

H.M.A.S. SWAN FEB '45

Passed for W/T 3 22 Feb. '45.

Miss Woude to Hollandia Hollandia to Madang Madang to Torohica. Takenery 5th 1945 Want off on revision factly to small island nearly . Blig I sandbal there of cled white sand ideal for playing about a having a good linde young they indeavoured to do at back somersault off He sand or fell on his here culting his forthead, nose + his file amusing. Tet I'll Mont ashore to flay Stowell baskelfall. Both old teams won the first beam won 27 to 6. Only flagger one game each so wast very structure.

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Mios Woendi to Hollandia Hollandia to Madang Madang to Torokina

February 5th 1945

Went off on recreation party to small island nearby. Big sandbank there of clean white sand, ideal for playing about + having a good time. Young Ferg endeavoured to do a back somersault off the sand + fell on his face, cutting his forehead, nose + lip. Quite amusing.

Feb 7th

Went ashore to play Stawell basketball. Both our teams won. The first team won 27 to 6. Only played one game each so wasn't very strenuous.

Feb 9th

Platypus arrived. She looks just as dirty as she

did in Larvin and bains Goidully our arguing with di Pege Her Signal Boin to the blish had done affect because apart from the blill + coders It is at dirty front I to show Blue especially do the late has already got a lo. or heading tel on a Alfacher. Taking Blue will fut us in 3 watches too. Doug Wearne Her lig is also leaving plus all the gash hands lew Ch's run frill your botal 10 instead of 19. In all there are about 30 to here. goodness blines long they will get on in the blat. The accomplation intustion

is ender bad there. The P.o. " were is said to have soon for 15 1,0° + there will be 35 in it. It is disquareful really but is Agrical Of the Nava Thousands of founds has been spent on the class quarters. Les Grundald our old Leading Egoh Ofon the bastlebluper aboutde hu. We had a good old nother about various Oblohes. Lea proudly displayed his blokes of hid little daughter who is your rise months Oold. Naturally I didn't have to fretends took for interested - I reply was. It fact has is going to get 3 of the photos sent to love.

did in Darwin and Cairns. Evidently our arguing with Sir Page, the Signal Bos'n, + the Chief had some effect because apart from the Chief + coder Vale only Blue is going over.

It is a dirty point to show Blue, especially as the Plats has already got a P.O. a heading Tel + 4 Sparkers. Taking Blue will put us in 3 watches too. Doug Warne the Sig is also leaving, plus all the Gash hands. Our CB's mess will now total 10 instead of 19. Goodness knows how they will get on in the Plats. The accommodation situation

is extra bad there. The P.O.'s mess is said to have room for 15 P.O.s + there will be 35 in it. It is disgraceful really, but is typical of the Navy. Thousands of pounds has been spent on machinery, but hardly a cent on the crew's quarters.

Got quite a surprise to find Les Grunwald, our old Leading Cook from the Castlebluper aboard her. We had a good old natter about various blokes. Les proudly displayed his photos of his little daughter who is now six months old. Naturally I didn't have to pretend to be interested – I really was. Les is going to get 3 of the photos sent to me.

Tel- 10th Still alongude blats , rather depressing Obeing so near for the damed thing Our new Shifting a officeto observe Mart Shifting is a Ourment Lientenant to quite young chap. Most of dur Contr benkmants. A Jet 11 th Went out to anchor away from Klab. We are first All me have ready to sail to Madang for Gidges about our bombardaget. Tope wer work with the ausie army They help Siddie Took of lit your around the ship Mithon a low or high during

It provided up with quite a long. One of the 'bubbies' to sports o Officerd + is taking on interest in It. The has a Heat for Kugly Cheserie Rules, Servis wicket auth bashet ball on the board for names by be fut down, case we get the phance to flay at any Sport I much around to fint my mains in but found that one of my "friends had put my now blond for all endrest Roldby. So I entered shered my Others there on frinciple West to frichmes on Plat in evening Bly I got was a good position. He I is very discontented of the thought of me going to sea a leavis him they good show on at fishers they Oshow

Feb 10th

Still alongside Plats + rather depressing being so near to the darned thing.

Our new Skipper + officers aboard. New Skipper is a Permanent Lieutenant + quite a young chap. Most of our gash officers are only young sub lieutenants.

Feb 11th

Went out to anchor away from Plats. We are just an ordinary ship again waiting till we are ready to sail to Madang for orders about our bombardment. Hope we work with the Aussie Army.

May help Siddie Foote a bit.

Feb 12th

Had a swimming race around the ship, then a low + high diving comp.

It provided us with quite a laugh. One of the "Subbies" is Sports Officer + is taking an interest in it. He has a list for Rugby, Aussie Rules, tennis, cricket and basketball on the board for names to be put down, in case we get the chance to play at any sport. I went around to put my name in, but found that one of my "friends" had put my name down for all except Rugby. So I entered my name there on principle.

Went to pictures on Plats in evening. Blue got us a good position. He is very discontented at the thought of us going to sea + leaving him there. Good show on at pictures. They show

Evening at sea are goodal for advertising slides before the fishers. sleeping there always reems to the a brung Vollandia -Some of them date back to the days of bushes or talkies. alder recuiding stides to fois fricked up our new lo. tel here. the Draw of Wasts. Soil for seems for guiet desent cherio to Blue in Led as me don't know whether we will be What . alongeide | Kawkesbury for back at MIES WOENDI. The 13th Off for sear at last. a while. She had been rife of Lugar + som a list from I Would like to go gound. Only snag is that this for a look at Phillipines Shipper won't allow my fortholes for be open at sea. It hill Helf for Mading whent 6pm alriving Triday forenoon be like on over in the messes on a hot day. The heading Beb Wh Armed Medang decided for faint out our office Thomas we to desirally now about go we closed down watch. allowed for open our in each press. That not much better. Painted deck head white is bulkled gy light sort of "ducks egg blue. Lowever be will probably relax later on.

advertising slides before the picture. Some of them date back to the days of bustles + talkies. Also recruiting slides to join the Wrans + Waafs. Said cheerio to Blue + Les as we don't know whether we will be back at Mios Woendi.

Feb 12th

Off to sea at last. Nice cool weather with cool wind. Only snag is that this Skipper won't allow any portholes to be open at sea. It will be like an oven in the messes on a hot day. The Leading Hands complained + we are now allowed to open one in each mess. That's not much better. However he will probably relax later on

Evening at sea goodoh for sleeping, there always seems to be a breeze.

Feb 14th

Arrived Hollandia – picked up our new P.O. Tel here. He is a young chap + so far seems a quiet decent chap. Alongside Hawkesbury for a while. She had been up at Luzon + saw a bit of fun. Would like to go up for a look at Philippines.

Left for Madang about 6pm – arrived Friday forenoon.

Feb 16th

Arrived Madang – decided to paint out our office, as we closed down watch. Painted deck head white + bulkheads a light sort of "duck egg" blue. P.O. Tel ripped up the patchy

cortisene from the black on forsingers to take to a light the boards are sambled. The at Torokina on Bonganville Island drops of office now. Seven or eight of Others one in our mode. I got paid again boday me and right of layed Madang water folo rid of the old 49 transmitten lovering most of it over the side from the food into and low One A fram beat them 8-1. There was no of lange. The must how now swinning allowed after been about 15 cares of the that because the short was gen. It took up about 9 Salunday Whith Left Madang agrane feet of soon in the office valueds this new A.W.A about Al Am. Desultful day Thousandler which has 3 times with a nice cool theere A more efficiency takes up 3 The country between Madang square feet H + Tinschafer is peculiar in We thought that we would that the rugged wooded be getting I our new to moutains don't Osbart from ther considered this line but we makes edge. It least the embarked another rigard of

cortisene from the Deck + the boards were scrubbed. She looksa veria tiddley drop of office now.

In the afternoon we got rid of the old 49' transmitter, lowering most of it over the side from the foc'sl into a barge. There must have been about 15 cases of the gear. It took up about 9 square feet of room in the office, whereas this new A.W.A transmitter which has 3 times more efficiency takes up 3 square feet.

We thought that we would be getting our mess to ourselves this time, but we embarked another crowd of

passengers to take to a P.D at Torokina on Bougainville Island.

Seven or eight of them are in our mess. Got paid again today, we are right up to date now.

Played Madang water polo and our One team beat them 8 - 1. There was no more swimming allowed after that, because a shark was sighted up the stream a bit.

