship to oil -
evacuated ship 8 miles out to sea about
midnight - sea fairly rough, so it
may have broken my run of luck if
we'd gone further.

27th Still in this 'resort' for
"bomb-happy" servicemen. Being Sunday
we got dressed up + watched the
yacht races + the bathing beauties.
Oh yeah - being Sunday we did
exactly the same as we ~~do~~ every
other day, work. Look as tho' we
won't leave for a day or so. Lower
the better for this last run out
of books - catastrophes. Worst possible
thing that can happen.

28th Went out four miles as A/S patrol
for convoy - 4 Liberty ships, 2 ~~corvettes~~
Dallarat was pitching + tossing like
a cork so we could gather what we
looked. Say it was some sea. Went
ferrying 900 Yanks when back inside.
Well equipped troops, but like a lot of
balky college kids alongside our A.I.F.
They'll get all the talk knocked out of 'em.
Heard bombing again - probably aerodrome.
Yanks hit quicker than.

29th On our way to Thursday Island.
Said goodbye to P.M. - finished with it
for awhile now. Look out Darwin, here
we come. Choppy high sea -
Lam ship rolling badly. Makes
'do my block' having to hang
on while the thing rocks + rolls.

30th Still rolling badly. Warm with
cool strong wind - sighted islands in
First Light - seems be islands everywhere
Wednesday Island, Goodie Island, Thursday
Island - Thursday Island looks very
prosperous place. Quite a picturesque

Arrived in Moresby about 6pm. Castlemaine Ferry Service again in operation. Couple of loads of returned swotties loaded. 6th Divvie men(F.A) – look in peak of condition for fighting, contrast to film star Yankees.

25th

At anchor inside all day

26th

Windy but warm day – went alongside Liberty ship to oil escorted ship 8 miles out to sea almost midnight – sea fairly rough, so it may have broken my run of luck if we'd gone further.

27th

Still in this resort for bomb-happy servicemen. Being Sunday we got dressed up and watched the yacht races and the bathing beauties. Oh yeah – being Sunday we did exactly the same as we did every other day – work. Looks as tho' we won't leave for a day or so. Sooner the better for this lad. Run out of books – catastrophe. Worst possible thing that can happen.

28th

Went out few miles with A/S patrol for convoy - 4 Liberty ships, 2 corvettes Ballarat was pitching and tossing like a cork so we could gather what we looked. Boy it was some sea. Start ferrying 900 yanks when back inside. Well equipped troops but like a lot of talkative college kids alongside our A.I.F They'll get all the talk knocked out 'em. Heard bombing again – probably aerodrome. Yanks bit quieter then.

29th

On our way to Thursday Island. Said goodbye to P.M – finished with it for a while now. Look out Darwin here we come. Choppy high sea – darn ship rolling badly. Makes me 'do my block' having to hang on while the thing rocks and rolls.

30th

Still rolling badly – warm with cool strong wind – sighted islands in First Dogs – seems be islands everywhere. Wednesday Island, Goode Island, Thursday Island. Thursday Island looks very prosperous place. Quite a picturesque

looking township. See a church, remind
me of home and Marg. 5 ships in harbour.
Looks queer seeing coconut palms along
roads etc in place of Murie gum. has.
1st October Started on individual
new repayment system. Wonder how
we'll manage. - Good ^{food} school all
day - so far so good. Went out
and secured "lighter" then tied
up alongside wharf. Went ashore
for 1 hour, then worked ^{work} till 12:30.
Then went ashore. Bill Wilson up
here, arrived today. Here for 2 years -
Ladie that the Term of this Natural
Life. Lot Casser gone to Darwin.
Good Lot. He's not the type for
this life. Close to shore are
quite a few luggers scuttled + sunk
by Japs when war first started.
Must be 8 or 10 of 'em.
Rather like the look of this place.
Wouldn't mind visiting it (with
Marg of course) after the war.

