

TEL. D. WER

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Book Five 25/7/1945 27/1/1945
Left Cmain 24/8/44

July 25th 1944 27/1/45

to
February 2nd 1945

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(TRIPLE
PEAKS)

19/1/98 TEN. B. DYKER,
H.M.A.S. CASTLEMAINE ~~1900~~

JOINED CASTLEMAINE

ON COMMISSIONING 16/6/42

LEFT ON DRAFT 24/8/44

Distance since commissioning 73,168 miles

Hours under way 8,183 hours

JOINED SWAN 25/9/44

LEFT SYDNEY 21/10/44

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July
Tuesday August 25th 1944

Arrived back at the old ship after a glorious three weeks leave. Very sorry to have to come back. My only ambition now is to get home + become a civvie for the rest of my life. Quite a lot of drafts out for the ship. 30 odd seamen, all the Sparkers, ^{books} boders + Sigs except Len Ashford. Dave, home + Bill are going to depot for courses, and all the Sigs + myself are going to Penguin pool. Blondie + West are Hinders - bound to become cypher officers. Can't imagine them as officer type.

Archibally all the old crew going to Adelaide for a week, during which time we looked the place over pretty well. It's a decent sort of place + the people are extra sociable towards servicemen. Quite a contrast to Sydney + Brisbane. The beer-tips that there is definitely the best in Australia. They will do anything for servicemen.

All the big mob went on draft before the weekend, and about an hour before we sailed two Sparkers arrived + Dave + Bill went off. Only Joe Gallagher, the Sig, + Dixie + I left now awaiting ships. The new crew consists

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Blondie + Went are Flinders-bound to become cypher officers. Can't imagine these as officer type

Practically all the old crew going.

In Adelaide for a week, during which time we looked the place over pretty well. It's a decent sort of place + the people are extra sociable towards servicemen.

Quite a contrast to Sydney + Brisbane. The Cheer-Up Hut there is definitely the best in Australia. They will do anything for servicemen.

All the big mob went on draft before the weekend, and about an hour before we sailed two Sparkers arrived + Dave + Bill went off. Only Joe Gallagher, the Sig, + Boxie + I left now awaiting reliefs. The new crew consists

of a large number of destroyer
new backs for the other side &
are a pretty good crew. The
old ship has a Bofors gun aft now
& is a liddle job. She's headed
for Darwin, & maybe she'll see
some fun out further. Don't care
whether I leave or not now.

Wednesday August 2nd Left for
Trenwalle. Thought the Light
would put on a rough turn for
us, but it behaved remarkably well
& we only rolled a bit. Quite
a few were sick new-the-legs. Our
two new Spankers were sick. Joe Mantle
is the sickest bloke I've ever seen.
On the whole trip he only spent

1½ hours out of the wireless cabin. Gooie
had to keep his last four watches. I
don't reckon he tries. He is a good
hand with radio, but absolutely useless
at sea. Lordie knows what he will
be like if this thing strikes a trip
like the one we had from Milne Bay
to Brisbane. He'll die.

I dislike this watchkeeping & still
want to get home to Marg.

Monday August 4th Arrived in Trenwalle.
Lot of shipping space here. Quite a port.
The town of Trenwalle itself is
12 miles from Perth, and looks a
bit of a tough sea port. Travelled
up to Perth by bus & had a
look about. The Swar is a nice

of a large number of destroyer now back from the other side + are a pretty good crew. The old ship has a Bofors gun aft now + is a tiddley job. She's headed for Darwin + maybe she'll see some fun out further. Don't care whether I leave or not now.

Wednesday August 2nd

Left for Fremantle. Thought the Bight would put on a rough turn for us, but it behaved remarkably well + we only rolled a bit. Quite a few were sick never-the-less. Our two new Sparkers were sick, Joe Mantle is the sickest bloke I've ever seen. On the whole trip he only spent

1-1/2 hours out of the Wireless cabin. Boxie had to keep his last few watches. I don't reckon he tries. He is a good hand with the radio, but absolutely useless at sea. Lordie knows what he will be like if this thing strikes a trip like the one we had from Milne Bay to Brisbane. He'll die.

I dislike this watchkeeping + still want to get home to Marg.

Monday August 7th.

Arrived in Fremantle. Lot of shipping space here. Quite a port.

The town of Fremantle itself is 12 miles from Perth, and looks a bit of a tough sea port. Travelled up to Perth by bus - had a look about. The Swan is a nice river, the gardens are nice + the city, bigger than Adelaide by look about. The Swan is a nice

river, the gardens are nice & the city, bigger than Adelaide by look, is a clean well set out place.

Stayed in until 12th. Horsham going to Darwin with us. Saw Nepal and Cornwall the English cruiser come in. Nice job. Our relief not here, but being sent to Darwin, so I'll do the round trip of Australia on this ship. While here, I managed to get a tooth out, sprain my ankle, put my finger out of joint & get news from Marg that I'm gonna be a father next March. Tell pretty proud too. But Marg is a beaut mother & let our kid is the best ever. Our folks will be flash as

grandparents. A kid of our own will give us even more to live for.

Saturday 12th August Left Fremantle about 10 AM - first stop at Onslow for fuel. Sea goodish - but Joe reckons he is sick, so he is cranked behind the mainmast.

Sunday 13th August. Beginning to get tropical weather again - sunny day & calm sea. Joe forgot to be sick today for the first time. Due to arrive at Onslow on Tuesday & hope to play the Horsham football there if possible.

Monday 14th August. Bit of a wind sprang up and sea a bit choppy thru' last night & today.

river, the gardens are nice + the city, bigger than Adelaide by look, is a clean well set out place. Stayed in until 12th. Horsham going to Darwin with us. Saw Nepal and Cornwall the English ??([ships] come in. Nice job. Our reliefs not here, but being sent to Darwin, so I'll do the round trip of Australia on this ship. While here, I managed to get a tooth out, sprain my ankle, put my finger out of joint + get news from Marg that I'm gonna be a father next March. Feel pretty proud too. Bet Marg is a beaut mother + bet our kid is the best ever. Our folks will be flash as

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Monday 14th August

Bit of a wind sprang up and sea a bit choppy thru last night + today.

Not unpleasant tho' & flattened out
at night. Joe was about only bloke
who reckons he was rich.
Tuesday August 15th Beautiful day.
sea flat calm. Short rise again
now. Went alongside jitty at ~~Darwin~~
Onslow about midday. Big rise
& fall of tide here - and big
surge which makes it a rotten
job trying to stay tied up while
fuelling alongside. Bloke about 6
wire springs. Yet water was flat
calm. Quite a big jitty here -
about twice as long easily as
Stilda pier. Went off about 1 PM
to play Horsham football. Township
itself is typical outback place.

Get not rich alongside jitty & yet it was
much rougher than that at sea. There's
a cold somewhere.

Sand & more sand as far as the
eye could see. Couple of general stores,
a postoffice, a decent hotel, a billiard
room & a fair number of houses
about. Really a fair size considering
where it is. (Yes there's even an old
bar room) Expected to be a few
women here - we saw ~~at least~~ 8.
Played football on what was
their sports oval, but what looked
like a sand pit. However we
had a good game & plenty of
fun. We lost, but we'll play 'em
again in Darwin & get our revenge.
Went out to anchor for night at
5 PM because ship bumping and
swaying too much to stay tied up.

Not unpleasant tho' + flattened out at night. Joe was about only bloke who reckons he was sick.

Tuesday August 15th

Beautiful day. Sea flat calm. Shorts are rig again now. Went alongside jetty at ONSLOW about midday. Big rise + fall on tide here – and big surge which makes it a rotten job trying to stay tied up while pulling alongside. Broke about 6 wire springs. Yet water was flat calm. Quite a big jetty here – about twice as long easily as St.Kilda pier. Went off about 1PM to play Horsham football. Township itself is typical outback place

Joe not sick alongside jetty + yet it was much rougher there than at sea. There's a catch somewhere. Sand + more sand as far as the eye could see. Couple of general stores, a postoffice, a decent hotel, a billiard room + a fair number of houses about. S'posed to be a few women here – we saw 8. Played football on what was their sports over but looked like a sand pit. However we had a good game + plenty of fun. We lost, but we'll play 'em again in Darwin + get our revenge. Went out to anchor for night at 5PM because ship bumping and swaying too much to stay tied up.

Wednesday August 16th - Saturday 19th
Good weather except for Friday when
it rained. Boys getting their doses
of sunburn now. Joe sick -
hanged it & know how in three
seas. So wonderful weather here.

Jeff Moss, Nick Carter & Helen
turned out first edition of boardgame
chronicle as 2 typewritten sheets. A
very good effort for the first edition.
They hope to get a duplicating
machine in Harmon so that they
can turn out a copy for everybody,
and also increase the size. It
will be real good.

Rosie gave our spare "mike"
to the penitentiary, and Nick Carter

and Joe Oxford making it of interest.
Quiz sessions. Hit Parade, Amateur Hour
& Lonely Hearts Club are now weekly
sessions. Trays of cigarettes & chocolates
given as prizes. Station is 4x6 marine.
As long as they don't overdo it,
the penitentiary will keep up interest.
Comfort Fund looked us up
to some games in Tremont & last
few days has seen some strenuous
funnel in Strategy, Monopoly & Sabotage.
Rosie & I made a Tucker board
(Ludo to circles) and now that
is the rage. It's no good anyone
trying to sleep near us when
we are playing an exciting game
of Tucker. Josh a man.

Wednesday August 16th – Saturday 19th

Good weather except for Friday when it rained. Boys getting their doses of sunburn now. Joe sick – hanged if I know how in these seas. It's wonderful weather here.

Geoff Moses, Nick Carter + Uden turned out first edition of Castlemaine Chronicle as 2 typewritten sheets. A very good effort for the first edition. They hope to get a duplicating machine in Darwin so that they can turn out a copy for everybody, and also increase the size. It will be real good.

Boxie gave our spare "mike" to the penetrope, and Nick Carter

and Joe Orford making it of interest. Quiz sessions, Hit Parade, Amateur Hour + Lonely Hearts Club are now weekly sessions. Prizes of cigarettes + chocolates given as prizes. Station is 4X C'maine. As long as they don't overdo it the penetrope will keep up interest.

Comforts Fund lashed us up to some games in Fremantle + last few days has seen some strenuous tussles in Strategy, Monopoly + Salvos. Boxie + I made a "Huckers" board (LUDO to civvies) and now that is the rage. It's no good anyone trying to sleep near us when we are playing an exciting game of Huckers. Gosh a man

played that game when he was
a kid, and now he's playing
it again with sailors yelling
over it.

Sunday 20th August Arrived in
Darwin. Never thought we'd
see this place again. From out
here she doesn't look a scrap
different than when we left her
before. Still seems to be the
same dead look about it. Quite
a contrast to Milne Bay etc
where there is a continual traffic
of barges and what-nots.

Mail arrived aboard - that's
what we wanted. Letters from
Marg & Mew. Linn - a man

feels like punning.

Monday 21st August Another
very hot day! Boon's relief,
leading Lt. Gifford came aboard,
also the 2 seamen's reliefs. Mine
not even in Darwin. Kennie
Wilkes came aboard to see us.
He looks extra fit. Has had
9 months here. Says that the
services ashore are spots mad.
He has been playing football
with Melville "A" team. Another
surprise was when we went
alongside to fuel. Bessie
Brighton was on a merchant
packet on the other side of
the wharf to us. Still the

played that game when he was a kid, and now he's playing it again with sailors yelling over it.

Sunday 20th August

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Mail arrived aboard – that's what we wanted. Letters from Marg + Mum – a man feels like purring.

Monday 21st August

Another very hot day. Boxie's relief, Leading Tel Gifford came aboard, also the 2 seamen's reliefs. Mine not even in Darwin. Kennie Wilkes came aboard to see us. He looks extra fit. Has had 9 months here. Says that the services ashore are sports mad. He has been playing football with Melville "A" team. Another surprise was when we went alongside to fuel. Bennie Creighton was on a merchant packet on the other side of the wharf to us. Still the

same old Ken. Was like old
times with he & Wilberie.

In the evening the Skipper
invited the crew to a party
on the quarter deck. He had
a bag pipe player there, but
it ended up by our boys
putting on the concert tunes.

This Gordon is as good a Skipper
as any crew could ever want.
He is a man, which is quite
rare among officers.

Tuesday 22nd August

Went ashore in evening
to go to pictures. Josh this
morning has been cleaned up.
For a newcomer there is very

little sign of the batterings
she has had. Debris cleaned
up & long grass cleared giving
the place a rather tidy look.