Saturday Feb 17th

Left Madang about 8AM. Beautiful day with a nice cool breeze. The country between Madang + Finschafen is peculiar in that the rugged wooded mountains don't start from the waters edge. At least, the

a heeze on the upper dech That as lecture at 1015 by Lient bonder PHET. Jegit . The to mountains themselves do but the dense grantle does not Start untill for back on change of the Intelligence, section the range. The mountains along A Henry Junea + out handaled the coast line are almost Twite Technisonies. He left the down of heer. They, are Marry in 1922 and spelt the probably deep in Alumain grass. next 1-1 years as a government administrator all their there I that show the sear it yaller an unusual effect. fact, so be certainly knows Tracks formed by walterways a other reasons tom flainly be seen from top to bottom. Entellique before the Joh come into the war. The work done In places the horizontal rock by feel circuis commissioned famations (I frement it is work) larrors the mountains reminde Like Intelligence is wonderful. The lecture was I a real sege offeners, you of a cross sectional drawing and we got an insight linto Imp at groundly book. In very the large part they have played in there areas. Just worm and hardly a ripple ! odds was on their own with on the maker, that there is

mountains themselves do, but dense growth does not start until far back on the ranges. The mountains along the coast line are almost bare of trees. They are probably deep in kunai grass.

But from the sea it is rather an unusual effect. Tracks formed by waterways + other reasons can plainly be seen from top to bottom.

In places the horizontal rock formations (I presume it is rock) across the mountains reminds you of a cross sectional drawing in a geography book.

Sunday 18th Feb.

Sun very warm and hardly a ripple on the water, yet there is

a breeze on the upper deck.

Had a lecture at 1015 by Lieut Comdr Feldt. He is in charge of the Intelligence section in New Guinea + our Mandated Territories. He left the Navy in 1922 and spent the next 17 years as a Government Administrator all thru' these parts, so he certainly knows it. He took over control of Intelligence before the Japs came into the war. The work done by these civvies commissioned into Intelligence is wonderful. The lecture was a real eye opener, and we got an insight into the large part they have played in these areas. Just odd men on their own with

he hoped it wouldn't inderfue with Tele radio set regularly reporting valuable information from behind By get be tertainly Adoes not the Jak lines. Those men really block it any most than we do deserve medale become they do. Our dogan is "Longer + mon refits"

This lhiften is or good bloke,
as is the Junny. "The Shiffen are continually in danger. A the lectural was well worth That Shiffer sound spoke eguit hust I that young but the penetrate today. He is going to have to chat over Lieutenanto who aper operationally It way Lunday . He emplained hopeless. I onsequently the thipper spends almost alt day or night as week as he could tell on the hidge the had to bluen we show wh trade as tell the Stubbie who is he doing and said our supposed to be the Navigator bombardhint jobs would start how to hold a sesshalt in about a fortnight him in Iropaly boday. There are AB's on the ship who could buy support of the 16th Affinision up around WEWAK (It will be and well These Subbies, but it good to help our own Oussie Scotbus) The Shiffer said that are forced to watch them

Tele-radio sets regularly reporting valuable information from behind the Jap lines. Those men really do deserve medals because they are continually in danger.

The lecture was well worth listening to,

The Skipper spoke over the penetrope today. He is going to have a chat over it every Sunday. He explained as much as he could tell us about the work we would be doing, and said our bombardment jobs would start in about a fortnight's time in support of the 6th Division up around WEWAK. (It will be good to help our own Aussie cobbers). The Skipper said that

he hoped it wouldn't interfere with our chances of an early refit. By gee he certainly does not hope it any more than we do. Our slogan is "Longer + more refits".

This Skipper is a good bloke, as is the Jimmy. The Skipper can't trust the young Sub Lieutenants who are practically hopeless. Consequently, the Skipper spends almost all day + night on the bridge. He had to tell the Subbie who is supposed to be the Navigator, how to hold a sextant properly today. There are AB's on the ship who could buy and sell these Subbies, but are forced to watch them

show their ignorance hems a probably the Yamking how things well arguined. Left for from systems . but in the Many Mains O arent and asset for Dinrohafen to fuel, let 4 for Bougarville. We may be thish officers. At least brains love but donnou sense isit. That is to do borbordments thei. who we can feel safe with the TUESDAY 20th Jet almost or gale majority of Permanent officers at last night. Wind + rain blev least they nearly all know in dringly grate. Sleepers had conday 19th Jeb. arrived at for get off the affect duck on fe blown or warhed off. Torotina. Very big volcano I wouched under my stew inland - an ocher one affarently and was lucky enough to Great depth of mountains inland but along fourhow the land keep they to sept not, home is very A flat + box at Ao shift below Olechs It was fresult very dusty. The dust a wild night. Keny cool to windy all day these sudden blanging like a cloud and chatges make his feel hisol good the hub. Wouldn't fancy but Oar sleep them' the day only makes you feel works. being shack ashow there I but

show their ignorance. Seems a poor system, but in the Navy brains aren't an asset for officers. At least, brains are but common sense isn't. That is why we can feel safe with the majority of Permanent Officers. At least they nearly all know their job.

Monday 19th Feb.

Arrived at Torokina. Very big volcano inland – an active one apparently. Great depth of mountains inland, but along foreshore the land is very flat + at present very dusty. The dust from the roads ashore is hanging like a cloud over the huts. Wouldn't fancy being stuck ashore there, but

probably the Yanks have things well organised. Left for Finschafen to fuel, at 4pm. So that is our glimpse of Bouganville. We may be back to do bombardments tho'.

TUESDAY 20th FEB.

Almost a gale last night. Wind + rain blew in driving gusts. Sleepers had to get off the upper deck or be blown or washed off.

I crouched under my "tent" and was lucky enough to keep dry + yet not have to shift decks. It was a wild night. Been cool + windy all day. These sudden changes make us feel tired, but a sleep thru' the day only makes you feel worse.

were hem on whether we passed on not. Notby going for T.O. is alight but the main reason for kay I sifting is that it night he fuel . A sent sized British English increare out chances of a course of a course of Minders. The Warrant tell was the bloke excell carrier there apart from as couple of homefacts that is the first things align no how gens with here. Spore they'll do the form and the years love this we hought down from Miss Moundi, and hel gave us las good go. In the Taffernoon he can't out area well toped off. Left for Ingelang about 5 fm. to the ship and asked as four more questions , about the new Thursday Feb 23th Madang about translitter. To our surprise we how ally farsed that makes
Roy + & W/ 3's and will go
go a sorter ptor eventually Obecome
Leading Jels. Farchily that hist is Toclocks, this fold as Athat Nothic Kay + I and to go off for exams the hadit exchalled it so soon in had only down or but of study. However we had to go off. How of us long to they and making heady Tels very rapidly so not have a chance of gotting a rourse

Wednesday 21st Feb.

Called in at Finschafen to fuel. Decent sized English escort carrier there. Apart from a couple of transports that is the first Skipper ship we have seen up here. S'pose they'll do the Java end. The Yanks have this area well taped off. Left for Madang about 5PM. Thursday Feb 22nd.

Arrived Madang about 7 oclock. Chief told us that Nobbie, Ray + I were to go off for exams. We hadn't expected it so soon + had only done a bit of study. However we had to go off. None of us

were keen on whether we passed or not. Nobby going for T.O. is alright, but the main reason for Ray + I sitting is that it might increase our chance of a course at Flinders.

The Warrant Tel was the bloke we brought down from Mios Woendi and he gave us a good go. In the afternoon he came out to the ship and asked a few more questions, about the new transmitter. To our surprise, we were all passed. That makes Ray + I, W/T's and we'll go on a roster to eventually become Leading Tels. Luckily the list is long + they aren't making Leading Tels very rapidly, so we have a chance of getting a course

frist if the war layts glong expecting it to still be going penough. Of fresent & know As thousain but we got in almost all our youl, so were exchar pleased. I got 10 letter, gary Stille more about wireless than I have didy but with this minute hundledge I'may placer southing that feet quite or again on my face. I to four thong - our from an course if I could get one. Hom Munn, Sic, Voldagent + Mrs Wood Friday 23rd Jet Jook on 230 swothis ashow there at Madang . It has from there about a mouth. about 5 Am this morning they mere everywhere on that affect The well be hady almost a year in and out of Sydney so cont conflair. Bot is the he at faller about June - hide seem dech. They the left hadoing at about 530 am + brought the for her the Order of the day. about 3/m. The another are Hearly all the old mot who on Amarried, have or are having going to a flace on the Ogostal near that wolcom Marine hiddis. The best fast of the learning in me passed close to it of got as better books than day the was some a mail when about the more half when we possed on our way from Hollandia.

first, if the war lasts long enough. At present I know very little more about wireless than I ever did, but with this minute knowledge I may know something from a course if I would get one.

Surprised to see Bob Vince ashore there at Madang. He has been there about a month. Ah well, he had about a year in and out of Sydney so can't complain. Bob is to be a father about June – kids seems to be the order of the day. Nearly all the old mob who are married, have or are having kiddies.