2nd Reception leave from 1:30 for till
3:30pm. Most of boys went swimming.
Louise Dan + I strolled up to
barber for soft drink, got fally
with blood there + got bottle of
beer each. Strolled round deserted
town - went thru Federal Hotel - people
evidently left in hurry. Rabbies scattered
all over deck + quite a lot of good
thing in bins + crockery + glassware
left about. Hope mine here some
night later on. Few things I could
see if nobody saw me get 'em.
Got ourselves some coconuts. Ship
left about 3:30pm en route to Darwin.
So off we go again.
- First passed Lot's famous
Looky Island - about size of
6. What a place.
Beautiful calm sea.

looking township. See a church – reminds me of home and Marg. 5 ships in harbor. Looks queer seeing coconut palms along roads etc in place of Aussie gum trees.

1st October

Started on individual mess repayment system. Wonder how we'll manage. Good scram (food) all day –so far so good. Went out and secured 'lighter' then tied up alongside wharf. Went ashore for 1 hour, then worked First Watch while Don went ashore. Bill Wilson up here, arrived today. Here for 2 years – lordy that's the Term of His Natural Life. Bob Pascoe gone to Darwin . Poor Bob. He's not the type for this life. Close to shore are quite a few luggers scuttled and sunk by Japs when war first started. Might be 8 or 10 of 'em.

Rather like the look of this place. Wouldn't mind visiting it (with Marg of course) after the war.

2nd

Recreation leave from 1.30 pm to 3.30pm. Most of boys went swimming. Horace, Don and I strolled up to the Canteen for soft drink, got pally with bloke there and got bottle of beer each. Strolled round deserted town – went thru' Federal Hotel – people evidently left in hurry. Rubbish scattered all over deck. And quite a lot of good things in linen and crockery and glassware left about. Hope we're here some night later on. Few things I could use if nobody saw me get 'em. Got ourselves some coconuts. Ship left about 5.30pm en route to Darwin. So off we go again.

Just passed Bobs famous Booby Island – about size of 6 (?). What a place. Beautiful calm sea.

3rd Perfect weather. Ship just gently rolling enough to make one feel a nice on the sea. Halfway across Gulf of Carpentaria. Certainly not lining up to its rep. for roughness. (Good old Gulfie)

4th Another nice day - sea even calmer. Two porpoises about. One laddie almost rearing his tail on our bows and gliding along ahead. Put our clocks back $\frac{1}{2}$ hour. It still light well after 9 o'clock at night.

5th So this is Darwin - first impressions are peculiar looking. "K" boats, gum trees instead of palms. Bigger than Moreby or K. and the dead look about the place. Seems fair size from the harbour - wharves crushed about a bit, one completely damaged. Counted 7 ships sunk in harbour, only 5 plainly visible.

Went alongside our one ship, convey Van Heerde at wharf to oil + water. Van had airman aboard among them being "Bluey" Trunton. He looks just the same as his photo + talks like a returned swotter. Had George Malt down to see us for a few minutes, also Jack Woods, who is on the Goats. Biggest disappointment was No MAIL. I was just lining for a letter for my darling wife.

6th Off to sea at 5 am - no provision taken aboard so here hoping we're not out too long. Expecting a ship fast before 12 or whenever that is. Calm thru the morning, but choppy at night. This old sea - but doing a little pitching.

3rd

Perfect weather. Ship just gently rolling enough to make one realize we're on the sea. Halfway across Gulf of Carpentaria. Certainly not living up to its rep. for roughness (Good 'ol Gulfie)

4th

Another nice day – sea even calmer. Few porpoises about. One laddie almost resting his tail on our bows and gliding along ahead. Put our clocks back ½ hour. It's still light well after 9 o'clock at night.

5th

So this is Darwin – first impressions are peculiar looking 'K' boats, gum trees instead of palms, bigger than Moresby or TI and the dead look about the place. Seems fair size from the harbor – wharves knocked about a bit, one completely damaged. Counted 7 ships sunk in the harbor only 5 plainly visible.

