

(TRIPLE PEARLS)

PM/V98 TEL. B. DYKER H.M.A.S. CASTLEMAINE

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

Grachizally all the old crew going In adelaide for a week during which line we looked the place whip after a glorious three weeks over fully well. It's decent sort leave. Very Long to have to of place on the people are excha come back. My only ambition sociable howards servicemen thinks a now is to get home + become a contrast to Sydney & Misbane, The civile for the rest of my life Cheer-ly that there is definitely the Puike a lot of death out for best in auchalia. They will do The ship. 30 odd reamen all the Sporkers, boders + Sigo except Len ashford anything for servicemen I all the big not went or Dave home a Will are going to depart draft before the weekend, and about for courses, and all the Tigo + and how before we sailed how myself are going to denguin pool. Sparkers arrived + Slave + Mill went Bloodie + Work are Slinder - bound locie + I left now sweeting the life. The new consents to become cypher offices. bant imagine them as officer light.

Tuesday July 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 civie for the rest of my life. Quite a lot of drafts out for the ship. 30 odd seamen, all the Sparkers, Coders, Cooks + Sigs except for Les Ashford, Dave, Boxie + Bill are going to depot for courses, and all the Sigs + myself are going to Penguin pool.

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 deshoyer her back for the other side & old ship has a Bofors gun aft now + is a hiddley job. Shis headed for Clarerin + maybe she'll see some fund out forther. Don't can whether I leave or not now. Wednesday August and Left for Grenante . Thought the Bill would put on a rough thin for us but it behaved hemankably well a we only rolled a bit. Printe a few when sich never the less. Our two new Spanhers were sich. for Mantle is the sighest bloke I no ever seen. On the solde trip he only spent

In home out of the Wireless cabin Goocie had to keep his last four watches . I don't reckon be tries. "He is a good hand with radio but absolutely useless at sea bordie know what he will be the if this thing shiher a hip the the one we had from hilve key to bisbane de'll die I dislike this watchkeeping a still want to get home to Mang. Manday august of accived in Trementle Lat of shipping space here Park a post. The how of Trumantle itself is 12 miles for Geth and looks a but of a bough new part. Iwelled up to derth by bus + had a look about. He Ever 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, biggin than adelaide by look, is a slean well set out place. Stayed in until 12th Morshow going to Charmin with us. Law Hefal and bornwall the English review some in. Nice job. bur reliefs not here, but being sent to Darwin, so I'll do the round hip of duchalia on this ship. While here, I managed to get a tooth out, sprain my andle, put my finger out of Joint of get-news from Glang that I'm gonnar be a father next March. Well pretty proud too. But Many is a heart mother a bet our hid is the best ever. Um folks will be flash as

grandparents. a hid of our own will give us ever more to live for. Talunday 12th August Left Trumantle about 18 Am - Spirat shop at ONSHOW for fuel. Lea goodsh - but for reckons the is sich, so he is enached behind hansmiller. Sunday 13th August Seguning to get hopical will weather, again - runny day a calm sea for fogot to be sich today for the first time. The to arrive at Unclow on Tuesday + hope to play the Hoshaw football there if possible. Houstay 14 august. But of a wind sprang up and sea a list shoppy them last night a 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

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

Saturday 12th August.

Left Fremantle about 10AM. – first stop at ONSLOW for fuel. Sea goodoh but Joe reckons he is sick, so he is crashed behind transmitter.

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.

One not sich alongride felly is let it was much rougher these than at Jain. There Not impleasant this is flattened out Land & more send as for as at night, for was about only bloke ly could see bougle of giveral stores who rechons he was sich a fostoffice a cleant hotel a billiard Tuesday august 15th Deantiful day room is a fair number of houses new flat calm. Thous are sig again about heally a fair rige considering now. Went alongside jetty at thelear where it is . Yes there's even an old ONShow about midday. This wise hear rooms) I forest he be a fewor + fall of hide here - and big women here - we say a though 8 surge which makes it a rotten Glayed football on what was foll trying to stay tied up while their sports oval but what booked fulling alongide. Whohe about be like a sand fit. However we wie springs. Yet water was flat had a good game & plenty of calm. I wish or big felly here from the last but we'll play 'em about force as long lastly as lagain in larvin a Sthilda frier. Went off about 1 Pm Went out to anchor for night at to play Norsham football. Township 5Pm because ship bumping and itself is typical outback place. swaying too much to stay ted 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 Thugust 16th - Saluday 19th and for beford making it of interest. good weather except for Triday when Quiz sessions Het Parade amaleur Hour it raised. Boys getting their done to Lonely Hearts blut are now weekly of surburns now. I goe sich receione ligge of rigarethe & chocolates hanged if I know how in these guin as files. Stabler is 4x 6 mains. seas. Its wonderful weather here. The long as they don't overdo it · Left Mosos, Nich barber & Alder the function will keep up interest. humed out first edition of backlemaine Comforts Temol lashed us up behronicle as 2 Appenrithen sheets. a to some games in Stemantle + last very good effort for the first edition. for day has seen some strenuous They hope to get be dephicating hursles in Shalegy Monopoly + Lalgos machine of Harmin so that they Assie a I made a duckers board can have out a copy for everybody, (ho)o to cirvies) and now that and also increase the sign. It is the rage. It's not good anyone will be real good. trying . for a sleep near us when Assire gave our spare "mike" we are playing an exciting gone to the paretrope, and Mich barber of Muchai! Hyosh as 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 tyring to sleep near us when we are playing an exciting game of Huckers. Gosh a man

flaged that game when he was feels like purring. it again with sailors yelling Monday 21th august another very lost day I homies relief, Goding Tel gifford come abound also the 2 seamer's relife. Mine Juday 20th august arrived in Darwin Rever thought we'd Lot ever in Darwin. Rehair Wither come abound to see us see this place again from out He looks excha fit los had here she doesn't look a scrape different Alon when we left her 9 months here Says that the before. Thill seems to be the services ashore are sports mad. he has been playing football some dead look about it . Quite with Melville" A" Ham thather a contract to Milne Ray etc surprise was when me much where there is a continutal traffice alongside to feel. Henrie of Jarger and what note. Model arrived aboard - that breighton was on a muchant what we wanted. Letters pour hadret on the other side of Marg & Men. James - as man the whant 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

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 + 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

little sign of the batterings she has had. Albris sligned same old Ken. Was like old lines with he & Wilheare. up + long grass cleared giving In the evening the Shipper the place or rother bidy book invited the clew to a party Pirited army Sigo and to the quarter dech the last my surprise found Eddie Subdiffe a bag fife player there but Jack Varge Murray Journ + a it indeed up by our boys for interstate Islage working putting on the concert tums This A gordon is as good a Shiffer there. They are blandling all the beligious and pulis from as any crew rould ever want here. Naturally quite a four He is a mon which is quite dis were sureffeed 4 & dednit you among officers. even see the frichmes Tuesday 22 mil august Wednesday 2 gral August . Noscie + Went ashoe in evening low still here I they are to go to fictures. Josh this Darwin has been sleaved up. leaving tomorrow. Wish & were going too after giffords effort For a newcomer there is very

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.

