



LEFT SYDNEY 28TH NOV. 1943 25TH JUNE 1944

Mileage since commissioning of ship 17/6/42 until 31/3/44 – 62,598 miles. 7118 hours of way At end of 2 years 17/6/44 7829 "Total Mileage 69,451 miles

NOVEMBER. SUNDAY 25th goodness know how system down here works, but we last ship to some from up north, and the first to leave. Buryry is that its I don't fancy letting only temporary, but 'em get their claws into me up north. Moresby ah well sydney you were goodoh while we had you especially while my Margie was Duna here. Under weigh at JAM look at now familiar bridge, wonder when legher ghousestyr we will see it again. Cheerio byoney, we'll Homerally Gelands Madang Theory swell on, rolling heavily. a bad start, let hope It means a good finish. Sower ships in our last southern Konvoy

Sydney
Townsville
Milne Bay
Cairnes
Moresby
Khaehoe Bay
Buna
Langewak (Finschafen)
Cape Gloucester
Admiralty Islands
Madang

NOVEMBER Sunday 28th

Goodness knows how this system down here works, but we are 2nd last ship to come from up north, and the first to leave. Buzz is that its only temporary, but I don't fancy letting 'em get their claws into us up north. Ah well Sydney, you were goodoh while we had you, especially while my Margie was here. Under weigh at 7AM – had last look at now familiar bridge – wonder when we will see it again. Cheerio Sydney, we'll be back as soon as we can.

Heavy swell on, rolling heavily. That's a bad start, lets hope it means a good finish. Seven ships in our last southern convoy. November Monday 2

Monday 29th Still heavy swell, bit uncomfortable for sleeping. New hands sort of looking forward to seeing up north rest of us know what its like and arent at all enthuriastic. Isened today with khaki battle dress - long khahi pant + shirt. It for wearing ashoe in places where mosquitoes ete congregate + on landing parties. The latest ridicalous idea of our wet officers is that the Engineer Officer is talking about forming a choir. He said in the last was his ship had a choir who song "Inward behuston Soldiers + Maoris Sarewell when leaving harbour + there wasn't a dry eye aboard. Dliney how would we be singing like that leaving harbon. They'd send us south for going hoppo at that it nighted be a dad idea. Must mention

Wed 1st elecember In our way to another Kmas and another New Year. Wonder what this one will bring . Hope it the and. got to balandra during forenoon, back to Sydney goes Wilcannia & Kallarat We fricked up another convoy at 4Pm with Jelong and on our northward way we go. Thankful sunny today quite warm below delks already believed to now another beard to skill from showing. Thurs and Sec Lake lonight said goodleye Ar another convoy. Off they go to gladeton + on north to Townsville we go! Harm rong last night for surface craft Soo yards ahead by RDIF. It hurned out to be a YANK but by gee the boys sroved when that alors bell went. They show good form.

Monday 29th

Still heavy swell, bit uncomfortable for sleeping. New hands sort of looking forward to seeing up north – rest of us know what its like and aren't at all enthusiastic. Issued today with khaki battledress – long khaki pants + shirt. It's for wearing ashore in places where mosquitoes etc congregate, + on landing parties. The latest ridiculous idea of our wet officers is that the Engineer Officer is talking about forming a choir. He said in the last war his ship had a choir who sang "Onward Christian Soldiers" + "Maori's Farewell" when leaving harbour + there wasn't a dry eye aboard. Blimey how would we be singing like that leaving harbour? They'd send us south for going "troppo". At that it mightn't be a bad idea. Must mention that point.

Wed 1st December

On our way to another Xmas and another New Year. Wonder what this one will bring. Hope it's the end. Got to Caloundra during forenoon, back to Sydney goes Wilcannia + Ballarat. We picked up another convoy at 4PM with Geelong and on our northward way we go. Beautiful sunny today – quite warm below decks already. Decided to grow another beard to spell from shaving.

Thurs. 2nd Dec.

Late tonight said goodbye to another convoy. Off they go to Gladstone + on north to Townsville we go. Alarm rang last night for surface craft 500 yards ahead by RDF. It turned out to be a YANK but by gee the boys moved when that alarm bell went. They show good form.

Triday Ha Lec blow into coast. Very pretty, Quite a number of islands hereabouts. Theater the monotony of open sea. Gassed there' Whitsunday Garage during Middle so missed that right unfortunately. Salunday Kit Dec. arrived Townsville. Now approve 1640 miles from Mang + Ahats about 1670 miles hos for in my ofmion. Deautiful day - + from distance Som + hills look furturenque but & still would rather see Jeonge Road bridge. Lake in afternoon walked thru' the four + went for as arise. Water lovely. Sunday 5th Acc, Horay got some mail for Mang. How been booking forward To it very much. Went for another swim as at was roastingly hot. Met artic

ainsworth, Druce Williams, both on their way south for leave. Also not Kennie, Wilhes He is going overland via 16 Lea to Harvin. What a prospect stayed off for fictures in evening + saw a notten show. This Townsville is still as bad as ever - full of yorks + practically nothing Monday 6th Sec. Had tooth temporarily filled in forenoon Under weigh about ston That ralm sea - but windy at night. Insiday yet Dec. Close into coast up to baims. Ciched up & more corvelles, 3 yanha , now 11 muchant ship in Convay Joing towards Mosely hatoonba + Ballard taking some

Friday 3rd Dec.

Close into coast. Very pretty. Quite a number of islands hereabouts. Breaks the monotony of open sea. Passed thru' Whitsunday Passage during Middle so missed that sight unfortunately.

Saturday 4th Dec.

Arrived Townsville. Now approx 1670 miles from Marg + that's about 1670 miles too far in my opinion. Beautiful day - + from distance town + hills look picturesque, but I still would rather see Grange Road bridge. Late in afternoon walked thru' the town + went for a swim. Water lovely.

Sunday 5th Dec.

Hooray, got some mail from Marg. Have been looking forward to it very much. Went for another swim as it was roastingly hot. Met Artie Ainsworth, Bruce Williams, both on their way south for leave. Also met Kennie Wilkes. He is going overland via Mt. Isa to Darwin. What a prospect. Stayed off for pictures in evening + saw a rotten show. This Townsville is still as bad as ever – full of Yanks + practically nothing else.

Monday 6th Dec.

Had tooth temporarily filled in forenoon. Under weigh about 3PM. Flat calm sea – but windy at night.

Tuesday 7th Dec.

Close into coast up to Cairns. Picked up 2 more corvettes, 3 Yanks – now 11 merchant ships in convoy. Going towards Moresby, Katoomba + Ballarat taking some

to Morely. We are taking the rest for native villages set in among the to Milne Kay. Out thin Barrier palms. also many white mans houses. Oref during Trist Watch Its amazing the number of dwelling that Are gh hurday. Left Morely portion of are scattered about in the Shails. ronvay + with Yanker Cahol croft headed Stacks of money was made from ropes, for Milne May . Seeing plenty of flying fish in these waters . Surney days but forboise-shell, excounts pearling a fishing hereabout before the war. Milne Kay have had a shower every night as far. itself is a very big open bay, while Griday 10th Dec. Went three China Shorts the country to mountainous, Rugged + generally timbered. The spot when the about 8 Am. The islands are really Japa landed near the enhance was beautiful. althor of a different Type just which undergrowth. In Agt to than Whitsunday Gossage! they are sure earn this dollars. The mounts equally as pretty Many of the islands are big with high hills on there seen such a collection of ships as there was there. All very thensely covered with trees + sort from ornison to landing undergrowth. along the fourhores aim barque. The boys counted about 50 thick coconut palm. We sow a

to Moresby. We are taking the rest to Milne Bay. Out thru' Barrier Reef during First Watch.

Dec 9th Thursday.

Left Moresby portion of convoy + with Yankee Patrol craft headed for Milne Bay. Seeing plenty of flying fish in these waters. Sunny days but have had a shower every night so far.

Friday 10th Dec.

Went thru' China Straits about 8AM. The islands are really beautiful. Altho' of a different type than Whitsunday Passage, they are equally as pretty. Many of the islands are big with high hills on them very densely covered with trees + undergrowth. Along the foreshores are thick coconut palms. We saw a

few native villages set in among the palms. Also many white mans houses. Its amazing the number of dwellings that are scattered about in the Straits. Stacks of money was made from Copra, tortoise-shell, coconuts, pearling + fishing hereabouts before the war. Milne Bay itself is a very big open bay, while the country is mountainous, rugged + densely timbered. The spot where the Japs landed near the entrance was just thick undergrowth. Our A.I.F. sure earn their dollars. I've never seen such a collection of ships as there was there. All sorts from cruisers to landing barges. The boys counted about 50.

town with that many it would be have a look at the place. I was is difficult to hit them from the air bigger than Tissille but not as well ret in a bay like this, Left for out. Looks quite nice, would be good Townwille in afternoon with hatoomba place in peace line of free from yamks et doing 12 knots. Blave + I like hiked 9 hiles to a Sunday 12th Dec Phashination changed to feel water swimming hole. Had an bains - arrived there during stogs. excha good swin then got a ride back into four had a seron of ADCS + Went up river to final - disturbed a went to fricheres to "Thet In" exocodile near the bank too. Very pretty got mail bonight. This is what I needed mountainous country hereabouts, altho bains itself is flat for miles. Went Co letters from my Margie and two from alongside Clas a of course Horace How. I'm happy now (or as happer is is possible this for from Home) loughle soon aboard. His heading Sig now but still same donace (rorry-Les now) Gearlie of pair of shorts from Dad - boy Ill be some swell now. gonna have baby so is getting her discharge from thing. Ho letters Tuesday it her. It sea again, with Monday 13th le . Went ashow to Granal + a yamber S.c. taking convey

even with that many it would be difficult to hit them from the air in a bay like this. Left for Townsville in afternoon with Katoomba, doing 12 knots.

Sunday 12th Dec.

Destination changed to Cairns – arrived there during Dogs. Went up river to fuel + disturbed a crocodile near the bank too. Very pretty mountainous country hereabouts, altho Cairns itself is flat for miles. Went alongside Plats + of course Horace soon aboard. He's Leading Sig now but still same Horace (sorry – Les now) Pearlie gonna have baby so is getting her discharge from Army. No letters.

Monday 13th Dec. Went ashore to

have a look at the place. Town is bigger than Townsville but not as well set out. Looks quite nice, would be good place in peace time if free from Yanks etc. Dave + I hitch hiked 9 miles to a fresh water swimming hole. Had an extra good swim then got a ride back into town, had a scram at ADCS + went to pictures to "Fleets In".

Got mail tonight. This is what I needed. 6 letters from my Margie and two from Mom. I'm happy now (or as happy as is possible this far from HOME). Couple of pair of shorts from Dad – boy I'll be some swell now.

Tuesday 14th Dec. At sea again, with Ararat + a Yankee S.c. taking convoy

to Milne Ray Cheffy rough onkide. Wednesday 15th Dec Hast night was one of those rotten nights when you haven't get a chance of getting more than a couple of hours elect because of the knocks you take. Holling badly too eight places broken in morning plus things shot all over the dech. Ken Leosh sich all day. Seems to be flathering out during Middle a little Juring firm rushed with business this hip. at least 10 pair of shorts to be fined besides for other jobs. Hove for the Juny. (Don't ach for a work to there for it, by gee)

Thursday 16th Clec Sea flatfered out, thank Goodness. Went three lehina Shaits during beautiful tropical afternoon. Saw the full shetch of Islands. They are really beautiful The evenly laid out reconst plantations contast strongly with the thickly timbered slopes of the high mountain - one islands. Myhre Ray - the bay is 26 miles long. Its quite understandable that our ships slighed past, Jap ships into here last year. It really huge. There were 50 or to ships in + Get the Bay booked empty. bruisers Alchoyes, tankers, muchantmen, landing banges + all. After dark there were lights everywhere along the shore.

to Milne Bay. Pretty rough outside.

Wednesday 15th Dec.

Last night was one of those rotten nights when you haven't got a chance of getting more than a couple of hours sleep because of the knocks you take. Rolling badly too – eight plates broken in morning, plus knives + forks, cups, tea + numerous other things shot all over the deck. Ken Leosh sick all day. Seems to be flattening out during Middle a little. Jewing firm rushed with business this trip. At least 10 pair of shorts to be fixed besides few other jobs. Have to do 3 pair for Skipper + a couple for the Jimmy. (Don't ask for a share of my earnings Princess because I work too hard for it, by gee)

Thursday 16th Dec.

Sea flattened out, thank goodness. Went thru China Straits during beautiful tropical afternoon. Saw the full stretch of islands. They are really beautiful. The evenly laid out coconut plantations contrast strongly with the thickly timbered slopes of the high mountainous islands. Milne Bay – the bay is 26 miles long. Its quite understandable that out ships slipped past Jap ships into here last year. Its really huge. There were 50 or 60 ships in + yet the Bay looked empty. Cruisers, Destroyers, tankers, merchantmen, landing barges + all. After dark there were lights everywhere along the shore.

The tricks unloading ships looked like a huge caterfillar winding its way from the wharves over the monto. heft at lay in young Friday 17th Dec Beautiful calm day. Sherewed report that suspicious wake been sighted four times by merchant ship sear the Ref. We ordered to shear to interrupt it as it was reported as a sub. Itad a practise action Stations - fired a shell for the gum, dropped a depth charge, fired star shells + rockets. Yuns horar to sleep beside gun, so me should do something even if its only lose some sleep. Should reach position about 3 Am. No hum.

Well folk, so was expected everyone went to action Stations just before daybreak, but the sub had decided not Sat. 18th Dec Hid ander patrol all day - hoping sub wouldn't reappear. heading back for learns about dark. Midnight bripes we are firsted this hip. I come on for the Middle Watch of there is signals everywhere. Uppears that the fadatore & at least 2 merchant ships me on a reef to odd miles north of here & we me being rent to arest. With arrive there about 5.30 pm, sor I get No bed at 4 Am a get up put 5-30 Am. at well anything for a quest take

the trucks unloading ships looked like a huge caterpillar winding its way from the wharves over the mounts. Left at 6AM in morning.

Friday 17th Dec.

Beautiful calm day. Received report that suspicious wake been sighted few times by merchant ship near the Reef. We ordered to steam to intercept it as it was reported as a sub. Had a practise Action Stations – fired a shell from the gun, dropped a depth charge, fired star shells + rockets. Guns crew to sleep beside gun, so we should do something even if its only lose some sleep. Should reach position about 3AM. Ho hum.

Well folk, as was expected everyone went to Action Stations just before daybreak, but the sub had decided not to wait.

Sat 18th Dec.

Did Asdec patrol all day – hoping sub wouldn't reappear. Heading back for Cairns about dark.

Midnight.