Went alongside our one ship convoy Van Kewtz at wharf to oil and water. Van had airmen aboard among them being "Bluey" Truscott. He looks just the same as his photo and talks like a returned swottie. Had George Male down to see me for a few minutes, also Jack Woods, who is on the Koala. Biggest disappointment was NO MAIL. I was just living for a letter from my darlin' wife.

6th

Off to sea at 5am – no provisions taken aboard so here's hoping we're not out for long. Escorting a ship past Cape Don wherever that is. Calm thru' the morning, but choppy at night. This old sea-tub doing a little pitching.

7th Turned back at 2 am -
what now? Back at Darwin
in evening. Another mail aboard - none
for me. Alongside Platypus.

8th Doing odd jobs & generally getting
things up to date. Got paid at
last; now able to square my debts
with my L.H.

9th In the air - Dave, Ted & I
had good look at town - or remains
of it. Boy she's certainly knocked
about. In peace time Darwin must
have been quite a big place - its
much bigger than I expected. Saw
some queer sights where bombing ~~occurred~~
occurred & such as all windows broken
except one small frame etc. Saw
Mike Hinson, Bob Carver, Jack Jess,
Roy Tennell, Bert (Schmidt der Spy)
Also had good yarn with Geo
Male -
looker big crater where oil tanks
blew up.

10th Went ashore with recreation party.
Driver took us 30 miles out to
Lerry's Spring - ideal swimming pool
in center of tropical growth. Couple
of diving boards, a tower and a
swing been erected by "locals".

Was good to see that trip was
long & dusty. All the way there was
trees & low palms on either side &
plenty of green - not just sand as
one visualizes Northern Territory. In
places the country is very heavily
timbered. Saw quite a few of the
tall ant-hills that seem part of N.T.

11th Great clear-up - Commodore Pope
welcomes us. We go to church on
the Plats, then divisions at home,
while Pope cracks a few stale
jokes & inspects us. After lunch
went swimming again.

(Additional to getting up to pictures
in evening with Geo Male. Old show
but provided a good entertainment)

7th

Turned back at 2am – what now? Back at Darwin in evening. Another mail aboard – none for me. Alongside Platypus.

8th

Doing odd jobs and generally getting things upta date. Got paid at last; now able to square my debts with my eleven pounds

9th

Ashore in arvo. Dave, Ted and I had good look at town – or remains of it. Boy she's certainly knocked about. In peace time, Darwin must have been quite a big place – it's much bigger than I expected. Saw some queer sights where bombing occurred such as all the windows broken except one small pane etc. Saw Artie Ainsworth, Rob Pascoe, Jack Jess, Roy Henzell, Bert (Schmidt der Spy). Also had good yarn with Geo Male - corker big crater where oil tanks blew up.

10th

Went ashore with recreation party – driver took us 30 miles out to Berry's Spring – ideal swimming pool in centre of tropical growth. Couple of diving boards, a tower and a swing been created by 'locals'. Was good oh even tho' trip was long and dusty. All the way there was trees and low palms on either side and plenty of green – not just sand as one visualizes Northern Territory. In places the country is very heavily timbered. Saw quite a few of the tall anthills that seem part of N.T.

11th

Great clean-up – Commodore Pope welcomes us. We go to church on the "Plats" then divisions at 'home' while Pope cracks a few stale jokes and inspects us. After lunch went swimming again. (additional to 10th: went to pictures in evening with Geo Male. Old show but provided a good entertainment)

12th Left Darwin about 6 am. One
Liberty ship en route for T.I. for
orders - Wonder what that'll be?
Two tropical showers, very big drops.
Honae, Bob & I had our hair
all cut off - look like 3 eggs.
Now all we want is a beard. Height.
13th Calm clear day. Quite a few
schools of fish & water snakes about.
Hills of scum on top of the water,
some say it's coral dust, some
say it's fish spawn, I couldn't even
make a guess. (Eyes rather sore
today.)