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. Gosh this Darwin 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 Page, Murray Gavin + a few interstate Telegs working there. They are handling all the telegrams and press from here. Naturally quite a few dits were swopped + I didn't even see the pictures.

Wednesday 23rd August

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

a good oner. I've had some Loday, A Raedar exercise was hopy memories a damed fine held by w/1 and of all, the childish panicky shows I've new, office on her but as the Spankers branch his deteriorated Gifford full and the worst and I'll be better off her. So after this bloke has passed for 21/2 years I'll say " good Luck a Petty Officer Tancy me to work with him for and Costlemaine got ashow and followed the new Ordinary Ich. Either I'll Thursday 24 th August My relief hand depot soutine of carrying bog & hammock all over the place until finally settled in arrained at limbs him to it Stankers home, Block 638 Mint was only a few minutes works down to her Willes. for me to komplete my Triday 25th ling dung about the hacking and leave with the house in foliage , then proceeded other 3. Long is a way to to thank Wilher in afternoon leave after all this time about at humas. Sichnes in evening The has a good Theffus and

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 we 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 + darned fine oppos on her, but as the Sparkers branch has deteriorated I'll be better off her. So after 2-1/2 years, I'll say "Good Luck Castlemaine".

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

(dicheres now held in Star Theater, or socks on the rement court to but standard of show very foor. Taluday 26th Ang Took discharge as a consequence of sliding, my feet are delocated with blisters. book I around to doctor grammery George Male come off to see a victualling store etc, and me The is now on the Moresby placed under her minutes notice up here Horant like it a no that we can be all but but he had a damed ready to go whenever a plane Good spell at Williamstown and is Pavailable This 10 minutes business Obesides this is first time he may last days + days the. has been for sea since he joined al Amell spool will just have Moreing on I went down to to wait. Tennis again in arro watch Melville play football against Sunday 24th aug . Godon "lehoon" your not willed was playing and I shalled about the found It twos an exchar good gomes + in the formoon There is the will water watching afternoon , we flaged tennis at Monday 28th ling Looks as the I'mca. I played without show 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 fist 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

Tuesday 29th aug Walked about this place Only good things about trying to get appointment with derbiet, finally doing so at it are the facts that the mail service is excellent, and we 2Pm all a man needs is don't do any dubies while under patience in this outfut. this 10 minutes notice Watched I'main play the Tigo Thom of us flaged termin got it bashetball and beat them int, want of forman silvered by one fount. The old ship ofling and Assis Wilherick and & quite a name for a sporting ship. went down to watch the old One of the Sigs shallenged us booklemain flay "Mercedes" football. and helps beg acking as to tennis will tear time draid he beat us too. Wednesday & 38th aug. Chum, Jordon gralkeeper. aller or good game for watch. The 4xxxx boys won easily they fow a good ledw that I can Donie to A played dennis in forenoon. Puite a sugrise in afternoon. Dondie Mossman Usee they need me bock as arrived here with the overland Lover for them

this place. Only good things about it are the fact 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 Catholic court in forenoon. In arvo Boxie, Wilkerie nnd I went down to watch the old Castlemaine play "Mercedes" football, and help by acting as goalkeeper. 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 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

without nets tonight It will deaft. The will be here for 15 months. Dlandie lasted four be open season for mossies your! Wilheri, Glordie Bossie + days at the Offices School & I drank our beer ration & there requested to withdraw Let talked tille lights out about be in West gave some of the old times. Like on leastlemaine potential officies a shock while they were bouther baint get over he union. Friday 1st Sept Tumped our gear meeting Bloodie how the Wil got word that we at Tregulating office at 7.30 And, report at 1.30 Pay tomorrage. Hursday ang 31 st Reported to got indetentions & left about 8Am low first stage of Jouney televen sailore going Thre of the going told that we are leaving her for Sydney him Met Esta Queenstand overland tomorrow as planted and rest to adelaide & Melbourne bguel is temporarily cancelled. via alice Springs. We all frew mess gear on water doller and orehund mosquito have to HARRIMAN together then net. That means we sleet split up. Joing 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.

We got word that we report at 1.30PM tomorrow

Thursday Aug 31st

Reported + told that we are leaving for 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 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 hip but think well have donned our gas goggles to word some few among ourselves. of clust + I soot of their sat on side of tucho all the way. Went for motor trucks to adelaide Siver staging camp Tod miles Plust & soot everywhere but clows. Unloaded our gear from we had some feel acting the buch waited an bour in the goat hair stopped every four sun, had bunch, then reloaded amiles to fill up with water Gossed their four stations - well our gear on tucks to go to station about a mile dray. sposed be athlino, borrist of Of source we couldn't have station shed and either buts Maker our gear there first, because or maybe for buildings. Tever Shat not the way the services seen sol many and hills in my do things. Stacked ourselves & life. There's Thousands + thousands gear in cattle trucks and light of their langing from makes the yeards hagt. Stopped about Oat 2Pm for hARRIMAH, 209 miles stides no book or soche 8-30 mg for radon at Gins levels. Icram was him 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 then ranging from inches to yards high. Stopped about 8.30PM for scran at Pino Creek. Scran was tin of salmon

train level greisler from towards on the between 6 or 8 blokes + fin of bushlast goodness knows what it fruit. We missed fruit so had was but at tosted goodal. We balmon between 3 We restainly may have to be her a few supplemented that with the N days so drew mosquito mits rations that the Marry gave us Ofter a cold west blunch (also As take for 24 hours! After good) we were detailed off to left there we got our heads Odo a wood farty job. down. Some of not slung harmood rollecting wood in the bush. We and so slept very well Gest told some leaptain that we were crashed on declar a had bad sailors & were used to handling night. Ofter being evelor hot water but not wood, so he day the night hund very said we could forget the fob Le got someone else for it faturolay and Sept arrived in was a returned digger of a good havinah about 9:30 Am covered sport. all we do today Vis in dust & soot alloted hub drow some rations for a party Many in some but them had of new a that only requires

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 Syl Jot a job as mens orderly bleaning the mens via Alice Springs and Adelaide. Wacker - that means I'll go and helping serve the ruan there' Mallowne . Even if It pis only for an house or so to grill see Marg (I hope). Am from the galley. Not bad works. Dand builded me just dish outselves out as much scraw as keeping my Jingas riossed sochar we want. Too much of this mere orderly and I'd he og I I'm evening our swollie robbers fat as a typing. built a fire of the had a frew Monday 4 some cake about 9 oclocks
Monday 4 Left got under way
in or convoy of 20 trucks rebout
ogoo bhoom and I had our Inother surprise - over Lill from the old boarding house I de is on his way home on leave. By now of Assire is names missed out on the hall consinced What I seem for call a none left till last. By Know somebody everywhere that time we couldn't get Drawed here that and are all to go to Sydney in with our cobbus. Moderally

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 Boxie is convinced that I seem to know somebody everywhere.