The best part of the day tho' was when a mail came aboard. We were half

expecting it to still be going to Woendi, but we got almost all our mail, so were extra pleased. I got 10 letters, that put quite a grin on my face – 6 from Marg – one from Mum, Sis, Valda Jean + Mrs. Wood.

Friday 23rd Feb.

Took on 230 swotties about 5AM this morning, They were everywhere on the upper deck. We left Madang at about 5.30AM + brought the swotties to HANSA BAY, arriving about 3PM. The swotties are going to a place on the coast near that volcano Manim. Coming in we passed close to it + got a better look than when we passed on our way from Hollandia.

Left about I for Shiffen apole over the S. R.E. and said me It is throwing about or little smoke + skam. Home the sides going to Olaife Our auring 6th Div are dealing with the Japa about as hard streams that have been law. The volcans is there as tole are to deffent there an island and the feel towers high parith clouds resting over where they need as. We will do bombandments getting sid of the 1 po shells are can make use of. the night of k was on a hiddley bleature lines having annige beare. It will be good to suffert our SATURDAY 24th FEB, arrived Ritage in afternoon. It looks pather - rather flat looking just her. One of the swothing theattains told well from the sear This Mr lig that the trucks + - the forshow at Mile Bay to steam holler and whom me Jeff . at least they were much by the Japs here but meso Whitish & amusian hunts captured at Ingapore. Neicha of H look at The foreshow has a flat copia flantation, while in places there are small hills will cores in them. ships showing above water live. The good to see tranges

It is throwing about a little smoke + steam. Down the sides is hard streams that have been lava. The volcano is an island and the peak towers high with clouds reaching over it. I could really appreciate the sight if I was on a tiddly pleasure liner having annual leave.

Swotties went off at Hansa Bay – rather flat looking just here. One of the swottie Captains told the Sig that the trucks + steam roller used ashore are Jap. At least they were used by the Japs here, but were British + American trucks captured at Singapore. Wrecks of 4 ships showing above water here.

Left about 5PM. Skipper spoke over the S.R.E. and said we are going to Ataipe. Our Aussie 6th Div are dealing with the Japs about there + we are to support them when they need us. We will do bombardments, getting rid of the 700 shells we can make use of. It will be good to support our A.I.F. blokes.

SATURDAY 24TH FEB.

Arrived Aitape in afternoon. It looks rather well from the sea. It's a sort of combination of Hollandia + the foreshores of Milne Bay to look at. The foreshore has been a flat copra plantation, while in places there are small hills with caves in them. It's good to see barges

passing with AIF 6th Dissey Livy blokes in them, Swotters called for our blokes in an amplibious truck to go ashow to the pictures . The boys said tucks were waiting for them or sent roted off at the fictures. That or shong from going to these youth with Othe Yanks, but you could heat your Jours cobbes for I SUND BY 25 Feb Disregarding the last that it the Salballs me mont out at the meanthly hour of about 5 oclock that a crowd of army officers doing the hip with us of the most ing down howards WEWAK - about 40 mile down and at elever orbich we did a bit of a bombardment.

Only 100 shells from each guns the shoot was very salitactory the said . Tow hells dropped in the drink , but the rest were in the larget area. We could not see allything from here me were finding timbered a but but me left spirite a lot of smoke about affer the shoot finished. Skipper spoke over the S.RE + told us the dit the had bombarded, about 3 on 4 thousand youds in front of any advance Oforces. We would know how successful the shoot was in a day or so when our Russia advanced. The said that the bombordness may not be always huge spectacular successes, but I

passing with AIF 6th Divvy blokes in them. Swotties called for our blokes in an amphibious truck to go ashore to the pictures. The boys said trucks were waiting for them + seats roped off at the pictures. That's a change from going to these Yank shows. We did alright with the Yanks, but you can't beat your own cobbers.

SUNDAY 25TH FEB.

Disregarding the fact that it's the Sabbath we went out at the unearthly hour of about 5 oclock. Had a crowd of Army officers doing the trip with us. We went down towards WEWAK, - about 40 mile down and at eleven oclock we did a bit of a bombardment.

Only 100 shells from each guns. The shoot was very satisfactory it is said. Four shells dropped in the drink, but the rest were in the target area. We could not see anything from here – we were firing inland a bit, but we left quite a lot of smoke about after the shoot finished.

Skipper spoke over the S.R.E + told us the dit. We had bombarded about 3 or 4 thousand yards in front of our advance forces. We would know how successful the shoot was in a day or so when our Aussies advanced. He said that the bombardments may not be always huge spectacular successes, but

when me cam back in me the Jap hated trung the thought of thing hit fonts the sear das had 30 on 40 smollies abound for the night. The cooks fut on Evidently by themas then that he Va real good seran & me lasted the singlish up to a bottle of been. They had a good looks is definitely out off the Shiffen said that our thoops get or hich from knowing that this slavy sound the ship then after suffer would be thely their and they are all mont up on the fociail as concert. Shicked had his coult ful they aunit all alone. The Thes working with our our aussies a four of the bloker song or + hopes be som heep with them. The fold us about the other bombardness one are to do, then resided It we had a heal we are heeping 100 rounds for good evening. We met the brew Ilaler for the smothing to they dight want to go in fact "our our entertainment". "The dight want to go. shongest budy in that there night her hardes about of the for the first book load Old how hoped to get a wach at them. The sure loos 15 they had to be detailed off to go Only 5 volutioned to action if there a fossibility

the Jap hated the thought of being hit from the sea as well as from air + land.

Evidently he realises then that he is definitely cut off. The Skipper said that our troops get a kick from knowing that their Navy wants to help them, and they feel they aren't all alone. He likes working with our own Aussies + hopes he can keep with them. He told us about the other bombardments we are to do, then we are keeping 100 rounds for "our own entertainment". The strongest buzz is that there might be barges about + the Old Man hopes to get a crack at them. He sure loves action if there's a possibility of any.

When we came back in we had 30 or 40 swotties aboard for the night. The cooks put on a real good scran + we lashed the swotties up to a bottle of beer. They had a good look round the ship, then after supper we all went up on the foc's'l + had an impromptu singsong + concert. Sticks had his cornet + Browning his mouth-organ. Quite a few of the blokes sang + recited + we had a real good evening. We wet the brew later for the swotties + they didn't want to go. In fact for the first boat load of 15, they had to be detailed off to go. Only 5 volunteered to go first boat. The rest

didn't leave until 2330. They inchow they had a real good night the hoped they did , become we enjoyed the night ourselves. We have? brew Convertedy off to hear Alm friedmes on Tuesday night before my leave on Wildweddag. I had the Suiddle Water & when the swothing left it was 2330 so as I had to get up at quanter to buelon, I hay didn't do any sheping. I hay down for the is how hoping that the baparal of the gangudi would forget to shake med, Obeth to Monday 26 the glet
Monday 26 the glet
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Monday 26 the glet Thade our way about 50 mile down the coast bloud up at

action Malions at 18 m + did a bombardness of 200 shells (Sposed be a Jap. H.Q) after the term the Shipper potrolled up -down between or island + the main land to see if he could catch any barger. Then he steamed close july for fired the Bulihus. The Joh fired the shot one of which inclutted own the ship of the other passed one. The Brigadier about said to get away as we combount do any good . Kying by break it. Offer that her pistshamed out to sen a little + me new able to get our heads down at 3 oclock the morning (2)the At sever oclock in the morning (2)th 200 more into a place a bit nemer our own hoops. That

didn't leave until 2330. They reckoned they had a real good night. We hoped they did, because we enjoyed the night ourselves. We have been invited off to tea then pictures on Tuesday night before we leave on Wednesday.

I had the Middle Watch + when the swotties left it was 2330, so as I had to get up at quarter to twelve I didn't do any sleeping. I lay down for the ¼ hour hoping that the Corporal of the Gangway would forget to shake me, but to my misfortune he was conscientious.

MONDAY 26TH Feb

Went to sea at about 7PM. Made our way about 50 mile down the coast. Closed up at

Action Stations at 4PM + did a bombardment of 200 shells (S'posed to be Jap H.Q.). After the turn the Skipper patrolled up + down between an island + the main-land to see if he could catch any barges. Then he steamed close into the coast + fired the Oerlikens.

The Jap fired two shots one of which richotted over the ship, + the other passed over. The Brigadier aboard said to get away as we couldn't do any good trying to locate it. After that we just steamed out to sea a bit + we were able to get our heads down at 3 oclock.