14th Another calm day, Uneventful.
15th Arrived Thursday Island during
forenoon. Reception leave for 21 hours
in afternoon - Bob, Ted & I visited
w/ station, Quetta Memorial Church &
Federal Hotel to get few odds &
ends. Then went for a swim until
time to go back. Left for
Darwin about 5:30 pm - on
our own.

16th Uneventful. Exercise action stations
17th Sun very hot. Went to sleep
on porch during afternoon. Attired only
in U & got my waist & cheeks very
sunburnt. Betty sore. Dummy shoot
on 1/2 inch ^{gun} at imaginary sub, then
number of us armed with rifles
shot imaginary men from deck of
imaginary sub with live bullets!
Marshall's bit of magic. Wonder
who won?

18th Betty careful today when +
how I set down, after my dose
of burn yesterday. Back in Darwin
about 4 pm. Whooper 3 letters
from Mang - also books. This was
"just what the Doctor prescribed".
Ray, is my wife on Debra
street letters winter - I'll say.

19th Hot day - cleaned out my
battery cupboard & topped up all
cells. In the am the CB's
volunteered to row to the

12th

Left Darwin about 6am. One Liberty ship en route for T.I for orders – wonder what that'll be – few tropical showers, very big drops. Horace Bob and I had our hair all cut off- look like three eggs. Now all we want is a beard. Heighho.

13th

Calm clear day. Quite a few schools of fish and water snakes about. Miles of scum on top of the water, some say it's coral dirt, some say its fish spawn I couldn't even make a guess! Eyes rather sore today.

14th

Another calm day. Uneventful.

15th

Arrived Thursday Island during forenoon. Recreation leave for 2 ½ hours in afternoon – Bob, Ted and I visited W/T station Quetta Memorial Church – Federal Hotel few odds and ends. Then went for a swim until time to go back. Left for Darwin about 5.30pm on our own.

16th

Exercise action stations. Wrap up for dury aerial.

17th

Sun very hot. Went to sleep on focsal during afternoon attired only in Vs and got my waist and cheeks! very sunburnt. Pretty sore.

Dummy shoot on 4 inch gun at imaginary sub, then number of us armed with rifles shot imaginary men from deck of imaginary sub with live bullets. Marvellous bit of magic, wonder who won.

18th

Pretty careful today when and how I sit down after my dose of burn yesterday. Back in Darwin about 7pm. Whoopee – three letters from Marg also three books. This was 'just what the doctor prescribed'. Boy is my wife an extra sweet letter writer – I'll say.

19th

Hot day – cleaned out my battery cupboard and 'topped up' all cells. In the arvo the CBs volunteered to row to the

Clats for the beer. Laughed nearly all the way across a back, but beer delivered safely. Mamm - Another letter from my princess.

20th Out again at 10 am - ^{mine} this time going out for a sweep for 3 or 4 days. Calm sea still. Had forenoon watch, then all afternoon + first dog. Dave + I rigged an aerial from funnel to the main-mast for wardroom - got filthy from funnel black - had a quick work then went on last dog. Flying seems off, as Dave said.

21st Lazy day. Had a dog in ~~arrow~~ but not up, feeling horrible. Did some clothing. Sweeps out all day. Picked up Kalgoolie in ~~arrow~~. This working sweeps with us.

22nd Sweeping from low hill ~~mine~~ 5 pm. Included in evening. Cool wind. Lightning + electrical disturbances due to tropical atmosphere conditions very noticeable. At times it quite lights up whole sky. Rather absorbing to watch. Was just thinking just before dark as I leaned against rail, watching the sky how great it would be if it were peace-time + my Mary was with me.

23rd Picked up Dave ~~mine~~ on way back. Quite a job but our "lookers on-ers" got some laughs at the seamen. Arrived Laremia with Kalgoolie - both oiled + stood out. Foxhall arrived back today - looks well. Means we'll lose Low Junee. Very sorry - Louis a real gentlemanly bloke + knows his job.