Received news that we are all to go to Sydney

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 cobbers built a fire + we had a brew of tea + some cake, about 9 oclock.

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 cobbers. Naturally

welcomer after the dust. Stoffeet we made some kude remarks again at noon at on few about their organisation, Towever alido for dinner. Tinher was it huned out for the best because 3 persons I to a small tim of we were furt in our turch bully beef. Not very tosty with 8 other blokes. Then Boxie but me were hungry so Lumbers & Gordon foised us down it week. another stop making 13 maked of 21+22 about 1530 + another bur made. as in the other tucks. We loomby changing slightly. There have plenty of room, which makes a big difference. Or are more Oscillo like to soil Gloods very good, but scenery first some as over could see more sandy as is evidenced by the color of the ant hills outside Horsham , lemony halled which are more grey Unived in Elliot staging about 1030 for 'a hould in comp at 1800. This is 120 mile which time low drivers built from Larrinah. Quite a good a fire + brance dea. It was I camp - showers, YmcA, adulant on bother good drop & sury

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 $\frac{1}{2}$ 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 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

to as for suffer - well - it made arrived at Banka Banka at up for dinner, Gold salad the midday 92 miles from Ellist apricots & rice for duff. apricos Boutha Sanka stollow on icy cold too the cups of tea side of road + staging camp are what a man books forward on other. Glace just do dust hole . Whirlie - Gwinds all also another bottle of afternoon shooting dust everywhere been to every I men. Only place that runs feel from meaday 5 m Sight got called at 0545 had breakfast + got under dist is the I hut. Too dusty to dhobie so just sot around way at 0700. Just what blowing from south making it quite cool! reading of willing all afternoon Mednesday 6th left ly at 0445 Stoffed for our fire latof of - very bold - under meigh at frew as deval about 1000. aloo and marked no time getting leountry changing to society hees our heads down under or blankerlong grace a rolling plains. on the huch. I topped at babbage grounds becoming quite wocky in Jum (2 tim hub) for busch at 0930. flores.

+ 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 plans. 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.

devoid of hees. Gooded as four Lane hepe of country as yesterday arrived at Barrow breek camp levely groves of men who have about 5 Pm . Travelled 183 mill died be been killed working on boday. Met Tom leherry who used the overland telegraph line. Thoffed to live in Warrack I heard news at Lea Tree Wells for lunch at of the old around. The Thanks are 0930 again. Couple of hub but Grovost in Mice Trings. plus & conteen this time a Thursday Teft you hand goodness wonder of monders a woman serves in it. Lot of useless things bought me Service at alice Springs today, or we would have been in order to get this woman. getting up almost as soon as over ment to bed. Up at 0415 Gassed thew Tennant breek. Not a bad little place. Typical of this morning + it was folly popular con popular conception of little austalian bounding. White cold too begreed about 100 mile today, bounty changed to buildings in flat desert surrounding No Som the lugy round boulders named Devils Thankles They rocky type - rocky hills or long flat hopped range almost

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

rement decho in our various are along the road for willo staging camps on the way down Very intelesting too. Heap boulders hanged if a flace like this affearing to be first balancing camp havit got dirt decha. adop others. One rocks along road is called bhurstill Rolfi. + I mean DIRT. Want up town to the Those very much like profile + fictures in waring with I rome has a sticks shock in for Tarry hofly of generaloffer Iwa resemble the "elemal" rigar. aireil show in alice - both Unived in Hire Splings open air. Tair riged four - quite about 4 Pm. The bown practically a longe number of shops. surrounded by high flat forfeed spenges. Very hilly hereabouts! Thing I that amonged me was the cold nights. Jone of the Interned That we will have blokes even avore quatrooth to to stay here till sunday as there is a railway orhibe on in South Auchalia logo not the frictions . Triday 8th Sept the at I am & · No pleased . After having Tell in on parade after tradfast 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.

Arrived in Alice Springs about 4PM. 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 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 camp hasn't got dirt decks + I mean DIRT.

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

Often bunch did some shobying to be detailed for work We were definitely not in favour of that land then roffed a fob fulling up marques for air Force blokes word "work". Got a job at on Ordnance comple of mile who were arriving in from worth and were leaving neset morning away ficking up faper, but after about in hour of papers, there allting up marquees for them, and was a brew of hea on that the they are leaving before us. Wo cook-house for but was handed had as lot of few acting the fool & giving which the! out to a few of us too. Not hard to take . Ofter the snach Went Out a sour leve & Blog Shorp at Orovert HO in me played with a fing baby evening Had a good old hangaroo + of dog that were pelo Mere. My this time we matter about ald times. Jot decided that it was fine to picked at by the boys from camps who save me talking go back to comp, so we wolked for how Twood- Surgeoup. Nichonea back across the field arriving I was rionling. Riched the back about 11 am instead of noon.

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.

After lunch we did some dhobying and then copped a job putting up marquees for Air Force blokes who were arriving in from north and were leaving next morning. Putting 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 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

Ordnance again. Past a joke boyo up and went to the fullwes again. Tery bishly this time because the Singeant hold night so at interval me equipped us with friche and killed Conselves up with a shorels to dig of drain. For four hot dogs that of a one thing it was twilly thinky dance going on at a place of for another Jahurday was a nearly on our way home. bad day to day Ahains so a large number of women in after our morning hear, we africe Ospings, large majority returned the implement quietly to being A.W. C. workers Owniver. O H walked back overland again. Our presence at door of dance Wonder what the truck Oliver not appreciated by Geoverto who said each day when he ralled asked us kindly to move on. at noon for us to go back. me just as politily said , Of In aust we soft in the course clear chaps " sun + lathed. Laker we Tahuday 9th Sept Wy again voluntered to go for a vide at 1Am + got sent to up town & collect a friano 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.