Cripes we are jinxed this trip. I come on for the Middle Watch + there is signals everywhere. Appears that the Gladstone + at least 2 merchant ships are on a reef 60 odd miles north of here + we are being sent to assist. Will arrive there about 5.30AM so I get to bed at 4AM + get up at 5.30AM. Ah well anything for a quiet life

Sunday 19th Dec. Sine out of nine ships run on to reef last night. One got off last night + gladstone got off this morning. Other four shuch fast hithgow, Stavell, gladstore, proprie + burelos gorrettes there also 12 domen M. T.B's Lithgow and us ment almost outs reef alongride ship + look hoops (Yanko) off to other ships. Lithgow + Gladstone left with ship each during formoon for barins. We worked like slave all day & finally freed 2 of the 3 ships. White did a great job. The other correctes just Stood back + watched. Once me nearly drifted outs the reef It would have been goodinght to us then, but we

got fee with only feet to spare. The other how correlles left with the other two ships a left up to watch the one on the reef leripes we must he easy. Its not our convoy yet we wait with the ship till morning. Then the Warrego + a lug are coming out to help as. We could make as the bottom court be fathomed here, so we just rive about all night. Sunday at see - when I think of what I could be doing at home with Marg. - or when I think of that mail at bains I should be reading now well maybe it would be beller if & didn't think of lem. Not even the various shades of the water over the need makes my want to see further than thelbourne. Duet very pretty that

Sunday 19th Dec.

Six out of nine ships run on to reef last night. One got off last night + Gladstone got off this morning. Other four stuck fast. Lithgow, Stawell, Gladstone, Gympie + ourselves corvettes there, also ½ dozen M.T.B's. Lithgow and us went almost onto reef alongside ship + took troops (Yanks) off to other ships. Lithgow + Gladstone left with ship each during forenoon for Cairns. We worked like slaves all day + finally freed 2 of the 3 ships. Spike did a great job – the other corvettes just stood back + watched. Once we nearly drifted onto the reef. It would have been goodnight to us then, but we

got free with only feet to spare. The other two corvettes left with the other two ships + left us to watch the one on the reef. Cripes we must be easy. Its not our convoy yet we wait with the ship till morning. Then the Warrego + a tug are coming out to help us. We can't anchor as the bottom can't be fathomed here, so we just cruise about all night. Sunday, at sea – when I think of what I could be doing at home with Marg. – or when I think of that mail at Cairns I should be reading now – well maybe it would be better if I didn't think of 'em. Not even the various shades of the water over the reef makes me want to see further than Melbourne. Reef very pretty tho'.

Monday 20th Dec Warrego arrived here during the night + so she had a go at the Van de Vander very early. She couldn't manounted like us so she had to give it up as a bad job. Spike Shopped in again + did some very elever risky work + succeeded in getting the ship off on the second afferft, anid cheen from everybody. So off back to leaving. - I Spike will get a big seconmend after the work he did In barino about 8 Pm, viled - Spike sequented boiler clean + permission granted Charleding to Townsyille for boiler clean at 3AM. Just my luch to Mant rone abouted so I'm happy good old Margin & Shum.

Tuesday 21st Sec. arrived Twille about lefun! dang me if me dedn't get stack in the much ourselves, but got off after a bit of muching about. Stednesday 22nd Started boiler clean along jetly near Hepol Started rigging arrials all day. Went to Opichures at open are theater at night) Thursday Hatt a pair in side so reported to Sich Day. Loc said I am to go ashore for days for observation. Bached bit + waited for ambulance but it didn't turn up. Friday 24th Ambulance ralled at 9.4.n. Warhed at sich Day until

Monday 20th Dec.

Warrego arrived here during the night + so she had a go at the Van de Vander very early. She couldn't manoeuvre like us so she had to give it up as a bad job. Spike hopped in again + did some very clever risky work + succeeded in getting the ship off on the second attempt, amid cheers from everybody. So off back to Cairns – Spike will get a big recommend after the work he did. In Cairns about 8PM, oiled – Spike requested boiler clean + permission granted. Proceeding to Townsville for boiler clean at 3AM. Just my luck to have the Morning watch.

Mail came aboard so I'm happy – good old Margie + Mum.

Tuesday 21st Dec

Arrived T'ville about 6pm. Hang me if we didn't get stuck in the mud ourselves, but got off after a bit of mucking about.

Wednesday 22nd

Started boiler clean along jetty near Depot. Started rigging aerials all day. Went to pictures at open air theatre at night.

Thursday

Had a pain in side so reported to Sick Bay. Doc said I am to go ashore for few days for observation. Packed kit + waited for ambulance but it didn't turn up.

Friday 24th

Ambulance called at 9AM. Waited at Sick Bay until

5Pm then informed that there were They witch hihed all this way no vacant beds. Jaken out to army to say Merry has even bringing money because I haven't been faid hospital about 9 mile out. 25 Kmas Shay Opened parcels My So in all it was a frethy fair Knos. I've been thinking of mife is a darling . Thust her to que me something to make things home though hets hope I don't have to spendy many more away neen more title Kmas. Thanks Mang. 21th Sunday . Doe somes or has Good has dinner of how burkey. a look at no once a day then spends, peas, plum duff with brandy gre don't see him till nevet day. sauce topped off by a bottle of been that the Cadre got us. at. I'm still under observation they bea time we hape fluit reglad with say. Icron is OK + no one ice cream on Alandie + Have lo worry us so it will do me. arrived here to see me this arms Encha good concert party called with a cake from Mann + a fached the Waratahs on in the evening from Sis also letters from Margie It is the best concert party and Mom. They are real offor. I have seen up to date. and Mom. they are real offor.

5PM then informed that there were no vacant beds. Taken out to Army hospital about 9 mile out.

25th Xmas Day

Opened parcels. My wife is a darling. Trust her to give me something to make things seem more like Xmas. Thanks Marg. Good Xmas dinner of ham turkey, spuds, peas, plum duff with brandy sauce topped off by a bottle of beer that the Padre got us. At tea time we had fruit salad with ice cream on. Blondie + Dave arrived here to see me this arvo with a cake from Mum + a packet from Sis also letters from Margie and Mom. They are real oppos.

They hitch hiked all this way to say Merry Xmas, even bringing money because I haven't been paid. So in all it was a pretty fair Xmas. I've been thinking of home though. Lets hope I don't have to spend many more away.

26th Sunday

Doc comes + has a look at us once a day then we don't see him till next day. I'm still under observation they say. Scran is OK + no one to worry us so it will do me. Extra good concert party called the Waratahs on in the evening. It is the best concert party I have seen up to date.

train. Its definitely the best way the January 1st - The start of an New Mar. What will it bring? That seems fairly easy to fredict. hair all the way and at two another year of tiring war - stops V.A.D. * RED CROSS women can stops V.A.D' & RED Cass women come thin the hair distributing fresh with sictories but victories that milh print, ice cream and kigarettes bring as much socrows to folk The Red Cross do a wonderful as defeate. Let us pray that Job a it places like these What the end of this Newt Year shows us where the end of this war you notice it. Synday January of In hospital at will be and when Disbane. Not too bad . Not much Started the New Year off in to do but get a good rest + a hospital - but don't bount that the main thing Jood hethy good - When I get but of here I'll be on expert. that as a mistortune January 6th Christe a few of us cleaned out from Townsville + the number of games Lie played. sent to hospital at Brisbane havelled down by hopifal

January 1st

The start of a New Year. What will it bring? That seems fairly easy to predict – another year of tiring war – with victories, but victories that bring as much sorrow to folks as defeats. Let us pray that the end of this New Year shows us where the end of this war will be and when.

Started the New Year off in a hospital – but don't count that as a misfortune.

January 6th

Quite a few of us cleared out from Townsville + sent to hospital at Brisbane. Travelled down by hospital

train. It's definitely the best way I've ever travelled. Bunks in the train all the way and at two stops V.A.D's + Red Cross women came thru the train distributing fresh milk, fruit, ice cream and cigarettes. The RED CROSS do a wonderful job + its places like these that you notice it.

Sunday January 7th

In hospital at Brisbane. Not too bad. Not much to do, but get a good rest + that's the main thing. Food pretty good – When I get out of here I'll be an expert at table tennis, bobs + quoits by the number of games I've played.

Tell I'd known them for ages to go out for scraw on 28th Maral depot HMASS MORETON BRISAGE went on deaft that day. Also for take things easy for artile visited Jachie Woods folk + had les with them. They were quieter but do that tall I come quite yeng nice & made me very welcome. Neil Murray was in defet awaiting good again an operation for askma If it wis successful he may get his fichet and good leave. All night in hed Friday Jonary 20th On draft back every night suited me. Also rec'ng to the old Thip, HMAS CASTLEMAINE Mang Wisited Hraces mother shought maybe I might have got No soap. So I go to Milhe Bay to hich her up Visions of hardling in luxury were shattered when I raw I was travelling Gearl very nice - also Mrs Nelson and Horacis sisters great sports.

Tuesday January 18th

Discharged from hospital to Naval depot H.M.A.S. MORETON (BRISBANE). Got to take things easy for awhile so Doc says, and I'll certainly do that till I come quite good again.

At MORETON till January 28th.

Depot not too bad – good scran, and good leave. All night in bed every night suited me. Also rec'vg mail quickly & regularly from my Marg. Visited Horace's mother + met Horace + Pearl there. Horace was on last day of his leave. Pearl very nice – also Mrs. Nelson and Horace's sisters great sports.

Felt I'd known them for ages. Was to go out for scran (food) on 28th but went on draft that day. Also visited Jackie Woods folk – and had tea with them. They were quieter but very nice + made me very welcome. Neil Murray was in depot awaiting an operation for asthma. If its un-successful he may get his 'ticket'.

Friday January 25th

On draft back to the old ship HMAS CASTLEMAINE – thought maybe I might have got a change, but as the Yanks say "No soap". So I go to Milne Bay to pick her up. Visions of travelling in luxury were shattered when I saw I was travelling

up on a Landing least manned hc.I. fulled into shelper outside by YANKS. First day and a half the bleakwater at Townsville. I rained and quite a few were Leanfiful day- Yanh stood by with sich, but the flak didn't get any riple while we went swimming over of my meals. The meals are too the side byclone didn't bouch us good to waste These Yanks sure + we left about 6 P.M. Lat well. The cook was a Vebruary 1 st - 2md professional rook in rivies, so that A Weather huned marky + makes things even more perfect. hois sertainly leaping about link as a matter of fact there is more a lot sich Mich It were only room on these things than there two at breakfast out of the looks. Runks to sleep in - goodsh. aussies on the 2nd of humber of Sunday Weather now typical the crew sich too. My luch hopital rummery days I calm seas. held all the way. I blina blina Monday Jan 31st A replan reported Straits early but rain spoilt heading this way, so our nine the view for those who hadrit up on a Landing Craft manned by YANKS. First day and a half it rained and quite a few were sick, but the fish didn't get any of my meals. The meals are too good to waste. These Yanks sure eat well. The cook was a professional cook in civvies, so that makes things even more perfect. As a matter of fact there is more room on these things than there looks. Bunks to sleep in – goodoh.

Sunday

Weather now typical tropical summery days + calm seas. Hope it keeps thisaway.

Monday Jan 31st

A cyclone reported heading this way, so our nine

L.C.I.'s pulled into shelter outside the breakwater at Townsville. Beautiful day – Yank stood by with rifle while we went swimming over the side. Cyclone didn't touch us + we left about 6PM.

February 1st + 2nd

Weather turned nasty + L C I's certainly leaping about. Quite a lot sick. Mick + I were only two at breakfast out of the Aussies on the 2nd. A number of the crew sick too. My luck held all the way.

February 3rd

Passed thru' China Straits early but rain spoilt the view for those who hadn't

seen it before. Got into Milne Day and bedding donned our long in afternoon & stood by ready strides + long sleved shirts + As go off till gen, Then got fed up a went to bed. That wallowed in the mud like a real swother. bef ships in but not bastlemains leavet say I'm sorry yet. Tebruary 4th Friday A Worked with Sparkers did a bit of watchkeiping, a bit of day work and finished up Thanding Thange book us working on building a but ashore about bunch time. Not with alow Matter another Sparker sorry to leave youhs - they Milne Bay pretty good place arent a patch on our pulsaries to be ashow at all least it reened but boy I'd like for keep that way to me in my 3 weeks eating Their meals there. Hud bad when it raised Milne Day ashoe is big. mosquitous bad at night + ecran Seems to be thousands of youhns not the best, but there was here and loads upon blads of the chance to get plenty of sport and exercise. Yanks helde equipment. We drive morquito with

seen it before. Got into Milne Bay in afternoon + stood by ready to go off till 9PM, then got fed up + went to bed. Lot of ships in but not Castlemaine. Can't say I'm sorry yet.

February 4th Friday

Landing barge took us ashore about lunch time. Not sorry to leave Yanks – they aren't a patch on our Aussies, but boy I'd like to keep eating their meals.

Milne Bay ashore is big. Seems to be thousands of Yanks here and loads upon loads of equipment. We drew mosquito nets

and bedding, donned our long strides + long sleeved shirts + wallowed in the mud like a real swottie (soldier).

Worked with Sparkers – did a bit of watchkeeping, a bit of day work and finished up working on building a hut with Alan Mutter, another Sparker. Milne Bay pretty good place to be ashore at – at least it seemed that way to be in my 3 weeks there. Mud bad when it rained, mosquitos bad at night + scram not the best, but there was the chance to get plenty of sport and exercise. Yanks held

Augusteunt was my mail. all there of the great of the gre fur goal shows at surrounding camps.
Quite or lot of they we the surrounding camps. Met adelaide beleg there - goe Evans Doug Scott is on fother at yorderough great little workers. They were building Island Thut for the Navy, and make a lastlemaine alter being in and very hiddly job of them.
Mountainous wild country very - around Carino all this time arrived on 25th Feb so I sont back beautiful. It hip up this way aboard her after & mouths away in peace time would be grand, but now, well its hard to koys thought it was funny when I know in york blue dungarees, appreciate it fully Went down book + gartere . Just a charter to where Japa landed last with your to get Valout is nothing I but but not many signs shorts and sandals again Amazing murber of ships It good for themas on old Ship None Havies, George Any at himes . tortableshould Jurard Holly grey + Nob-Hays growing rapidly and almost all are ashore doing shetches of

pictures every night, besides a few gash (extra) shows at surrounding camps. Quite a lot of Fuzzie Wuzzies about. Great little workers. They were building huts for the Navy, and make a very tiddly job of them.

Mountainous, wild, country very beautiful. A trip up this way in peace time would be grand, but now, well its hard to appreciate it fully. Went down to where Japs landed last year but not many signs of war remaining.

Incredible number of ships in Bay at times. Establishment ashore growing rapidly and almost all of it Yank.

Met Adelaide teleg. there – Joe Evans. Doug Scott is on further at Goodenough Island.

Bigger Event is my mail. Good old Margie. Gosh its great getting her letters + letters from Mum again.

Castlemaine after being in and around Cairns all this time arrived on 25th Feb, so I went back aboard her after 2 months away. Boys thought it was funny when I arrived in Yank blue dungarees, boots + gaiters. Quite a change to get about in nothing but shorts and sandals again.