Plats for the beer. Laughed nearly all the way across and back but beer delivered safely. Mmmm another letter from my princess.

20th

Out again at 10am – this time going out for a mine sweep for three or four days. Calm sea still. Had Forenoon watch, then all Afternoon and First Dog. Dave and I rigged an aerial from funnel to the main-mast for wardroom – got filthy from funnel black – had a quick wash then went on Last Dog. Being seen off as Dave said.

21st

Lazy day – had a doze in arvo but woke up feeling horrible. Did some dobbering. Sweeps out all day. Picked up Kalgoorlie in arvo. She's working sweep with us.

22nd

Sweeping from 6am to 5pm. Anchored in evening. Cool wind. Lightening and electrical disturbances due to tropical atmospheric conditions. Very noticeable. At times it quite lights up whole sky rather absorbing to watch. Was just thinking just before dark as I leaned against rail, watching the sky, how great it would be if it were peace-time and my Marg was with me.

23rd

Picked up Don Crogue (?) on way back. Quite a job but we 'looker on-ers' got some laughs at the seamen. Arrived Darwin with K'goolie – both oiled and stood out. Boxhall arrived back today – looks well. Means we'll lose Don Gunnee – very sorry. Don's a real gentlemanly bloke and knows his job.

24th The Japs - Air raid at 4 am. I was supposed to go on watch at 6 am but had to start when raid started. It lasted over 2 hours. No bombs dropped in harbour, thank God. Evidently Japs were after airfield. Could hear & see "muck" falling.

24th Left with ship headed probably for I.I. - but developed engine trouble had to come back alongside Plat. Hope its fixed soon. ~~Jim says~~ at Pictures at night

25th Sunday - Another air raid at 1/2 past 4 am - also lasted 2 hours same & heard nothing. ^{CHURCH} Divisions at 9 am - then went ashore after dinner for walk around. Yarned to Joe Male for awhile, then had look round town again. Postoffice shot bench certainly ruffed it first time. Incidentally Air raid at 1.30 pm. lasted 1/2 hr. Nothing seen.

26th Tojo still on the job. Started at 1/2 to 4 am lasted 3/4 hr, came back 1/2 hr later & finished job. 3 planes flying fairly low. Could see & hear bombs falling on middle of town. None quite on harbour tho! Could see planes clearly at one time but no Ack-ack med.

After that searchlights failed fish 'em up. Two places in town supposed to be destroyed - "buzz" says our Naval canteen gone - That's next door to George Male's. Wonder if's true?

Bessie and I worked from 9 am till 4 solidly, cleaning one set H.T.'s Good day's work.

27th Went ashore to pictures in evening. Tojo over early - arrived about 2 pm. In evening he came over about 1/2 past 2 am. Could see the Ack. ack bursts & see plainly the bombs bursting in the town! Communique says one bomber down. (Have to clean "bombs" all day)

Hang the Japs. Air raid at 4 am I was sposed to go on watch at 6am but had to go start when raid started. Lasted over 2 hours. No bombs dropped in harbor, Thank God. Evidently Japs were after airfield. Could hear and see 'muck' falling

24th

Left with ship headed probably for T.I but developed engine trouble had to come back alongside Plats. Hope its fixed soon. Pictures at night.

25th

Sunday – another air raid at half past 4 am – also lasted two hours. Saw and heard nothing. Divisions (church) at 9am – then went ashore after dinner for walk around. Yarned to Geo Male for awhile, then had look round town again. Post Office slit trench certainly copped it first time. Incidentally air raid at 130pm lasted $\frac{3}{4}$ hour. Nothing seen.

26th

Tojo still on the job. Started at quarter to 4am lasted $\frac{3}{4}$ hr, came back $\frac{1}{2}$ hour later and finished job. 3 planes flying fairly low. Could see and hear bombs falling on middle of town. None quite on harbor tho'. Could see planes clearly at one time but no ack-ack used. After that, search lights failed pick 'em up. Few places in town supposed be destroyed. 'buzz' says our naval canteen gone – that's next door to George Male's. Wonder if its true? Boxie and I worked from 9am to 4 solid day cleaning H.Ts. Good days work.