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

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

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

for the Surgeants meso. We collected the officers compartment has more a few books etc. from the stone in it show ours has . Thati where the piano was, then played hince we have been lucky for it on the back of the huch Noon. Under way soon offer enhaining - 9900 miles A going their town so it could Chartely be called a hard job. I There was a room after hear went up + sour Gerc and Roy Sharp for a the hain and weals were while then home to bed early very good. At weal stops we as we have to get up at 0430 sell bumbled out to lived in the morning! up for scram, then sat down Sunday Sept 10th O left at 0430 along the track and are it. what an mearthly hour a was Meals very welcome after travelling it sold? I Brighfast at 5 Am drain stoffed many times + entrained at also The Terrible Ahren' clay at little yelarer to refill with water. The shops Eight of no together because a comparement to ourselves. Ever

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 Perc 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 Up at 0430 – what an unearthly hour + was it cold?! Breakfast at AM + entrained at 0600. The Terrible Eight 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 cook on our train and meals were very good. At meal stops we all tumbled out + lined 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

in Syria. We darked off + collected were the signal for somebody wood at a stop then thoply lit from the courings to save out the fire in his "ballle- bouler" + and stand a bottle up while held it on the swaying online the others felted brichs at it. platform with a stick, while There seemed to be an endless Gordon held the billy on the ghean of bottles show from fire. The hain was havelling Harmin to Adelaide - bothle of at about 30 odd M.P.H. and the all sorb. wind was quite cool. Besides that Three the day the boys the water tank from the carriage played conds, argued, slept ahead was leaking & the wall in Geonducted army versus Marry was blowing all over Indon. weekles which were eacher good! Nobody hilled, surprisingly amough For the of all hour they shood there; by which time, the was when Lofty decided for show Ain hat was wined, half our us how he used to boil a water had spilt, gordon was wet and hopey was meanly billy of tea in his him hat

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 steam 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 at this time the country was been bunt in one of one but very dry altho' we could see bage which were latted on the where the big waterways would platform. But we got our hear made & hofty has the be the were told that when it raised, the countrylide was hero of the how! flooded in many plakes, to We slept comfortably become that the barren looking shots we had plenty of rooms gordon + were green as four as the leyth could see - great cottle country. I slung out hammocked. The Trist day passed their o hain whiled that much that we such places as I Deepwell, were almost reasich but it was Rumbalana. The place we stopped comfortable and warm. The country itself was findly at ten for was abramingoi! very very rocky with the 5 miles force the border between same Aflat Roffed mountain range N.T + S.A. For we were in Later it changed to perfectly South australia. flat shetches of endless sould. At treatifast most day me

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.

At this time the country is 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 Abramunga (?) 5 miles over the border between N.T. + S.A. So we were in South Australia.

At breakfast next day we

There was a cold wind blowing had 540 miles to go. It was and it was filthy with dust. this day that the direct really showed out. Itopped at a Left on another thair at 2 Pm + Jolly glad to again havelled flow called Marie for hunde. Hogeller as Twible Eight Took Stayed there for 2 hours. 5 hours to get to Oddelaide, Mobel ofen for those who would but song at really all the it or had money also a way in yelled gut at people store selling soft deinks + along hack Keally happy the rest 19 hours for three Ao Teronie 420 miles. Ceopley was hoof hair full of blokes! Reached adelaide at TPM. hear stop. arrived in Terowie pist about 3 weeks since leaving ship - 12 days since we left Harminbefore lunch on Tuesday 12 the in which were we've travelled by Aletrainea and hold lunch at Terowie. After coming all huch callle - truck, trailer trucks + spint last 3 days + 2 nights three auchalia this clamed place in oscland train. It was the sworst me it shuch ...

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 list uncomfortable but Los we net the boys Thorney, was well worth at for the Inowie Lofly (parchoffer) + had experience. We not a great book a day out with them. Silled of blokes among the smothers. in that of time going fictures Yent the night in adelaide etc. Left on parsenger hair and cleaning up under a hot show at the Red Thield That . Had been My on Triday might beloom thinking of a sleep in clear both didn't been high!! but places booked out so had Saluday 16th Sigh arrived at to slep on a table at the Red Thenew Alt Melbourne to there Shield. was my frethy wife waiting Reported to Jovens depot in for me at the station. York the morning of were told we lit was good. Sposed to leave couldn't leave till Triday 15th at 12:30 but offer seeing So we persuaded them to the Gimmy at Londole le let us spend the time doing granted me extension to leave as me pleased up like from 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.

Left on passenger train at 7PM on Friday night. Choon didn't turn up!!

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

to fich up Teron but she had a full weekind together. Valually we made the most survived in over the weekend. of it. " Hire - quist, but just Sport from Tuesday till that we would want it, Monday at ! Kalmoral depot. Hepot itself very nice place - good Monday 18th Sept Left for Sydney scraw & pichnes every night. for thoop train Blest prefly well. Spose it because I has gordon tame down from Newcastle for the weekend and no had used to havel. Monday 25 th Soph Joined H.M.A.S. Tuesday 19th Sight. arrived Sydney Supor! They down for boiler and ment across, to Salmbral to find that I'm an draft clean + gulhal repairs, going to the Swan. behoom, Darkie on of day leave so I might athins, Marlean Stevo Markie fossibly be lucky. Long & few others from the Stayed abound most of ship there. I fored to go up worth week. I Went off Sunday Ist Oct to visit Olumbie Mary, this

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 per troop train. Slept pretty well. Spose it because I was used to travel.

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 Cark to like to see Mang of Mum so disconfort to the "roop- has orators" They was fish Recondary consideration. put on a good him in Egdney. Minds Northam tother midnight. Danny Rowden is Po tel O Mong at station to next me! on Iwant and seems a good She books even prettien thou before bloke. Sparkers too seem OK. Them too looks frethy goodsh. Joung I think I'll get on a hight Sis arrived home for weekends on the 4 Am hain. It was grand here, aftho' the test will come when I get to sea. reing the Rid . Want on leave with second Aspent week first shalling half on Thursday Oct 5 th up the sheet and bolling about Triday artolow & Oriver Mellowace at home youring. I aboutly it work of most Margo Men then was an locke good leve - as cought the explan to Horshow at we didn't have to week about That . Had an exchar hand job anywhere. Maked leaging but to get aboard borridors to desirage was Manhoul that I had been packed. But I was hovelling bushy insulps 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

ignespected leave altho the sooner on broad biggage rach on had I can be home for good the sooner I'll be completely contained. Tahuday 14th Oct arrived Lychey 13th Och Arrived in Melbourne & meh of repolated back to ship Breeze Hamseford. He is going to Splint most of week aboard. Darwin in a batilina clav + Mont out No Pullic Marijo + is quite thrilled about it. Left Teddie , I came back to how Mellower on Afternoon book hair. to the fixtures together. Nother day for hovelling. Heavy Left of gasts trig with dustatorn Josev Victoria of me got Maso he mide for he in case it all the way from just but of accident of fellow right A their had albury Salunday 21 at Oct ance again left Met Sudino & Harry (2 of The To got world Seems for we I snothin I travelled overland with) should be getting weed to it They are on their way to N.G. this seems a fappy ship. Note so I might see of them again That Spretty good trips. Stept the Shiffer a Juning are good bloke 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 cherir again Sydney and of so become he was blaying hope its not too truy long before we see your again. I about near the ships will and he fell orubrard. We had to Honday 23th Oct Jimmy Games requestion stop in mid ocean lower the who required to "theare showing". whalov a frick him who Was about 30 or no of them! CB's Ray Millington + Shie Madsham were well represented so the Potel (2 of the Markers) run, the sholying the yearmen, 2 Sparkers 3 Sigs +1 from aboard here they wanted Goden all growing brands Ray a god hard & they gave me Willington atheady has one . So the spance for buy it. So About will was nine out of 13 your I'm front of a sholy firm CB" with a beard soon ! It's artainly hard bot work Good hip meather warnish the Atopics but its exercise + rea sea well behaved. a fille in the afternoons. Shipper has ay peops and hiller for feb. The peops is 28 Robober Thirday abrives Milno May Received mercage by light a played thing - too much