A good few changes on the old ship. Bonc Davies, George Gerrard, Dolly Grey + Bob Hayes are ashore doing stretches of

90 and 60 day for stealing. a man near mad. Thinge fall from grog from the wardroom Aad verywhere. The broke cups plats buch, especially for Bonc as he bottles of frichles a sauce a goodness has a wife and 2 hids. It knows what! Delieve me, its no by is discharged, he will love the fun mosping up a couple of £400 odd that he is shortly due bottle of striking Workestershire for Williams our Jumy has Laura from the dech when your gone to be thipper of a corrette stomach is not in the mood Ohr STRAHAN GOOD were I new Sparker in her Leach's place - Bill May we refuelled and headed Sloss - seems quite a derent bloke back Sea catching us worse Beb 27th SUNDAY Thrined Cains after byclone moving in 2 directions and a longlish breaking in hip we caught outskirt of one leg Teb 25th Monsoy " Cut again Mike Day Shipped water all the way bound. got rough as soony as we got outlide the ruf beareless the bridge registered our beggist rolling day after day drives roll as 1430 Mooneidering that

90 and 60 days for stealing grog from the wardroom. Bad luck, especially for Bonc as he has a wife and 2 kids. If he is discharged, he will lose the 400 pound odd that he is shortly due for. Williams our Jimmy has gone to be Skipper of a corvette the STRAHAN. Poor crew. A new Sparker in Ken Leach's place – Bill Ross – seems quite a decent bloke.

Feb 27th SUNDAY

Arrived Cairns after a roughish breaking-in trip.

Feb 28th MONDAY

Out again Milne Bay bound. Got rough as soon as we got outside the reef. Ceaseless rolling day after day drives

a man near mad. Things fall from everywhere. We broke cups, plates, bottles of pickles + sauce + goodness knows what. Believe me, its no fun mopping up a couple of bottles of stinking Worcestershire Sauce from the deck when your stomach is not in the mood. As soon as we arrived at Milne Bay we refuelled and headed back. Sea catching us worse. Cyclone moving in 2 directions and we caught outskirts of one leg. Shipped water all the way. Roll extra bad – the "machine" on the bridge registered our biggest roll as 43 degrees. Considering that

these ships were only tested at day continuously between baires and when built, then I'd degrees in first Con. (3). Ended up with 6 conster about 42° too much for me . That's and 3 Farmiles searching. We want the biggest roll five heard of in back in with (1) lake at night. these ships a roll like that TUESDAY MARCH 7 the Degan or boiler this makes a man quite tired clean alongside when at Cairne and we were very glad to get WES PARCHELL West out to Theatmaker into Carins. with Llondie fare a George Garris, 5th March Arrived Cains lake had a good sum - the flavies at night - not too lake to read borrowed enough sugar cans be feed mail though. us for day. 6th MARCH MONDAY Fairnile reported and THUR MARKET get Jarly of 30 of us contact imide need of we proceeded detailed to go to thing campo for there about 6 Am will Commander D 48 how heat. Spored to leave and his full shaff abound. Swept at moon, but as is expected the all day. We set watch on RIT + huchs didn't leave till you had Wit and handled mesings all to drive about 80 mile + go

these ships were only tested at 48 degrees when built, then 43 degrees is just about 42 degrees too much for me. That's the biggest roll I've heard of in these ships. Originally thought it was 47 degrees but seems doubt. A roll like that trip makes a man quite tired and we were very glad to get into Cairns.

5th MARCH

Arrived Cairns late at night – not too late to read mail though.

6th MARCH MONDAY

Fairmile reported sub contact inside reef + we proceeded there about 6AM with Commander D and his full staff aboard. Swept all day. We set watch on R/T + W/T and handled messages all

day continuously between Cairns and COM(D). Ended up with 6 corvettes and 3 Fairmiles searching. We went back in with (D) late at night.

TUESDAY MARCH 7TH

Begun a boiler clean alongside wharf at Cairns.

WED MARCH 8TH

Went out to Freshwater with Blondie, Dave & George Davies. Had a good swim – then Davies borrowed enough sugar cane to feed us for days.

THUR. MARCH 9TH

Party of 30 of us detailed to go to Army camps for 48 hour break. S'posed to leave at noon, but as is expected the trucks didn't leave till 7PM. Had to drive about 80 mile + go

across the mountaine Deartiful view leave Aushalias They made us very across the plains, for the mountain welcome. It major book us to an road. Mb Henrelson very heavily hund, then we spent a couple of timbered + with dense undergrowth hours nathering. I lokes had blankets and ferns Unfortunately it got + all laid out for us. FRIDAY MARCH 10th a lot Burgogne from dark early so had to content "A" company was alloted to take us ourselves with singing our way along the road! Went thew 3 around all day. Very decent bloke hor. or & little towns among other Marella No shorted off by watching their of Method Merived at 16th mars = 19th Battalion parade - they fut on a Ages Partont 11Pm. Split up into amont short + look exchar good. The old slowch hat gives just the right parties of 5 + dishibited among various battalions. Lave, bill, Blondie bouch to the MFS furroughly. From as seamen + I went to 2/2 nd Kattalion there we attended an RT giruless school for officers, for 1/2 hours. It developed - they are part of the 16th Brigade which was first not formed when lundo discussions on Navy procedure war started + were fruit mot to + reb - the instructor was eating

across the mountains. Beautiful view across the plains, from the mountain road. Mts themselves very heavily timbered + with dense undergrowth and ferns. Unfortunately it got dark early so had to content ourselves with singing our way along the road. Went thru 3 or 4 little towns, among them Mareeba + Atherton. Arrived at 16th, 17th + 19th Bges (Brigades) about 11PM. Split up into parties of 5 + distributed among various battalions. Dave, Bill, Blondie + seaman + I went to 2/2nd Battalion – they are part of the 16th Brigade which was first mob formed when war started + were first mob to

leave Australia. They made us very welcome. A major took us to our tents, then we spent a couple of hours nattering. Blokes had blankets + all laid out for us.

FRIDAY MARCH 10TH

A Sgt. Burgoyne from "A" company was allotted to take us around all day. Very decent bloke too. We started off by watching their Battalion parade – they put on a smart show + look extra good. The old slouch hat gives just the right touch to the AIF personality. From there we attended an R/T wireless school for officers, for 1-1/2 hours it developed into discussions on Navy procedure + sets – the instructor was asking

There officers are new . They heat you A Naval officer wouldn't during out of a familiar, let alone use it after a rating. All rollected a heich like a man too Puble the offerile morton, smoke bomb, signal flavo, to the Many where class distinction H.E. rifle granades a goodness know is carried out above all else. Another what, then went accors to the difference is that throng fighting ronge where we fired the lot off a officers know their John because their Over defend on knowing it But leasent about the various weapons the infankyman uses. His job is on our ship the only man who a lough one. This ligh was one of really known his for is Spike. the for originals of the 2/2nd & had The others are practically necless of I had some almost unbelievable disto mean that quite without prejudice. to spin. Ifter lunch we were The army officers persuaded the cook taken to a knew gow carrier comp to bring them some hear of a few Boy they did waything but hum somersauls a that want then sonderiches which they made us shae They let us we the familians first as there wasn't wough to go round.

us questions most of the time. These Army officers are men. They treat you like a man too. Quite the opposite to the Navy where class distinction is carried out above all else. Another difference is that Army fighting officers know their jobs because their lives depend on knowing it. But on our ship the only man who really knows his job is Spike. The others are practically useless - + I mean that quite without prejudice.

The Army officers persuaded the cook to bring them some tea + a few sandwiches, which they made us share. They let us use the pannikins first as there wasn't enough to go round.

A Naval officer wouldn't drink out of a pannikin, let alone use it <u>after</u> a rating. We collected a trench mortar, smoke bombs, signal flares, H.E., rifle grenades + goodness knows what, then went across to the range where we fired the lot off + learnt about the various weapons the infantryman uses. His job is a tough one. This Sgt was one of the few originals of the 2/2nd + had had some almost unbelievable dits to spin. After lunch we were taken to a Bren gun carrier camp, where we had a ride in them. Boy they did everything but turn somersaults + that wasn't thru'

arrived just after in Their another down her jumped ditches to swothis whom we didn't ever know took our money and brought our climbed up + down week banks hickels for us. On arriving backs at The leaptain wanted us to stay longer, comp our beds had been made but as we had a programme to for us. The blokes all said that follow we were whiched back to we needed to be with them for comp. Asch there the lost got us 2 New June + 3 Owen Jula & at least a week, and we randomly agreed. There A.I.F. of ours are the equipped with plenty of ammerition we went he the rough + proceeded worlds best - fancy hying to compare to Mart at everything within eight. YANKS with this mot . Makes a Those Grens are Granderful gums. man proud of being on husic. That evening we decided to go SAT MARCH 11th Keft at 130 Am very sorry to go because we had into a small nearly town for fishers. of any bogs of they all had much We mirred the Kick so a dim New as sparially there. The some the same experience - all roted it goods. thing happined to slave a bor who

want of trying, by gee. We pushed down trees, jumped ditches + climbed up + down creek banks. The Captain wanted us to stay longer, but as we had a programme to follow we were whisked back to camp. Back there the Sgt got us 2 Bren Guns + 3 Owen Guns + equipped with plenty of ammunition we went to the range + proceeded to blast at everything within sight. Those Brens are wonderful guns. That evening we decided to go into a small nearby town for pictures. We missed the truck, so a driver run us specially there. The same thing happened to Dave + Co who

arrived just after us. Then another swottie whom we didn't even know took our money and bought our tickets for us. On arriving back at camp our beds had been made for us. The blokes all said that we needed to be with them for at least a week, and we certainly agreed. These A.I.F. of ours are the world's best – fancy trying to compare YANKS with this mob. Makes a man proud of being an Aussie.

SAT MARCH 11th

Left at 7.30AM – very sorry to go because we had a good time. Met up with rest of our boys and they had much the same experiences – all voted it goodoh.

Those back to Caims via different hours to climb mountain tack route. It me flace went down road James their 15 Aumels in the 20 mile called Jellies Highway. Only one way Journey, Jarred Stony breek falls haffie. Shetch is 12 mill long about 15 mile out. Those falls + has 146 hums in Deantiful mice very reminiscent of Silversteam? Hallo from various places on way down. at granpions. Way down in the Wish Many had been there to rooms we could see the broad enjoy it with me - then replace my Darrow Kinn. This from top of and I wouldn't ever envy the King falls across ungar come fillds lover the distant form and out to got back to the ship about sea would have made a wongerful I oclock . How more letters waiting photo. Tallo are the best The new - goodsh. The water falls in 2 wide shears Sunsay Maca 12th Blandie + I were + about 3 Ismall ones. Theight of watch ashow so decided to take Ash of falls is 1,071 feet above real the hair hip up to Savor Valle level white the falls "afresid their Train left at 2.15 fm + book 3 broad while afroni ever a desp of 800 fot. Drove back to Cairns via different route. At one place went down road called Gillies Highway. Only one way traffic. Stretch is 1/2 mile long + has 146 turns in. Beautiful views from various places on way down. Wish Marg had been there to enjoy it with me – then replace my uniform with grey slacks + shirt and I wouldn't even envy the King. Got back to the ship about 1 oclock. Few more letters waiting – goodoh.

SUNDAY MARCH 12TH

Blondie + I were watch ashore so decided to take the train trip up to Barron Falls. Train left at 2.15pm + took 3

hours to climb mountain track. Passed thru' 15 tunnels in the 20 mile journey. Passed Stony Creek falls about 15 mile out. Those falls very reminiscent of Silversteam (?) Falls at Grampians. Way down in the ravine we could see the broad Barron River. View from top of falls, across sugar cane fields, over the distant town and out to sea would have made a wonderful photo. Falls are the best I've seen. The water falls in 2 wide streams + about 3 small ones. Height at top of falls is 1,071 feet above sea level, while the falls "spread their broad white apron" (out of a book) over a drop of 800 feet.

There were 600 steps, down to the bottom we had quite a bit of few on the bank & in the water. George is of the falls so I climbed down. And naturally farmy. It young rivered his wife good as a left back for there stened like a thousand coming up. Trip back book only an hour - four in repayment for the entertainment we provided on the river bank". as it was down hill! The hip was well worth taking. Didn't think our adagio dana was MONDAY MARCH 13th. Out to sea about 6 Am Milne Bay bound once more. You that good . I was out again Spike left us + went wouth today. a change we had a quist hip Very away to love him - he has done + arrived back early on the 18th a good job abound & got us a good SUND BY MARCH 19th Jeoge Davis Bloodie + I hitch hited out to Rairow Water where everywhere we have worked . He is an expert reamon + has fulled 12 mile out for a ensing Marrally the water is so clear that the Bottom of some work where gut as well as seamonahip was needed. May reased can be seen, but the river was in flood + the maker was a lit Iner dech a cheered ship at like dially. Great place for swimming & passed the was very moved.

There were 400 steps down to the bottom of the falls so I climbed down. But there seemed like a thousand coming up. Trip back took only an hour as it was down hill. The trip was well worth taking.

MONDAY MARCH 13th

Out to sea about 6AM Milne Bay bound once more. For a change we had a quiet trip + arrived back early on the 18th.

SUNDAY MARCH 19TH

George Davies, Blondie + I hitch-hiked out to Barrow Waters 12 mile out, for a swim. Usually the water is so clear that the bottom can be seen, but the river was in flood + the water was a bit dirty. Great place for swimming +

we had quite a bit of fun on the bank + in the water. George is naturally funny. A young civvy + his wife gave us a lift back to town "in repayment for the entertainment we provided on the river bank". Didn't think our adagio dance was that good. Passed out again.

Spike left us + went south today. Very sorry to lose him – he has done a good job aboard + got us a good name everywhere we have worked. He is an expert seaman + has pulled off some work where guts as well as seamanship was needed. Boys cleared lower deck + cheered ship as Spike passed + he was very moved.

He has been sich for a good while Miles Kay May get to Cains for now t will probably get this lichet. boiles clean. Hope we get subt up the top - this run had been The hold as which fut in Sythony he monotonous of makes us feel sot would be at if we tem back there. The Engineer Officer who want on draft. of discontented. "He was well- meaning, but was too 250 Shrivea Mile Lay, fulled much of an abstrale old woman. then report received that annualt righted three lifebook a big Statlie the Lader officer has also hatches of oil on surface about got a draft. He is going to lengland - they'll wake him up over there. He 60 mile from Morely Mildura is has be want till his relief arrives. going out from Moresby - Wagge and musebox going from here. Marked Our present Shipper, Gant on Continas of at 15 knots so that we Tomerille is a real fig at is down Some speed for us. Heavy trying to rem this cowelle like a chiren Very impopular already. MONDAY MARCH 20th But Mike Kay bound swell owhide ! Cassell garrague when she was only doing about 8 knots This time to be allached to

He has been sick in Sydney for a good while now + will probably get his ticket. He told us which pub he would be at if we came back there. The Engineer Officer also went on draft. He was well-meaning, but was too much of an obstinate old woman. Robbie the Asdec officer has also got a draft. He is going to England - they'll wake him up over there. He has to wait till his relief arrives. Our present Skipper, Paul ex Canberra + Townsville is a real pig + is trying to run this corvette like a cruiser. Very unpopular already.

MONDAY MARCH 20TH

Out Milne Bay bound this time to be attached to

Milne Bay. May get to Cairns for boiler clean. Hope we get right up the top – this run has been monotonous + makes us feel sort of discontented.