27th

Went ashore to pictures in evening Tojo over early - arrived about 2pm. In evening he came over about quarter past 2am. Could see Ack-Ack bursts + see plainly the bombs bursting in the town. Communiqué says one bomber down. (Dave and I cleaned 'donks' all day)

28th Ashore in arow for a swim - went to Miley. Don't hide out but we reached the water eventually. Got our beer ration + believe me it was welcome. I bet I have my next bottle that we'd have an air raid but then disappointed me. No air raid - but a sub scare for 6 hours from 1 am. Info supposed to have got inside town somewhere, but we saw no sign of it. Went over on to Neptune ^(SINK) alongside wharf. Trust not to climb into nearly all the holds. My hands + feet are cut all over now + jolly sore. Foo + I swam back. The others didn't like thought of sharks. ~~even~~ neither did I, but Foo reckons I had 'ing guts' so I swam with him. Lot + I went back a second time + got microphones + insulation. Foo, Sam, Kingy + I dragged out a safe ~~visualizing~~ visualizing a fortune, but there wasn't a bean in it.

~~29th Grand clean up + fiddled about~~
29th Went out in morning met Katgoolie + did a sweep all day. Bath day.

30th Finished sweep - came alongside old pier for water ^{up}. Took aboard a party of swabbies - Ordnance mob - + Military health officer - took in out round Tharbit for trial of repaired engine. What a head for 'em! It real ride on a Tooty ship. What a laugh. Still sore it was a change for dirty dirty roads. Torrential rains + boy, did that rain come down - couldn't see ahead.
31st Inched out.

1st November Another month, nearer Xmas. Recreation party ashore at island. Had good swim - but had to get out because eyes were so sore. Should have walked onto mainland when tide was out.

28th

Ashore in arvo for a swim. Went to Miele Point and tide out but we reached the water eventually. Got our beer ration and b'lieve me it was welcome. I bet Dave my next bottle that we'd have an air raid. But Merv disappointed me. No air raid but a sub scare for 6 hours from 1 am. Sub supposed to have got inside boom somewhere but we saw no sign of it. Went over onto Neptunea (sunk) along wharf. Trust me to climb into all the holds. My hands and feet are cut all over now and jolly sore. Foo and I swam back. The others didn't like thought of sharks – neither did I but Foo reckons I had 'no guts' so I swam with him. Bob and I went back a second time and got microphones and insulators. Foo, Dave, Kingy and I dragged out a safe visualizing a fortune but there wasn't a bean in it.

29th

Went out in morning met Kalgoorlie and did a sweep. Calm all day.

30th

Finished sweep – came alongside old pier for water and repairs. Took aboard a party of swotties – Ord'nance mob – and Military Health Officers – took 'em out round harbor for trial of repaired engine. What a break for 'em. A real ride on a navy ship. What a laugh. Still s'pose it was a change from dirty dusty roads. Torrential rains – boy did that rain come down. Couldn't see ahead.

31st

Anchored out.

1st November

Another month nearer Xmas. Recreation party ashore at island. Had good swim but had to get out because eyes were so sore. Could have walked onto mainland when tide was out

2nd cleaning up - recreation party
ashore in morning for those who
didn't go yesterday. Mail in evening -
extra good.

3rd Out at 9 am - Ben piped that
we are turning back midday tomorrow
- looks like an A's fiasco to me.

Did a natty bit of sewing today -
put front straps on my purple Khaki
shorts. My all night ^(fine night sleep) hooray.

4th Calm sea - Dropped old
type depth charge in morning to
test firing - all stood round hoping
to get some fish but the damn
thing didn't go off. Picked up the

Larval about midday - turned back
towards Darwin. Sun very hot - got
some dose of burn on the ~~back~~ chest.
Towed outside ~~base~~ at night.