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 dhobying 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

God War Signal Thation at the bay way about like I could before. enhance. Make Bay still theory that made a good sport oral. looking. Naturally it hund rold I winning over ride in afternoon. and rained here. Roya beginning to do exercise Monday 30th October With Lakobe went out on evereines. Tade on the fail felt M.B. neat exerciso depth sharges, was larget short them bombolidment with kelps of shotting aircraft byil a have the Action Stations down stop MADANG. Beautiful hopical weather so good tig accived after at the as energency "bomber" Madang Sunday 29ths. Madang ret. a real dull place, battered has Certainly schanged since of down & court new what going was here blant. Ittell set out on. Steple schanges and gus. fine compos & hubs everywhere. give no quite a staking buy down Went ashore by Church, deter was surprised for notice difference Tuesday 31st aldber To sear about in Madang bouldait find my 2Pm with Rancoo Tendella & a

Port War Signal Station at the bay entrance. Milne Bay stlll 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

Tairwille Joing to Langemake for Reautiful sunny day again. Taking one this will us. feel their ficking up sonvey to Thipper cleared lover dech & take troops make landing at Jacquenet Lay south of Blabaul, springer us the Olit about the Hombardwork may tolke place. operation. Offers we are taking We are beariest alonger of the store. Swothier to make or landing at Jacquinot Kay , 90 sea miles , Mednesday OF Nov. 1 St Arriver hangemak fuelled that hed up south of Raticule, on the routh alongide "Perdetta Sorming over side in afternoon youher ship reported to be 35,000 Jops at Kabanl arrived in mitte a during band but only fatholo are reported to aboards + Vendetta amanged for you come as far south as to get it abound her for is let of a consent in evening. All negres.

I music real goods.

Munday Nov. 2-14 Minder every great number of klones & if we see any they laville only be float Plance. It is also reported alan 5.30Am. 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

sents in Rabanl + they might Triday How 3rd Raining + dell decide to make a mindre of then the day. Sea chopping. themselves. No opposition is expected We were to meet 19 honger to the landing! The only thing with a Jairmile excent today but that purght haffen is that rough weather evidently tild the Joff may by landing them who . Wouldn't like to pooks by thought of which be the swollies in them. they have a large number. Saturday Nov 4th Outside Jacquist That bangs are arounded with 37 Bay about 5Am took Const ship in them came out + millimeter guns + as our Skipper says they would be a life finally found our batages ands of fun A for us to play with becould them in Not a I however I me probably won't sign of anything except a couple see anything, althou has may of big native villages & a end dep I doing a bombardient. Copia plantation with house. the three of us will pahol Inothies going ashow . We pakalloutside the May for about I days 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 lit of stoff there. Wide Ray is les Shapper said it may not be the first but it is the about 500 60 miles worth Lowerds Kabaul from here largest del dake all australian Monday the Mort Went do achion show in this area, australian Stations at 5 Am. 20 Deaufort Navy army on air Horce. So thatis went in a bombed larget at 6 Am Sunday I 5th Mor. Outride patolly then me went in at 0630 x at 400 yards bombonized with entil aftergoon them at anchor the 4 linch guns then pre inside Kaining still - this sloved in do 100 yards on fred place seems more than Miles on, show with Certiken guns. Bay for Lair. Nothing seen from the ship, I Left late in affermoon but tombondment of langer. to go to Wide Hay to looked a successful. do O, bombondament most Barcoo Heried back in Jacquind bay in aphenson. 4. Tendella. Buyen is that (Seamen did see barge a things

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 Jacquinot Bay in afternoon. (seamen did see barges + things done over)

Tuesday of the floor 3 of us left Vendetta and ongelver doing for Mangemak at moon. 10 boiler clean. They is that we Decause one are leaving the That would be alught. weather is really beautiful Sunday 12th Nov Kay Cand & Wednesday 5th Hoo. Arrived Language went for a walk ashow to during of formoon a fuelled. sheld low lige. got a ride out Las slongride ship hill to the aristof and browned blog them left of for Madang with Vendella. Swimming over side about looking at the planer. bought of "smarled zeros at for a couple of thoms. Toping my get mail tomorrow at it ride of ship, and further away was a sucrowshed three Madany. ingried Jap bomber. Garts shill Thursday 9th Mor arrived Madang well with and quite some good rubbish on it, that we that 4 mail abourd - letters only gbut that what we want. in . Lad and enjoyable day the. Letters from Many and home.

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 9thNov.

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'.

Whale rares against Vindetta Socier game quite good but army Monday 13th Now Hands painting best bur boys I Between Nines we had great few historing ship! Thankers had to do an aussie Kirles football about finally succeeding his getting very the mainmost. By crawling disty + sweaty necessitating a out on my stomach, - quite a death-defining art - I was able diff in the How bring : The aring to frederick " that I warn't scared gave us a good hear, their we for fraint it. all of us covered som a fillure show, the mais in fait almost for one little altraction of which was the Melbre leaf. We invited the swothis trang. Tuesday 14th Movember for misit us neset day in return for the good him we had had behaven son ship W idnesday 15th Nov, torilement over Dir. H. p not 30 spectator also Taken. Ship wholes now heat invoted. Ray + & went. There today & craws four the cent out to alexishaters to camps roughling for the Inake Oit buy

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.

Sorthies came about and I there and as bottle of beer given had 5 for look after. got them them. They left about 9.30 flow shown over boiler rooms largin room cheering & singing, having had a steering motor by a stoken then a real good day they rechord over the bridge of elsewhere of intent. Some I haville burgger going Then we realised the whole about that Commander (B) is To ising lead. Our CB's wow their take over the ship to be seen heat? Tote fraid of 3 for 51- on as a base ship at Messavidi. Me CBF. There with 3 tobales hooks bad. the smallies got up crows + had Thursday 16th November . Timals of the whole a short ware O. It was furning as they went used for falling an your. Son Bus (CBS) Kroffers our but my & blokes tron. Daties + brocketts brushus rowed They all enjoyed it. We had it out, but our, CBE over wow saraming the Me side in all the way. Tole paid 23/9 which the smother formed. & for 5% this time, so that is lit of eached money good supper was full on for of eacher 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.

Kumours about ginges Morrow (cosso) fe left and roung "For his a Jolly Jood Fellow " Hated loving him because he was a real taking over quello correct tony to None of me francy our gentleman dur paring also left happy over being broken up, our forpular official Morrow & his one of board morning about in some honbow up nother as a base wallofing mot officially Luddy base wallaks ship. fook over to leche ringing ded + freended Inaky lit less to the hout of hot-hailed to CBF wholer crew, leafs made boots - green uniforms, clouch from herosere him) There our Shiffen hat + all the happings of show goings blokes all over the I said goodbye to us . It said! ship. O HIt almost unbelievable he was "dammed misemble about the whole thing " but he was the difference in a day between forced to leave. We lines an exches happy ship and now the rails & cheesed him as a thoroughly Miscontended over.