23^{rd}

Arrived Milne Bay, fuelled then report received that aircraft sighted three lifeboats + big patches of oil on surface, about 60 mile from Moresby. Mildura is going out from Moresby, Wagga and ourselves going from here. Started of at 18 knots so that we could get outside the Straits before dark. Some speed for us. Heavy swell outside. Passed Gascoyne when she was only doing about 8 knots

and her Shipper asked as where we only I for of roat lift + had is the fire to " Shower 200th thribed approximate prostron to shelper here. The has no wireless so couldn't havenit message. Our about 2 oclock, but after reaching Shippe suggest that we how her all day all we sighted was 3" to Morely about 90 mile away at dhims which was apparently the Mission Station ashore here, and supposed life book. Had report when we anchored quite a lot of that leanon bar from Mile Kay to Suggie Duggies sailed out in their catamarange to sell bonanos, coconeto Morety is overdie. Almost back to Make Bay during Morning Watch shell beards shirts and other when we were ordered for harm back small trinkets. New boys either frienaft sighted ship similar to bought them or exchanged biscuit & timed fruit for the Goods. Canonbar in shelbered bay detween here + Moresly. george Sparies fut over a purmy act. 25th Steemed close in to coast or arrived at Keahoro Lay about 6Pm. He gave a boong 31. for some bradd then later he some out with some biscuits. The native Ship is the leanonbar! She has

and her Skipper asked us "where is the fire?"

24th

Arrived approximate position about 2 oclock, but after searching all day all we sighted was 3 oil drums which was apparently the supposed life boats. Had report that Canonbar from Milne Bay to Moresby is overdue. Almost back to Milne Bay during Morning Watch when we were ordered to turn back. Aircraft sighted ship similar to Canonbar in sheltered bay between here + Moresby.

25^{th}

Steamed close in to coast + arrived at Khaehoe Bay about 6PM. Ship is the Canonbar. She has

only 3 ton of coal left + had to shelter here. She has no wireless so couldn't transmit message. Our Skipper suggests that we tow her to Moresby about 90 mile away. Mission station ashore here, and when we anchored quite a lot of Fuzzie Wuzzies sailed out in their catamarans to sell bananas, coconuts, shell beards, skirts and other small trinkets. Our boys either bought them or exchanged biscuits + tinned fruit for the goods. George Davies put over a funny act. He gave a boong 3/- for some beads, then later he came out with some biscuits. The native

way he messed about bying to indicated that he wanted the biscuit get a line to the ship. He finally his money back a walked off. dragged it across by motor book. When Spike dragged those ships off Our mess bought a big bunch of the relf, he clased to steam up Rugar bananas. There bananas are close so that the boys could throw wall, but make good banawa a hearing line. hater low when custand. One Durgie had perfect the low line broke, Coul muched white beeth, which is unulual for about again at sea getting a new natures as they are usually continually one across. He unt a faction of chaning belet mut which speaks a the reamon Spike was! Luckily houlble stain on their healt this the see was rales or we might native was buying toothparte offus have encountered brouble towning The also spoke faultless lenglish to was widnesday a mission about the ship. MONDAY 27th MARCH Arrived Monesty JUNDAY 264 MARCH Orders can bo about 8Am. Durch hime the later four learnabar to Meresly Garl it Since New Years Hay 1943. There disgurded the boys with the

indicated that he wanted the biscuits, so George calmly said "3/-" took his money back + walked off. Our mess bought a big bunch of sugar bananas. These bananas are small, but make good banana custard. One Fuzzie had perfect white teeth, which is unusual for natives, as they are usually continually chewing betel-nut which puts a horrible stain on their teeth. This native was buying toothpaste off us. He also spoke faultless English so was evidently a mission boy.

SUNDAY 26TH MARCH

Orders came to tow Canonbar to Moresby. Paul disgusted the boys with the

way he messed about trying to get a line to the ship. He finally dragged it across by motor boat. When Spike dragged those ships off the reef, he used to steam up close so that the boys could throw a heaving line. Later on when the tow line broke, Paul mucked about again at sea getting a new one across. He isn't a fraction of the seaman Spike was. Luckily the sea was calm or we might have encountered trouble towing the ship.

MONDAY 27TH MARCH

Arrived Moresby about 8AM. First time I've seen it since New Years Day 1943. There

is a rost difference in the orderliness Shoals of fish continually about ahig of the place of the number of buildings whilst back up and the boys were Went alongside the jetty. Acception fishing all day Jish were knowld on W/1 fraptful, due to local but nice. The boys caught 300 to noise + out position. Ships allowed -400 - enough to supply the ships to rease loft watch here but Saul company with 3 fish tack for 2 refused us permission consequently we meals - + then to give the Immsville mirea about 20 merrages. The fat a bucket full. The first were goodsh fellied old so and so. Victure party point ashoe in the Leave granted at 1.15 Pm. I didn't evening but I was on watch go and watch till 4 lm so Reg heartiful troporal everying. TUESDAY MARCH 28 th Left the beach over the hill. Oute of four women about here there days, May means mail we surgely I have at since woman at the Jank Old bross. Hamit seem one mind of this was was over + attractive one ... was have with Morg inshad of

is a vast difference in the orderliness of the place + the number of buildings. Went alongside the jetty. Reception on W/T frightful, due to local noise + our position, Ships allowed to cease W/T watch here but Paul refused us permission, consequently we missed about 20 messages. The fat bellied old so-and-so.

Leave granted at 1.15PM. I didn't go on watch till 4PM, so Reg, Joe + I went for a swim at the beach over the hill. Quite a few women about here these days, even a civvies woman at the Yank Red Cross. Haven't seen one attractive one.

Shoals of fish continually about ship whilst tied up, and the boys were fishing all day. Fish were small but nice. The boys caught 300 to 400 – enough to supply the ships company with 3 fish each for 2 meals - + then, to give the Townsville a bucket full. The fish were goodoh. Picture party went ashore in the evening, but I was on watch.

Beautiful tropical evening.

TUESDAY MARCH 28TH

Left in afternoon for Milne Bay. Mile Bay means mail we sincerely hope. Just on the quiet I wouldn't mind if this war was over + was home with Marg instead of

tengineers named Mr Farlane came having to rely on letters to help from Storell Sheet Burnley so I went over a had a maker to him in bouch with all back home. Loiday MARCH 30 & Arina M.B. went alongude Yanks tanker to oil yanks for hold me he got 1200. yes 1200 a month. He never bought new out here + wanted husin !any clothes or accessories because rigarettes and eachanged money with they got everything they wanted from then congr. I they also get a bonus them. Value slightly our way. for going into dangrous areas. When the Alay used ha get them 100 dollar Derver Mail about - goodsh - that what we wanted Only Setters from bonus. The merchant Spayher abound Many & Mum but your what Jothers informed me he soved \$1650 last. And I really need when I've got these? you the showed me his = W/T gear NONE really altho I like a lot. gen that weed to be on the SATURDBY APRIL 1st Went along Whest backer for water. She is bank packet Examination speamer at Devensily mamed mostly by aussies rigid May would I like one of shore on with the yands. One of the

APRIL

having to rely on letters to keep in touch with all back home.

MARCH 30TH

Arrived M.B. went alongside Yank tanker to oil. Yanks now out here + wanted Aussie money so some of our seamen bought cigarettes and exchanged money with them. Value slightly our way.

Mail aboard – goodoh – that's what we wanted. Only letters from Marg + Mum but gosh what others do I really need when I've got these? NONE really. Altho' I like a lot.

SATURDAY APRIL 1st

Went alongside West Cactus for water. She is a Yank packet manned mostly by Aussies signed on with the Yanks. One of the

Engineers named McFarlane came from Stawell Street Burnley so went over + had a natter to him. He told me he got 200 pounds – yes 200 pounds a month. He never bought any clothes or accessories because they got everything they wanted from their cargo. They also get a bonus for going into dangerous areas. Milne Bay used to get them 100 dollar bonus. The merchant Sparker aboard informed me he saved 1650 pounds last year. He showed me his W/T gear + it looks like the out of date gear that used to be on the Examination steamer at Queenscliff. Boy would I like one of those

Jobs. I wouldn't be too passed to job. Ship itself isn't in loo bad swork for yanks at that price. a condition. Decho clear + unbrok Wonder would Mang say still that Rather surprised us, as we excluded a condition. Lecho clear + antrohen the Merchant Service is worse off then to see the wooder deche rotted etc. us? It bonus for dangerous waters Roll says his next job may be - carpes our blokes go in the on weeth at tryndlam. Wouldn't dangerous waters before these ships like his job there is a there is a 30 foot riche at fall of bide and 8 hot ament flowing and the water is like thick mud. Printe a even formow about them. Leave given for couple of homes in afternoon, so west whose and sor comple of blokes I know contact to the perfect conditions have Then went round and now Noch Testo who should us over the mow what sort of a foll it would be how blung (?) the is fully raised now & they'll have the ready Sousay APRIL 2nd Stayed abound surfit evening then Blandie, Radl at went off with a fricher frank. Sow Hight for Greedon I quite good. for rea in a matter of weeks. They have done a good salvage

jobs. I wouldn't be too proud to work for the Yanks at that price. Wonder would Marg say still that the Merchant Service is worse off than us? A bonus for dangerous waters – cripes our blokes go in the dangerous waters before these ships even know about them.

Leave given for couple of hours in afternoon, so went ashore and saw couple of blokes I knew. Then went round and saw Noel Testro who showed us over the An Chung (?). She is fully raised now + they'll have her ready for sea in a matter of weeks. They have done a good salvage

job. Ship itself isn't in too bad a condition Decks clean + unbroken. Rather surprised us, as we expected to see the wooden decks rotted etc. Noel says his next job may be on wreck at Wyndham. Wouldn't like his job there, as there is a 30 foot rise + fall of tide, an 8 knot current flowing, and the water is like thick mud. Quite a contrast to the perfect conditions here. We've seen the wreck at Wyndham so know what sort of a job it would be.

SUNDAY APRIL 2ND

Stayed aboard until evening then Blondie, Bill + I went off with a picture party. Saw Flight for Freedom – quite good.

On way to hangeman (Finschafen) to Saider light Journey, home Monday with 20 others. Dury is that of Hamirally I claude, which sounds we get no mail at all white up engeling but monotonous. Might be there which may be breeks. Even a chance of seeing Holbrocks at back here we are supposed to be I machafler 14th in priority for mail. Janko Leontiful weather for a change being first. Still we'll red berbaily anyway bahn reas - clear day hope we can post mail ever if TUESDAY APRIL HA we can't get any or folk back Arrived at Duna about 1 Am. how will be getting wound Lot of small shocks, on forshow -Monday April 3rd Milder Minigh alalso remains of Jap & landing 10 Am. Trist stop, is Auna to beign stewn along waterfront! drop passenges. Jack Woods is Trees with topo shot off mor shore. Took about 10 raking for houseast. on one of the ships we are replieving . Hope I see him. Bura anchorage why hage Suzzy ashow says that corretter Roped to get ashore to see you to Longwal do work rus remetery best no rec. leave given

On way to Langemak (Finschafen) Monday with 2 others. Buzz is that we get no mail at all while up there which may be 6 weeks. Even back here we are supposed to be 14th in priority for mail. Yanks being first. Still we'll see. Certainly hope we can post mail even if we can't get any or folk back home will be getting worried.

MONDAY APRIL 3RD

Under weigh at 10AM. First stop is Buna to drop passengers. Jack Woods is on one of the ships we are relieving. Hope I see him. Buzz ashore says that corvettes from Langewak do runs

to Saidor, Cape Gloucester, Arawe + Admiralty Islands, which sounds anything but monotonous. <u>Might</u> be a chance of seeing Holbrooks at Finschafen.

Beautiful weather for a change anyway. Calm seas – clear day.

TUESDAY APRIL 4TH

Arrived at Buna about 7AM. Lot of small shacks on foreshore – also remains of jap landing barges strewn along waterfront. Trees with tops shot off, near shore. Took aboard 10 ratings for transport. Buna anchorage very huge.

Hoped to get ashore to see cemetery, but no rec. leave given.

Left about 1800 with ship for and equipment to build there places uf. Whe aussies do a great fot but they can't get the Shelf ho WEDNESDAY APAIL 5th Jarred LAE about do a job like the Janks. 6 Am. Thoys said it was well lighted LANGEMAK very busy looking - hub up + appeared to be quite a lot everywhere - frethy country too. of works there. Weather whill Invited to a convert party on slear - sea calm. Gassed Rossing the Hunbury (cowette) boncet fanty Island - seems all youter - boy theyir got the year thrive LANGEMAK were youther and they fut on short but good turn! Cheally plant 1000, leona gove jouth so I'll miso Jachie Woods, Its nice - robust pady on after unbelievable the shaff theyir got ashow oerliken deck, audiente realed everywhere here the buildings they're put up + on quarter duck. The night was cloudless + starry with bright moonlight. The Ship had On everyphere. Yot to thand it to the slight slow roll - made it hard Yadhs - they nightent be fighting to believe that not so very many men, but they have the organization

Left about 1800 with ship for LAE.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 5TH

Passed LAE about 6AM. Boys said it was well lighted up + appeared to be quite a lot of works there.

Weather still clear – sea calm. Passed Nassing Island – seems all Yanks – boy they've got the gear. Arrived LANGEMAK about 1000 – Cowra gone south so I'll miss Jackie Woods. Its unbelievable the stuff they've got ashore here, the buildings they've put up + the busy lines of trucks tearing everywhere. Got to hand it to the Yanks – they mightn't be fighting men, but they have the organization

and equipment to build these places up. Our Aussies do a great job but they can't get the stuff to do a job like the Yanks.

LANGEMAK very busy looking – huts everywhere - pretty country too. Invited to a concert party on the Bunbury (corvette). Concert party were Yanks and they put on a short but good turn. Really nice – concert party on after oerliken deck, audience seated everywhere on quarter deck. The night was cloudless + starry with bright moonlight – the ship had a slight slow roll - made it hard to believe that not so very many

Leave granted for I'm home + I miles from here in 3 directions there went ashow It impossible to is heavy fighting going on. Dumbury Voys, said they have been describe the shift the yanhs have to Admirally Islands the other schoe It makes Mile Day look like a little nature willage the places on althor they have heard the genfire they howen't been proubled by Janks have an almost perfect torganisation. It was the bigget planes which is nice to hear . White eye opener the ever had recine but Timshafer the worthis look them for a run up to Sakelberg + showed The wonderful wade + huge then around Wish our A marine buildings etc. Went and had a look tat the Tinschafen War centery Shipper would let us go if he had the charce but doubt it Noth hussies + Jambal there. The place THURS APRIL 6th 1800 bane up to will look very nice when the Timschafen to get water at about 0600 coconut frabus + the lawns grow properly poses too are well kept It only about 3h mile for Longeral Quite a but of shiff whose here too by natives working under hurres. low ree top loffed of these in fighting Alte got fiched up in a July

miles from here in 3 directions there is heavy fighting going on.

Bunbury boys said they have been to Admiralty Islands + the other places + altho' they have heard the gunfire they haven't been troubled by planes, which is nice to hear. While at Finschafen, the swotties took them for a run up to Satelberg + showed them around. Wish our Skipper would let us go if we had the chance, but doubt it.