Visited Army Sigs and to
my surprise found Eddie Sutcliffe,
Jack Paige, Murray Jam + a
few infatuate Tlegs working
there. They are handling all
the telegrams and faxes from
here. Naturally quite a few
dibs were swapped & I didn't
even see the pictures.

Wednesday 23rd August. Rosie +
bo still here & they are
leaving tomorrow. Wish I were
going too after Giffords effort

same old Ben. Was like old times with he + Wilkesie.

In the evening the Skipper invited the crew to a party on the quarter deck. He had a bag pipe player there, but it ended up by our boys putting on the concert turns.

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Wednesday 23rd August

Boxie + Co still here - they are leaving tomorrow. Wish I were going too after Giffords effort

today. A Raedar exercise was held by W/T and of all the childish panicky shows I've seen, Gifford put on the worst. And this bloke has passed for a Petty Officer. Fancy me trying to work with him, Joe & the new Ordinary 'Tel'. Either I'll go gray, or do murder.

Thursday 24th August My relief arrived at lunch time & it was only a few minutes work for me to complete my packing and leave with the other 3. Sorry in a way to leave after all this time aboard. She has a good Skipper and

a good crew. I've had some happy memories & damned fine oppos on her, but as the Sparkers branch has deteriorated I'll be better off her. So after 2½ years I'll say "Good Luck Coastguards".

Got ashore and followed usual depot routine of carrying bag & hammock all over the place until finally settled in Sparkers house, Block 638. Next door to Lew Wilkes.

Friday 25th Aug Hung about the house in forenoon, then proceeded to thrash Wilkes in afternoon at Linnis. Dickies in evening.

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Got ashore and followed usual depot routine of carrying bag + hammock all over the place until finally settled in Sparkers house. Block 638. Next door to Ken Wilkes.

Friday 25th August.

Hung about the house in forenoon, then proceeded to thrash Wilkes in afternoon – at tennis. Pictures in evening

Pictures now held in Star Theatre,
but standard of shows very poor.
Saturday 26th Aug Took discharge
book around to doctor, grimmery
a retailing store etc, and
placed under ten minutes notice
so that we can be all
ready to go whenever a plane
is available. This 10 minutes business
may last days + days tho'.
Ah well, sports we'll just have
to wait. Tennis again in a.m.
Sunday 27th Aug Gordon, "Lehorn"
and I strolled about the town
in the forenoon. Then in the
afternoon we played tennis at
YMCA. I played without shoes

or socks on the cement court +
as a consequence of sliding, my
feet are decorated with blisters.
George Hale came off to see
me. He is now on the horsesby
up here. Doesn't like it a
bit, but he had a damned
good spell at Williamstown, and
besides, this is first time he
has been for see since he joined.
Dorrie + I went down to
watch Melville play football against
Jimmy mob. Wilkes was playing.
It was an extra good game +
well worth watching.
Monday 28th Aug Looks as tho'
we'll be here for weeks in

Pictures now held in Star theatre, but standard of shows very poor.

Saturday 26th August

Took discharge book around to doctor, gunnery + victualling store etc, and placed under ten minutes notice so that we can be all ready to go whenever a plane is available. This 10 minutes business may last days + days tho'.

Ah well, s'pose we'll just have to wait. Tennis again in 'arvo.

Saturday 27th August

Gordon "Choon" and I strolled about the town in the forenoon. Then in the afternoon we played tennis at YMCA. I played without shoes

or socks on the cement court + as a consequence of sliding, my feet are decorated with blisters. George Male came off to see me. He is now on the Hornsby up here. Doesn't like it a bit, but he had a darned good spell at Williamstown, and besides this is first time he has been to sea since he joined.

Boxie + I went down to watch Melville play football against Army mob. Wilks was playing. It was an extra good game + well worth watching.

Monday 28th August.

Looks as tho' we'll be here for weeks in

this place. Only good things about it are the facts that the mail service is excellent, and we don't do any duties while under this 10 minutes notice.

Four of us played tennis at batholic court in forenoon. In eve Bozie, Wilhemie and I went down to watch the old boatmen play "Mercedes" football, and help by acting as goalkeepers. Also a good game to watch. The 4xxxx boys won easily. They have a good team, but I can see they need me back as rover for them.

Tuesday 29th Aug Walked about trying to get appointment with dentist, finally doing so at 2pm. All a man needs is patience in this outfit.

Watched Simaine play the Sigs at basketball and beat them by one point. The old ship getting quite a name for a sporting ship.

One of the Sigs challenged us to tennis until tea time. I said he beat us too.

Wednesday 30th Aug. Lhem, Gordon Bozie & I played tennis in forenoon. Quite a surprise in afternoon. Blondie Rosman arrived here with the overland

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Watched C'maine play the Sigs at basketball and beat them by one point. The old ship getting quite a name for a sporting ship. One of the Sigs challenged us to tennis until tea time. 'Fraid he beat us too.

Wednesday 30th Aug

Chum, Gordon Boxie and I played tennis in forenoon Blondie. Mossman arrived here with the overland

draft. He will be here for 15 months. Blondie lasted four days at the Officers School & then requested to withdraw. But he & West gave some of the potential officers a shock while they were together. Can't get over meeting Blondie here tho.

We got word that we report at 1.30 PM tomorrow.

Thursday Aug 31st Reported & told that we are leaving per overland tomorrow as plane travel is temporarily cancelled. Drew mess gear & water bottle and returned mosquito net. That means we sleep

without nets tonight. It will be open season for mosquitos now. Wilkerie, Blondie, Ronie & I drank our beer ration & talked till lights out about old times. Like a last remembrance.

Friday 1st Sept Dumped our gear at regulating office at 7.30 AM, got instructions & left about 8 AM on first stage of journey. Eleven sailors going. Five of us going to Sydney via Mt Isa Queensland, and rest to Adelaide & Melbourne via Alice Springs. We all travel to HARRIMAN together then split up. Going to be a

draft. He will be here for 15 months. Blondie lasted four days at the Officers School + then requested to withdraw. Bet he + West gave some of the potential officers a shock while they were together. Can't get over meeting Blondie here tho.

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without nets tonight. It will be open season for mossies now. Wilkesie, Blondie, Boxie + I drank our beer ration + talked till lights out about old times. Like a Castlemaine re-union.

Friday 1st Sept

Dumped our gear at regulating office at 7.30AM, got instructions + left about 8AM on first stage of journey. Eleven sailors going. Five of us going to Sydney via Mt. Isa Queensland, and rest to Adelaide + Melbourne via Alice Springs. We all travel to LARRIMAH together then split up. Going to be

long trip but think will have
some fun among ourselves.
Went for motor trucks to Adelaide
River staging camp 72 miles
down. Unloaded our gear from
truck, waited an hour in the
sun, had lunch, then reloaded
our gear on trucks to go to
station about a mile away.
Of course we couldn't have
taken our gear there first, because
that's not the way the services
do things. Stacked ourselves &
gear in cattle trucks and left
at 2 PM for HARRIMAN, 209 miles
away. Shipped to small
skids, no boots or rocks,

donned our gas goggles to ward
off dust & soot, then sat on
side of trucks all the way.
Dust & soot everywhere, but
we had some fun asking the
goat. Train stopped every few
miles to fill up with water.
Passed thru a few stations - well
served by stations. Consist of
station shed and either huts
or maybe few buildings. Never
seen so many ant hills in my
life. There's thousands & thousands
of them ranging from inches
to yards high. Stopped about
8:30 PM for supper at Pine Creek.
Saw a tin of salmon

long trip but think we'll have some fun among ourselves.

Went per motor truck to Adelaide River staging camp 72 miles down. Unloaded our gear from truck, waited an hour in the sun, had lunch, then reloaded our gear on truck to go to station about a mile away. Of course we couldn't have taken our gear there first, because that's not the way the services do things.

Stacked ourselves + our gear in cattle trucks and left at 2PM for LARRIMAH, 209 miles away. Stripped to overall strides no boots or socks

donned our gas goggles, to ward off dust + soot, then sat on side of trucks all the way. Dust + soot everywhere, but we had some fun acting the goat. Train stopped every few miles to fill up with water. Passed thru' few stations – well s'posed be stations. Consist of station shed and either tents or maybe few buildings. Never seen so many ant hills in my life. There's thousands + thousands of them ranging from inches to yards high. Stopped about 8.30PM for scran at Pino Creek. Scran was tin of salmon

Met Phil Perc Greisler from Warrack on the train.

between 6 or 8 blokes + tin of fruit. We missed fruit so had salmon between 3. We certainly supplemented that with the rations that the Navy gave us to take for 24 hours. After we left there we got our heads down. Four of us slung hammocks and so slept very well. Rest crashed on deck + had bad night. After being extra hot day, the night turned cool.

Saturday 2nd Sept

Arrived in Larrimah about 9.30AM covered in dust + soot. Alloted huts (Navy in same hut) then had

breakfast. Goodness knows what it was but it tasted goodoh. We may have to be here a few days so drew mosquito nets. After a cold meat lunch (also good) we were detailed off to do a wood party job of collecting wood in the bush. We told some Captain that we were sailors + were used to handling water but not wood, so he said we could forget the job. He got someone else for it. He was a returned digger + a good sport. All we do today is draw some rations for a party of men + that only requires 4 of us!

Sunday 3rd Sept Got a job as mess orderly, cleaning the mess and helping serve the scran from the galley. Not bad work - and besides, we just dish ourselves out as much scran as we want. Too much of this mess orderly and I'd be as fat as a pig.

Another surprise - met Bill from the old boarding house. He is on his way home on leave. By now Dore is convinced that I seem to know somebody everywhere.

Received news that we are all to go to Sydney

via Alice Springs and Adelaide. Wacker - that means I'll go there! Melbourne. Even if it is only for an hour or so I will see Marg (I hope). Am keeping my fingers crossed extra tightly.

In the evening our swollie cobbles built a fire & we had a brew of tea & some cake, about 9 o'clock. Monday 4th Sept Got under way in a convoy of 20 trucks about 0900. Whoom and I had our names missed out on the roll call & were left till last. By that time we couldn't get in with our cobbles. Naturally

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Got a job as mess orderly, cleaning the mess and helping serve the scrum from the galley. Not bad work – and besides, we just dish ourselves out as much scrum as we want. Too much of this mess orderly and I'd be as fat as a pig.

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via Alice Springs and Adelaide. Wacko – that means I'll go thru' Melbourne. Even if it is only for an hour or so I will see Marg (I hope). Am keeping my fingers crossed extra tightly.

In evening our swottie coppers built a fire + we had a brew of tea + some cake, about 9 o'clock.

Monday 4th Sept

Got under way in a convoy of 20 trucks bout 0900.

Choom and I had our names missed out on the roll call + were left till last. By that time we couldn't get in with our coppers. Naturally

we made some rude remarks about their organization. However it turned out for the best because we were put in a truck with 8 other blokes. Then Bozie, Lumbra & Gordon joined us making 13, instead of 21 + 22 as in the other trucks. We have plenty of room, which makes a big difference.

Roads very good, but scenery just same as we could see outside Harshaw. Convoy halted about 1030 for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour in which time our drivers built a fire & brewed tea. It was an extra good drop & very

welcome after the dust. Stopped again at noon at a few sheds for dinner. Dinner was 3 persons to a small tin of bully beef. Not very tasty, but we were hungry so down it went. Another stop about 1530 & another brew made. Country changing slightly. Trees are more scrub like & soil more sandy as is evidenced by the color of the ant hills which are more grey.

Arrived in Elliot staging camp at 1800. This is 120 miles from Larimah. Quite a good camp - showers, Ymca, canteen

we made some rude remarks about their organization. However it turned out for the best because we were first in a truck with 8 other blokes. Then Boxie, Lumbera + Gordon joined us making 13, instead of 21 + 22 as in the other trucks. We have plenty of room, which makes a big difference.

Roads very good, but scenery just same as we could see outside Horsham. Convoy halted about 1030 for ½ hour, in which time our drivers built a fire + brewed tea. It was an extra good drop + very

welcome after the dust. Stopped again at noon at a few sheds for dinner. Dinner was 3 persons to a small tin of bully beef. Not very tasty, but we were hungry so down it went. Another stop about 1530 + another brew made. Country changing slightly. Trees are more scrub like + soil more sandy as is evidenced by the colour of the ant hills which are more grey.

Arrived in Elliot staging camp at 1800. This is 120 mile from Larrimah. Quite a good camp – showers YMCA, canteen

+ as for supper - well - it made up for dinner. Cold salad, then apricots & rice for duff. Apricots icy cold too. The cups of tea are what a man looks forward to also. Another bottle of beer to every 3 men.