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 walloping 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 litre this which has 4 himes look forward to but of stay the fire fower of a corrette + in harborn for maybe months is the next polarful ship after the new mob and definitely the bruntage " Mungar, has to derfoquelan. 5 new bloks his the men not in Messevindie as as bare Sunday Nov 19th at It ship & mother of convetter. The did say that when things Airisions inspected by Jinger + his sad looking got organized me would be O 2/2 ring from Knose at release aspending mod of our fine at lower dech he aprin us the rea again - but didn't say when that night be , What a prospect that "as war had moved It counce this ship has spacious Shippino quantum + official wardroom how for away from Madang we had to follow ". He is now Captain (3) - I that is, in charge t is elegante elaborate for the parties which Juiger thous. of all ships below the Tachfora - rometter a all that. He The one last might with never explanated why a ship muraes 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 Wednesday Nov 22nd Well it looks as Air Horse officias of muses. I' if the old ship is still capable the Many is a handy service for of being at sea. We thought that supplying drink - at least as mith Allere base blokes + the fact fair he officers & surses are concerned that we are gomes spend as let The well this in a good source. of him at burchon, that the Monday & Tuesday 20th 21st Now old ship would forget she was And various job about capable of going the rea. whip. Went to send, at 4/m. Had action Stations for on hour this sort of seas time is good during which him we had a Thursday Nov 23th balled in Oat shoot with 4 wich and occlibers. Tollandia to fuel This is another Sort of a grand Timale it seems place that how grown unbelievably No us like old Shipper gove since I was latt here. It would was a big were as me offered do feetle down south good to him on the way out. Bet see what they can do to the he wishes he was taking us out places in ruch 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 Trickey Nov 24th Left Hollandia Leaded er flor ships in various places that for Miss Wingi. Joing out of this is the most like ever seen Holloydia I sow more rubbinds this is the most I've ever seen. The meat be over two hundred floating about their I've ever ships in this bay. Small craft seen. The seemed to are first like onto scurrying about weighing floating about abop the New boys went across to the water. I can imagin how Weshalia do flay challenge matches Sydney Harbon would look with of dech lockey - got Obealm. all this which is it. Releas to one this mot never Faluday Nov 25th Resultful day wine anything but whaler races. at sea Nice and cool - the Starfed at anchor all night. sort of weather that winds be after dank there were lights what special on a pleasure ruice energeber. This stayed lit up & Sunday Nov 26th Thrined Miss it was like the slights off a Winds After coming in three's sily. Signalling light seemed the boom! the harbour seems hat be time fireflies, everywhere. 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.

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 be this mob never wins 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 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 front of The size of the little hide paddling about anuses us. Some of The hids are first big wough to will be shock here? got our direct service by w/r hold a fradable + yet have they to Madang going but so fair its por huge success. Some of the boys went are away out from the show. white found would be it if they reckon there are beaut for out in a small sort of their kids this size some to blackes ashow for swining et. kance affair Monday 27 th flor! Still muching Tuesday 28 M Nov graciono goingo parout with our direct service for sea again this is quite of It's not of working now. heat for Our barn wallats. We me going he bish them on he Monoton as give inspection tour for Con I then me are coming here. There always seems A be some of their fooddling about in their lakations back her 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 that position. Moratai , then from their me are 30th loc. Morlotai is a collectaion of suffered to do fallfinding job: islands it reems. Islands neally Dial is burning 1 will laid out with rocount flowbalions flower of all sorts. Hothey are but are very flat. This raids going duling in continuous are still carried out against Iskiams. The island or one here to only about 300 miles of them, has some sont from the light of the letter. of whitestone hills and these The neart slep up is the Villipines should out for miles away as + they aren't pero by any means. a landmarks. Exceedingly hot day hery. Wednesday 29th Dec, Realized - water in after ration 103th all one of any ambitions which was afternoon. Telored up in 2 watches to whome the Equator bussess in the uff while in for the it at 5 mg. I take feel any four hours term the we are humps their It rained all in from watches or many never during the him we were in seems for he set 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 Celeles. 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

damedy office. how: about The work fast is alight but don't like the way it's rule. Griday 1st flac . Another mould Salanday 2nd Alex lealled in at Bish to get some stopes, then maner the ends - another month on to Mind Windi. Fire noticed never getting how for good. the word Miss, on the map Seems mour as the I'll seven or four himes. I believe it is the how any other existence but this one, Spore it must end native name for wland The night waiting for us. That what I needed to Altho sonday. Still very hot. A age like from Many & Mum. But more this or man earns his money in a dhohy firm. But of it of it of it of it of it of it is the firm Occurrented now for a while. Sunday 3rd Dec Yot dressed In divisions but stain spiribled + Klue has decided by get down so diss ment held out next payday . After Mining it over of Bout decided to also. after getting thereed up loo -

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

whose in hortour and he that the months at anchors walises its Sunday the weather Time spart in keeping wather heading the heading to this new ut organisation. realises its Sunday . The weather is beautiful this afternoon & I could just imagine spending the Our advantage is that we get day at the beach, then telling day at the beach then tething plenty of operating practice. in the cool of the evening at Roge Rad or scouple of home listening for the brules. reveation parties to beaches How inagrication is sometimes a on the islands. Great interest bad thing to have mellinto. take in water follo - we flag Jackie Woods at night: We "Stoffed aboard for first That a good old, matter about fortright then went gay + the old Oclass . Jack got wint to one fichness show engaged last him I have I and and one on a TANK h.S.T. and the is a very serious laddie me had quite it am discussion Chick a few boongs about Nice lade I is Jack. here & they are showy

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 "Crathallia" for America.
his this (foods) Kids of & BH Occasionally one of the baddies
4 years foodable all over the would forget, and say America, place in their small lahatori. but would hastily towest Three laddies about 3,4+5 himself when the older lad barked were alongside we one day when it him. They sport out Juf suddenly they broke into singi man no is good " then as an Pishol Pachini Thomaso in English. after Mought, added "ashablian They fut all they had into A good ". I they got thin hi his. These books thing this and the smallest kid looked in mortal agong as be endearqued and sell or while hid of their to reach! the high motes then own age. they began singing God Bless bling that we are Com (3) Homerical Haberally have forsed base ship quite a lot of the convertee rome, alonguide and as & rude remarks about youls on so after a fabler Hogether the find that I know Thankers on hids stocked subsituding weeken almost all of there.

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.