THURS. APRIL 6TH

Came up to Finschafen to get water at about 0600. Its only about 3½ mile from Langemak. Quite a bit of stuff ashore here too. Can see tops lopped off trees in fighting.

Leave granted for $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours + I went ashore. Its impossible to describe the stuff the Yanks have ashore. It makes Milne Bay look like a little native village. The Yanks have an almost perfect organisation. It was the biggest eye-opener I've ever had, seeing the wonderful roads + huge buildings etc. Went and had a look at the Finschafen War cemetery. Both Aussies + Yanks there. The place will look very nice when the coconut palms + the lawns grow properly. Graves too are well kept by natives working under Aussies. We got picked up in a jeep

by a yank Intelligence officer who The York showed + fold us many decided to show an all around things which he stuck as an The drove us right up to Sakelberg Intelligence officer, and we had a and Scarlet Beach explaining where real good hours hip the fighting had taken place or Thaty same night there was other various, things of interest a compact party of yorky putting Chemains of Jap Grange barges ste " on a show on the I whoa -In two days behind myself there We steamed bock to hangemak on signboards is a complete history of the fighting ma the parts !! played by yours units. The Loot. and a swimming party was held over the ship's side It sold on Thussies were wonderful was goodol in the water. The water fighters, but we had to hand it here is perfectly clear for fathous Ho him for the way the yanks almost Unfortingately go accident had built the place up. Fancy occured when Geter leooper was a road as good as our sububan hanging outs the motor boat & woods leading right up Satelberg. got his foot in the way of

by a Yank Intelligence officer who decided to show us all around. He drove us right up to Satelberg and Scarlet Beach, explaining where the fighting had taken place, + other various things of interest.

Remains of Jap barges, etc were pointed out. Along the road on signboards is a complete history of the fighting and the parts played by various units. The Loot. said our Aussies were wonderful fighters, but we had to hand it to him for the way the Yanks had built the place up. Fancy a road as good as our suburban roads leading right up Satelberg.

The Yank showed + told us many things which he struck as an Intelligence officer, and we had a real good hours trip.

That same night there was a concert party of Yanks putting on a show on the T – whoa – I'm two days behind myself there.

We steamed back to Langemack and a swimming party was held over the ship's side. It was goodoh in the water. The water here is perfectly clear for fathoms almost. Unfortunately an accident occurred when Peter Cooper was hanging onto the motor boat + got his foot in the way of

the rown It made a men of his Duraly every day (Sit over 100 mileshere) SATURDAY. APRIL SH Arived Glowerter anhle + foot + Gete had to be taken ashore. Seemed about half a dogs about 9 Am. Can see here too the or more deep cuts arross his foot effects of the bombardment given it Fliday APRIL JH anchor all the Yorks Yorks appear to have loads of stoff ashow here too. day downing party in afkinon again but I have a rocker rold & Yolcand in background giving out and so got my head down all afternoon. This raid Red Just of smoke Gocansionally during Logo. Days sow spinal of fall were to take convay Abach to black smoke code down think Language but now he have the Job of escorting, another one to it was a plane the bonically I slands. He sere are seeing steres this trip. The Evalus ashore here. Onte a plot of ships in the bay. Under weigh about 1830 headed for lape Glowerter. Sure getting a blong way away from your more Marque. I high it was only the district between the C.T.O to

the screws. It made a mess of his ankle + foot + Pete had to be taken ashore. Seemed about half a dozen or more deep cuts across his foot.

Friday APRIL 7TH

At anchor all day. Swimming party in afternoon again but I have a corker cold and so got my head down all afternoon. Air raid Red during Dogs. Boys saw spiral of black smoke come down – think it was a plane.

Under weigh about 1830 headed for Cape Gloucester. Sure getting a long way away from you now Margie. I wish it was only the distance between the C.T.O +

Burnley every day (Bit over 100 mile here).

SATURDAY APRIL 8TH

Arrived Gloucester about 9AM. Can see here too the effects of the bombardment given it by the "Shrofie" "Aussie", Warramunga + the Yanks. Yanks appear to have loads of stuff ashore here too. Volcano in background giving out puffs of smoke occasionally.

We were to take convoy back to Langemak, but now we have the job of escorting another one to the Admiralty islands. We sure are seeing places this trip.

Joe Evans ashore here. Quite a lot of ships in the bay (Borgen Bay)

SUNDAY APRIL 9th. Garly of 30 of the majority of us who went went where to have a look around known these, only of reached the where highling took place when Marines top. It took is one on how first landed here. Object was to dimb up Jancy carrying a visit Will 660 where Japs attempted pack up all the way . The to retake hill after Youks had the weight of my perspiration was chased them off. We Iwalked about 3 mile along the beach + saw whighing my down (at least it felt like of Thyway we sow quite the effects of the bombardment from a few things of interest at the sea / - Jak barges ben sunt hop such las the foscholes tenches in close to show where they and gear of all sorts lying, were evidently at anchor. The we about . Numerous decomposed to waded their swamps with mud bodies lying about unburied . Only in places covering our boots. Then the hill 660. It was muddy from the bonds to clothing left. Thought of taking a shull as a souvenick the previous nights rain + box but strayber they wouldn't let me was lit a cloub. Thyway out keep in on the mantelprice at home

SUNDAY APRIL 9TH

Party of 30 went ashore to have a look around where fighting took place, when Marines first landed here. Object was to visit Hill 660 where Japs attempted to retake hill after Yanks had chased them off. We walked about 3 mile along the beach + saw the effects of the bombardment from sea, - Jap barges been sunk in close to shore where they were evidently at anchor. Then we waded thru' swamps with mud in places covering our boots. Then the hill 660. It was muddy from the previous night's rain + boy was it a climb. Anyway out

of the majority of us who went round there, only 5 reached the top. It took us over an hour to climb up. Fancy carrying a pack up all the way – cripes the weight of my perspiration was weighing me down (at least I felt like it). Anyway we saw quite a few things of interest at the top, such as the foxholes, trenches and gear, of all sorts lying about. Numerous decomposed Jap bodies lying about unburied. Only the bones + clothing left. Thought of taking a skull as a souvenir but maybe they wouldn't let me keep it on the mantelpiece at home.

Think Sis would be about the hollected a Jap helmet in a few shells guly one who would appreciate it. Naturally The Yanks + their Intelligence Japa must have rushed shaight up had cleared any real good souvenirs out long ago. Itill, the what we the shap opposate side of the hill the been mown down by the yanks sow was overy interesting, + we trenched in at the form. All that what happened. Some of the Japa stormed to within a couple of equipment laying about was bullet ridden . water bottles , helmets , ammunition pouches. In one place about yards of where the Yanks were. a gouple of yards square we courted I boning down the hill we 8 Japa who must have rushed took another hack + it was a together. Sow those to rubber show work of ast stopping ourselves from the Japa used for the climbing. They have the big too separate from the main sole. Wouldn't have falling! I couldn't have had the mach because & fell a beaut losing my garters I was taking for back, to carthing my wrist of for furt a stitch in it when I minded a fair but they all seemed to have feet in them.

Think Sis & Val would be about the only ones who would appreciate it. Japs must have rushed straight up the steep opposite side of the hill + been mown down by the Yanks trenched in at the top. All the equipment lying about was bullet ridden – water bottles, helmets, ammunition pouches. In one place about a couple of yards square we counted 8 Japs who must have rushed together. Saw those rubber shoes the Japs used for tree climbing. They have the big toe separate from the main sole. Wouldn't have minded a pair but they all seemed to have feet in them.

Collected a Jap helmet + a few shells. Naturally the Yanks + their Intelligence had cleared any real good souvenirs out long ago. Still, what we saw was very interesting, + we could build a reconstruction of exactly what happened. Some of the Japs stormed to within a couple of yards of where the Yanks were.

Coming down the hill we took another track + it was a work of art stopping ourselves from falling. I couldn't have had the nack because I fell a beaut, losing my gaiters I was taking back, + cutting my wrist. Doc put a stitch in it when I

New Ireland, Madana & planding got about. Is it so happened we 5 Flarines up near Cooken! I think were the only ones out of the 30 by really see anything worth while my more burges. The rest just walked about the forther etc. We were glad that PENDAY APRIL 18th Another beautiful One shuch to the clint but I'm day but no sign of our leaving. doned if I'd do it again. Somming party went over to I can see Many loghing disquired a small itland nearly , where when I tell ther I had I to have there was a good sandy bearl + a shitch in my wrist. Mun should flenty of hollow here! There are no be able to sell Mang that wothing palms on the flourester area, because goes on that I don't get some soit of the one time active volcanses of a conty or bruse hom. from which the lava flow come. Our Admiralhies, hip has been This particular area is all country cancelled a so bugges are rife formed feel the lava plains. as to where we'll Ogo now. Type of routy is scrubby or They range from use going to help not gangle like & Sterr

got aboard. As it so happened, we 5 were the only ones out of the 30 to really see anything worth while. The rest just walked about the foreshore etc. We were glad that we stuck to the climb, but I'm darned if I'd do it again.

I can see Marg looking disgusted when I tell her I had to have a stitch in my wrist. Mum should be able to tell Marg that nothing goes on that I don't get some sort of a cut or bruise from.

Our Admiralties trip has been cancelled, + so buzzes are rife so to where we'll go now.

They range from us going to

New Ireland, Madang + landing Marines up near Rabaul. I think I'll wait + see before I listen to any more buzzes.

MONDAY APRIL 10TH

Another beautiful day but no sign of our leaving. Swimming party went over to a small island nearby, where there was a good sandy beach + plenty of palm trees. There are no palms on the Gloucester area, because of the one time active volcanoes from which the lava flow came.

This particular area is all country formed on the lava plains. Type of country is scrubby + bush, not jungle like New

be shot. We will probably have WESDAY APRIL 11th Spores No go Taps have been known to float out today but ship not ready about, hanging on to logs + NEDWESDAY. APRIL 12th scuttles. Throw hard grenades their a chips of Edwesday. April 12th scuttles, Sailing orders also say headed for the Raminally Islands booking are to be fished up, with a blip. Should alrive tomour identified a buried at rea but as its 2% miles threw had Jap bodies went to be touched wife practice at a larget in afternoon It special party has been detailed Admirablic overt get considered at as "repel boardies franky" as every all rafe. Our orden are full to man on the either that is short. No moval party is allowed firstol townsy que rifle or rutlans ashore unless on important duty draigned. The coders are in it but tryon cought sourcing, or seen them. Sparkers or bloke on essential on high ground after suret will Jobs wint included.

Guinea.

Still at anchor all day.

TUESDAY APRIL 11TH

Sposed to go out today, but ship not ready so sailing orders again cancelled.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 12TH

On our way at 11AM headed for the Admiralty Islands with a ship. Should arrive tomorrow as it is 270 ?(less) miles. Crew had rifle practise at a target in afternoon. Admiralties aren't yet considered at all safe. Our orders are full + strict. No naval party is allowed ashore unless on important duty.

Anyone caught souveniring, or seen on high ground after sunset will

be shot. We will probably have to keep our portholes closed as the Japs have been known to float about, hanging on to logs + throw hand grenades thru' a ships scuttles. Sailing orders also say that bodies of Allied soldiers seen floating are to be picked up, identified + buried at sea, but Jap bodies aren't to be touched.

A special party has been detailed as "repel boarder's party" + every man on the upper deck has a pistol, tommy gun, rifle or cutlass assigned. The coders are in it, but Stokers, Sparkers + bloke on essential jobs aren't included.

and oiled as soon as we got in I am of bay is DEEADLER BAY. said to ind with Keep alert on Theep alive. Geobably find that itare 8 mile as the row flies from will be another unevertful hip the Miron like sea - beautiful when the hoops are still fighting clear might with moon reflected in boild hear gunfire at times thru day of at night ree geneflasher. Lot of hiberator planes about, or rea - Would be marvellous here on or heave time July. the go all the time THURSDAY APAIN 13th Gassed between Moorest to equator I've been so islands early in morning. Steamed for, about 100 mile South of it. part has Negros about 10 Am Hoys said they could see Maranders bombing Hout 3100 sea wiles from home but as I didn't see it, I doubt that 3100 hos many for me It anchor overnight. it. Many fires on islands about - don't FRIDAY MARIL 14th Jook a bloke from know what they are. Then wonderful the Henalla abound for passage excount plantations here in peacetime. Lied all alongaide York tanker Nach to Languak The has

Just as well I'm not superstitious to a great degree as tomorrow is 13th.

Sounds grim (was all hooey) in the orders. They are said to end with Keep Alert + Keep Alive. Probably find that it will be another uneventful trip tho'.

Mirror-like sea – beautiful clear night with moon reflected in sea – would be marvellous here on a peace time trip.

THURSDAY APRIL 13TH

Passed between islands early in morning. Steamed past Los Negros about 10AM. Boys said they could see Marauders bombing but as I didn't see it, I doubt it. Many fires on islands about – don't know what they are. Been wonderful coconut plantations here in peacetime. Tied up alongside Yank tanker

and oiled as soon as we got in. Name of bay is SEEADLER BAY. Len worked out on chart that we are 8 mile as the crow flies from where the troops are still fighting. Could hear gunfire at times thru' day, + at night see gunflashes. Lot of Liberator planes about, on the go all the time.

Nearest to equator I've been so far, 100 mile South of it. About 3100 sea miles from home – that's 3100 too many for me.

At anchor overnight.

FRIDAY APRIL 14TH

Took a bloke from the Benalla aboard for passage back to Langemak. He has

got malaria. Under way for running from the top to the Langeman about 6 Am. Michanie roart edgl Looked like the is about 325 miles. Sow as steams drenning down the mountain flight of Spiffines over Manus Island side after a theory rain Moren experted to see Spitties up Red alah as we, were going in these parts. I can chappy for into Langemach. Jals fighter seen a start but we funed a got! a reco over Tinschafen 4 That of the sea astern of as + offer that ach - ach thrown at him it he it was alright. soon scooled for home. Dest of SATURDAY APRIL 15th New Junea in all was the mail that came aboard. Youll it was good as we sight during forenoon Geralian thought live wouldn't get any up type of Housey when me got herd good old Margie mife -In close. Very high ruggld no letter four home that maybe grountains heavily timbered inland It missed the mail. May robe but on the seabordaide the alope were great but almost bond, before we go out again? I stimming over the side from except for ships of his

got malaria. Under way for Langemak about 6 AM. Distance is about 325 miles. Saw a flight of Spitfires over Manus Island. Never expected to see Spitties up in these parts. Sea choppy for start, but we turned + got the sea astern of us + after that it was alright.

SATURDAY APRIL 15TH

New Guinea in sight during forenoon. Peculiar type of country when we got in close. Very high rugged mountains, heavily timbered inland, but on the seawardside the slopes were grey but almost bare, except for strips of trees

running from the top to the coast edge. Looked like the streams running down the mountain side after a heavy rain.

Red alarm as we were going into Langemak. Jap fighter seen on recco over Finschafer. Bit of ack-ack thrown at him + he soon scooted for home. Best of all was the mail that came aboard. Gosh it was good as we thought we wouldn't get any up here. Good old Margie wife – no letter from home tho' – maybe it missed the mail. May come before we go out again.