Tuesday 5th Sept Got called at 0545 had breakfast + got under way at 0700. Irish wind blowing from south making it quite cool. Stopped for our first drop of fuel as usual about 1000. Country changing to scrubby trees, long grass & rolling plains. Ground becoming quite rocky in places.

Arrived at Banha Banha at midday. 92 miles from Ellist. Banha Banha station on one side of road + staging camp on other. Place just a dust hole. Whirlie-winds all afternoon shooting dust everywhere. Only place that seems free from dust is the 1 hut. Too dusty to dhoie, so just sat around reading & writing all afternoon.

Wednesday 6th Sept Up at 0445 - very cold - under weigh at 0600 and waited no time getting our heads down under a blanket on the bunks. Stopped at cabbage gum (2 tin hut) for lunch at 0930.

+ as for supper – well – it made up for dinner. Cold salad, then apricots and rice for duff. Apricots icy cold too. The cups of tea are what a man looks forward to also. Another bottle of beer for every 3 men.

Sunday 5th September

Got called at 545 had breakfast and got under way at 0700. Fresh wind blowing from south making it quite cool. Stopped for our first drop of brew as usual about 1000. Country changing to scrubby trees, long grass and rolling plains. Ground becoming quite rocky in places.

Arrived at Banka Banka at midday. 92 miles from Elliot. Banka Banka station on one side of road and staging camp on other. Place just a dust hole. Whirlie-winds all afternoon shooting dust everywhere. Only place that seems free from dust is the Y hut. Too dusty for dhobie, so just sat around reading + writing all afternoon.

Wednesday 6th September

Up at 0445 + very cold – under weigh at 0600 and wasted no time getting our heads down under a blanket on the truck. Stopped at Cabbage Gum (2 tin huts) for lunch at 0930.

Same type of country as yesterday.
Arrived at Barrow Creek camp
about 5 PM. Travelled 183 miles
today. Met Tom Cherry who used
to live in Waracka - I heard news
of the old crowd. The Sharps are
prospects in Alice Springs.

Thursday Sept 7th Thank goodness
we arrived at Alice Springs
today, or we would have been
getting up almost as soon as
we went to bed. Up at 0415
this morning & it was jolly
cold too. Covered about 190
miles today. Country changed to
rocky type - rocky hills &
long flat topped ranges almost

devoid of trees. Passed a few
lonely graves of men who have
died or been killed working on
the overland telegraph line. Stopped
at Tea Tree Wells for lunch at
0930 again. Couple of huts, but
plus a canteen this time &
wonders of wonders a woman serves
in it. Lot of useless things bought
in order to see this woman.
Passed thru Tennant Creek. Not
a bad little place. Typical of
~~popular~~ popular conception of
central Australian townships. White
buildings in flat desert surroundings.
Saw the huge round boulders
named Devils Marbles. They

Same type of scenery as yesterday. Arrived at Barrow Creek camp about 5PM. travelled 183 mile today. Met Tom Cherry, who used to live in Warrack + heard news of the old crowd. The Sharps are provosts in Alice Springs.

Thursday Sept 7th

Thank goodness we arrived at Alice Springs today, or we would have been getting up about as soon as we went to bed. Up at 0415 this morning + it was jolly cold too. Covered about 190 miles today. Country changed to rocky type – rocky hills + long flat topped ranges almost

devoid of trees. Passed a few lonely graves of men who have died or been killed working on the overland telegraph line. Stopped at Tea Tree Wells for lunch at 0930 again. Couple of huts, but plus a canteen this time + wonder of wonders a woman serves in it. Lot of useless things bought in order to see this woman. Passed thru' Tennant Creek. Not a bad little place. Typical of popular conception of Central Australian township. White buildings in flat desert surrounding. Saw the huge round boulders named Devils Marbles. T

are along the road for miles.
Very interesting too. Huge boulders
appearing to be just balancing
above others. One rock along
road is called Chumtill Rock.
Shape very much like profile &
has a stick stuck in to
resemble the "eternal" cigar.

Arrived in Alice Springs
about 4 PM. The town practically
surrounded by high flat topped
ranges. Very hilly hereabouts.
Informed that we will have
to stay here till Sunday as
there is a railway strike on
in South Australia. Boys not
too pleased. After having

cement decks in our various
staging camps on the way down,
hanged if a place like this
camps haven't got dirt decks.
+ I mean Dirt.

Went up town to the
pictures in evening with Ennie,
Harry, Lofly & Gieschopper. Two
circus shows in Alice - both
open air. Fair sized town - quite
a large number of shops.
Thing that annoyed me was
the cold nights. Some of the
blokes even wore greatcoats to
the pictures.
Friday 8th Sept. Up at 7 am &
fell in on parade after breakfast

are along the road for miles. Very interesting too. Huge boulders appearing to be just balancing atop others. One rock along road is called Churchill Rock. Shape very much like profile + has a stick stuck in to resemble the "eternal" cigar.

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Went up town to the pictures in evening with Snowie, Harry, Lofty + Grasshopper. Two civvies shows in Alice – both open air. Fair sized town – quite a large number of shops. Thing that amazed me was the cold nights. Some of the blokes even wore greatcoats to the pictures.

Friday 8th Sept

Up at 7 am + fell in on parade after breakfast

to be detailed for work. We were definitely not in favour of that word "WORK". Got a job at an Ordnance camp a couple of miles away, picking up papers, but after about $\frac{1}{4}$ hour of papers, there was a brew of tea on at the cook-house. Jam tart was handed out to a few of us too. Not hard to take. After the snack we played with a tiny baby kangaroo + a dog that were pets there. By this time we decided that it was time to go back to camp, so we walked back across the field, arriving back about 11 am instead of noon.

After lunch did some shovelling and then capped a job putting up marquees for Air Force blokes who were arriving in from north and were leaving next morning. Cutting up marquees for them, and they are leaving before us. We had a lot of fun acting the fool + giving cheek tho'. Went up + saw Doc + Roy Sharp at Provost HQ in evening. Had a good old natter about old times. Got picked at by the boys from camp who saw me talking to two Provost Sergeants. Richman + I was wandering. Picked the

to be detailed for work. We were definitely not in favour of that word 'WORK'. Got a job at our Ordinance camp a couple of mile away, picking up papers, but after about ¼ hour of papers, there was a brew of tea on at the cook-house. Jam tart was handed out to a few of us too. Not hard to take. After the snack we played with a tiny baby kangaroo + a dog that were pets there. By this time we decided it was time to go back to camp, so we walked back across the field arriving back about 11am instead of noon.

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Went up + saw Perc + Roy Sharp at Provost HQ in evening. Had a good old natter about old times. Got picked up by the boys from camp who saw me talking to two Provost Sergeants. Reckoned I was crawling. Picked the

boys up and went to the pictures again. Very brisly cold night so at interval we killed ourselves up with a few hot dogs. Bit of a dance going on at a place nearby on our way home.

A large number of women in Alice Springs, large majority being A.W.C. workers wives.

Our presence at door of dance not appreciated by Devots who asked us kindly to move on. we just as politely said, "Of course dear chaps."

Saturday 9th Sept. Up again at 7 AM + got sent to

Ordinance again. Past a joke this time because the Sergeant equipped us with picks and shovels to dig a drain. For one thing it was terribly dusty, + for another Saturday was a bad day to dig drains, so after our morning tea, we returned the implements quietly + walked back overland again.

Wonder what the truck driver said each day when he called at noon for us to go back?

In eve we sat in the sun + talked. Later we volunteered to go for a ride up town + collect a piano

boys up and went to the pictures again. Very briskly cold night so at interval we kitted ourselves up with a few hot dogs. Bit of a dance going on at a place nearby on our way home. A large number of women in Alice Springs, large majority being A.W.C. workers wives.

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In arvo we sat in the sun + talked. Later we volunteered to go for a ride up town + collect a piano

for the Sergeant's mess. We collected a few books etc. from the store where the piano was, then played it on the back of the truck going thru' town so it could hardly be called a hard job.

After tea went up + saw Eric and Roy Sharp for a while, then home to bed early as we have to get up at 0430 in the morning.

Sunday Sept 10th Left at 0430 - what an awfully hour + was it cold? Breakfast at 5 AM + entrained at 0600. The terrible tight of us together. Secured a compartment to ourselves. Even

the officers compartment has more in it than ours has. That's twice we have been lucky for room. Under way soon after entraining - 990 miles to go now.

There was a cooker on the train and meals were very good. At meal stops we all tumbled out + lived up for scran, then sat down along the track and ate it. Meals very welcome after travelling too.

Train stopped many times thru' day at little places to refill with water. The stops

for the Sergeant's mess. We collected a few books etc. from the store where the piano was, then played it on the back of the truck going thru' town, so it could hardly be called a hard job.

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were the signal for somebody
from the carriage to race out
and stand a bottle up while
the others felted bricks at it.
There seemed to be an endless
stream of bottles thrown from
Harrin to Adelaide - bottles of
all sorts.

Then the day the boys
played cards, argued, slept
& conducted Army versus Navy
wrestles which were extra good.
Nobody killed, surprisingly enough.

One of our funniest turns
was when Lofly decided to show
us how he used to boil a
billy of tea in his tin hat.

in Syria. We dashed off & collected
wood at a stop, then Lofly lit
the fire in his "battle-bowyer" &
held it on the swaying outside
platform with a stick, while
Jordan held the billy on the
fire. The train was travelling
at about 30 odd M.P.H. and the
wind was quite cool. Besides that,
the water tanks from the carriage
ahead was leaking & the water
was blowing all over Jordan.
For $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour they stood
there, by which time, the
tin hat was ruined, half our
water had spilt, Jordan was
wet and Lofly was nearly

were the signal for somebody from the carriage to race out and stand a bottle up while the others pelted bricks at it. There seemed to be an endless stream of bottles strewn from Darwin to Adelaide – bottles of all sorts.

Thru' the day the boys played cards, argued, slept + conducted Army versus Navy wrestles which were extra good. Nobody killed, surprisingly enough.

One of our funniest turns was when Lofty decided to show us how he used to boil a billy of tea in his tin hat

in Syria. We dashed off + collected wood at a stop, then Lofty lit the fire in his “battle-bowler” + held it on the swaying outside platform with a stick, while Gordon held the billy on the fire. The train was travelling at about 30 odd M.P.H. and the wind was quite cool. Besides that, the water tank from the carriage ahead was leaking + the water was blowing all over Gordon. For 3/4 of an hour they stood there, by which time the tin hat was ruined, half our water had spilt, Gordon was wet and Lofty was nearly

frozen - and also a hole had
been burnt in one of our hat-
bags which were lashed on the
platform. But we got our
tea made & Lofly was the
hero of the hour.

We slept comfortably because
we had plenty of room. Gordon &
I slung our hammocks. The
train rocked that much that we
were almost seasick, but it was
comfortable and warm.

The country itself was finally
very, very rocky, with the
same flat topped mountain ranges.
Later it changed to perfectly
flat stretches of endless sand.

At this time the country was
very dry, altho' we could see
where the big waterways would
be. We were told that when
it rained, the countryside was
flooded in many places, &
that the barren looking spots
were green as far as the eye
could see. - Great cattle country.

First day passed thru
such places as Deepwell,
Rumbalara. The place we stopped
at tea for, was Abramungoi
5 miles over the border between
N.T. & S.A.. So we were in
South Australia.

At breakfast next day we

frozen - and also a hole had been burnt in one of our kit bags which were lashed on the platform. BUT we got our tea made + Lofty was the hero of the hour.

We slept comfortably because we had plenty of room. Gordon + I slung our hammocks. The train rocked that much that we were almost seasick, but it was comfortable and warm.

The country itself was firstly very, very rocky, with the same flat topped mountain ranges. Later it changed to perfectly flat stretches of endless sand.

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First day passed thru' such places as Deepwell, Rumbalara. The place we stopped at tea for, was Abramunga (?) 5 miles over the border between N.T. + S.A. So we were in South Australia.

At breakfast next day we

had 540 miles to go. It was
this day that the desert really
showed out. Stopped at a
place called Marie for lunch.
Stayed there for 2 hours.
Hotel open for those who wanted
it, or had money. Also a
store selling soft drinks +
the rest. 19 hours from there
to Terowie 420 miles. Copley was
near stop.

Arrived in Terowie just
before lunch on Tuesday 12th.
Detained and had lunch
at Terowie. After coming all
these Australia, this damned place
was the worst we'd struck.

There was a cold wind blowing
and it was filthy with dust.
Left on another train at 2 PM +
jolly glad to. Again travelled
together as terrible tight. Took
5 hours to get to Adelaide,
but sang ~~at~~ nearly all the
way, + yelled out at people
along track. Really happy
hoop-train full of blokes.
Reached Adelaide at 7 PM,
about 3 weeks since leaving ship,
- 12 days since we left Darwin
in which time we travelled by
huck, cattle-huck, trailer huck
+ spent last 3 days + 2 nights
in overland train. It was

had 540 miles to go. It was this day that the desert really showed out. Stopped at a place called Maree for lunch. Stayed there for 2 hours.