Keshe and and went to have bod for ages) they fixed three nets of frietyer - one on the Debraine Live mentioned Glear Lower Dechie "Know low Gimmy explained that 9 bottles If whistey and 4 bottles of gin that befor - that's the brouble wife this damed stay in one place job - energthing seems offices store. That warranted them heaping as up on the The bonforts I will have wiffer dech without our bunch treated us well this time - we for 25 hours while all our get regular insues of soop, lockon were rearched. Blokes Shortli Ohushes & Hookhparke . Et who had been sowing up on and bottle of her for Know is my helpful. 24th Fecender Kness Eve had it conficieled from them. Will what a day for Her rearding the ship the . the day before Know ! Just Juny made as take our hammons when how were starting our on the suffer block and small them to be rearched. He hold hunch the first feel veggies we

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 $2\frac{1}{2}$ 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 been should be home, and can issue Know Day unlies the culpit was found. A Kakadky Naturally really feel that it is known. having the foreign it was feeling is running they high! Tited that all messes except the Winas been flage for Know decorations returned issue timmediately every was refund them I and threw the green it. So offer as "lot of hot air" there over the side. it was fifted that all messes, Three bollles of whichy found including I blokers would be given the ble issue. Just as well for in an unused booker in the stokers mess. because milliont a cloubt there 25 th Germber Know Hay would have her fromble on the Merry Know Margo & all ship. How of the Stoken had my folk back home. My been franced for how stolen the thought were buch there it spirits and the slips company Virbonia today. Direly neight shuch logether that it was not right has femined them without proof. Know or the one after of

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 foreson watch or has to thank for the officers was not relieved until 12:30Pm, was not relieved until 12.30 Pm, for fularity buch things brightened On the whole are , had a good up at bit for a Ofens Romio. Imas dinner, and I must admit Officers acted as wholes over that I was quite full when a rading domed the officers I left the table on bonnarde er feir hours. Blokes were being Months thippen of the Inon bom (3) theore over the ride clother a RAN. Iso Iso did rounds all officers were being made mishing up a theory know at work and our "fake" officers lunch time, but he got a very made toms of the other ships silent reception. City I too, because margnereding as real officers. ginger is a good bloke . he thouse after a couple of home the you this only his superiline so ended know hay in Trist Liendemand Know Mat he Miss Windi.

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 - 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 The other two were old hands with during the forenson, then the badge to love . One lost his warrants were read out for 2 hadges + got 28 days cells at hope . The other look his three blokes. One of them was the one who shale the lignor 3 badges (3 is for 13 years in the the other has see bloke who travey) and got 1 14 days rells had a comple of bottles of spirits suspended. Which find means probation. They need Office as he of fein own stoned in their lockers. 1 (Chroionsly everyone who had is the only raching of his fractions a bottle or more of beer in their rake in All Middlick, bo they are lockers had been given 30 days keeping him here or holding the stoppage of leave, 0/4 days ONR.11 rella form his head. (eacher wolk all day) and 22 Joich Jess come across to mouths stoppings of been irenes) see we tonight and we The shap who stole the a grand old maller about the C, to and the Wary My spirits got go days rell at Add Jimmy, Williams is their Shippin military prison lat hAE

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.

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

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.

Leeks. Ginger Morrow not at all January 1st 1945. keen and having to New Years. King events have To has excellent quarters here + happened aduring the old year, has a decent slight for when he lets hope that Wear year Obings went to go to sed, whereas on as big development, and that he Plats he would have there we sto really me the end of advantages. One The German the Leading Alis hurmand? Sig one Sig and one leader and you the good buys . signal going from our branch, came saying that upon arrival of HMAS Offalypus at Miss Windi Know got and appointment as Commander of and his staff Shipper of the Puebezon so that are to transfer to her. That' is one deshayer I don't want means no get rid of all these for go to gast basewallahs and will Obecome a sea going ship again Plate should be here in a glow bow of the Janks 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 a - bechnicolor, and was real funny crowd of ut from the ship must The are going to BIAK then off to flay. Only a four of no had played before but the Arrotai Onial correlles lower & others were very kiew toursbody hapenda, and are going to do enjoyed the games. It's flaged a bombardment near Morston in it bey hard and were thed conjuction with RAAF & some Tomorkow will bring out the Marke Pr book. Mary is that gots have been firing on comogs show and to trul , are in agentified it! I got rolled rather heavily from this place which is only on the concrete + skin my Bo miles from Moratai The kneer a arm, but plenty of Goofamunder and some of book Syene ourtment will stop that went in to bomband it I had from feeling Went oshow to some shaff theorn back at them. The buyy is that a smoke screw fichers & sour Bob Hope in had be be laid to smalle Vincers - the Pirate. It was them to get out. Durgeys

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 + skun 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 Jops with cool breeze makes fleshy of cool size ench guis + goodness knows state. Keeping up & sheady what, but by what anaptable afred of her knots. Wonder will is that the Japa have a couple the Japa annoy us at Mardai they usually mint there nearly of 3, mal guns. Termed black about midday every night. Is long as they + left at 4 Pm. It is certainly dost make a missince of themselves goodah being at sea again. Lake at might because I have The only disadvortages as the to do the Othorning Watch at 4Am. fact that scuttles have to morrow January 8th Thrived Morotai about the alosed at nights + the mesadeaha get very lot adarasem 2 octock. Or hit of shipping me count oget mail nearly every scattered about. Plates of all day. But sea him is definitely heles continually in the air coming bottler than barbour time - at A going all the hime. bougle legat, up here it is. January that of milks known RAAF blokes abound to confer with Jinger 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

bombardnaent. Leaving at 1 A mg - to bed second line I took borrows - arrive at 10 Am. -y him a rame on watch. Establishment to be bombed by Place is Galela Bay in Halmeherer have then done over by us! about 20 while would of Morotai. 3 of us arrived there I about at 11/30 Pm and lasked till 9.36 am + steamed about first and of distance of the two flat midnight . Och ach seen but we sour no planes. Dack to bed boffed hills, Little Tarahani + but another! Red at 3 Am which Lig Jarahani. lasted hill 3.30 Am. Ach Och above Knose explained that intelligence ship, but our not sighted no reports say there are 10,000 gaps flows - very dank night. This concentrated in the area in lair raid business is Calright at birouac transles etc. 3,000 mere derent hours, but having our not suffered to how been dispured of bed at meanthly have is one examply by our bomboss. However He odds . Just The the old Darwin days I didn't bother to they are romentated at big Tarahami, 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 distace 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 millimetre guns (3 inch) shafed the air followed by the going in first to bomb on embighters which I had to destroy the felly with rocket bombs skife the area than 10 Penfigter they we left or Beautighter will bound with High trapposite + Mr alongeide us + gore or flame bombs. 2. Beauforts will be Memorahabaon of Nother boult reconsissance + 4 Giffines our living . Good they are sudden cover. There we are to shear to boy don't they lich up a in + pump 350 shells into stack! We had bobby the then the cornelles 100 africe. most decorated man in the RAAF We went to Ordion She at about. His air Vin Marshal now 9.30 am + got shuch into it. I thinks. Our mob Jonly got away 330 " brunfapur sorrespondent " shells as they had houble with - musuel photographe about the guns, but that good work taking shot of the turn The dornelles furt in Cabout les the probably get a film, each. Then the 40 again

have 90 millimetre guns (3 inch).