Swimming over the side from

ball & had some four the not much chance. We couldn't help is a bombardment. Sope we can SUNDAY APRIL 16th Want to Finschofe get up there soon that. At a Thosent had any real excitement to water ship Monday & herday - expecting to this time oway! yet. Swemming go out, but all goal shapping over side each day during 1st sent in harbour as big landing Mednerday April 19th Wary achor is to take place up groat with Dove a Glordie, Ticked up within next feet day Grobably = ude in a feel with an husie Weval or Hollandia. Every sort who books me 25 mile intered to Marco. MP5 let un gon because of ship from averaft carriers battlers cruises, dechogers et all were Wallaly sould . We get sorts of landing realt going a good spin ashore from the past in continuous convoys this hoops. Wonderful scenery along be going to be a big show. the route to Mares - we could We Choping very shoughy that look over Tabelling and see . the big convoys way out at rea

4PM till 6PM. Got the water polo ball + had some fun.

SUNDAY APRIL 16th

Went to Finschafen to water ship.

Monday + Tuesday - expecting to go out, but all gash shipping sent in harbour, as big landing is to take place up coast within next few days. Probably Wewak or Hollandia. Every sort of ship from aircraft carriers, battlers, cruisers, destroyers + all sorts of landing craft going past in continuous convoys. Must be going to be a big show. We hoping very strongly that we could get into it, but

not much chance. We couldn't help in a bombardment. Hope we can get up there soon tho'. We haven't had any real excitement this time away – yet. Swimming over side each day during 1st Dog.

Wednesday April 19th

Went ashore with Dave + Blondie. Picked up a ride in a jeep with an Aussie who took us 25 mile inland to Wareo. MP's let us go because we were Wallaby sailors. We got a good spin ashore from the troops. Wonderful scenery along the route to Wareo – we could look over Satelberg – and see the big convoys way out at sea

On the way back we stoffed swothin suit blandie got a pair and had a look over some of blue thengances & the got some Matilda lands. They look a gosh gear that a fank strait want, and were able to rell sturdy job. On arining back at Scarlet beach we got a life most of it. Puite a good day. from one of the angel (native 20th Went to seal with South adminstation with mob. He spun excorting 2, ships bound for us quite a few dits about the admirally Islands. natives & said we would have Viday 21 st April arrived on fulled been very badly off if it hadret their awaiting orders. have been for the Tengonies help. Saturday 23rd phil Libert Saturday 23rd Phil Liberty given to We had I am how of liberty Los Negros. All didn't would to less so got a ride about go alhoe so we went again 10 mile Clown the coast where Got a ride out to the air the Yanks are altogether wh Thip is had a look at the lessed hitchtifed over 10 mile Liberators Kithyhawho Shitfines + Lightning looking about I copped a green there's certainly some distract there.

On the way back we stopped and had a look over some Mathilda tanks. They look a sturdy job. On arriving back at Scarlet beach we got a lift from one of the Angu (native administration unit) mob. He spun us quite a few dits about the natives + said we would have been very badly off if it hadn't been for the Fuzzies help. We had an hour of liberty left so got a ride about 10 mile down the coast where the Yanks are. Altogether we hitchhiked over 70 mile looking about. I copped a green

swotties suit, Blondie got a pair of blue dungarees + we got some gash gear that a Yank didn't want, and were able to sell most of it.

Quite a good day.

20^{th}

Went to sea with Bowen, escorting 2 ships bound for Admiralty Islands.

Friday 21st April

Arrived + fuelled then awaiting orders.

Saturday 23rd April

Liberty given to Los Negros. Bill didn't want to go ashore so we went again. Got a ride out to the air strip + had a look at the Liberators, Kittyhawks, Spitfires + Lightning. There's certainly some aircraft there.

Two squadrons of anxies there that to contain essentials but to my They man all the fighters Rajority weaperienced eye they look like of them arrived while Gighting was good guns. I was when we got back was us about + spendas the dit that howen + ourdelves were taking Tribe a four Jops still sculling the beland to green Island, which about in the buch. Nobody is is on the east laide of New Treland. allowed in except patrols, Tas a Starte was to be over the top number of men have been hilled of New Geland. But it was by land mines which the Jops have decided to just send the Bowen Set everywhere. Still a bit of, so we missed out again. It was fighting going on on Manus Island back to Languah for us has Region has the airstip so sett APRIL arrived handwater is the more imporpant. Had a look that No MAIL. What sort of at some of the Jap light guns a Navy is this? Trouble is that were raphered also al couple that we are preferling to go to of lo inch maral gans. June only

Two squadrons of Aussies there, 76 + 79. They man all the fighters. Majority of them arrived while fighting was still on Los Negros. They showed us about + spun us the dits. Quite a few Japs still sculling about in the bush. Nobody is allowed in except patrols, as a number of men have been killed by land mines which the Japs have set everywhere. Still a bit of fighting going on on Manus Island. Los Negros has the airstrip so is the more important. Had a look at some of the Jap light guns that were captured, also a couple of 6 inch navel guns. Guns only

contain essentials but to my inexperienced eye they look like good guns.

Buzz when we got back was that Bowen + ourselves were taking the Celano to Green Island, which is on the east side of New Ireland. Route was to be over the top of New Ireland. But it was decided to just send the Bowen so we missed out again. It was back to Langemak for us.

24th APRIL

Arrived Langenmak – but <u>NO MAIL</u>. What sort of a Navy is this? Trouble is that we are expecting to go to Milne Bay for a boiler clean

so our mail is probably waiting Ivinning over side during Age there. To mail here! A We rigged goals for water prober + Inerday 25th April. ANDER Day also to diving boards down aft. wait hill I'm in it - What'll Water here is very very deep be, the day. 30 fathours, I we offent have to Jackie Nood on the Coura. He rush to get under wied as our rowed across in their whaler bot enchor drage + we draft close couldn't stop to talk . Will get to the shore. together first offenturity. Hope went to a good concert got ashore with letters as shoe last night . In allessie show postman + , witchhiled out quile + worly all professionale Horrie Dargie so that I could get postal, was in the party. Here + Kill notes + send beledom for Margo ment + said it was the best brithday. They'll arrive lake but show they have seen. I worked I'm stidding myrelf for frigally Dones whatch as he was dressed finding how to get them I have when we were told to set watch. worried enough speople It just filled in my time till the west cleared upon

so our mail is probably waiting there. No mail here!

<u>Tuesday 25th APRIL ANZAC DAY –</u> Wait till I'm in it – that'll be the day.

Jackie Wood on the Cowra. He rowed across in their whaler but couldn't stop to talk. Will get together first opportunity.

Got ashore with letters as postman + hitchhiked out 9 mile so that I could get postal notes + send telegrams for Marg's birthday. They'll arrive late, but I'm kidding myself for finally finding how to get them. I sure worried enough people.

Swimming over side during Dogs. We rigged goals for water polo + also a diving board down aft.

Water here is very very deep 30 fathoms, + we often have to rush to get under weigh as our anchor drags + we drift close to the shore.

Boys went to a good concert ashore last night. An Aussie show + nearly all professionals. Horrie Dargie was in the party. Dave + Bill went, + said it was the best show they have seen. I worked Dave's watch, as he was dressed when we were told to set watch. It just filled in my time till the mess cleared up.

Wednerday 26th APRIL Went round home for this day:

To Dinschafen to water hip that Jung about waiting to go all

we look maker from is on her day, Winally left at about 5 lon

way to Sydney. I would have stoned great houble too as the Rowen away but the Navy ower me a was tied up alonguide of us +
months pay + I can't sacrifice that our anchor cables got tongled. It
how tone in today Sty took was close at times that we
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that ship from today shy took was close at times that we
that ship from today shy took was close at times that we
that ship from today show took beth kept from diffing ashore.
It appears that the Hower now the bumped the towns about it
onto a reef and ripped her times and badly damaged the
arder done off as well as stanchion in her started waist.
In had our anchor chain as
The is going to Sydney for repairs course over his fluter thending
and by think it neight have held from four glifting while held howe four driffing while we broke fle howder shipper will take a "can" for that when Marg. exhibition when we get in.

Wednesday 26th APRIL

Went round to Finschafen to water. Ship that we took water from is on her way to Sydney. I would have stowed away but the Navy owes me a month's pay + I can't sacrifice that.

Bowen came in today. She took that ship from Admiralty Islands. It appears that the Bowen ran onto a reef and ripped her Asdec dome off as well as damaging the Asdec compartment. She is going to Sydney for repairs. And to think it might have been us.

<u>Thursday 27th April</u> Many happy returns Marg. Wish I were home for this day.

Hung about waiting to go all day. Finally left at about 5PM. Great trouble too as the Bowen was tied up alongside of us + our anchor cables got tangled. It was close at times that we both kept from drifting ashore. We bumped the Bowen about 4 times and badly damaged the stanchion in her starb'd waist. He had our anchor chain caught over his flutes. Bendigo held Bowen from drifting while we broke free. Bowen's skipper will take a "can" for that exhibition when we get in.

Mr Probution our adec officer, + Smebody got a paper, ruthing about the last original officer left us our first Middle. Truscott. He today Not one of our original officer has been appointed 3nd Secretary are left now. This shipper is reported to the Aussier diplomatic delegation do be leaving us of Milne Body in Imerica. It says "Tourcott com Heading for Milne Lay for boile serion on the warship HMAS Carthemain clean in the traffers Seal What a laugh. Iriday 20th Spiel Beautiful day to was only at rea a blooming Almost unbelievable the number of Log Water or so ships we passed between Langured Saturday 29th Spil . Time calendar and Auna - Gertroyers, assault Ships months away from Sydney. Roll on Liberties + innumerable small craft roll on. When we were bumping lealled in at Duna for an with Bowen tother day we spring a wist a how developed a fair hour or so Sow a Bletcher class dechoyer under full weigh lead. That'll have to be fixed byday they look solid job , but this time in. We may go wito

Mr. Robertson our Asdec officer, + the last original officer left us today. Not one of our original officers are left now. This skipper is reputed to be leaving us at Milne Bay. Heading for Milne Bay for boiler clean.

Friday 28th April

Beautiful day. Almost unbelievable the number of ships we passed between Langemak and Buna. Destroyers, Assault ships, Liberties + innumerable small craft. Called in at Buna for an hour or so. Saw a Fletcher class destroyer under full weigh today. They look solid jobs, but I prefer our Tribals.

Somebody got a paper cutting about our first Middie – Truscott. He has been appointed 3rd Secretary to the Aussie diplomatic delegation in America. It says "Truscott saw action on the warship HMAS Castlemaine in the Arafura Sea". What a laugh. He was only at sea a bloomin Dog Watch or so.

Saturday 29th April

Five calendar months away from Sydney. Roll on, roll on. When we were bumping with Bowen t'other day we sprung a rivet + have developed a leak. That'll have to be fixed this time in. We may go into dock.

Claiming heavily. affects there has going south. Majority seem consinced been floods ashore there has been that it will, be only by weeks or 30 inches of rain Jan bit of a months. I'll want Dill + mail to kage about - the rest - worked, on acrials all today is at the GostOffice which is at winday May 2nd french cut off by road lean the Aill and I went off first imagine what the mid is store fighty at 8 Am with Big The . I'm content to sit about lurer & Hitle Gusser. After much Sunday 30h April mail. macking about we got over the menday 30h April mandods about 10 Am Then after Raining all day got one locing forms & whatast we co Genaclodo about 10 Am Then after troing forms + whatnot we couldn't pay - and have another to at a kuch till 1/30 Pm. To we collect. Morey for our T.T.P. ment and had scraw with the Monday 1st May Well that another Genters then got our heads down. worth over. I Makes our total of course when me got the huch 5 months now - already the we really worked Olumping everything buryes have started about us from hails to sides of beef

Raining heavily. Appears there has been floods ashore. There has been 30 inches of rain. Fair bit of mail came aboard – the rest is at the Post Office which is at present cut off by road.

Can just imagine what the mud is like. I'm content to sit aboard + pore over my mail.

Sunday 30th April

Raining all day. Got one pay – and have another to collect. More for our T.T.F.

Monday 1st May

Well that's another month over. Makes our total 5 months now – already the buzzes have started about us

going south. Majority seem convinced that it will be only 6 weeks or 2 months, I'll wait. Bill + I worked on aerials all today

Tuesday May 2nd

Bill and I went off as store party at 8AM with Big Pusser + Little Pusser. After much mucking about we got over to Gamadodo about 10AM. Then after fixing forms + whatnot we couldn't get a truck till 1/30PM. So we went and had scran with the Yanks then got our heads down. Of course when we got the truck we really worked lumping everything from nails to sides of beef.

Thursday & Triday 4th + 5th Tinished work We managed to have some few on acroals or brooked on R/I probable the To get tack an old launch loved our lighter. Doy did we Salunday thay of got traffed to play have some Kouble theeping her secure We got back aboard finally football in afternoon. We played he Dundaling ! + wow by 3 goals after of oclock buckily our rose The groundy me played in was some that her, saved. Wednesday May 3rd leobleched anoth ground. In 3 or 4 hatches there Iwas sticky black had, while deep, fray - pull my fewing money that couldn't be avoided; while A hove 113 now Clinte a lot No me the other parts of the ground were Worked on acialog up the most like remark hurhily he were both all day with will. We are both out of condition of so were fairly about the some doing a fob even. Very stiff after it, but so we argued all the time up didn't mind that . The run there as I to whose him it will, do us the world of good. was to lear out to the end of the yardium.

We managed to have some fun tho'. To get back an old launch towed our lighter. Boy did we have some trouble, keeping her secure. We got back aboard finally after 7 oclock, luckily our scram had been saved.

Wednesday May 3rd

Collected another pay – with my jewing money I have 13 pounds now. Quite a lot to me. Worked on aerials up the mast all day with Bill. We are both about the same doing a job so we argued all the time up there as to whose turn it was to lean out to the end of the yardarm.

Thursday + Friday 4^{th} + 5^{th}

Finished work on aerials + worked on R/T portable sets.

Saturday May 6th

Got trapped to play football in afternoon. We played the Bundaberg - + won by 3 goals. The ground we played on was some ground. In 3 or 4 patches there was sticky black mud, ankle deep, that couldn't be avoided; while the other parts of the ground were like cement. Luckily we were both out of condition and so were fairly even. Very stiff after it, but didn't mind that - the run will do us the world of good.

Sunday May 7th a detailed "volunteer" The detailed to except 2 york habol sub on the surface. Oan chutch frozhy went ashore in Josephon. Will represented the Mr. book over one of them while so excaped the other them the I parkers the heather. there thank + 20 mile out to sea. Meeterdays footballers limping Sals looked nice job on surface. about everywhere so as could be We did 14 knots + they heft expected a quiet day was had up without any houble I cuthing by all hoday. Monday May Got Out to sea their the water, like the boars! of a deshoyer. It ahight Mang. dring exterises all day arriving Jot Fach in after John. in about 6/m that wears that this boiler slean Tuesday May gh. Bundaling Yanh her has been no shore leave and us out again at CAM for only sub exercises. Aroffed exapt for the football party.