Hotel open for those who wanted it, or had money. Also a store selling soft drinks + the rest. 19 hours from there to Terowie 420 miles. Copley was tea stop.

Arrived in Terowie just before lunch n Tuesday 12th. Detrained and had lunch in Terowie. After coming all thru' Australia this darned place was the worst we'd struck.

There was a cold wind blowing and it was filthy with dust. Left on another train at 2PM + jolly glad to. Again travelled together as Terrible Eight. Took 5 hours to get to Adelaide, bur sang nearly all the way, + yelled out at people along track. Really happy troop-train full of blokes.

Reached Adelaide at 7PM, almost 3 weeks since leaving ship, - 12 days since we left Darwin – in which time we've travelled by truck, cattle-truck, trailer trucks + spent last 3 days + 2 nights in overland train. It was

at times a bit uncomfortable but was well worth it for the experience. We met a great batch of blokes among the smoothies.

Spent the night in Adelaide cleaning up under a hot shower at the Red Shield Pub. Had been thinking of a sleep in clean beds but places booked out so had to sleep on a table at the Red Shield.

Reported to Torrens depot in the morning & were told we couldn't leave till Friday 15th.

So we persuaded them to let us spend the time doing as we pleased up these towns.

So we met the boys (Larry, Inowie, Lofly Grasshopper) & had a day out with them. Killed in stat of time going pictures etc.

Left on passenger train at 11pm on Friday night. Bloom didn't turn up!!

Saturday 16th Left Arrived at Spencer St Melbourne & there was my pretty wife waiting for me at the station. York, it was good. Spored to leave at 12.30 but after seeing the Jimmy at Lonsdale he granted me extension to leave Monday. That means, we

at times a bit uncomfortable but was well worth it for the experience. We met a great bunch of blokes among the swotties.

Spent the night in Adelaide cleaning up under a hot shower at the Red Shield Hut. Had been thinking of a sleep in clean bed, but places booked out so had to sleep on a table at the Red Shield.

Reported to Torrens depot in the morning + were told we couldn't leave till Friday 15th.

So we persuaded them to let us spend the time doing as we pleased up town.

So we met the boys (Harry, Snowie, Lofty, Grasshopper) + had a day out with them. Filled in rest of time going pictures etc.

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Saturday 16th Sept

Arrived at Spencer St Melbourne + there was my pretty wife waiting for me. Gosh it was good. S'posed to leave at 12.30, but after seeing the Jimmy at Lonsdale he granted me extension to leave Monday. That means we

had a full weekend together.
Naturally we made the most
of it. Nice & quiet, but just
what we wanted, wasn't it,
Marg?

Monday 18th Sept Left for Sydney
for troop train. Slept pretty
well. Spore it because I was
used to travel.

Tuesday 19th Sept. Arrived Sydney
and went across to Balmain
to find that I'm on draft
to the Swan. Schoon, Archie
Atkins, Maclean, Shro, Markie
Lang & few others from the
ship there.

Spored to go up north

to pick up Swon but she
arrived in over the weekend.

Spent from Tuesday till
Monday at Balmain depot. Depot
itself very nice place - good
screen & pictures every night.

Gordon came down from Newcastle
for the weekend and we had
it ashore together.

Monday 25th Sept joined H.M.A.S.
Swan. They down for boiler
clean & general repairs, going
on 7 days leave so I might
possibly be lucky.

Stayed aboard most of
week. Went off Sunday 1st Oct
to visit Auntie Mary, then

had a full weekend together. Naturally we made the most of it. Nice + quiet, but just what we wanted, wasn't it Marg?

Monday 18th Sept.

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Tuesday 19th Sept.

Arrived Sydney and went across to Balmoral to find that I'm on draft to the Swan. Choom, Darkie Atkins, Maclean, Stevo, Marbie Lang + few others from the shop there.

Sposed to go up north

to pick up Swan but she arrived in over the weekend. Spent from Tuesday till Monday at Balmoral depot. Depot itself very nice place good scran + pictures every night.

Gordon came down from Newcastle for the weekend and we had it ashore together.

Monday 25th Sept.

JOINED H.M.A.S. SWAN. They down for boiler clean + general repairs, going on 7 days leave so I might possibly be lucky.

Stayed aboard most of week. Went off Sunday 1st Oct. to visit Auntie Mary, then

went over to Hyde Park to listen
to the "soap-box orators". They
put on a good show in Sydney.
Danny Bowden is P.O. Tel
on Swan, and seems a good
bloke. Sparkes too seems OK.
I think I'll get on alright
here, altho' the test will come
when I get to sea.

Went on leave with second
half on Thursday Oct 5th
Friday October 6th Arrived Melbourne
went & saw Margo & Mum then
caught the express to Horsham at
11. Had an extra hard job
to get aboard. Corridors & doorways
packed. But I was travelling

to see Margo & Mum so discomfort
was just secondary consideration.
Arrived Horsham after midnight.
Margo at station to meet me.
She looks even prettier than before.
Mum too looks pretty goodish. Young
So arrived home for weekend on
the 4.45 train. It was grand
seeing the kid.

Spent week just strolling
up the street, and looting about
at home yarding. Naturally it
was an extra good leave - as
we didn't have to rush about
anywhere. Hated leaving, but
was thankful that I had been
lucky enough to get the

went over to Hyde Park to listen to the “soap-box orators”. They put on a good turn in Sydney. Danny Bowden is P.O.Tel on Swan, and seems a good bloke. Sparkers too seem OK. I think I’ll get on alright here, altho’ the heat will come when I get to sea.

Went on leave with second half on Thursday Oct. 5th.

Friday October 6th

Arrived Melbourne, went + saw Margs Mum then caught the express to Horsham at 7PM. Had an extra hard job to get aboard. Corridors + doorways packed. But I was travelling

to see Marg + Mum so discomfort was just secondary consideration. Arrived Horsham after midnight. Marg at station to meet me. She looked even prettier than before. Mum too looks pretty goodoh. Young Sis arrived home for weekend on the 4AM train. It was grand seeing the Kid.

Spent week just strolling up the street, and lolling about at home yarning. Naturally it was an extra good leave - as we didn’t have to rush about anywhere. Hated leaving, but was thankful that I had been lucky enough to get the

unexpected leave. Altho' the sooner
I can be home for good, the
sooner I'll be completely contented.

13th Oct Arrived in Melbourne, met
Bruce Stamford. He is going to
Harbin in a batilina crew &
is quite thrilled about it. Left
Melbourne on afternoon loop train.
Rather dry for travelling. Heavy
duststorm over Victoria & we got
it all the way from just out
of Melbourne right thru to Albury.
Met Sammie & Harry (2 of the
smothers I travelled overland with)
They are on their way to N.G.
so I might see of them again.
Had pretty good trip. Slept

on broad baggage rack & had
a real sound sleep.

Saturday 14th Oct Arrived Sydney
& reported back to ship.

Spent most of week aboard.
Went out to Auntie Mary's &
Lizzie & I came back to town
to the pictures together.

Left a gaske bag with
Mace to mind for me in case
of accident.

Saturday 21st Oct Once again left
to go north. Seems to me I
should be getting used to it
now - but I'm not. Ah well
this seems a jolly ship. Both
the Skipper & Jimmy are good blokes.

unexpected leave. Altho' the sooner I can be home for good, the sooner I'll be completely contented.

13th Oct.

Arrived in Melbourne, met Bruce Hannaford. He is going to Darwin in a Catilina crew + is quite thrilled about it. Left Melbourne on afternoon troop train. Rotten day for travelling. Heavy duststorm over Victoria + we got it all the way from just out of Melbne right thru' to Albury.

Met Snowie + Harry (2 of the swotties I travelled overland with). They are on their way to N.G. so I might see of them again. Had pretty good trip. Slept

on broad luggage-rack + had a real sound sleep.

Saturday 14th Oct.

Arrived Sydney + reported back to ship. Spent most of week aboard. Went out to Auntie Mary's + Teddie + I came back to town to the pictures together. Left a gash rig with Max to mind for me in case of accident.

Saturday 21st Oct.

Once again left to go north. Seems to me I should be getting used to it now – but I'm not. Ah well this seems a happy ship. Both the Skipper + Jimmy are good blokes.

So cheerio again Sydney, and I
hope it's not too long
before we see you again.

Monday 23rd Oct Jimmy saw a requiem
who required to "leave shoring".

Was about 30 or 40 of them. CB's
were well represented, as the hotel,
the Yoman, 2 Sparkies 3 Sigs + 1
looker all growing beards. Ray
Millington already has one. So
that will ~~be~~ come nine out of 13
CB's with a beard soon.

Good trip - weather warmish
+ ~~sea~~ sea well behaved.

Shipper has a pup and
kitten for pets. The pup is
a playful thing - too much

so, because he was playing
about near the ship's side and
he fell overboard. We had to
stop in mid ocean, lower the
whaler & fish him up.

Ray Millington & Blue Bradshaw
(2 of the Sparkies) run the sholying
firm aboard here. They wanted
a 3rd hand & they gave me
the chance to buy in. So
now I'm part of a sholy firm.
It's certainly hard hot work
in the tropics, but it excites
a little in the afternoons.

2nd October Thursday Arrived Milne
Bay. Received message by light
from Dorcas who is at the

So cheerio again Sydney, and I hope it's not too very long before we see you again.

Monday 23rd Oct.

Jimmy saw regulation(?).... who required to "cease shaving". Was about 30 or 40 of them. CB's were well represented, as the PO Tel the Yeoman, 2 Sparkers 3 Sigs + 1 Coder all growing beards. Ray Millingdon already has one. So that will be nine out of 13 CB's with a beard soon.

Good trip – weather warmish + sea well behaved.

Skipper has a pup and kitten for pets. The pup is a playful thing – too much

so, because he was playing about near the ship's side and he fell overboard. We had to stop in mid ocean, lower the whaler + pick him up.

Ray Millingdon + Bruce Bradshaw (2 of the Sparkers) run the dhoby firm aboard here. They wanted a 3rd hand and they gave me a chance to buy in. So now I'm part of a dhoby firm. It's certainly hard hot work in the tropics, but its exercise + fills in the afternoons.

26th October Friday

Arrived Milne Bay. Received message by light from Horace who is at the

Port War Signal Station at the bay entrance. The Bay still dreary looking. Naturally it turned cold and rained here.

Boys beginning to do exercises now. Having gas on every night on the fuel.

24th Oct. Saturday. Left M.B. - near stop MADANG. Beautiful tropical weather so good trip. Arrived Madang Sunday 29th. Madang has certainly changed since I was here last. Well set out camps & huts everywhere.

Went ashore to beach. There was surprised to notice difference in Madang. Couldn't find my

way about like I could before. Then made a good sport out. Swimming over side in afternoon. Monday 30th October With Lakobe went out on exercises. Had exercises depth charges, ~~and~~ target shoot then bombardment with help of "spotting" aircraft. Cyril & I have the Action Stations down after at the ~~the~~ emergency "bomber" net. A real shell place, bottlenecked down & can't see what's going on. Depth charges and gun fire give us quite a shaking up down there.

Tuesday 31st October To sea about 2 PM with Barrow, Tindall & a

Port War Signal Station at the bay entrance. Milne Bay still dreary looking. Naturally it turned cold and rained here.

Boys beginning to do exercises now. Boxing goes on every night on the focs'l.

26th Oct. Friday

Left M.B. – next stop MADANG. Beautiful tropical weather so good trip. Arrived Madang Sunday 29th. Madang has certainly changed since I was here last. Well set out camps + huts everywhere.

Went ashore to Church. Was surprised to notice difference in Madang. Couldn't find my

way about like I could before. Even made a good sports oval. Swimming over side in afternoon.

Monday 30th October.

With Latrobe went out on exercises. Had exercise depth charges, target shoot then bombardment with help of "spotting" aircraft. Cyril + I have the Action Stations down after at the emergency "bomber" set. A real dull place, battened down + can't see what's going on. Depth charges and gun-fire give us quite a shaking up down there.

Tuesday 31st October.

To sea about 2PM with Barcoo, Vendetta + a

Tairuile. Going to Langemah for
fuel then picking up convoy to
take troops make landing at
Jacquinet Bay, south of Rabaul.
Bombardment may take place.
We are heaviest armed of the three.