At seven oclock in the morning (27th) 200 more into a place a bit nearer our own troops. Had

to fine over the tree, but could Of course its a disadvantage up see that we left a lot of smoke here because at himes Thouges behind when we left the daipe turday 27th Back in about ramot get in to embord To come askor your must come in an amplibous buch. 1.15 tital ofter the fictions. Jung an army cook lasted us up to a good hear when he and I want ashow I + had a found will hadn't had any good day. We thumbed rides These 6th Divine blokes are good I'm trucks & went about modering for swollies. We went out to blokes. Aur A.I.F. will do me. the anship which incidentally is The snothies think a lot of our a beautiful ship for takeoffs, boulardness, and allach whose The Roaf blokes showed us over flower - gear. Some of our chaps importance to those those they warrant. There was a fictine show on for us. It was good got baken for a borbing run open a Joh village. That would to see historian newsreels instead of yands. albot in bookello "In be good! after I the Roat, we for a summer in the surp Society" was the ficture + The sunt is equal to that of was at good lough. We got any of the begiches down south. back alband lined but

to fire over the trees, but could see that we left a bit of smoke behind when we left.

Tuesday 27th

Back in Atoipe during forenoon. Leave given at 1.15 until after the pictures. Ferg and I went ashore + had a good day. We thumbed rides in trucks + went about nattering to swotties. We went out to the airstrip which incidentally is a beautiful strip for takeoffs.

The Raaf blokes showed us over planes + gear. Some of our chaps got taken for a bombing run over a Jap village. That would be good. After the Raaf, we went for a swim in the surf. The surf is equal to that of any of the beaches down south.

Of course it's a disadvantage up here, because at times barges cannot get in to unload. To come ashore you must come in an amphibious truck.

An Army cook lashed us up to a good tea, when he found we hadn't had any. These 6th Divvie blokes are good blokes. Our A.I.F. will do me.

The swotties think a lot of our bombardments, and attach more importance to them than they warrant.

There was a picture show on for us. It was good to see Australian newsreels instead of Yanks. Abbot + Costello "In Society" was the picture + was a good laugh. We got aboard tired but quite

abuse or maybe it in Jislousy that I town over him. Wednesday 28th Feb Theore frist granted Friday 2nd March The Po. Tel then cancelled, then Jagain granted gaves us a very good practical Reason being that and way very go-over the RES! Het was in big ashow to they didn't think ! Sirreles outside so le gave us I ducho could get in. Barger the fact in a way that, we couldn't unload allow today could fully understand. In afternoon we got the hypergriber and did because of the sunt. Left about I'm , and proceeded a flor noticed for the office there to a target over I think it Saluday 3rd March. Worked in was the Visland when we were 2 night ago) We there our remaining the was in former. Received 100 shelled into it about 11/mg to another pay - we seem to be then set sail for hading getting frond regularly now Thursday 101 though auch In the afternoon I I threat off flaying wicket against a Roaf lean We flayed in long Madang during formagn Main event being mail. Letter for Marg, Then a other One from grass when ball was offen Wilkes containing the frager of Olost when ball was lost

content.

Wednesday 28th Feb.

Leave first granted, then cancelled, then again granted. Reason being that surf was very big ashore + they didn't think ducks could get in. Barges couldn't unload ashore today because of the surf.

Left about 7PM and proceeded to a target area. (I think it was the island where we were 2 nights ago). We threw our remaining 100 shells into it about 11PM + then set sail for Madang.

Thursday 1st March

Arrived Madang during forenoon. Main event being mail. Letters from Marg, Mum + others. One from Wilkes containing 7-1/2 pages of

abuse, or maybe it is jealousy that I tower over him.

Friday 2nd March.

The P.O. Tel gave us a very good practical go-over the Rc8. He was in wireless outside so he gave us the facts in a way that we could fully understand. In afternoon we got the typewriter and did a few notices for the office, thus filling up another day.

Saturday 3rd March.

Worked in the mess in forenoon. Received another pay – we seem to be getting paid regularly now. In the afternoon I went off playing cricket against a Raaf team. We played in long grass where ball was often lost – when ball was lost

Mrs to Tarrit: Ray las but you could rung four runs but Ono more Star De beat the small kiddies and in rather Raaf easily. Ship was alongide what I when we got back. as I booked up Tommy worked & booked up Tommy worried about them. The will by again for his , lichet to get and the form. The should get it Klein & found that Bob Water too I be was called up the and Dobbin from the old ship day after the man started - so were one it. There a lot of the ht deserves to get out when he old mot in these front. has how hiddied and a sich wife The ment off dealow today + barked ammunition will about 10 oclock at night. Our mess as it was his last night here I went off with him a lave went valuntered how helps because we Sunday March Hall Ray had a to the frictures. Or Bot Lope show was on too. It rained mie For Triday saying that his but we had borrowed gapes so didn't get loo met. I hope wife had had and Klay of the spine + it had turned Ray skiles all the lick in out serious or the Shiffer All world. Monday March 5th Kay got away arranged confactionale leave for lime + airs parrager night!

you could run four runs but no more. We beat the Raaf easily. Ship was alongside BUNGAREE when we got back. As I waited I looked up Tommy Klein + found that Bob Ware and Dobbin from the old ship were on it. There's a lot of the old mob in these parts.

Carted ammunition until about 10 oclock at night. Our mess volunteerd to help because we weren't keeping watches.

Sunday March 4th

Ray had a wire on Friday saying that his wife had had an XRay of her spine + it had turned out serious, so the Skipper arranged compassionate leave for him + air passage right thru' to Tassie. Ray has two small kiddies and is rather worried about them. He will try again for his ticket to get on the farm. He should get it too – he was called up the day after the war started – so he deserves to get out when he has two kiddies and a sick wife.

He went off shore today + as it was his last night here I went off with them + we went to the pictures. A Bob Hope show was on too. It rained but we had borrowed capes so didn't get too wet. I hope Ray strikes all the luck in the world.

Monday March 5th
Ray got away on the flying boat. The Sig

Sid Toole is . Unless & get ashow spotted him then glasses. It'll be in Brisbane on the 6th. I want see him, but may Surmming pover the side in help him inversely by bombardant. Passed a cother fleet boday. British It was some sight afternoon . Wheth at about 5Pm for Langemak, to ail. Thirday Joth March arrived Bay (Som results of our little near hangeman during formoon bombardumbs lafter fragment Sal'day and aled. Been great france The maps + summary were with signals about of the shells good - widerly the fluer was we just I took on. Thirt we were a complete surces. The only advised they were no good to so real details at present wire that all our operations med being in one place our hoops coffued cancelled by numerous signals 15 of saillie never guns that had been juite left. There are do we went only suffered to have 86 to fet our gun. Then a good gun & would not have they advised who that Istelle could beeld left unless they had to be. Let weed so pherations on. Let sail for farquired Bay to The reason this three was sposed for be our hum. His good to do bombardments of somewhere to know we could help the helps the I'm That where Oursies a bit anyway.

spotted him thru' the glasses. He'll be in Brisbane on the 6th.

Swimming over the side in afternoon. Left at about 5PM.

Thursday 6th March

Arrived Bay near Langewak during forenoon and oiled. Been great panic with signals about the shells we just took on. First we were advised they were no good + so all our operations were being cancelled by numerous signals, as we were only supposed to have 86 to fit our guns. Then they advised us that shells could be used, so operations on. Set sail for Jacquinot Bay to do bombardments somewhere to help the 5th Div. That's where

Sid Foote is. Unless I get ashore I won't see him, but may help him inversely by bombardment.

Passed a corker fleet today. British. It was some sight. (Saw results of our Aitope bombardments after payment Sat'day. The maps + Summary were good – evidently the turn was a comfortable success. The only real details at present were that in one place our troops captured 15, 75 milli-meter guns that had been just left. These are a good gun + would not have been left unless they had to be. The reason this time was s'posed to be our turn. It's good to know we could help the Aussies a bit anyway.

of the March 45 Lied up alongische as going to work my Frist watch and fill do hid Middle, so that I can have the night Intentha since we brought the frist mot own to land here, and the difference in the place have new Syd again. 40 got have now his round to found is almost unblinable leamps + buildings everywhere. They must have been appling I some shift slighed in, seeing Olim Ame now both is large quantities to ghe alread frelly fleared with ourselves. In Syd came back to the like they show done . Comple of blokes come down ship and had a scraw to tell me the Six Jook was then we went off to the fishmes asking after me. Yound that Tids bogether. We had a grand unit was an four mile around weller - the main hopies being the road tooks as the I'll Bet . Many, and the levelies see did g at lost after all thru years. I am going off at & or orlock till 5/20 f to All it & cons find him of so Nobley is being phospective fallers. Tyd + & know, most of the same places in NG. loo this a good bloke.