Genades as depth charges + been friching parties at night the for only sub exercises. Aroffed on the whole we put of a good tedusday May 10th Out early again. show + would have got the sut. This the for monocorrect + 0

Sunday May 7th

A detailed "volunteer" church party went ashore in forenoon. Bill represented the Sparkers, the heathen.

Yesterday's footballers limping about everywhere, so as could be expected a quiet day was had by all today.

Monday May 8th

Out to sea doing exercises all day, arriving in about 6PM.

Tuesday May 9th

Bundaberg. Yank and us out again at 6AM for anti-sub exercises. Dropped grenades as depth charges + on the

whole we put up a good show + would have got the sub.

Were detailed to escort 2 Yank patrol subs on the surface. An ML. took over one of them while we escorted the other thru' the China Straits + 20 mile out to sea. Subs looked nice job on surface. We did 14 knots + they kept up without any trouble, cutting thru' the water like the bows of a destroyer. Its alright Marg.

Got back in after 10PM. That means that this boiler clean there has been no shore leave except for the football party. Been picture parties at night tho'.

Wednesday May 10th

Out early again. This time for manoeuvres +

gunnery shoot. Glove lowed a ach to fishere. The trouble with this sheet for us to shoot at It is that nothing goes wrong. This completes on hinds + tonour winday May 11th hoaded a lot of me are bound for hangeman. Punte your including a Jeep abound + net a few aboard have on idea we out for Langemak. For passenges are going south or will be disapted - board. One is Chang Alinetan while we go north. Duryes have been rife during this weeks. Unial Tholographer from the auchalacian lique. He Hook guite at few strugest being that will be I to abound & they'll probably gone by sine welke goodness know Hear in the paper one of theed Johney the boys get there berrynge. In addition to the Bonks, Triday May 13th alived Langural the geeling also broke her done ! 23 Thouse after leaving Shills Kay had the go routh for a new one. The between has just come for a I look us 37 when we went ofour In the side swimming quarter of refit at Melbourne + her Condences an how after arining ! goodob it was takes failed so she has gone too. Comple of letters waiting

Gunnery shoot. Plane towed a sleeve for us to shoot at. This completes our trials + tomorrow we are bound for Langemak. Quite a few aboard have an idea we are going south + will be disap-td when we go north. Buzzes have been rife during this week – strongest being that we'll be gone by six weeks. Goodness knows where the boys get these buzzes.

In addition to the Bowen, the Geelong also broke her dome + had to go south for a new one. The Echuca has just come from a refit at Melbourne + her condenser tubes failed so she has gone back to Brisbane. The trouble with this ship is that nothing goes wrong.

Thursday May 11th

Loaded a lot of gear including a Jeep aboard + set out for Langemak. Few passengers on board. One is Roy Dunstan Official Photographer for the Australasian + Argus. He took quite a few photos aboard + they'll probably appear in the paper one of these days.

Friday May 12th

Arrived Langemak 23 hours after leaving Milne Bay. It took us 37 when we went down. Over the side swimming quarter of an hour after arriving. Goodoh it was too. Couple of letters waiting

- a corker wallet from Margo + so fact getting good when we an anniversary better My singe and bunder which is a sport by ger Richons I'd ENDAY MAY IN the Sterined Madang early is at Scarlet Heach wish I'd - forenoon - this has been quite known that before I could have a decent little place in peace broked him up weeks ago. ine Burns Chiff had nice building JATURDAY MAY 18th Loaded bags + here . If course everything is battered bags of mail and odd open badly now Surrounding very pretty book one soney swallie passengers It seems that the further est in afternoon. In evening we hast - may goes the frether it is alongside a Yank ship and New alonguide har old felly unbraded 15 buoys onto our - all hands unboaded the mail focial to take up to the te. Mail would be very welcome Moresby at Madang There was a to the swothis Made Sever enquiries friction show on other youth a se shout Side mot + was informed! were all checkned, down aft that they are all up here now looking at it. The darn thing They are in a bay a few mile

- a corker wallet from Margo + an anniversary letter. My wife is a sport by gee. Reckons Sid is at Scarlet Beach – wish I'd known that before, I could have looked him up weeks ago.

SATURDAY MAY 13TH

Loaded bags + bags of mail, and odd gear, took one some swottie passengers in afternoon. In evening we went alongside a Yank ship and unloaded 15 buoys onto our foc'sl to take up to the Moresby at Madang. There was a picture show on the Yank + we were all clustered down aft looking at it. The darn thing

was just getting good when we got under weigh.

SUNDAY MAY 14th

Arrived Madang early in forenoon - this has been quite a decent little place in peace time. Burns Philp had nice building here. Of course everything is battered badly now. Surrounding very pretty it seems that the further up a man goes the prettier it is.

Went alongside an old jetty + all hands unloaded the mail etc. Mail would be very welcome to the swotties. Made some enquiries about Sid's mob + was informed that they are all up here now. They are in a bay a few mile

from this & jelly. If I get the chance desped whinging out the other way I may be able to go of by barge mands the Kapunda Doys said the to see one day. Spanks then the spundar friged back with her weich. h. C: barges - afast from them it we are Japs on the islands + is all Survied. Wandered round & corretter up here do patrols each vear ship or found Jap cloth cap with her present subs coming in turne buttons to ended up by I barges to get them away. Thurge diving for a Jap gas mash what there is still a 5 inch go the ment out or hid up algogaide - commission on the island a flow = commission on the island a Ofer Moresby + unbaded buoys Sind up - the correttes have bombarded the here is very very shong! Leens lace. This sort of thing is part much sholiger than Langeman -- Johe Sonebody might get hurt this is 160 miles north of Linal sting real ammunition. Took a couple of smothing Monday May 15th Surved off Languah passengers abound + left for hangeral about of Am, went down to Newsing about 6 Pm. Its we were round Island 300 4 mile down to file post the islands have bullets of so youhe tanker. Took of

from this jetty. If I get the chance I may be able to go up by barge to see one day. Yanks run the L.C's barges - apart from them it is all Aussies. Wandered round near ship + found Jap cloth cap, tunic buttons + ended up by diving for a Jap gas mask. We went out + tied up alongside Moresby + unloaded buoys. Sun up here is very very strong. Seems much stronger than Langemak – this is 160 miles north of L'wak.

Took a couple of swottie passengers aboard + left for Langemak about 6PM. As we were coming past the islands tracer bullets

started whizzing out the other way towards the Kapunda. Boys said the Kapunda fired back with her 4 inch. There are Japs on the islands + the corvettes up here do patrols each night to prevent subs coming in or barges to get them away. Buzz is that there is still a 5 inch gun in commission on the island. A few of the corvettes have bombarded the place. This sort of thing is past a joke. Somebody might get hurt using real ammunition.

Monday May 15th

Arrived off Langemak about 7AM, went down to Nussing Island 3 or 4 mile down, to fuel of a Yank tanker. Took on

water collected a colonel & a few to se hour am gonna try to get officers + left for Madang again funiseer to get ashow Early what Passed close in to Saidor about him we look like staying in, so bops but, not much to see there that I can mail my cousin whom Tuesday May 19th Anchord close is haven't seen for four years" Anny the forenoon Ch's scrubbed Lave + I wandered around all over the sails for the whaler to take the flace + had a look at when it sailing in the afternoon the the worthis were burning all sat of are supposed to be here for a can then booked them where for days + do a bombardsbent with the John had had their hospital the starrego on the islands when but + messes. Quite a lot of old she arrived got an inmediate If laying about eigenettes postando signal about 2 pm recalling us gear a various other stuff. got a to hangual . In we didn't leave By howerach + some conds bamp till blad leave was given All 5/9. place seemed well set out. It flaces Made arguinis about barge to here there were geisha girls of when Syd is but had mined umaes also.

water, collected a colonel + a few officers + left for Madang again. Passed close in to Saidor about 6AM, but not much to see there.

Tuesday May 17th

Anchored close in. During the forenoon CB's scrubbed the sails for the whaler to take it sailing in the afternoon. We are supposed to be here for a few days + do a bombardment with the Warrego on the islands when she arrives. Got an immediate signal about 2PM recalling us to Langemak. As we didn't leave till 6PM leave was given till 5PM. Made enquiries about barge to where Syd is but had missed

by ½ hour. Am gonna try to get permission to get ashore early next time we look like staying in so that I can visit "my cousin whom I haven't seen for four years".

Dave + I wandered around all over the place + had a look at where the swotties were burning all sorts of gear. Then looked thru' where the Japs had had their hospital huts + messes. Quite a lot of old stuff laying about, cigarettes, postcards gear + various other stuff. Got a Jap haversack + some cards. Camp place seemed well set out. At places here there were Geisha girls or nurses also.

Sow 3 nest July grows near fetty. Alle of beer second a hot of run. Would like to get ashow here! ted day the wines drops out which for four of fire hours again. mens that different bloke must win and day Iffer about a dozen how is gonna give us some instacion if will be close to my terry money. I Had a cup for conduced at say this for this Shiffer - he mille tim) full of tea at Imea so us as much leve as he possibly tent their back about Took - & aflow as swimming everywhere on a done or so swother with bossible If he wasn't wich a real various illenesses. Two on spetchess fig is his dealing with the blokes Mediesday 1th May arrived L'mak would be quite good. But he heat about 18 AM. Bulled at Nussing tions + all like dut book our then watered . Lay at anchor all Intlient & Junney Officer has been day. I winning our the side from lieved of all dubtes because he nearly 2Pol till leta I make a mand. as us on a reef a while back. The Shiffer organized race round the Middy heeps all leoops watches + makes a much better job. This ship each day diest prize is

Saw 3 neat Jap graves near jetty. Would like to get ashore here for four or five hours again. Next time we are in a swottie is gonna give us some invasion money.

Had a cup (or condensed milk tin) full of tea at YMCA tent, then back aboard. Took on a dozen or so swotties with various illnesses. Two on stretchers.

Wednesday 17th May

Arrived L'mak about 8AM. Fuelled at Nussing then watered. Lay at anchor all day. Swimming over the side from 2PM till 6PM – make + mend.

Skipper organised race round the ship each day. First prize is

bottle of beer, second a tot of rum. Each day the winner drops out – which means that different bloke must win each day. After about a dozen have won it will be close to my turn. Must say this for this Skipper – he gives us as much leave as he possibly can - + allows us swimming everywhere possible. If he wasn't such a real pig in his dealings with the blokes he would be quite good. But he treats officers + all like dirt. Coop our brilliant (?) Gunnery Officer has been relieved of all duties because he nearly run us on a reef a while back. The Middy keeps all Coop's watches + makes a much better job. This

young Middly is a decent chap + Liberties + the Go young place 8 h. 5.75 ga good hand too teent of 2 your destroyer a PC 4 Thursday May 18th hear, till 5/30 Pm meetres Heard quite a few tales of in also. Illoudie + I went ashore together. I found that Sid has houble at Hollardia area so maybe wentless run will break Will ree. really gone from Tearlet Beach Them to heep well out from coast Mondiel robber also left to we - route Gossibility that we will hitch hiked about nathing to bloke be first convette there, unless Denalla until hime to go back got back surveying up that way. My will in time for storm before going on outside auchalian Mandated Territory In we get there. Grachized Abandon www. Triday May 19th Under weigh during Meday Class thip stations then folion headed for Hollandin School stations I'm in the whaler probably calling at a ataipe. It a at aboutton ship which jo better than 500 odd mile this and as it only or a bloomin raft. Chobably go a show convey me want get 1 to action stations before timed each there until Monday. Siched up night now for flew days

young Middy is a decent chap + is a good hand too.

Thursday May 18th

Leave till 5/30PM in arvo. Blondie + I went ashore together. I found that Sid has really gone from Scarlet Beach. Blondies cobber also left. So we hitch hiked about nattering to blokes, until time to go back. Got back in time for swim before going on watch.

Friday May 19th

Under weigh during forenoon, headed for Hollandia, probably calling at Ataipe. It's a 500 odd mile trip, and as it is only a slow convoy we won't get there until Monday. Picked up

2 Liberties + the Po Yang, plus 8 L.S.T.'s. Escort of 2 Yank destroyers, a PC + ourselves. Heard quite a few tales of trouble at Hollandia Area, so maybe our eventless run will break. We'll see. Have to keep well out from coast en route. Possibility that we will be first corvette there, unless Benalla is surveying up that way. We will be outside Australian Mandated Territory when we get there. Practised Abandon Ship stations, then Action stations. I'm in the whaler at abandon ship which is better than on a bloomin raft. Probably go to Action stations before sunset each night now for few days

Tahuday May 20th I whed up 4 was back in close . boy see signs a bombardnest ashore. Jour stell now 12h51, 3 werchant ships + is reported to have a fut a school Mall field, gard a other places. a for good barges. Escaped by 3 In quite a place in pear time. Yank delhoyers, alic and ourselves Sunday May 21 planes flow our but identified at our ours. There is - identally we are in a foreign - this belongs to the Watch + we are ontrice austice Mandated Tentory water book now flies the White burge that another place flow over convoy then flow off that only a beign aftrat. that of hici in here, also the four are supposed At horse seem it. Tashfora! Renalla in but we are Weather very warm Jeune to be List corrette in to Hollandia. on epidemic of flu on board -Monday May 22 nd go into this
Than like Thisbane. We go up To orders here for us so we will have to want till they come Shipper let a mot got across to the roset past Hollandia then island swimming hooked goodship

Saturday May 20th

Picked up more L S T + a destroyer, making now 12 LST'S, 3 merchant ships + a few gash barges. Escorted by 3 Yank destroyers, a P.C and ourselves.

Sunday May 21st

Couple of planes flew over but identified as our own. There is buzz that another plane flew over convoy then flew off. But only a few are supposed to have seen it. Weather very warm. Seems to be an epidemic of flu on board – two blokes turned in.

Monday May 22nd

Go into this place like Brisbane. We go up the coast past Hollandia then

turn back in close. Can see signs of bombardment ashore. Town itself is reported to have a pub, a school football field, gaol + other places. Was quite a place in peace time. Incidentally we are in a <u>foreign</u> port – this belongs to the Dutch + we are outside Aussie Mandated Territory. Our motor boat now flies the White Ensign afloat.

Lot of L.C.I.'s in here, also the Taskforce. Benalla in, but we are first corvette in to Hollandia. No orders here for us so we will have to wait till they come. Skipper let a mob go across to an island swimming. Looked goodoh.

Show Aggedale got coral processing all suined by fire. The big fehol on the book. Had to bring him her was strictly set alight back abound as be was in exchene - mendiques. They thought back a pain. Doe lanced the welling + mplete Japs latte or hope to get let the blood drive the Korson out - working. The latter would be May have to way footbear of now - he a couple of hundred quick new Tuesday May 23ed Lot of ach the Tooray past got signal that fire about 44 m. Section It was a - are to be Din Jost adelaide raid but our mob elept them'st the 20th June Whacker hook may me don't know. We are Throther suring party point asker most 33 housand miles for - again I was on watch theseliful weather whaide but well got there! Mednerday May 24th Chief Tiffie a get pheere aboard. for other went ashow to see if they - heft Hollandia during afternoon. looped get any good machinery - Inforce of 5 praises in 18 dishayers a large Sumber of new aircraft engine, londing up whom me left. They wireless bomber to sets, & other staff - going to do some placer over.