Wednesday Nov. 1st Arrived
Langemah. Fuelled then tied up
alongside 'Pardetta' swimming over
side in afternoon. Yankee ship
arrived in with a diving band
aboard + 'Pardetta' arranged for
to get it aboard her for a bit
of a concert in evening. All right.
Music real good.

Thursday Nov. 2nd Under way
about 5:30 A.M.

Beautiful sunny day again.
Taking over ship with us.
Skipper cleared lower deck +
spare us the dirt about the
operation. Appear we are taking
swathes to make a landing
at Jacquinet Bay, 90 sea miles
south of Rabaul, on the south
side of New Britain. There is
reported to be 35,000 Japs at Rabaul,
but only patrols are reported to
have come as far south as
Jacquinet Bay. Japs have no
great number of planes + if we
see any they will only be
float planes. It is also reported
that there are a couple of

Fairmile. Going to Langewak for fuel then picking up convoy to take troops make landing at Jacquinot Bay, south of Rabaul.

Bombardment may take place. We are heaviest armed of the three.

Wednesday Nov.1st.

Arrived Langemak fuelled then tied up alongside Vendetta. Swimming over side in afternoon. Yankee ship arrived in with a swing band aboard + Vendetta arranged to get it aboard for a bit of a concert in evening. All Negroes - + music real good.

Thursday Nov.2nd

Under way about 5.30AM.

Beautiful sunny day again. Taking one ship with us. Skipper cleared lower deck + spun us the dit about the operation. Appears we are taking swotties to make a landing at Jacquinot Bay, 90 sea miles south of Rabaul, on the south side of New Britain. There is reported to be 35,000 Japs at Rabaul, but only patrols are reported to have come as far south as Jacquinot Bay. Japs have no great numbers of planes + if we see any they will only be float planes. It is also reported that there are a couple of

subs in Rabaul + they might
decide to make a nuisance of
themselves. No opposition is expected
to the landing. The only thing
that might happen is that
the Japs may try landing
troops by barges, of which
they have a large number.
The barges are armed with 37
millimeter guns + as our Skipper
says they would be a bit
of fun for us to play with.
However we probably won't
see anything, altho' we may
end up doing a bombardment.
The three of us will patrol
outside the bay for about 7 days.

Friday Nov 3rd Raining + dull
thru the day. Sea choppy.
We were to meet 19 barges
with a Japmide escort today but
rough weather evidently held
them up. Wouldn't like to
be the swotties in them.
Saturday Nov 4th Outside Jacquinot
Bay about 5AM took our
ship in there came out +
finally found our barges and
escorted them in. Not a
sign of anything except a couple
of big native villages + a
copra plantation with house.
Swotties going aghore. We patrol-
ing outside. Incidentally this

subs in Rabaul + they might decide to make a nuisance of themselves. No opposition is expected to the landing. The only thing that might happen is that the Japs may try landing troops by barges, of which they have a large number.

The barges are armed with 37 millimetre guns + as our Skipper says, they would be a bit of fun for us to play with.

However we probably won't see anything, altho' we may end up doing a bombardment. The three of us will patrol outside the Bay for about 7 days.

Friday Nov 3rd.

Raining + dull thru the day. Sea choppy.

We were to meet 19 barges with a Fairmile escort today but rough weather evidently held them up. Wouldn't like to be the swotties in them.

Saturday Nov.4th

Outside Jacquinot Bay about 5AM, took our ship in then came out + finally found our barges and escorted them in. Not a sign of anything except a couple of big native villages + a copra plantation with house.

Swotties going ashore. We patrolling outside.

Incidentally this

is an all Australian show.
Cm. Skipper said it may not
be the first but it is the
largest to date all Australian
show in this area. Australian
Navy, Army & Air Force. So that's
something.

Sunday 5th Nov. Outside patrolling
until afternoon, then at anchor
inside. Raining still - this
place seems worse than Melae
Bay for rain.

Left late in afternoon
to go to Wide Bay to
do bombardment with Bancro
& Tindella. Buzz is that
Japs supposed to moving a

lot of stuff there. Wide Bay is
about 50 or 60 miles north
towards Rabaul from here.

Monday 6th Nov. Went to Action
Stations at 5 AM. 20 Beauforts
went in & bombed target at 6 AM,
then we went in at 0630 &
at 400 yards bombarded with
the 4 inch guns. Then we
closed in to 100 yards & fired
on shore with Centurion guns.

Nothing seen from the ship,
but bombardment of target
looked successful.

Arrived back in Jacquinot
Bay in afternoon.

(Seamen did see barge & things
done over)

is an all Australian show.

Our Skipper said it may not be the first but it is the largest to date all Australian Navy, Army, or Air Force. So that's something.

Sunday 5th Nov.

Outside patrolling until afternoon, then at anchor inside. Raining still – this place seems worse than Milne Bay for rain.

Left later in afternoon to go to Wide Bay to do bombardment with Barcoa + Vendetta. Buzz is that Japs supposed be moving a


bit of stuff there. Wide Bay is about 50 or 60 miles north towards Rabaul from here.

Monday 6th Nov.

Went to Action Stations at 5AM. 20 Beauforts went in + bombed target at 6AM, then we went in at 0630 + at 400 yards bombarded with the 4 inch guns. Then we closed in to 100 yards + fired on shore with Perliken guns.

Nothing seen from the ship, but bombardment of target looked successful.

Arrived back in Jacquinet Bay in afternoon.
(seamen did see barges + things done over)

Tuesday 7th Nov 2 of us left
for Languah at noon. 
Because we are leaving the
weather is really beautiful
today.

Wednesday 8th Nov. Arrived Languah
during forenoon, & fuelled.
Ray lay alongside ship till
6 PM then left for Madang with
Vendetta. Swimming over side
for a couple of hours. Hoping
we get mail tomorrow at
Madang.

Thursday 9th Nov Arrived Madang
& mail aboard - letters only
but that's what we want.
Letters from Ray and home.

Vendetta and ourselves doing
boiler clean. Huzz is that we
are off to Philippines after this.
That would be alright.

Sunday 12th Nov Ray and I
went for a walk ashore to
stretch our legs. Got a ride out
to the airstrip and browsed
about looking at the planes.
Couple of remarked Japs at
side of ship, and further
away was a remarked three
engined Jap bomber. Parts still
well oiled and quite some good
subbicks on it, but we had
nothing to carry them away
in. Had an enjoyable day tho'.

Tuesday 7th Nov.

3 of us left for Langewak at noon.

Because we are leaving the weather is really beautiful today.

Wednesday 8th Nov.

Arrived Langewak during forenoon + fuelled.

Lay alongside ship till 6PM then left for Madang with Vendetta. Swimming over side for a couple of hours. Hoping we get mail tomorrow at Madang.

Thursday 9th Nov.

Arrived Madang + mail aboard – letters only but that's what we want. Letters from Marg and home.

Vendetta and ourselves doing boiler clean. Buzz is that we are off to Phillipines after this. That would be alright.

Sunday 12th Nov.

Ray and I went for a walk ashore to stretch our legs.

Got a ride out to the airstrip and browsed about looking at the planes. Couple of smashed Zeros at side of strip, and further away was a smashed three engine Jap bomber. Parts still well oiled and quite some good rubbish on it, but we had nothing to carry them away in. Had an enjoyable day tho'.

Whaler races against Vendetta
+ our ship was 5 out of 7.
Monday 13th Nov Hands painting
ship. Sparkes had to do
the mainmast. By crawling
out on my stomach, - quite a
death-defying act - I was able
to pretend that I wasn't scared
to paint it. All of us covered
in paint almost, for our little
mast.

Tuesday 14th November

Game of soccer organized
between our ship and the 5th
Div. H.Q. mob. 30 spectators also
invited. Ray + I went. Drove
out to Alkeshafen to camp.

Soccer game quite good, but Army
beat our boys. Between times
we had great fun kicking
an Aussie Rules football about -
finally succeeding in getting very
dirty + sweaty, necessitating a
dip in the old briny. The Army
gave us a good treat, then we
saw a picture show, the main
attraction of which was the Melbourne
loop. We invited the swotties
to visit us next day in return
for the good time we had had.
Wednesday 15th Nov. Excitement over
Inter-ship whaler race held
today. 8 crews from the ^{ship} crew
volunteering for the Snake Pit loop.

Whaler races against Vendetta our ship now 5 out of 7.

Monday 13th Nov.

Hands painting ship. Sparkers had to do the mainmast. By crawling out on my stomach – quite a death-defying act – I was able to pretend that I wasn't scared to paint it. All of us covered in paint almost for one little mast.

Tuesday 14th November

Game of soccer organised between our ship and the 5th Div.H.Q. mob. 30 spectators also invited. Ray + I went. Drove out to Alexishafen to camp.

Soccer game quite good, but Army beat our boys.

Between times we had great fun kicking an Aussie Rules football about – finally succeeding in getting very dirty + sweaty, necessitating a dip in the old briny: The Army gave us a good tea, then we saw a picture show, the main attraction of which was the Melbourne Cup. We invited the swotties to visit us next day in return for the good time we had had.

Wednesday 13th Nov.

Excitement over Inter-ship whaler race heats today. 8 crews from the ship competing for the Snake Pit Cup.

Smiths came aboard and I had 5 to look after. Got them shown over boiler room, engine room & steering motor by a stoker, then over the bridge & absence of interest. Then we watched the whaler joining lead. Our CBs won their heat. Took paid 3 for 5/- on the CBs. Then with 3 whalers the smiths got up crew & had a short race. It was funny as they weren't used to pulling on our, but my 5 blokes won. They all enjoyed it. We had swimming over the side in which the smiths joined. A good supper was put on for

them and a bottle of beer given them. They left about 9.30 pm cheering & singing, having had a real good day they reckoned. Some horrible luffys going about that Commander D is to take over the ship to be used as a base ship at Neomindia. Looks bad.

Thursday 16th November

Finals of the whaler race. Sea Bess (CBs), Luffers Babes & Crockett's brushers rowed it out, but our CBs crew won all the way. Took paid 23/9 for 5/- this time, so that a bit of extra money.

Swotties came aboard and I had 5 to look after. Got them shown over boiler rooms, engine rooms + steering motor by a stoker, then over the bridge + elsewhere of interest.

Then we watched the whaler rowing heats. Our CB's won their heat. Tote paid 8/3 for 5/- on the CBs. Then with 3 whalers the swotties got up crews + had a short race. It was funny as they weren't used to pulling an oar, but my 5 blokes won.

They all enjoyed it. We had swimming over the side in which the swotties joined. A good supper was put on for

them and a bottle of beer given them. They left about 9.30pm cheering + singing, having had a real good day they reckoned.

Some horrible buzzies going about that Commander (D) is to take over the ship to be used as a base ship at Mios Woendi

Looks bad.

Thursday 16th November

Finals of the whaler race. Sea Bees (CBs), Buffers Babies + Crocketts Crushers rowed it out, but our CB's crew won all the way. Tote paid 23/9 for 5/- this time, so that's a bit of extra money.

Rumours about Ginger Morrow (Comd) taking over quite correct. Every one on board moaning about it. None of us fancy our happy crew being broken up, routines altered & then laying in some harbour up north as a suddy bare-wallahs ship.

Friday Nov 17th Released lower deck & presented Snake Bit Camp to Cb's whaler crew. (Camp made from heron's tin) Then our Skipper said Goodbye to us. He said he was "damned miserable about the whole thing" but he was forced to leave. We lined the rails & cheered him as

he left, and sang "So he's a Jolly Good Fellow". Hated loving him because he was a real Gentleman. Our Jimmy and all our popular officers also left today. Ginger Morrow & his bare wallahing mob officially took over.

Saturday Nov 18th Decka ringing to the tramp of hob-nailed boots - green uniforms, slouch hats & all the trappings of shore going blokes all over the ship. It's almost unbelievable the difference in a day, between an extra happy ship and now a thoroughly discontented crew.

Rumours about Ginger Morrow(Com (D)) taking over quite correct. Every one on board moaning about it. None of us fancy our happy crew being broken up, routines altered + then laying in some harbour up north as a ruddy base –wallahs ship.

Friday Nov. 17th

Cleaned lower deck + presented Snake Pit Cup to CBs whaler crew. (Cup made from kerosene tin). Then our Skipper said goodbye to us. He said he was “damned miserable about the whole thing” but he was forced to leave. We lined the rails + cheered him as

he left, and sang “For he’s a Jolly Good Fellow”. Hated losing him because he was a real gentleman. Our Jimmy and all our popular officers also left today. Ginger Morrow + his base wallop mob officially took over.