7th March 45

Tied up alongside a jetty at Jacquinot Bay. It is 4 months since we brought the first mob over to land here, and the difference in the place is almost unbelievable. Camps + buildings everywhere. They must have been getting some stuff shipped in in large quantities to go ahead like they have done.

Couple of blokes came down to tell me Pte Sid Foote was asking after me. Found that Sid's unit was a few mile around the road. Looks as tho' I'll see Sid at last after all these years. I am going off at 4 oclock till 5/30 to see if I can find him. If so Nobby is

going to work my First watch and I'll do his Middle, so that I can have the night with Syd.

Well, after about 4 years I have seen Syd again. I got a ride to his camp + found him straight away. It was goodoh seeing him – we were both pretty pleased with ourselves.

Syd came back to the ship and had a scran then we went off to the pictures together. We had a good old natter – the main topics being Bet + Marg, and the worries of being prospective fathers. Syd + I have a lot in common – we know most of the same places in N.G. too. He's a good bloke

road near be felly. The ground The frichme was 2,000 Women was rocky - but the exercise was alright! and who very good. We enjoyed it thoroughly. Offer the short, Syd made bock for comp at all some bock how. The is going out one as practice shoot bondows with Sahneday but at least no Homorrows morning to proceed to homorrows morning to proceed to hanget areas where pre mill remain for 3 or 4 charge. The ansent "lung" so that we can locate this game, that we can locate this game, that we can locate this game, that only a bring at least & hope, so . Then the left, the Shipper I'm a procedure have seen Neach other. The girls will get or thrill from that I too.

Thursday 8th March.

Still alongwise fethy all day Shifter good to look over larget also. Leave fixed for father & do must be carple or simple of hours in afternoon but on light is out I didn't go off. Instead I slight to make up for the alees I have missed by theming the thirddle the lost 2 night hours 1600 till 1/30 per book a football a had a hick on the of my blood fresure. hand if they man goy of their. I with for Wide Bay about 40 will not at about of oclock, arining

The picture was 2,000 Women and was very good. We enjoyed it thoroughly. After the show Syd made back for camp + I came back here. He is going out on a practise shoot tomorrow until Saturday, but at least we have seen each other. The girls will get a thrill from that too.

Thursday 8th March

Still alongside jetty all day. Skipper gone to look over target area. Leave piped for a couple of hours in afternoon but as Syd is out, I didn't go off. Instead I slept to make up for the sleep I have missed by having the Middle the last 2 nights. From 1600 till 1730 we took a football + had a kick on the

road near the jetty. The ground was rocky, but the exercise was alright.

We are to go out early tomorrow morning to proceed to target area where we will remain for 3 or 4 days. The current "buzz" is that we try + draw the Jap's fire so that we can locate their guns. That's only a buzz - at lest I hope so. Have to tell the Skipper I'm a prospective father + so must be careful of my blood-pressure.

It looks as tho' indirectly I'll be giving old Syd a hand if they ever go up there.

Friday 9th March.

Left for Wide Bay about 40 mile north at about 7 oclock, arriving

about 11 oclock. ML 825 with so be. Stayed at action Mations for 2 chains but only fried Ones where we bombanded four worths ago is now in low 150 shells into the Hinch Jungle - + as four rounds from bands now are anchored about 200 youds off show. Som where our akel 30 millimete Vocalikuro bear back to enchor about Chambardment had affected. Work of Joh banges lying around sin oclock. This place slightly freshow of different for what we have H been used to ladely . Everything V artilley ashow firing with is blacked out frataly - alsoli 25 founder guns at a Hill outs haping probables of here & on the other side of the bay for us gops behind it + along top. When we at anchor the we also there armed quanda about Burg says that flood or subattack quite possible here. artilley fire over us Shells con be seen plainly landing on the fill Graceous the linegyes are the July things see live on) Midnight A Just on watch. Left in afternoon with about willby been firing spasmodically four native infantry boys to all singlet. Hope it is amounty locale flary bulstide Other Day whele John are known to the gold too. legit says o

about 11oclock. ML825 with us.

Area where we bombarded four months ago is now in our hands so we anchored about 200 yards off shore. Saw where our bombardment had affected. About 7 Jap barges lying around foreshore.

Artillery ashore firing with 25 pound guns at a hill on the other side of the bay to us. Japs behind it + along top. Where we at anchor the artillery fire over us. Shells can be seen plainly landing on the hills.

Left in afternoon with about four native infantry boys to locate place outside the Bay where Japs are known to

be. Stayed at Action Stations for 2 hours, but only fired 50 shells into the thick jungle - + a few rounds from the 30 millimetre oerlikens.

Came back to anchor about six oclock. This place slightly different to what we have been used to lately. Everything is blacked out properly – look outs keeping watches here + we also have armed guards about. Buzz says that plane or sub attack quite possible here. (Gracious the buzzes are the only thing we live on).

Midnight

Just on watch – artillery been firing spasmodically all night. Hope it is annoying the Japs too. Cyril says

Salunday Month 10th artillery we first received a signal that trept says there occasional Mr 1826 on her mad back from Jacquind. Bay I she had a hen down their) Awas attached lat Habout 6 am this morning by LEKE (year) and shot in they set up a barrage of Orford in glaves just off lafe all gars - made a devil of all noise bould see there baker Oxford is to or so miles landing in the one apat on south howards Jacquist Bay good He other side of the boy. for the M.L. O Under wrigh at 0800 for Everyone had a tage done tanget area I had be some of dynamby last night + lodge bodys with us . Mh with Ersbable source was abad meat of us? It is ment up the road yesheday lunch how. 80% into At Jeonges blamed between of the ships rompany must New Ladand on New Butaini. from hear up throw the night Rombardment was at a flace got up about 2 Any in made of Rabout Two Boomerange fully east, crook. They weak Hoday - + very rareful terms over to sepot for dis an as soon as they affected

we just received a signal that ML 826 on her way back from Jacquinot Bay (she had a run down there) was attackd by LEKE (zero) and shot in down in flames just off Cape Orford + a mile from shore.

Cape Orford is 10 or 20 miles south towards Jacquinot Bay. Good for the M.L.

Everyone had a dose of dysentery last night + today. Probable cause was bad meat – yesterdays lunch hour. 80% of the ships company must have been up thru the night. I got up about 2AM + was pretty crook. Very weak today + very careful

Saturday March 10th

Artillery kept up there occasional firing thru' the night, then at about 6AM this morning they set up a barrage of all guns + made a devil of a noise. Could see them landing in the one spot on the other side of the bay. Under weigh at 0800 for target area. Had the same boongs with us. ML with us. We went up the coast into St. Georges Channel, between New Incland + New Britain.

Bombardment was at a place about 40 miles or less south of Rabaul. Two Boomerangs came over to spot for us + as soon as they appeared

now but couldn't get off to the Mh opened fire with 4 shots from her Rofos gum at there but buchily she missed Out to sea on on Clave dropped smoke bomb on to Gregor Landows for fuel + tanget area and we then then to Making for further efected fine on it with about orders - + MAIL 810 solds blome reported shells Buyy againg - this one speak delle in hanget area but to be food Jacquinet. at fast Pops me believed as hill, so flace of bombardment the Japa that only shot that went when suffered for the have bound over did the most damage soms holding 15 & we At action Stations for 22 wifed out 3 tof the barrack rooms hours. got our lunkly at 2 Pm While bombardment was on our Headed back for Jarquinot blokes som om sveflorion a great alouds of smoke! Munday March 1th Tied up alongate! Jelly has Jacquinot boy last Monday 19 th March at about 0930 Paighted motor boot with I night about 18 Pm and remained Is men im it. We received a the while midday boday. Lyd aignal about a days ago saying would be back from Chemical Allah Mere was as Olamos 1

the ML opened fire with 4 shots from here Bofos guns at them, but luckily she missed. Plane dropped smoke bomb on target area and we then opened fire on it with about 80 shells. Plane reported shells fell in target area, but Japs were behind a hill, so that only shots that went over did the most damage. At Action Stations for 2-1/2 hours. Got our lunch at 2PM.

Monday March 11th

Headed back for Jacquinot Bay.

Tied up alongside jetty at Jacquinot bay last night about 8PM and remained there until midday today. Syd would be back from exercises

now but couldn't get off to see him.

Out to sea on our way to Dreger Harbour for fuel + then to Madang for further orders - + MAIL

Buzz again – this one s'posed to be from Jacquinot. At last place of bombardment, the Japs were supposed to have barrack rooms holding 75 + we wiped out 3 of the barrack rooms. While bombardment was on our blokes saw an explosion + great clouds of smoke.