Lill Parmentier also
(bloke who wrote most
articles about Timor)

5th Got into Darwin about 3 pm.
Took aboard oil & stores. Also 3 or
4 War correspondents + an official
photographer. (His name is ^{Domenig} Parker +
he is ~~brother~~ of bloke who took those
extra Meline Bay photos). Apppear Thura
damaged her screws preparatory to
having on special run to Timor -
so - ha ha - we are going. My
wife if we sink + I lose my
new member one suit I'll join
the bloomin' commandos. Anchored
just outside Boon. (occupied by
Japanese then)
6th On our way at 4 am -
cool breeze + some rain. Sea
a bit choppy but not unpleasant.
Unpleasant weather tho'.

7th Fine warm day - sea smooth
but big swell. Action Stations
piped 3 times but planes turned
out to be over each time.
Sea in early afternoon freshen!
blue & we apt seen it. Timor
sighted about 3 pm.

2nd

Cleaning up – recreation party ashore in morning for those who didn't go yesterday. Mail in evening extra good.

3rd

Out at 9am – Ben piped that we are turning back at midday tomorrow. Looks like A/S patrol to me. Did a natty bit of sewing today – put front straps on my pusea khaki shorts. My all night (full nights sleep) in – hooray.

4th

Calm sea – dropped old type depth charge in morning to test firing – all stood round hoping to get some fish but the darn thing didn't go off. Picked by the Darvall at midday turned back towards Darwin. Sun very hot – got sore dose of burn on the chest. Anchored outside at night.

Bill Parmentier also (bloke who wrote most of article about Timor

5th

Got into Darwin about 3pm. Took aboard oil and stores. Also three or four War Correspondents and an official photographer. (His name is Damian Parrer and he is bloke who took those extra Milne Bay photos). Appears Kuru damaged her screws preparatory to leaving on special run to Timor (occupied by Japanese then). So – hah hah – we are going. My cripes if we sink and I lose my new number 1 suit, I'll join the bloomin' commandoes. Anchored just outside Boom

6th

On our way at 4am – cool breeze and some rain. Sea a bit choppy but not unpleasant. Unpleasant weather tho'.

7th

Fine warm day – sea smooth but big swell. Action Stations piped three times but planes turned out to be ours each time. Sea in early afternoon prettiest blue I've yet seen it. Timor sighted about 3 pm

Go + anchored about 4 pm - quite light still
Impressions are long beach, palm +
undergrowth along shore, hills, +
huge ~~tabletop~~ mountain inland with clouds
"hanging" on it. Unloaded all
stones, money, mail, fuel, etc in
3 boats. Because of swell causing
heavy surf much difficulty in
landing on beach - also in loading
stones alongside ship. Men (swathies,
boongs - quite a lot of bones too)
appeared from out of bush to
unload + dispose of stones.

President of Island, wife + daughter,
couple military officers, 2 swathies +
a boong servant taken aboard
in darkness. Our photographer etc
put ashore. We were only few
hundred yards from old Voyager
where she is stuck ashore.

Still upright - stern has hole
in it. Boy I'd like to get
aboard her + get a few things
Left about 10 pm, doing 14 knots.

Shobbing - washing clothes

In and anchored about 7pm quite light still. Impressions are long beach and palms and undergrowth along shore. Hills, and huge table top mountain inland with clouds 'hanging' on it. Unloaded all stores, money, mail, fuel, etc in three boats. Because of swell causing heavy surf much difficulty in landing on beach – also in loading stores alongside ship. Men (swotties, boongs, quite a lot of horses too) appeared from out of bush to unload and disburse stores. President of Island, wife and daughter, couple military officers, two swotties and a boong servant taken aboard in darkness. Our photographer put ashore. We were only few hundred years from old Voyager where she is stuck ashore. Still upright, Stern has hole in it. Boy I'd like to get aboard her and get a few things. Left about 10pm doing 14 knots.