Saturday Nov 18th

Decks ringing to the tramp of hob-nailed boots – green uniforms, slouch hats + all the trappings of shore going blokes all over the ship. It’s almost unbelievable the difference in a day, between an extra happy ship and now a thoroughly discontented crew

We seem to have nothing to
look forward to but a stay
in harbor for maybe months.
The new mob are definitely
unpopular. 5 new blocks in the new
Sunday Nov 19th

Divisions inspected by
Ginger + his sad looking
2nd ring fern, Kuse. At clean
lower deck he spun us the
dit that "as war had moved
too far away from Madang we
had to follow". He is now
captain (3) - that is, in charge
of all ships below the Taskforce
+ corvettes + all that. He
never explained why a ship

like this which has 4 times
the fire power of a corvette +
is the next powerful ship after
the Arunta + Munga, has to
sit in Meorwindi as a base
w/ a ship + mother of corvettes.
He did say that when things
got organized we would be
spending most of our time at
sea again - but didn't say when.
That might be. What a prospect.
Of course this ship has spacious
shipper's quarters + officer's wardroom
+ is ~~elaborate~~ elaborate for the
parties which Ginger throws.
The one last night with
murres is followed up by

We seem to have nothing to look forward to but a stay in harbour for maybe months. The new mob are definitely unpopular. 5 new blokes in our mess.

Sunday Nov. 19th

Divisions inspected by Ginger + his sad looking 2½ ring perm, Knox. At clean lower deck he spun us the dit that “as war had moved too far away from Madang we had to follow.”

He is now Captain (D) – that is, in charge of all ships below the Taskforce – corvettes + all that. He never explained why a ship

like this, which as 4 times the fire power of a corvette + is the next powerful ship after the Arunta + Munga, has to rot in Mios Woendi as a base W/T ship + mother of corvettes.

He did say that when things get organised we would be spending most of our time at sea again – but didn’t say when that might be. What a prospect.

Of course this ship has spacious Skippers quarters + officer’s wardroom + is elaborate for the parties which Ginger throws.

The one last night with nurses followed up b

a full day today with Army,
Air Force officers & nurses.
The Navy is a handy service for
supplying drinks - at least as
far as officers & nurses are concerned.
Oh well, it's in a good cause.

Monday & Tuesday 20th & 21st Nov.

Did various jobs about
ship. Went to sea at 4 PM.
Had Action Stations for an hour
during which time we had a
shoot with 4 inch and verifiers.
Saw of a Grand Tinkler it seems
to us. Our old Skipper gave
us a big wave as we passed
him on the way out. Let
he wishes he was taking us out.

Wednesday Nov 22nd. Well it looks as
if the old ship is still capable
of being at sea. We thought that
with these base blokes & the fact
that we are gonna spend a lot
of time at anchor, that the
old ship would forget she was
capable of going to sea.

Good weather, settled routine.
This sort of sea time is good.
Thursday Nov 23rd. Called in at
Hollambia to fuel. This is another
place that has grown unbelievably
since I was last here. It would
do people down south good to
see what they can do to these
places in such a short time.

a full day today with Army, Air Force officers + nurses. The navy is a handy service for supplying drinks – at least as far as officers + nurses are concerned. Ah well, it's in a good cause.

Monday + Tuesday 20th 21st Nov.

Did various jobs about ship. Went to sea at 4PM. Had Action Stations for an hour, during which time we had a shoot with 4 inch and oerlikens.

Sort of a Grand Finale it seems to us. Our old Skipper gave us a big wave as we passed him on the way out. Bet he wishes he was taking us out.

Wednesday Nov. 22nd

Well it looks as if the old ship is still capable of being at sea. We thought that with these base blokes + the fact that we are gonna spend a lot of time at anchor, that the old ship would forget she was capable of going to sea.

Good weather, settled routine - this sort of sea time is good.

Thursday Nov 23rd.

Called in at Hollandia to fuel. This is another place that has grown unbelievably since I was last here. It would do people down south good to see what they can do to these places in such a short time.

As for ships - well I've seen quite a few ships in various places but this is the most I've ever seen. There must be over two hundred ships in this bay. Small craft are just like ants scurrying about. Our boys went across to the Westralia to play challenge matches of deck hockey - got beaten. Seems to me this port never swims anything but whaler races.

Stayed at anchor all night. After dark there were lights everywhere. Ships stayed lit up & it was like the lights off a city. Signalling lights seemed to be like fireflies, everywhere.

Friday Nov 24th Left Hollandia headed for Miss Windi. Going out of Hollandia I saw more rubbish floating about than I've ever seen. There seemed to be almost nothing floating about atop the water. I can imagine how Sydney Harbour would look with all this rubbish in it.

Saturday Nov 25th Beautiful day at sea. Nice and cool. The sort of weather that would be rather special on a pleasure cruise.

Sunday Nov 26th Arrived Miss Windi. After coming in thru the boom, the harbour seems huge. We anchored a long

As for ships – well I’ve seen quite a few ships in various places but this is the most I’ve ever seen.
There must be over two hundred ships in this bay.
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Our boys went across to the Westralia to play challenge matches of deck hockey – got beaten. Seems to be this mob never wins anything but whaler races.

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Left Hollandia headed for Miss Windi. Going out of Hollandia I saw more rubbish floating about than I’ve ever seen. There seemed to be almost everything floating about atop the water. I can imagine how Sydney Harbour would look with all this rubbish in it.

Saturday Nov 25th
Beautiful day at sea. Nice and cool – the sort of weather that would be ultra special on a pleasure cruise.

Sunday Nov. 26th
Arrived Miss Windi. After coming in thru’ the boon, the harbour seems huge. We anchored a long

way out from any point of the shore. Wonder how long we will be stuck here?

Got our direct service by w/r to Madang going, but so far it's no huge success.

Some of the boys went off to church after we got in. They reckon there are beach beaches ashore for swimming at.

Monday 27th Nov Still murching about with our direct service. It's sort of working now.

Quite a lot of boongs here. There always seems to be some of these paddling about in their lakabais.

The size of the little kids paddling about amuses us. Some of the kids are just big enough to hold a paddle & yet here they are away out from the shore. I can imagine what a panic white parents would be in if their kids this size came so far out in a small sort of canoe affair.

Tuesday 28th Nov Gracious, going to sea again. This is quite a treat for our 'bani wallahs. We are going to look them on to Morotai as per inspection tour for Comd. Then we are coming back here for 6 weeks, after

way out from any point of the shore. Wonder how long we will be stuck here?

Got our direct service by W/T to Madang going, but so far it's no huge success.

Some of the boys went off to church after we got in. They reckon there are beaut beaches ashore for swimming at.

Monday 27th Nov.

Still mucking about with our direct service. It's sort of working now.

Quite a lot of boongs here. There always seems to be some of them paddling about in their lakatoies.

The size of their little kids paddling about amuses us. Some of the kids are just big enough to hold a paddle + yet they are away out from the shore. I can imagine what a panic white parents would be in if their kids this size came so far out in a small sort of canoe affair.

Tuesday 28th Nov.

Gracious, going to sea again, this is quite a treat for us base wallahs. We are going back to Biak then on to Morotai as an inspection tour for Com.D. Then we are coming back here for 6 weeks, after

which we go to be based at
Morotai, then from there we are
supposed to do the fatfinding job.

Dick is swarming with
planes of all sorts. They are
going on ahead in continuous
streams. The island, or one
of them has some sort
of white stone hills and these
stand out for miles away as
a landmark.

Wednesday 29th Dec. Realized
one of my ambitions which was
to cross the equator crossed
it at 5 AM. Didn't feel any
bump tho'. It rained all
during the time we were in

that position.

30th Dec Morotai is a collection of
islands it seems. Islands neatly
laid out with coconut plantations,
but are very flat. The raids
are still carried out against
here. It's only about 300 miles
from the tip of the ~~Philippines~~ Celebes.
The next step up is the Philippines
& they aren't seen by any means.

Exceedingly hot day, temp.
-nature in aft cabin 103° all
afternoon. Closed up in 2 watches
on the 4/5 while in for the
four hours. Even tho' we are
in four watches a man never
seems to be out of this

which we are going to be based at Morotai, then from there we are supposed to do pathfinding jobs.

Biak is swarming with planes of all sorts. They are going overhead in continuous streams. The island, or one of them, has some sort of whitestone hills, and these stand out for miles away as a landmark.

Wednesday 29th December.

Realised one of my ambitions which was to cross the Equator. Crossed it at 6AM. Didn't feel any bump tho'. It rained all during the time we were in

that position.

30th Dec.

Morotai is a collection of islands it seems. Islands neatly laid out with coconut plantations, but are very flat. Air raids are still carried out against here. It's only about 300 miles from the tip of the Celebes. The next step up is the Phillipines + they aren't ours by any means.

Exceedingly hot day – temperature in W/T cabin 103 all afternoon. Closed up in 2 watches on the W/T while in for the few hours. Even tho' we are in four watches, a man never seems to be out of this

damned office.

Left for home about

4 PM

Friday, 1st Dec Another month
nearer the end - another month
nearer getting home for good.
Seems now as tho' I'll never
have any other existence but
this one. Spore it must end
someday.

Still very hot. Days like
this, a man earns his money
in a dhoty firm. But after
a disagreement in the firm
& Blue has decided to get
out next Friday. After thinking
it over I have decided to also.

The work part is alright but don't
like the way it's run.

Saturday 2nd Dec Called in at
Bick to get some stores, then
on to Miss Windi. I've noticed
the word Mios on the map
a few times. I believe it is the
native name for island.

Tha - ngill waiting for us.
That's what I needed. Letters
from Mary & Mum. But more
contented now for a while.

Sunday 3rd Dec Got dressed
for divisions but stain spinkled
down so dress wasn't held.
after getting dressed up too -
Makes a man homesick.

darned office.

Left for “home” about 4PM.

Friday 1st Dec.

Another month nearer the end – another month nearer getting home for good. Seems now as tho’ I’ll never have any other existence but this one. S’pose it must end someday.

Still very hot. Days like this, a man earns his money in a dhoby firm. Bit of a disagreement in the firm + Blue has decided to get out next payday. After thinking it over I have decided to also.

The work part is alright but don’t like the way it’s run.

Saturday 2nd Dec.

Called in at Biak to get some stores, then on to Miss Windi. I’ve noticed the word M105 on the map a few times. I believe it is the native name for island.

Aha – mail waiting for us. That’s what I needed.

Letters from Marg + Mum. Bit more contented now for a while.

Saturday 3rd Dec.

Got dressed for divisions but rain sprinkled down so divs weren’t held. After getting dressed up too .

Makes a man homesick

when in harbour and he
realises its Sunday. The weather
is beautiful this afternoon & I
could just imagine spending the
day at the beach, then sitting
in the cool of the evening at
home listening to the radio.
Imagination is sometimes a
bad thing to have methinks.

Got down to town to see
Jackie Woods at night. We
had a good old natter about
the old class. Jack got
engaged last time home and
as he is a very serious laddie
we had quite a ~~serious~~ discussion
the last is Jack.

Just 10 months at anchor

Time spent in keeping watch
on this new W.F. organisation.
The advantage is that we get
plenty of operating practice.

Boys had a couple of
recreation parties to beaches
on the islands. Great interest
taken in water polo - we play
every day over the side.

Stopped aboard for first
fortnight then went gay &
went to one picture show
ashore, one on the Heloraine,
and one on a YANK L.S.T.

Quite a few boozes about
here & they are always

when in harbour and he realises its Sunday. The weather is beautiful this afternoon + I could just imagine spending the day at the beach, then sitting in the cool of the evening at home listening to the wireless.

An imagination is sometimes a bad thing to have methinks.

Got cross to Cowra to see Jackie Woods at night. We had a good old natter bout the old class. Jack got engaged last time home and as he is a very serious laddie we had quite a discussion.

Nice lad is Jack.

First month at anchor.

Time spent in keeping watches on this new W/T organization.

One advantage is that we get plenty of operating practice. Boys had a couple of recreation parties to beaches on the islands. Great interest – taken in water polo - we play every day over the side.

Stopped aboard for first fortnight, then went gay + went to one picture show ashore, one on the Deloraine, and one on a YANK L.S.T.

Quite a few boongs about here + they are always

hanging about the ship begging
hi hi (food) Kids of 3 & 4
4 year paddles all over the
place in their small labatorin.

Three laddies about 3, 4 & 5
were alongside us one day when
suddenly they broke into singing
Pistol Pichini Thominia in English.
They put all they had into it
and the smallest kid looked in
mortals agony as he endeavored
to reach the high notes. Then
they began singing God Bless
America. Naturally we passed
some remarks about Yanks, &
so after a jabber together the
kids started substituting Aikta

Astakalia for America.
Occasionally one of the laddies
would forget, and say America,
but would hastily correct
himself when the older lad barked
at him. They spat out "Jap
man no ²/₂ goods" then as an
after-thought, added "Astakalia
goods". They got their hi hi.
These boony kids could buy
and sell a white kid of their
own age.