Monday 12th March

At about 0730 sighted motor boat with 2 men in it. We received a signal about 4 days ago saying that there was a launch

missing agraembne. We went up Received a very unvelcome signal Sanks in it - They had been them the night to say that they won't be able to take adult for 86 hours. He only no for refit while the end of water they had was who it thay! That a list disappointing raised or day or so ago. while we were to go in affail No we come alonguide the However som that, will not be tall yanh said "Thank god . Aoo long a herm ah well Trisco never broker half as I - maybe in a way it will be good as this ship: Afters the belled for Many in I But I Vengine failed & they drifted out would still for if that made We found then about to to it april agains ! 50 mile out to sea. They "Inerday 3t arrived thanking in We found then about to to had about up to it fairly well of forwoods. Mail about to letters + after as bath and or seran they now just about right. It sandals from Mang a Mun. Also hopes they now just about right. It sandals from Mango. Mill arrived Dregor Hadow Creat do me. I may just one of to hangemake) droffed the yanho the hiddliest adops in the wees in their book which me had bound with my sandals. Pendella fuller them left for Markong of 5 lm. Midweday 14th March

missing somewhere. We went up alongside it + there were 2 Yanks in it. They had been adrift for 86 hours – the only water they had was when it rained a day or so ago.

As we came alongside the tall Yank said "Thank God – Frisco never looked half as good as this ship". Appears their engine failed + they drifted out. We found them about 40 to 50 mile out to sea. They had stood up to it fairly well + after a bath and a scran they were just about right.

Arrived Dreger Harbour (next to Langewak) dropped the Yanks, + their boat which we had towed, fuelled then left for Madang at 5PM Received a very unwelcome signal thru' the night to say that they won't be able to take us for refit until the end of May. That's a bit disappointing when we were to go in April. However even that will not be too long a term. Ah well – maybe in a way it will be better for Marg + I. But I would still go if that made it April again.

Tuesday 13th

Arrived Madang in forenoon. Mail aboard – letters from Marg + Mum. Also papers + sandals from Margo. She'll do me. I'm just one of the tiddliest chaps in the mess with my sandals.

<u>Wednesday 14th March.</u> Vendetta

half but new get whose to an some in in the afternoon and ale had our more projector on board the Chief let it island with their lifeboat + a howamilling alt. We are going up and it works goodely so up to the a bombardualt at as soon as we cond get some films will be right. Thursday 15 the March OPEN BAY which is me on the No coast of New Britain about 100 sea miles from Rabaul so me Levolled about 32 records will keep at lookout for the with the Hendelper. got some good come mount was no across pelections from them too. Weather very cool it sea roughish a for blokes were sich, but st In the afternoon a few of us went off for as high of the was probably become this is the football, the had a good. first anything but calm see that we have I had beceived a signal new about and their Ou aroun to say that weather bad at . 4 came back about about Open Bay and may last for 3 oclock the day, so boutardment hoay Off to sear at 5 kg. Received signals about is ship that you have her be carrelled. Thiday 1th March Thipper gave us or Hall Today telling us Britain . and She has after in

came in, in the afternoon and she had our movie projector on board. The Chief set it up and it works goodoh, so as soon as we can get some films we'll be right.

Thursday 15th March

Swopped about 32 records with the Vendetta. Got some good selections from them too.

In the afternoon a few of us went off for a kick of the football. We had a good run about, and then a swim + came back aboard bout 3 oclock.

Off to sea at 5PM. Received signals about a ship that has run aground near New Britain. She has split in

half but crew got ashore to an island with their lifeboat + a transmitting set. We are going up to do a bombardment at OPEN BAY which, is on the NW coast of New Britain, about 100 sea miles from Rabaul, so we will keep a lookout for the survivors on our way across.

Weather very cool + sea roughish. A few blokes were sick, but it was probably because this is the first anything but calm sea that we have had. Received a signal to say that weather bad at Open Bay and may last for few days so bombardment may be cancelled.

<u>Friday 16th March.</u> Skipper gave us a talk today telling us

To change our gur barrels nest time what he tould . We will go to Upon Bay + see what the weather is like. The says that we will probably leave up here to bach, to Madang. arranges for as a and by the figured he project we are be kept busy in one gome will probably be hard. John in there harb chaps at I garage Island. They to haid or , look at of the fuelfiel I have seen. was sufficied to how 3 bombs where we were anchored there is also a

what he could.

To change our gun barrels next time in Madang. We will go to Open Bay – and see what the weather is like. He says that we will probably leave up here to go south about the middle of May. Until then we will carry on these bombardment jobs.

Ammunition is going to be arranged for us and by the figures he quoted we are to be kept busy + are gonna become a headache for the Japs in these parts.

Dropped three Bomb-disposal chaps at Garove Island. They are to have a look at a torpedo there. The island is one of the prettiest I have seen. Everything is a beautiful green. Couple of houses there + also a

small jetty. Like to go ashore because of the tropical fruits there. Island combines best parts of Ferntree Gully + Grampians. We are to pick the 3 chaps up on our way back to Madang.

Cruised about the VITU island group but saw no signs of survivors from Liberty ship. They aren't sure about their position so will probably be hard to locate.

Heard another buzz tonight that I hadn't heard before. I note down these buzzes whether I know they are true or unconfirmed – they will give me a smile later on. When that M/L got the plane near Wide Bay, the plane was supposed to have dropped 3 bombs where we were anchored

earlier. The plane itself was and thence to Madang. after sufforedly offer no. I that' the summerous signals the record of the preched ship has been sighted buys stryway. They some get around Of Those I be smoot search again by flow + as ship is going out for them. It's been advised tomorrow for revivous - probably do it ofter our bombardnest. I that an han bange been sighted by place - bangle is loaded by So we are to reach for that Thy overcast but no rain to sea "amost. now. leycloses about there arrived at Open Bay about 9 Am. I'm one of the signals last night succe and we are on the from this litting ship were they edge of Hym. anded up with " need helps firety danned quick. They must be a 18th March Sunday Rain rain + more rain. Blow raining for 3 but fed up with their brofinal isle) days now to it really does raise Timed about 60 shells where in these hants that rough - big burst of blacks smoke a though private may all a from to approved - their it should but . I reckon this ship is a good sea-ship the Me'd be laking a hiding in a correlle now.

earlier. The plane itself was supposedly after us – that's the buzz anyway. They sure get around.

Have to search again tomorrow for survivors – probably do it after our bombardment.

17th March Saturday

Sky overcast, but no rain + sea smooth. Arrived at Open By about 9AM. (In one of the signals last night from this liberty ship crew they ended up with "need help pretty damned quick". They must be a bit fed up with their tropical isle).

Fired about 60 shells ashore – big burst of black smoke appeared – then it started raining again. Had to leave –

Set off back for Gargove Is.

and thence to Madang. After numerous signals the crew of the wrecked ship has been sighted by plane + a ship is going out for them. We been advised that an LCM barge been sighted by plane - barge is loaded by there is no sign of any crew. So we are to search for that now. Cyclones about these areas and we are on the edge of them.

18th March Sunday

Rain, rain + more rain. Been raining for 3 days now + it really does rain in these parts. Sea rough + we are moving about a bit. I reckon this ship is a good seaship tho'. We'd be taking a hiding in a corvette now.

Still sending eyclone warnings. probably be born within a liched The Othe Bomb disposal blokes this formour Paido a forhight. That letter was withen on for your barges shelking in rentainly gove me a shock The small I bay the Hohes for realize I the event was brought files of hopingel fruit ingurous trota some of reals with them - bananas latin for now on Thank Lady Fingers bustand apples Mango Thos been fairly well out a low lows! What a feart is made to date. prould have if he got ashore Midnesday 21 at March, got a game of Mang chases me away from of Audie Rules football against home this is when I'll A core. H.M. A.S. Ma) ANG. Are flaged at my place called Alexander aval. It is about of mile out to This certainly is a beautiful 26 th Monch 45. armed rather a deant place to play Madang to get new gun Machang best us I but it was barrelos filled I and do) a a good game and we boiler alean. Heart came enjoyed Out. Offer the make aboard - though informs me sel had a dip in a small sheam nearly . That feshered

Still sending cyclone warnings.

Picked up the Bomb disposal blokes this forenoon. Quite a few Yank barges sheltering in the small bay. The blokes brought piles of tropical fruit with them – bananas, Lady's Fingers Custard Apples, Mangos + Paw Paws. What a feast a man would have if he got ashore. If Marg chases me away from home, this is where I'll come.

This certainly is a beautiful spot.

20th March 45

Arrived Madang to get new gun barrels fitted and do a boiler clean. Mail came aboard – Marg informs me that young Dyker will

probably be born within a fortnight. That letter was written on the 15th. It certainly gave me a shock to realise the event was so close. I sure start worrying from now on. Thank God, Marg has been fairly well up to date.