Beaufighters (6) are going in first, then 60 P40 will bomb with High Explosive + flame bombs. 2 Beauforts wll 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 groupy taken by the there was a lot of smoke about, newscel chaps. I'm in a and from when we mere the grandry as to have I'll above here it foreshore looks shipped plebreaker Thank turner a fledy after us the Warhank fighters. haman for my leading lady went in and dive bombled . Slayed at anchor at it the area. I matched them the area. I watched them from Mordai all day. Not bothered the appear dech it was an act worth watching. The planes by air raids of at night this screamed down in A almost natical dives and released their January 9th - Out again to fut on flame bombs. a couple appeared to hit dumps of some sort the same hurry again. Our because they werd some blest distinguished fragsmoots this time Alflow big flashes of was O Killer | baldbell. flame at three york those We steamed in very close flames got shick linto it. this time + found another When we dall left them was 330 shells linto their onea.

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 a fires all about . I and share - the important ones wouldn't like to have been a from my brought and a for Jose in that area. These bombar I ments at least give us the - 14 let I'm withi player was feeling that we are giving the -reded for flay water pole over at the Tyndellas in is a last little yellow rato bath som of the Odist they have given us resource of was asked. Um hear at times "hate a list) of drew . I quite enjoyed the game. eyens for blokes like Grald on In 17th Went off Oplaying Jack Thompson ! tasket ball again. lot running about a using up at Miss Woundi after a good of energy. a mais a the hopies. If the Many asked him to work half as hard hip . no mail, but elefect it, homorrow. Jan 13th Mail abound . that is the main, now item in any day. I got quite a as me floged backet ball, he would hick up a great fews.

smoke + fires all about. I wouldn't like to have been a Jap in that area. These bombardments 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 evens for blokes like Gerald, + Jack Thompson.

January 12th

Arrived back at Miss Windi after a good trip – no mail, but expect it tomorrow.

Jan 13th

Mail aboard – that is the main news item in my day. I got quite a

good share – the important ones from my own folk and a few others from gash people.

Jan 14th

An extra player was needed to play water polo over at the Vendetta + 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'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.

+ stood - start purling - prot Went to the fretues on Deloraine Lett from Theme . It ad plus evening but it was a teaks - books from Sis Age & Brown show. overallo for Boije I'm a good Jan 19th Should seen in MARK the of papers. It goods. so no swimming today two 25 th January Went Off of the convelles were annuing that our mot called it off flay troff trall but going was being wheat so we Oflayed the You 23rd I all our panels Dinglow bashet ball . Then Jone flaget a youth team. Considering to papers arrived at last. that they flag the game 500 bage for our ships all nearly all the time, and also dumped on our quarter dech. had full reserves, compared to Just like a know ! getting the food that only 2 of our all this shift now. O getat lean had played much before excitement + plenty Ook noise we didn't do so bad. The +, tubbick in that messdech I got 2 rates - a parcel from Yanks beads us 8 goods for 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 bartling - officers dinking party. In game which wheet the youths all men of everyone The officers classy play Twisted my law ranging on Olike 03's aming of benging till the sonly hours of the thoming, And get form a muscle. It will come good. Victure farty on youth it know when a bloke had 02 Odeshagu escort Went mainly to bottles of run in his locker he got 60 I days at alls. The York get at book at the ship. They One beautiful ships - well " Many is day except for a gweekly armed comfortable clean + hofical been issue like ours. happy . So they should be happy Officers of zatings receive the same for abthe Chief Loday fold us best of food that Robbie! Blue + I will, probably be going to the Klahytes when the good as he wants experienced alpartees much him. + screened with fram Kougho That means that we will be to make an arbour for

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 arbour 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

It such a hidiculous draft concelled. Aahen off here in the Spanhers Their worit Horace fruith me from the Plats, fut on here when I to go to his lold base ship lake arrives below a list ridiculous, because one Sparker is Things in the Sparkey are or but headed at the present as good, as another in the Mary. It would be different of 27 the Data Had the young we were doing some exceptional is girob use on the tend whom M.B. Navy was ashirt abound. "He was making shetches a plain Sparkers for of operating of life on the lower deck thade I alwally we let I garner know shelphes of the boys in various forces + places. Roys were escartly how we feel howards it. a gow him to sendustand that had would, get no proofunation kidding themselves lit having at all food us. I alm not themselves shelpled. telling I hang yet autil its Feb year and of the chaps who got sentenced to sells for having rentation, because we are going Olignor at Know, got black to do all we can told

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.

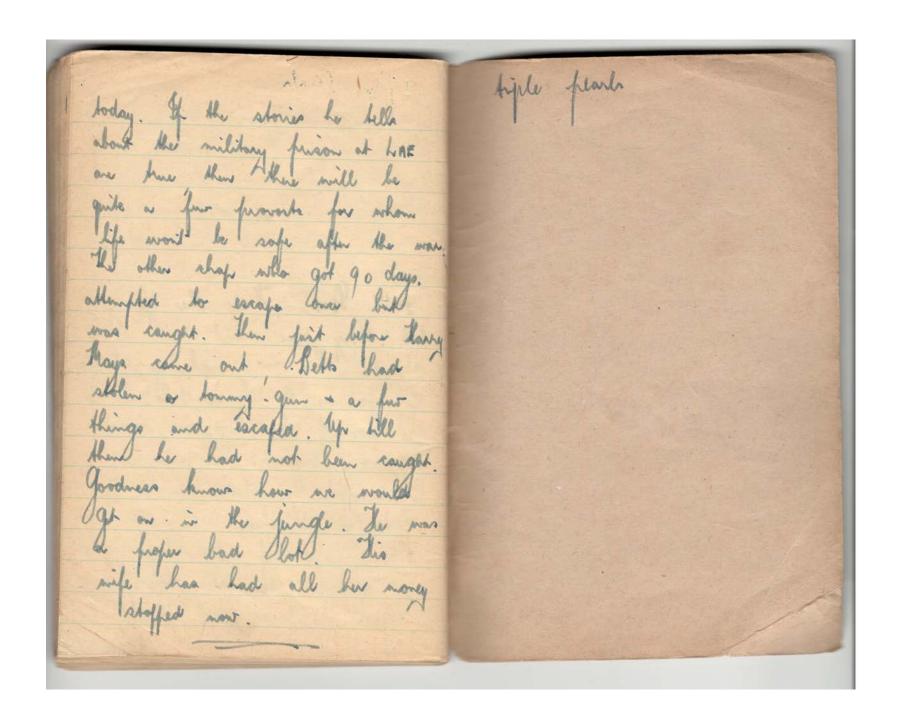
Things in the Sparkery are a bit heated at the present moment.

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 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