Being that we are Com(D)
base ship, quite a lot of the
corvettes come alongside as I
find that I know Sparkers on
almost all of them.

hanging about the ship begging ki ki (food). Kids of 3 – 4 years paddle all over the place in the small lakatois.

Three laddies about 3, 4 + 5 were alongside us one day when suddenly they broke into singing Pistol Packin' Momma in English. They put all they had into it and the smallest kid looked in mortal agony as he endeavoured to reach the high notes. Then they began singing God Bless America. Naturally we passed rude remarks about Yanks, + so after a jabber together, the kids started substituting

“Osstrahlia” for America.

Occasionally one of the laddies would forget and say America, but would hastily correct himself when the older lad barked at him. They spat out “Jap man no **xx good” then as an after-thought, added “Osstrahlian good”. They got their ki ki. These boong kids could buy and sell a white kid of their own age.

Seeing that we are Com (D) base ship, quite a lot of the corvettes come alongside us + I find that I know Sparkers on almost all of them.

Looked out and went to
three sets of picketers - one on
the Delaware - I've mentioned
that before - that's the trouble
with this damned stay in
our place yet - everything seems
the same always.

The comforts I wish have
treated us well this time - we
get regular issues of soap,
tooth brushes + toothpaste. It
is very helpful.

24th December Xmas Eve

Well what a day for
the day before Xmas. Just
when we were starting our
lunch (the first fresh veggies we

have had for ages) they fixed
the Lower Deck. Kibben told
Jimmy explained that 9 bottles
of whiskey and 4 bottles of gin
had been stolen from the
officers store. That warranted
them keeping us up on the
upper deck without our lunch
for 2 1/2 hours, while all our
lockers were searched. Blokes
who had been saving up an
old bottle of beer for Xmas
had it confiscated from them.
After searching the ship, the
Jimmy made us take our hammocks
on the upper deck and unroll
them to be searched. He told

Broke out and went to three sets of pictures – one of the Deloraine – I’ve mentioned that before – that’s the trouble with this darned stay in one place job – everything seems the same always.

The Comforts Fund have treated us well this time - we get regular issues of soap, tooth brushes + toothpaste. It is very helpful.

24th December Xmas Eve.

Well what a day for the day before Xmas. Just when we were starting our lunch (the first fresh veggies we

have had for ages), they piped “Clear Lower Deck”. Knox our Jimmy explained that 9 bottles of whisky and 4 bottles of gin had been stolen from the officers’ store. That warranted them keeping us up on the upper deck without our lunch for 2½ hours, while all our lockers were searched. Blokes who had been saving up an odd bottle of beer for Xmas had it confiscated from them. After searching the ship, the Jimmy made us take our hammocks on the upper deck and unroll them to be searched. He told

us that there would be no beer
issue Xmas Day unless the culprit
was found. ~~Naturally~~ Naturally
feeling is running very high.
The messes that have drawn
flags for Xmas decorations, returned
them and threw the green
tees over the side.

Three bottles of whisky found
in an unsecured locker in the
stokers mess.

25th December Xmas Day.

Merry Xmas Mingo & all
my folk back home. My
thoughts were back there in
Victoria today. Surely next
Xmas or the one after I

should be home, and can
really feel that it is Xmas.
During the forenoon it was
fired that all messes except the
Stokers would get the Xmas beer
issue. Immediately every mess refused
it. So after a lot of hot air
it was fired that all messes,
including Stokers would be given
the beer issue. Just as well, too
because without a doubt there
would have been trouble on the
ship. None of the Stokers had
been proved to have stolen the
spirits, and the ship's company
stuck together that it was not
right to furnish them without proof.

us that there would be no beer issue Xmas Day unless the culprit was found. Naturally feeling is running very high. The messes that have drawn flags for Xmas decorations, returned them and threw the green trees over the side.

Three bottles of whisky found, in an unused locker in the stokers mess.

25th December Xmas Day.

Merry Xmas Margo + all my folk back home. My thoughts were back there in Victoria today. Surely next Xmas or the one after

I should be home, and can really feel that it is Xmas. During the forenoon it was piped that all messes except the Stokers would get the Xmas beer issue. Immediately every mess refused it. So after a lot of hot air it was piped that all messes, including Stokers would be given the beer issue. Just as well, too because without a doubt there would have been trouble on the ship. None of the Stokers had been proved to have stolen the spirits, and the ship's company stuck together, that it was not right to punish them without proof.

I had the forenoon watch & was not relieved until 12.30pm, so arrived down for dinner late. On the whole we had a good Xmas dinner, and I must admit that I was quite full when I left the table.

"Ginger" Morrow - our commanding officer, skipper of the Swan, Comd RAN. Iso Iso, did rounds wishing up a 'Merry Xmas at lunch time but he got a very silent reception. Citty too, because Ginger is a good bloke - he has always been popular with the crew. It's only his supervision that Lieutenant Knox that he

has to thank for the officer's unpopularity.

After lunch things brightened up a bit for a few hours. Officers acted as whalers crew & ratings donned the officers' shirts & ran the ship for a few hours. Blokes were being thrown over the side, clothes & all - officers were being made work - and our "fake" officers made tours of the other ships masquerading as real officers. Tomorrow after a couple of hours things again went flat, and so ended Xmas Day in the ice-bound.

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“Ginger” Morrow - or Commander Morrow, Skipper of the Swan, Com (D) RAN. DSO DSO, did rounds wishing up a Merry Xmas at lunch time, but he got a very silent reception. Pity too, because Ginger is a good bloke – he

has always been popular with the men. It’s only his supercilious First Lieutenant Knox that he has to thank for the officer’s unpopularity.

After lunch things brightened up a bit for a few hours. Officers acted as whaler’s crew + ratings donned the officers shirts + ran the ship for a few hours. Blokes were being thrown over the side, clothes + all - officers were being made work – and our “fake” officers made tours of the other ships masquerading as real officers. However after a couple of hours things again went flat, and so ended Xmas Day in Miss Windi.

Sunday 31st Dec. Divisions during the forenoon, then the warrants were read out for three blokes. One of them was the one who stole the liquor, the other two were blokes who had a couple of bottles of spirits of their own stowed in their lockers. Obviously everyone who had a bottle or more of beer in their lockers had been given 30 days stoppage of leave, 14 days work (extra work all day) and 2 months stoppage of beer issues).

The chap who stole the spirits got 90 days cell at military prison at LAE.

The other two were old hands with badges to lose. One lost his 2 badges + got 28 days cells at LAE. The other lost his 3 badges (3 is for 13 years in the Navy) and got 14 days cells suspended. Which just means probation. They need Joe as he is the only rating of his particular rate in the District, so they are keeping him here + holding the cells over his head.

Jack Jess come across to see me tonight and we had a grand old natter about the C & O and the Navy. My old Jimmy, Williams is their Skipper.

Saturday 31st December

Divisions during the forenoon, then the warrants were read out for three blokes. One of the was the one who stole the liquor, the other two were blokes who had a couple of bottles of spirits of their own stored in their lockers. (Obviously everyone who had a bottle or more of beer in their lockers had been given 30 days stoppage of leave, 14 days with NR11 (extra work all day) and 2 months stoppage of beer issues). The chap who stole the spirits got 90 days cell at military prison in LAE.

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Jack Jess came across to see us tonight and we had a grand old natter about the CTO, and the Navy. My old Jimmy, Williams is their skipper.

January 1st 1945

Well, here we go on a New Year. Big events have happened during the old year, - let's hope the New Year brings us big developments, and that we do really see the end of this turmoil.

~~Jan 3rd~~ ^{Jan 3rd} Good buzz - signal came saying that upon arrival of HMAS Platypus at Mios Mendis, Commander J and his staff are to transfer to her. That means we get rid of all these gork baseballers and will become a sea going ship again. Plat should be here in a few

weeks. Ginger Morrow not at all keen on having to leave here. He has excellent quarters here + has a decent ship for when he wants to go to sea, whereas on the Plat he won't have these advantages. ~~On~~

The Yeoman, the Leading Sig, one Sig and one leader are going from our branch.

Know got an appointment as skipper of the Quebezon so that is one destroyer I don't want to go to.

~~Jan 4th~~ ^{Jan 4th}

Our P.T.I. obtained the box of the Yanks basket ball

January 1st 1945.

Well, here we go on a New Year. Big events have happened during the old year – let's hope the New Year brings as big developments, and that we do really see the end of this turmoil.

Jan 4th

Good buzz – signal came saying that upon arrival of HMAS Platypus at Miss Windi, Commander D and his staff are to transfer to her. That means we get rid of all these gash basewallahs and will become a sea going ship again. Plats should be here in a few

weeks. Ginger Morrow not at all keen on having to leave here. He has excellent quarters here + has a decent ship for when he wants to go to sea, whereas on the Plats he won't have these advantages.

The Yeoman, the Leading Sig, one Sig and one Coder are going from our branch.

Knox got an appointment as Skipper of the Queberon so that is one destroyer I don't want to go to.

Jan 3rd.

Our P.T.I obtained the loan of the Yanks basket ball

court ashore for 2 hours, & a crowd of us from the ship went off to play. Only a few of us had played before, but the others were very keen. Everybody enjoyed the games. We played it very hard and were tired. Tomorrow will bring out the stiffness in us, but it was worth it. I got rolled rather heavily on the concrete & skinned my knee & arm, but plenty of zinc ointment will stop that from festering.

~~Jan 6th~~ Went ashore to pictures & saw Bob Hope in Princess & the Pirate. It was

in technician, and was real funny. ~~Jan 6th~~ Off to sea about 10 am. We are going to BIAK then Morotai with corvettes Houma & Kefunda, and are going to do a bombardment near Morotai in conjunction with RAAF & some Yankee PT boats. Buzz is that Japs have been firing on convoys from this place, which is only 30 miles from Morotai. The boatmenunda and some PT boat went in to bombard it & had some stuff thrown back at them. The buzz is that a smoke screen had to be laid to enable them to get out. Buzzes

court ashore for 2 hours, + a crowd of us from the ship went off to play. Only a few of us had played before, but the others were very keen. Everybody enjoyed the games. We played it very hard and were tired. Tomorrow will bring out the stiffness in us, but it was worth it. I got rolled rather heavily on the concrete + skinned my knee + arm, but plenty of zinc ointment will stop that from festering.

Jan 5th

Went ashore to pictures + saw Bob Hope in Princess + the Pirate. It was

in technicolour, and was real funny.

Jan 6th

Off to sea about 10AM then Morotai with corvettes Cowra + Kapunda, and are going to do a bombardment near Morotai in conjunction with RAAF + some Yank PT boats. Buzz is that Japs have been firing our convoys from this place, which is only 30 miles from Morotai. The Cootamundra and some PT boats went in to bombard it + had some stuff thrown back at them. The buzz is that a smoke screen had to be laid to enable them to get out. Buzzes

have credited the Japs with
six inch guns + goodness knows
what, but the most acceptable
is that the Japs have a couple
of 3 inch guns.

Arrived back about midday
+ left at 4 P.M. It is certainly
goodish being at sea again.

The only disadvantages are the
fact that scuttles have to
be closed at nights + the
messdecks get very hot - also
we can't get mail nearly every
day. But sea time is definitely
better than harbour time - at
least, up here it is.

January 4th Sun warm, but

cool breeze makes plenty of cool
spots. Keeping up a steady
speed of ten knots. Wonder will
the Japs annoy us at Morotai -
they usually visit there nearly
every night. As long as they
don't make a nuisance of themselves
late at night, because I have
to do the Morning Watch at 4 A.M.
tomorrow.

January 5th Arrived Morotai about
2 o'clock. A bit of shipping
scattered about. Blotches of all
kinds continually in the air, coming
+ going all the time. Couple
of well known RAAF blotches aboard
to confer with Ginger about the

have credited the Japs with six inch guns + goodness knows what, but the most acceptable is that the Japs have a couple of 3 inch guns.

Arrived back about midday + left at 4PM. It is certainly goodoh being at sea again.

The only disadvantages are the fact that scuttles have to be closed at nights + the messdecks get very hot – also we can't get mail nearly every day. But sea time is definitely better than harbour time – at least, up here it is.

January 7th

Sun warm,
but cool breeze makes plenty of cool spots. Keeping up a steady speed of ten knots. Wonder will the Japs annoy us at Morotai - they usually went there nearly every night. As long as they don't make a nuisance of themselves late at night, because I have to do the Morning Watch at 4AM tomorrow.