Stew Drysdale got coral poisoning on the foot. Had to bring him back aboard, as he was in extreme pain. Doc lanced the swelling + let the blood drive the poison out. Boys have to wear footwear off now.

Tuesday May 23rd

Lot of ack ack fire about 4AM. Reckon it was a raid, but our mob slept thru' it so we don't know.

Another swimming party went ashore – again I was on watch. Beautiful weather.

Wednesday May 24th

Chief Tiffie + few others went ashore to see if they could get any good machinery. A large number of new aircraft engines, wireless bomber sets, + other stuff

but all ruined by fire. The big petrol drum there was evidently set alight by incendiaries. They brought back a complete Jap lathe + hope to get it working. The lathe would be worth a couple of hundred quid new.

<u>Hooray</u> just got signal that we are to be in Port Adelaide on the 20th June. Whacko. Look out Margo here I come. We are almost 3½ thousand miles from Adelaide but we'll get there. Great cheers aboard.

Left Hollandia during afternoon. Task force of 5 cruisers + 18 destroyers forming up when we left. They are going to do some place over

Thursday May 25th Blues being anid - May 27th thrived Langarak a white bring dhobydian everywhere. that Languah has had no al about our going south. a Mondie + & Vegus preasing ofirm for blues now as hhahi Shiff will and sent from there requesting be fight about finished. hooked as the me will rof Many ower to a months pay the hip, unfortunately. day waiting to ree what is to Many burgges flying today a which we'll probably rollect Milne Day you our way home. Siday May 26th Heartiful warm day and a few lets integred. bit of a sing song on foist day a der from beatlemaine he sorry to actions, West Soor Supolos allie Twit exchange for what it will be - yelf) had a challinge sailing down south in June + July. with hover and Skell, at if it snowed all my there - lucky enough to win I'd still go, just and of frigo of me bottle each was given.

Thursday May 25th

Blues being aired + whites being dhoby'd everywhere. Blondie + I began pressing firm for blues now, as khaki stuff will be just about finished.

Navy owes us a month's pay today which we'll probably collect at Milne Bay on our way home.

Friday May 26th

Beautiful warm day - bit of a sing song on foc'sl in evening. Doc had his ukelele. Will be sorry to leave this weather in exchange for what it will be like down south in June + July. But if it snowed all my leave, I'd still go, just to get home.

Saturday May 27th

Arrived Langemak. Appears that Langemak has had no signal about our going south. A signal sent from here requesting orders. Looks as tho' we will cop another trip, unfortunately.

Sunday) Hung round at anchor waiting to seeMonday) what is to happen. Many buzzesTuesday) flying round, and a few bets wagered.

Monday a crew from Castlemaine (Len Ashford, Wert, Snow Reynolds, Allie Twist + myself) had a challenge sailing race with Bowen and Stawell, and were lucky enough to win, for which a prize of one bottle of beer each was given.

Nove challenged as to a swimming of you about . The officers boo race a first won Our blokes got 2 nd And Parfish for year, Viilles & + 3rd floor. Vinschafen a fuelled et That sailing for four hours - not Mussing on Mederaday Inerday so wind but had pleasant afternoon will throw tomourar what doing. They June 2 de Left Admirables at Wednesday May 31st Under weigh about This GAO Is a popular 6:30 Am headled for Admished Ino with this Shiffer 3 leaves + 3 convertes escenting one ship threeding Liday June 3rd Argived Langemah at about 11 knot but having to oly this last convoy is a meirance. Mail came aboard By the time we get back we livingly. My thought it would be won't have too much spare time I held at Milne Hay. I got 18 for get to adelaide by 20th June. Thursday June 1st agrived at SEEAD NER which was about the most. a Suronality Kid It's great to Day larly in foreneon Shiffer soon at a heap of mail, the + to off after wathird. The bought mor folk thereit forgothe you

Bowen challenged us to a swimming race + just won. Our blokes got $2^{nd} + 3^{rd}$ places.

Watered at Finschafen + fuelled at Nussing on Tuesday so will know tomorrow what's doing.

Wednesday May 31st

Under weigh about 6.30AM headed for Admiralties. Two corvettes escorting one ship. Proceeding at about 11 knots, but having to do this last convoy is a nuisance. By the time we get back we won't have too much spare time to get to Adelaide by 20th June.

Thursday June 1st

Arrived SEEADLER Bay early in forenoon. Skipper soon off after rabbits. He bought

cases of gear aboard. The officers too swopped spirits for gear, rifles + tommyguns.

Went sailing for few hours – not much wind but had pleasant afternoon.

Friday June 2nd

Left Admiralties at 6AM. This 6AM is a popular time with this Skipper. 3 escorts + 3 ships.

Saturday June 3rd

Arrived Langemak during afternoon. Mail came aboard surprisingly. We thought it would be all held at Milne Bay. I got 18 letters, which was about the most. I'm a Personality Kid. It's great to get a heap of mail tho, + to know folk haven't forgotten you.

another 10 letters - whicho Swimming during Tuit Glog. It will be Jengy having , to spend the ow last so we made the nost of - the hole & been raming I Tanag swimming down south on leave - for 3 weeks . Melbourne couldn't 3 book 6 - I work as regards weather. SUNDAY. JUNE HE Today & join the JUNE of bollerled 4 page and are ranks of the ancients . 24 years old - paid up until 22 nd June. Will & never been bissed that about - sollect leave + sittee victualling robustins? The Looked for grey hairs in adelaide. gent can see no sign get tooked round ship. Went Left for Milne Boy all 6 Aug I schow one formson to try to Mos Day June 5th arrived in Milne wer to games-dodo for Elos May about 1/10 + were greeked mith Int missed boat + got bely a surprising news that the are to do a boiler clean here. Leens fatility got over to gamadodo 9Am Walked their med silly especially as we have to do one again when we go into dock. who deep, got drenched with rain Spore It is to fill in the entra at \$30 worth of yanks dungares

Swimming during First Dog. It will be our last, so we made the most of it. Fancy swimming down south on leave - bah.

SUNDAY JUNE 4TH

Today I join the ranks of the ancients. 24 years old + never been kissed. What about volunteers? Looked for grey hairs but can see no sign yet. Left for Milne Bay at 6AM.

MONDAY JUNE 5TH

Arrived in Milne Bay about 11AM + were greeted with surprising news that we are to do a boiler clean here. Seems silly especially as we have to do one again when we go into dock. S'pose it is to fill in the extra

8 days. Collected another 10 letters – whacko. Fancy having to spend the time in this hole. It's been raining here for 3 weeks now. Melbourne couldn't be much worse as regards weather.

TUESDAY JUNE 6TH

Collected 4 pays and are now paid up until 22nd June. We'll probably collect leave + victualling pay in Adelaide.

8th + 9th. Worked round ship. Went ashore one forenoon to try to get over to Gama-dodo for slops, but missed boat + got only a drenching.

10th SATURDAY

Got over to Gamadodo about 9AM. Walked thru' mud ankle deep, got drenched with rain, but got 30 pounds worth of Yank dungarees.

reargles + undeparts for us + stokers. the dit about Lunday being Unrived at store book at 1115 + by of lest. Doy this is some breaking had to wait they patiently !! I started early and is getting antil Stawell on Dumbury got there - rougher tought . What a Slip stones there which book them while his will be. Safe to say that 1630. got back about \$1800 to of over been rich and all young to rea at 6 Am. Its about but 2 of passengers are really out 22 passenges going south on of commission The army contains is leave air The flour leaplain, army tod as I've ever seen anybody They leaptain, about & Neval Officers & were apaid he would go for the 16 ratings. They'll be solvy if side. The rechons haid rather spend it got rough (that if is Day I worths in the jungle than havel superfluous there. It will be rough) another converte RAAF officer almost JUNDAY JUNE 11th an our way to to same. Os a matter of fact the Trisbone Joing shaight alloss persenger Naval Officers, are doing outside the theef, so lit will be Il the work as only finning a the Junery Officer + Middy are all sich.

singlets + underpants for us + stokers. Arrived at store boat at 1115 + had to wait there patiently(?) until Stawell + Bundbury got their stores there, which took them until 1630. Got back aboard about 1800. Going to sea at 6AM. About 22 passengers going south on leave. Air Force Group Captain, Army Captain, about 4 Naval Officers + 16 ratings. They'll be sorry if it gets rough (that <u>if</u> is superfluous here. It <u>will</u> be rough)

SUNDAY JUNE 11TH

On our way to Brisbane. Going straight across outside the Reef so it will be tough going. Today has disproved the dit about Sunday being a "day of rest". Boy this is sure breaking us in. Started early and is getting even rougher tonight. What a trip this will be. Safe to say that 80% of crew been sick; and all but 2 of passengers are really out of commission. The Army captain is as bad as I've ever seen anybody. They were afraid he would go over the side. He reckons he'd rather spend 12 months in the jungle than travel on another corvette. RAAF officer almost the same. As a matter of fact the passenger Naval officers are doing all the work as our Jimmy, + the Gunnery Officer + Middy are all sick.

Alondie . Lave qualified for "Kilge Middle Watch & couldn't sleep . Dechs Water blut but I fave lasted Goday consed with water. And for first this since ship was commissioned hopeful about next for days this. How was three or four inches of bant industrial why the Old Man water in the wees ducho It come didn't go inside the reef for a through the air rents. The vent to list of shelder. He gets whook timeel. He all rabin also flooded + the Uh well we are headed home wieles cabin had a couple of inches so let sem come. They'll probably water on the Olich. The batteries were be few times worse (if possible) rocked in salt water a the funes in Aars Shaits. we vite. Salt water on battery acid MONDAY JONE 12th Quille a breaking in fine of chlorine gas wough of dray night. Must be among the which will prove deadly. The cable rolephent we have ever which. locker t for forrid stones had to and that not because we arentday the were broked really what need to it. Tay title sleep last night lover after roming of the It is would - a mers.

Blondie + Dave qualified for 'Bilge Water Club", but I have lasted today out in one piece. Don't feel too hopeful about next few days tho'. Can't understand why the Old Man didn't go inside the reef for a bit of shelter. He gets crook himself. Ah well, we are headed home, so let 'em come. They'll probably be ten times worse (if possible) in Bass Straits.

MONDAY JUNE 12TH

Quite a breaking in night. Must be among the roughest we have ever struck. And that's not because we aren't used to it. Very little sleep last night. Even after coming off the Middle Watch I couldn't sleep. Decks covered with water. And for first time since ship was commissioned there was three or four inches of water in the mess decks. It came through the air vents. The vent to the W/T cabins also flooded + the wireless cabin had a couple of inches of water on the deck. The batteries were soaked in salt water + the fumes were vile. Salt water on battery acid gives off chlorine gas, enough of which will prove deadly. The cable locker + two forr'd stores had to be pumped out. In the light of day the mess looked really what it is named – a mess.

heft rough all day - all our passinger has me donned sweaters + sochs this praying they get off in Krisbane. I morning. There is showing wasday - Mednerday 13th + 14th. Mont ashow for a shall after six things Will rough, but flattened and but only went to a menoscel show. a but Shill a Dhellewa lot of chops that with cars kams a people running not too happy. My luch still everywhere its los clangrous for a holding exhai good. Jething colder last like me . I prefer the feare a Just safety of the ship. sticking the rough weather like or reasoned old salt. Off Morelow - Sifary Hoing 205 Neve plus 2 hight balowder about 8 Pol and but hide les pit light flat stand up to anchor at Sile Light. Thursday June 15th hed up alongtide Newstedd what at 7-30 AM. Jane place Teluday June 179th theeze pretty feel hed you on our way home Int new while moderate. Workers time. Krisbane natives Court suching her along. Horng 205 on off on leave here. For the first the bridge + 230 below. Jot her Yout lat of 1000 miles towards have

Kept rough all day – all our passengers praying they get off in Brisbane.

Tuesday & Wednesday 13th + 14th

Still rough, but flattened out a bit. Still a helluva lot of chaps not too happy. My luck still holding extra good. Getting colder as we go south. Incidentally our kitten is sticking the rough weather like a seasoned old salt. Off Moreton Light Caloundra about 8PM and steamed up to anchor at Pile Light.

Thursday June 15th

Tied up alongside Newstead wharf at 7.30AM. Same place as we tied up on our way home last time. Brisbane natives sent off on leave here. For the first (First lap of 1080- miles towards home)

time we donned sweaters + <u>socks</u> this morning. Blues is shore rig. Went ashore for a stroll after six thirty but only went to a newsreel show. What with cars, trams + people running everywhere its too dangerous for a lad like me. I prefer the peace + quiet safety of the ship.

Friday June 16th

Left at 6AM bound for Sydney. Doing 205 revs plus 2 knot tide. Sea just light flat topped swells. All the recently sick sailors quite happy now. E.T.A. 6AM.

Saturday June 17th

Breeze pretty fresh, but sea still moderate. Stokers pushing her along. Doing 205 on the bridge + 230 below. Got her

(2) lythey-sites went off on leave) who for 244 sens which is our record getting stocked up with above. We up to date. Should be in about sure fut some shaff aboard in those 6-30 PM. Al Thati 12 hours ahead of for days, headed for adelaide at 2/19/43 our time good reffort. Hope it' Tahuday June Is the Pinte a surprise. Sea the same from tythey onwards. my colin - only a long well. But by its give cold This is a lepars old today + she can still Obest the best of in. Inday June 25th Sist rougher but still 69, 451 miles up at noon boday. at bad . Yesterday was hot compared to boday. If I dooked out on dich Eydney at & oclock. Manly furis who first right. Goodsh. Ill, but I'd see ice, but I'm houged That up at Thursald oil wharf. I I'm going out to looky even. I'll The it like this in Nellsume. Buy Want ashow for weekend. Manday. Went round to Symont I big on hot water bottles Margo. Desid into South Auchalian waters to there his sweep rable, they field up at No & busy at have love. and I Am . Unother state to my list In till Triday doing nothing else Cased leafe Clary when God it about but run round all the time Ily but los for out four land.

up to 244 revs which is our record up to date. Should be in about 6.30PM. That's 12 hours ahead of our time. Good effort. Hope it's the same from Sydney onwards.

Ship is two years old today + she can still beat the best of 'em. 69,451 miles up at noon today.

Sydney at 6 oclock. Manly ferries were first sight. Goodoh. Tied up at Kurrabo oil wharf. Went ashore for weekend.

Monday.

Went round to Pyrmont to leave LL sweep cable, then tied up at No. 2 buoy at Lane Cove. In till Friday, doing nothing else but run round all the time.

(21 Sydney-ites went off on leave).

Getting stocked up with stores. We sure put some stuff aboard in those few days. Headed for Adelaide at 2PM/23.

Saturday June 24th

Quite a surprise. Sea very calm – only a long swell. But boy its sure cold.

Sunday June 25th

Bit rougher but still not bad. Yesterday was hot compared to today. If I looked out on deck I'll bet I'd see ice, but I'm hanged if I'm going out to look even. I'll die if its like this in Melbourne. Buy up big on hot water bottles Margo. Passed into South Australian waters about 3AM. Another state to my list. Passed Cape Otway where Dad is about 2PM but too far out from land.