Wednesday 21st March

Got a game of Aussie Rules football against H.M.A.S.MADANG. We played at a place called Deslandes Oval.

It is about 7 mile out + rather a decent place to play. Madang beat us, but it was a good game and we quite enjoyed it. After the match we had a dip in a small stream nearby. That freshened

It we had Divisions during the forenoon and the Shiffin warned Allowed our ficture show po to take our atelin regular because there was a case of at night, but only films of our Trize are educational thing malaria aboard a man is a and Naby having films so fool not to take them a so fool not to take them Or yellow skin is better than soil get boing Salunday 244 March Heil Kenneth Jeoneming allachs of malaria In army I mot brought, their talked me into going off movie Aprojector and film out with line for whichet againstto the ship after their show an army team. We got. ashone. We som mererello, and beaten by four runs (with only 3 Animates to go. It was "a Jank in the R.A.F." It was almost I Am when me got to bed but it was worth while in Sunday 25th March Went If for a tech again this Tuesday, 24th March Teng Robbie affermore. At I have been and It borrowed a Analive of pearly every afternoon for lahatoi and to haddled for miles up batch weeks. He ar man could paddle at high of Alle football to get a bit of Venerise

us up a lot.

Thursday 22nd March.

Showed our picture show at night, but only films of our size are educational things and Navy training films so they soon get boring.

Saturday 24th March

Neil Kennett talked me into going off with him for cricket against an Army team. We got beaten by four runs, with only 3 minutes to go. It was quite exciting at the end.

Sunday 25th March

Went off for a kick again this afternoon. We have been off nearly every afternoon for a kick of the football to get a bit of exercise. We had Divisions during the forenoon, and the Skipper warned us to take our Atebrin regularly because there as a case of malaria aboard. A man is a fool not to take them. A yellow skin is better than concerning attacks of malaria. An Army mob brought their movie projector and film out to the ship after their show ashore. We saw newsreels, and "A Yank in the R.A.F.". It was almost 1AM when we got to bed, and it was worth while.

Tuesday 27th March

Ferg, Nobbie and I borrowed a native lakatoi and paddled for miles up back creeks. If a man could paddle

about in places like this down can remember seeing with Mang wordlight. In flaces the shears It was geronimo i about a Indian. O after the whom more but much wider than the lahadoi and the dence boys were fixing at each other undergrowth all but met over for behind Hockers and letting our Oleads. We went ashow out blood andling was whoops ! in one shot and found have Once again it was one oclock before One got to bed. de abandoned Jak Kamps. There was a lot of old Thursday 29th March Mail in shift laying about but nothing that anothing new from Margie real good of the were going the wides quite absorptly about to get some four four a A tella me not ! to worky ! As banadas but bell her som if I could, stop willing on small and green. on her I'll be angious on the get mus. better from banahas but all her som how small and green. Thum said lad has got brought Others projector A out O his discharge for the Roof. That certainly is good news! and shower a good show The feature pictures was a very vold fixture that I Thurs needs HA ad Oak how and

about in places like this down south, he would think it was wonderful. In places the streams were not much wider than the lakatoi and the dense undergrowth all but met over our heads. We went ashore in one spot and found two old abandoned camps.

There was a lot of old stuff laying about, but nothing real good. We were going to get some paw-paws + bananas, but all we saw were small and green.

At night the Army again brought their projector out and showed a good show.

The feature picture was a very old picture that I

can remember seeing with Marg at the Burnley years ago. It was Geronimo – about an Indian. After the show the boys were firing at each other from behind lockers and letting out blood-curdling war whoops. Once again it was one oclock before we got to bed.

Thursday 29th March

Mail in, but nothing new from Margie. She writes quite cheerfully and tells me not to worry. As if I could stop worrying over her. I'll be anxious until I get news. Letter from Mum said Dad has got his discharge from the Raaf. That certainly is good news.

Mum needs Dad at home and

Had has done his show in the war It is him that Had a Mun get some real off to see the boxing. The Many had 5 fights and I won 3 a hat was a hight too. It had happiness logether again. got having the largest group had that Amony in that they were fraid so made out hoy highling Augument their four bouch account to Fell - Ait will help on leave. behind. That meant they must Laborday 31st March Enter get points whichever want wow. Oan the night the Novy got Service Haster Grato sharted primarions lit afin pabol second. I'll was quite a Our rhip entered or four Berents good show for match! to gain fromt for the Navy I Sunday 1st april after Ministers now had a full meeting of and I helped bring the sche up. We won the water polo all state interested in the state matches easily. The scored The aim was for elect sets select finished sofi Knigh army 48. - ion committees for the various Davy 45" + Rack 18 H The whole and o so get things Harry has the schallest group organized. Weil Kanett thought in Ally men so did well. it was a great John nowhaling the evening me ment

Dad has done his share in the war. It is time that Dad + Mum got some real happiness together again. Got paid so made up my bank account to 26 pound – it will help on leave.

Saturday 31st March

Inter Service Easter Sports started today with the swimming. Our ship entered a few events to gain points for the Navy, and helped bring the score up. We won the water polo matches easily. The scores finished up with Army 48, Navy 45 + Raaf 18. The navy has the smallest group in the area so did well.

In the evening we went

off to see the boxing. The Navy had 5 fights and won 3, so that was alright too. The Raaf having the largest group had that many in, that they were fighting against their own service. That meant that they must get points whichever man won.

On the night the Navy got second. It was quite a good show to watch.

Sunday 1st April

After Divisions we had a full meeting of all interested in sports. The Aim was to elect select-ion committees for the various sports and so get things organised. Neil Kennett thought it was a great joke nominating me for everything. He just

missed getting me elected as enough much it rained bearily Gallaing Ool Her Americ Rules, but I ended up as one of haired throw the matel. The swothis were in better condition the three relectors. Then 5! than us but only first leat is. The game was the la mud blokes were elected as a Sports Committee on the ship scrabble. The mothers were a to arrange gear, entertain good not as flaged or good sixiling I beams 'ste one of ended hup on that loo. I I hard foir gamed so me had a good afternoon. after ship is all out for sport 4 the match we swam in the we have done more this ruch with books is all on time, in them wer before. ance again the army brought In the afternoon we flaged their picture show out it I shows. They are a good mot an Juny lead aussie Rulls at Deslandes Oval What a gar there Liggins. / it was the have been harding Monday Of Monday 2nd APRIL some consistent rain thrui the week and so the found day. When I come both was like as much fatch. To make sine that we had abound bonight there was

missed getting me elected as Captain of the Aussie Rules, but I ended up as one of the three selectors. Then 5 blokes were elected as a Sports Committee, and I ended up on that too. The ship is all out for sport + we have done more this time in than ever before.

In the afternoon we played an Army team Aussie Rules at Deslandes Oval. What a game it was. We have been having some consistent rain thru' the week and so the ground was like a mud patch. To make sure that we had

enough mud it rained heavily twice thru' the match. The swotties were in better condition than us, but only just beat us. The game was like a mud scramble. The Swotties were a good mob + played a good, hard, fair

game, so we had a good afternoon. After the match we swam in the creek with boots + all on.

Once again the Army brought their picture show out + we saw a good humorous shows. They are a good mob these Diggers.

MONDAY. MONDAY 2ND APRIL.

Today is the big day. When I came back aboard tonight, there was

that young Miss of the wouldn't the long-awaifed signal to say Athat brishin Mangaret be apply Alo read I but she arrived 1st april Both I doing is a Lyhur + is a day old well (Those last 3 monds have so she will gote able to do what I pranted to see) anything. Land Turner is for I am the father of definitely out now as my as one day old daughter. ly gitt - prishing beats I'll but Make in the frethist all lengt thong I hope she baby that has ever beet horn is like her holler. I was off in Athat hospital. He should be because she has the, at the Willetin sports. The Swan fredliest sweetest mother & down and so shings binders aport only with I rould be there and got prolib, for seconds and Othindal & endued the to show thoug , how downed frond of her of an but by gu I'll revisionly do strong & get home of hospit. broad famely on hop- steps and Jump. Obnt dight reach the Hat it is low hard confelling down a with hor my mile engament chaps who can hair a meone surgation

the long-awaited signal to say that Christine Margaret Dyker arrived 1st April. <u>Both doing well</u> (Those last 3 words are what I wanted to see).

So I am the father of a one day old daughter. I'll bet she is the prettiest baby that has ever been born in that hospital. She should be because she has the prettiest, sweetest mother. I only wish I could be there to show Marg how darned proud of her I am, but by gee, I'll certainly do it when I get home.