January 8th

Arrived Morotai about 2 o'clock. A bit of shipping scattered about. Planes of all types continually in the air, coming + going all the time. Couple of well known RAAF blokes aboard to confer with Ginger about the

bombardment. Leaving at 7 AM
tomorrow - arrive at 10 AM.

Establishment to be bombed by
B-29, then done over by us.

The one - Red alarm sounded
at 11/30 PM and lasted till
midnight. Ack ack seen but we
saw no planes. Back to bed
but another Red at 2 AM which
lasted till 3:30 AM. Ack Ack above
ship, but our not sighted no
planes - very dark night. This
air raid business is alright at
distant hours, but hauling us out
of bed at unearthly hours is over
the odds. (Just like the old
Darwin days) I didn't bother to

to bed second time I took
my binoculars on watch.

Place is Galela Bay in Halmahera
about 20 miles south of Morotai.

2 of us arrived there about
9:30 am + steamed about just
out of distance of the two flat
topped hills, Little Tanahani +
Big Tanahani.

Knose explained that intelligence
reports say there are 10,000 Japs
concentrated in the area in
barracks, trenches etc. 3,000 were
supposed to have been dispersed
recently by our bombers. However
they are concentrated at Big
Tanahani, atop which they

bombardment. Leaving at 7AM tomorrow – arrive at 10AM.

Establishment to be bombed by RAAF, then done over by us.

Ah me – Red alarm sounded at 11/30 PM and lasted till midnight. Ack ack seen but we saw no planes. Back to bed but another Red at 3AM which lasted until 3.30AM. Ack Ack above ship, but our mob sighted no planes – very dark night. This air raid business is alright at decent hours, but hauling us out of bed at unearthly hours is over the odds. (Just like the old Darwin days). I didn't bother to

go to bed second time I took my time + came on watch.

Place is Galela Bay in Halmahera about 20 miles south of Morotai. 3 of us arrived there about 9.30AM + steamed about just out of distance of the two flat topped hills, Little Tarakani + Big Tarakani.

Knox explained that intelligence reports say there are 10,000 Japs concentrated in the area in bivouac, trenches etc. 3,000 were supposed to have been dispersed recently by our bombers.

However they are concentrated at Big Tarakani, atop which they

have 90 millimeter guns (3 inch)
Beaufighters (6) are
going in first to bomb +
shape the area, then ^{60 P 40's} 10 Beaufighters
with bomb with high explosive +
flame bombs. 2 Beauforts will be
reconnaissance + 4 Spitfires air
cover. Then we are to stream
in + pump 350 shells into
them. The corvettes 100 apiece.

We went to action then at
9.30 am + got stuck into it.
Our mob only got away 330
shells as they had trouble with
the guns, but that's good work.
The corvettes put in about 60
each. Then the P 40's again

strafed the air, followed by the
Beaufighters which had to destroy
the jelly with rocket bombs.
After we left a Beaufighter
flew alongside us + gave a
demonstration of rocket bomb
firing. Gosh they are sudden
+ boy don't they kick up a
cloud! We had today the
most decorated man in the RAAF
aboard. He's an Air Vice Marshal now
I think.

A newspaper correspondent +
a newsreel photographer aboard
taking shots of the turn -
I'll probably get a filming
contract out of this as I

have 90 millimetre guns (3 inch).

Beaufighters (6) are going in first, then 60 P40 will bomb with High Explosive + flame bombs. 2 Beauforts will be reconnaissance + 4 Spitfires air cover. Then we are to steam in + pump 350 shells into them, the corvettes 100 apiece.

We went to Action Stns at 9.30am + got stuck into it. Our mob only got away 330 shells as they had trouble with the guns, but that's good work. The corvettes put in about 60 each. Then the P40s again

strafed the air, followed by Beaufighters which had to destroy the jetty with rocket bombs.

After we left a Beaufighter flew alongside us + gave a demonstration of rocket bomb firing. Gosh they are sudden + boy don't they kick up a splash. We had Cobby the most decorated man in the RAAF aboard. He's Air Vice Marshal now I think.

A newspaper correspondent – a newsreel photographer aboard taking shots of the turn – I'll probably get a film contract out of this as I

was in a group, taken by the
newsreel chaps. I'm in the
grandry as to how I'll chose
~~between~~ Dana Turner + Lady
Lamar for my leading lady.

Stayed at anchor at
Morotai all day. Not bothered
by air raids at night this
time.

January 9th

Out again to put on
the same turn again. Our
distinguished passenger this time
was Killer Caldwell.

We steamed in very close
this time + poured another
330 shells into their area.

There was a lot of smoke about,
and from where we were, the
trees + foreshore look stripped.
After us, the Warhawk fighters
went in and dive bombed
the area. I watched them from
the upper decks + it was an
act worth watching. The planes
screamed down in almost
vertical dives and released their
flame bombs. A couple appeared
to hit dumps of some sort
because they were some black
of place. Big flashes of
flame at times. Gosh those
planes got stuck into it.
When we all left there was

was in a group taken by the newsreel chap. I'm in a quandary as to how I'll chose between Lana Turner + Hedy Lamarr for my leading lady.

Stayed at anchor at Morotai all day. Not bothered by air raids at night this time.

January 9th

Out again to put on the same turn again. Our distinguished passenger this time was Killer Caldwell.

We steamed in very close this time + poured another 330 shells into their area.

There was a lot of smoke about, and from where we are, the trees + foreshore look stripped. After us, the Warhawk fighters went in and dive bombed the area. I watched them from the upper deck + it was an act worth watching. The planes screamed down in almost vertical dives and released their flame bombs. A couple appeared to hit dumps of some sort because they were some big flashes of flame at times. Gosh those planes got stuck into it.

When we all left there was

smoke & fires all about. I wouldn't like to have been a Jap in that area. These bombarements at least give us the feeling that we are giving the little yellow rats back some of the dirt they have given us at times. That's a bit of even for blokes like Gerald & Jack Thompson.

January 12th - Arrived back at Miss Wendie after a good trip - no mail, but expect it tomorrow.

Jan 13th Mail aboard - that is the main news item in any day. I got quite a

good share - the important ones from my ^{own} folk and a few from "ghost" people.

Jan 14th An extra player was needed to play water polo over at the Lyndell's & as a last resource I was asked. Our team drew. I quite enjoyed the game. Jan 17th Went off playing basket ball again. Lot of running about & using up of energy. A man is a fool to dash about like this in the tropics. If the Navy asked him to work half as hard as we played basket ball, he would kick up a great fuss.

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Jan 17th

Went off playing basket ball again. Lot of running about + using up of energy. A man's a fool to dash about like this in the tropics. If the Navy asked him to work half as hard as we played basket ball, he would kick up a great fuss.

Went to the pictures on Deloraine
in evening, but it was a real
Joe & Brown show.

Jan 19th Shanks seen in water
so no swimming today. Two
of the corvettes were swimming,
but our mob called it off
for a day.

Jan 23rd All our parcels
& papers arrived at last.
500 bags for our ships all
dumped on our quarter deck.
Just like a Xmas! Getting
all this stuff now. Great
excitement & plenty of noise
& rubbish in the messdeck.
I got 2 cakes - a parcel from

Long - writing pads - books &
lett from Mum & Dad, plus
Xmas cake - books from Sis,
my overalls for Bojie & a good
pile of papers. Hi Gordoh.

25th January Went off to
play soft ball, but ground was
being mowed, so we played the
Singapore basket ball. Then we
played a Yankee team. Considering
that they play the game
nearly all the time, and also
had full reserves, compared to
the fact that only 2 of our
team had played much before,
we didn't do so bad. The
Yankee beats us 8 goals to 3.

Went to the pictures on Deloraine in evening, but it was a weak Joe E Brown show.

Jan 19th

Sharks seen in water so no swimming today. Two of the corvettes were swimming, but our mob called it off for a day.

Jan 23rd

All our parcels + papers arrived at last. 500 bags for our ships all dumped on our quarter deck. Just like a Xmas getting all this stuff now. Great excitement + plenty of noise + rubbish in the messdeck. I got 2 cakes

- + a parcel from Marg – writing pads – book + shirt from Mum + Dad, plus Mums cake – books from Sis, my overalls from Boxie + a good pile of papers. It's goodoh.

25th January

Went off to play soft ball, but ground was being used, so we played the Bingoa basket ball. Then we played a Yank team. Considering that they play the game nearly all the time, and also had full reserves, compared to the fact that only 2 of our team had played much before, we didn't do so bad. The Yanks beat us 8 goals to 3.

Our blokes play a bustling
game which upset the Yanks
classy play. Twisted my
knee a bit. Doc reckons it's
torn a muscle. It will come
good. Picture party on Yank
destroyer escort. Went mainly to
get a look at the ship. They
are beautiful ships - well
armed, comfortable, clean +
happy. So they should be happy
- they get the best of food
+ gear ^{heat} brought on the barge.
The quarter deck has been
decorated with coloured lights
+ screened with palm boughs
to make an arbour for

an officers drinking party. In
full view of everyone the officers
are carrying on like O's,
dancing + singing till the early
hours of the morning. And yet
it was when a bloke had 2
bottles of rum in his locker he
got 60 days at cells. The Yank
story is dry except for a weekly
tropical beer issue like ours.
Officers + ratings receive the same.
Jan 26th Chief today told us
that Knott, Blue + I will
probably be going to the Platypus
when he goes as he wants
experienced Alphas with him.
That means that we will be

Our blokes play a bustling game which upset the Yanks classy play. Twisted my knee a bit. Doc reckons it's torn a muscle. It will come good. Picture party on Yank destroyer escort. Went mainly to get a look at the ship. They are beautiful ships – well armed, comfortable, clean + happy. So they should be happy – they get the best of food + gear + treatment. Tonight on the Swan the quarter deck has been decorated with coloured lights + screened with palm boughs to make an harbour for

an officer's drinking party. In full view of everyone the offices are carrying on like OD's, dancing + singing till the early hours of the morning. And yet at Xmas when a bloke had 2 bottles of rum in his locker he got 60 days at cells. The Yank Navy is dry except for a weekly tropical beer issue like ours.

Officers + ratings receive the same.

Jan 26th

Chief today told us that Knobbie, Blue + I will probably be going to the Platypus when he goes as he wants experienced Sparkers with him. That means that we will be

taken off here & the Sparkers
from the Plate put on here when
she arrives. Seems a bit
ridiculous, because one Sparkers is
as good as another in the
Party. It would be different if
we were doing some exceptional
work, but all we are doing is
a plain Sparkers job of operating.
Naturally we let Hamme know
exactly how we feel towards it
& gave him to understand that
he would get no cooperation
at all from us. I am not
telling Mary yet until it
certain, because we are going
to do all we can to

get such a ridiculous draft cancelled.
Then wait. I hope finally we
if I go to his old base ship.
Things in the Sparkery are
a bit heated at the present
moment.

27th Dec Had the young
A.B. Mary was artist
aboard. He was making sketches
of life on the lower deck. Made
sketches of the boys in various
poses & places. Boys were
kidding themselves at having
themselves sketched.

Feb 3rd One of the chaps who
got sentenced to cells for having
liquor at Xmas, got back

taken off here + the Sparkers from the Plat put on here when she arrives. Seems a bit ridiculous, because one Sparker is as good as another in the Navy. It would be different if we were doing some exceptional work, but all we are doing is a plain Sparkers job of operating. Naturally we let Dannie know exactly how we feel towards it + gave him to understand that he would get no cooperation at all from us. I am not telling Marg yet – until its certain, because we are going to do all we can

to get such a ridiculous draft cancelled.

Phew won't Horace punish me if I go to his old base ship.

Things in the Sparkery are a bit heated at the present moment.

27th Jan

Had the young A.B. Navy war artist aboard. He was making sketches of life n the lower deck. Made sketches of the boys in various poses + places. Boys were kidding themselves at having themselves sketched.

Feb 3rd

One of the chaps who got sentenced to cells for having liquor at Xmas, got back

today. If the stories he tells
about the military prison at LAE
are true then there will be
quite a few prisoners for whom
life won't be safe after the war.
The other chaps who got 90 days
attempted to escape once but
was caught. Then just before Larry
May came out. Betts had
stolen a Tommy-gun & a few
things and escaped. Up till
then he had not been caught.
Goodness knows how he would
get on in the jungle. He was
a proper bad lot. His
wife has had all her money
stopped now.

triple pearls

today. If the stories he tells about the military prison at LAE are true then there will be quite a few provosts for whom life won't be safe after the war.

The other chap who got 90 days attempted to escape once but got caught. Then just before Harry Mays came out, Betts had stolen a tommy-gun + a few things and escaped. Up till then he had not been caught.

Goodness knows how we would get on in the jungle.

He was a proper bad lot. His wife has had all her money stopped now.

triple pearls