I had to sit straight down + write to my wife and daughter. Someone suggested

that young Miss Dyker wouldn't be able to read, but she is a Dyker + is a day old, so she will be able to do anything. Lana Turner is definitely out now so my Pin Up Girl – Christine beats them all except Marg. I hope she is like her Mother.

All day today I was off at the Athletic sports. The Swan boys entered quite a few events and got points for seconds and thirds. I entered the broad jump + hopstep and jump, but didn't reach the place getters. I did fairly well but it is too hard competing against chaps who can train every night. The funniest

Aura of the day was the especially at the end when the mile malking there. One of army school started to sprint the sman-its was in it but Butch dragged himself along factor and won. We mere as he had never done any hack walking before he menty thouse with chemic had the should in hears. The Alarmy prolled the highest laughing at his antics. He score for all the Sports Atte Tany got a close swond + was disqualified after straking it till the and last late. hast agains last. The last had The findages ears must have burie There Ryan the Australarian when they heard the remarks Sprint I champion running for and boo ing that come for them doo. The is a sight afmost everyone on the field. To worker the only time he when they heard the remarks The most describing have was got beatons was token one of the mile run. All around of Down Navy Jeans wow the Swan boys entered to try to what a nate - we hidded ownelm Aghe ship had gone to gain points. Only about 6 and of 20 finished the rare sear to try out herd new a the lower got lat 310 + Just borreld during the afternoon It it was well after they

turn of the day was the mile walking race. One of the Swan-ites was in it + he had never done any track walking before, he had the crowd in tears laughing at his antics. He was disqualified after sticking it till the 2nd last lap.

The judges ears must have burned when they heard the remarks and boo-ing that came from almost everyone on the field.

The most exciting race was the mile run. A crowd of Swan boys entered to try to gain points. Only about 6 out of 20 finished the race + the Swan got 1st, 3rd + 5th. It was really exciting

especially at the end when the Army chap started to sprint but Butch dragged himself along faster + won. We were nearly hoarse with cheering.

The Army polled the highest score for all the Sports, the Navy got a close second + Raaf came last. The Raaf had Bruce Ryan the Australasian Sprint champion running for them too. He is a sight to watch. The only time he got beaten was when one of our Navy teams won the relay race – we kidded ourselves.

The ship had gone to sea to try out her new gun barrels during the afternoon + it was well after 7PM

Mednesday 4th April when she got back in 4 me my signal come in the shipmake Weil Kennett left the souple Ool home while she ship part before we have to sear. The is going to F.N.D. was out at sea. The signal for an Officer O course good buch only took about of home ato robe - that exchait good when good officer because he has the winnits handle los much inforbant ofunctional slaff. They Shad 3 I years among the boys. Reil is at fine bloke - somehow must have realized flow I feel I'll have into him ane important my daughter was somewhere again in the future. Tuesday 3ra april A george gover He that of the ligs I who I left the We took 30 Road Allohus ship boday to go to F.N.D. at Hollandia and the tell at artape. Ate one going He then by the 19th Maybe I'll get a spread before the Hollardia first to has to get fresh food + tentem stone was Sends & got whother heromend for it I thing the

when she got back in + we could get aboard. Peculiarly, my signal came in the couple of hours while she was out at sea. The signal only took about 7 hours to come – that's extra good when the circuits handle so much important operational stuff. They must have realised how more important my daughter was.

Tuesday 3rd April

George Gavin the last of the Sigs who left Sydney on here, left the ship today to do to F.N.D. for a course. He has to be there by the 19th. Maybe I'll get a course before the war ends. I got another recommend for it during the month.

Wednesday 4th April

My old Castlemaine shipmate Neil Kennett left the ship just before we came to sea. He is going to F.N.D. for an Officer's course. Good luck to him – he will make a good officer, because he has had 3 years among the boys. Neil is a fine bloke – somehow I feel I'll run into him somewhere again in the future.

We took 30 Raaf blokes aboard. Some are getting off at Hollandia and the rest at Aitape. We are going to Hollandia first to try to get fresh food + canteen stores. We have been living on mainly bully beef for

a while now. I majority don't nive. They sit down the weather was wet + at neal time their first get stormy and the rea is fulling up a leave things. Whereber per on a fair hum about all have had smothide about they the Raaf & blokes went out like always offer to help with the light. I don't think they are dicked. In fact they would do had found of the sea. Arecho it on their own. I which it the Swam is a good sea ship is all became of the different compared to a colvette + haust performent the selvices get down felt the slightest bit like being poull. The smother still do us such Soul of the rew lot Tuesday & April arrived Hollandia blokes her four about 8 Am Stores fronties went down south a some of them the food as we are very have been there for years without having been away. what lof feels what to Sovehow they just don't him in a would blike swollies and soilors. They ment all received as good quantity of stone cased of tomathers the Shippen the some but the great

a while now.

The weather is wet + stormy and the sea is putting on a fair turn. About all the Raaf blokes went out like lights. I don't think they are too fond of the sea. I reckon the Swan is a good sea ship compared to a corvette + haven't felt the slightest bit like being sick. Some of the crew lost a bit of food. These Raaf blokes are just up from down south + some of them have been there for years without having been away.

Somehow, they just don't mix in a crowd like swotties and sailors. They aren't all the same, but the great

majority don't mix. They sit down at meal time then just get up + leave things. Whenever we have had swotties aboard, they always offer to help with the dishes. In fact they would do it on their own. I think it is all because of the different treatment the services get down south. The swotties will do us.

5th April

Arrived Hollandia about 8PM. Stores parties went off to get canteen stores + fresh food as we are very short of fresh stuff. We were successful because we received a good quantity of stores, among them being a few cases of tomatoes. The Skipper obtained a fair quantity of yout the olf communication between connect being also for the ships aircraft to the ship for the short confrancy. Left Hollandia about these blokes only find arrived 9 fairs for fittage for suffer and get they wanted that their their and give us a statetog that their arrived likely be the thirt of and give us a in Thomson. Heavy such rolling spell. I will a contract to those . Ohr insident Shaffered when that Mohes. There was a rough the amphibigus come alonguide to of come of been on to me dahe the hant blokes all haid for the smothers. They thought the smother their heeled over it was goodaly. in the "duch" will malaria. Saturday of the Spile Went One of the hank book change to near Dague about 20 mile the new no sooner in four Warsh . We only fried Alon the 6th Din HD invited about half a dozen state 60 ratings ashow to fictures shots + who on Other larget mill supper after it little get on gell will these swollies. Three Orbillery ligo come when it shouled for from with nois. We woited about for a while but it didn't phop Woord into our when they as no hade for returne for

obtained a fair quantity of Yank canned beer also for the ships company. Left Hollandia about 9PM for Aitape.

4th April

Arrived Aitape in forenoon. Heavy surf rolling in. An incident happened when the amphibian came alongside to take the Raaf blokes off.

The swottie driver keeled over in the "duck" with malaria.

One of the Raaf took charge of the duck.

We were no sooner in than the 6th Div HQ. invited 60 ratings ashore to pictures with supper after it. We get on well with these swotties.

Three Artillery Sigs came aboard into our mess. They

do the W/T communication between aircraft + the ship for the shoot.

These blokes only just arrived for supper and yet they wanted to dish up and give us a spell. Quite a contrast to those Raaf blokes. There was a couple of cans of beer on + we paid for the swotties. They thought it was goodoh.

7th April

Went out about 2AM up the coast to near Dagua about 20 mile from Wewak. We only fired about half a dozen shots + were on the target, when it started to pour with rain. We waited about for a while but it didn't stop so we had to return to

Distagle. It is not good shooting these places in a cray or who eshow there will also should helper the should helper the should helper the distribution of this shoot should helper the list.

The aircraft count see, whether Joy, out a bit.

The aircraft are on the harget or there is smother in our mess that he will be a filesense. these places in a clay or so now me grande blokis this a pleasure have Sometrong Africa 9th Left about 8 Am to the anything for their betrouse - This clear day . When we they are no appreciation he for get those we first about 400 disting up after meals they rounds on 4 langer the insist on doing the heary west. aircraft reported that shoot we the how lasted them up to very surchasful. All shoots wer a fair lit of bobacco + rigaretter and larget except last couple that we had and they couldn't of rounder at find target to enough, for me. Mich gove he had and books any haddress My fell for the right. Out the sloot at the village our stells fell right in and around the so that he could send more when he got it. Noch rechons willage and when me had finished the aircraft reported no if he gets back her next movement from Where. Our school he will do, his infantry will be their to get us a Jof, rifle

Aitape. It is no good shooting ashore during the rain, because the aircraft cannot see, whether the shots are on the target or not.

April 9th

Left about 8AM – fine clear day. When we got there we fired about 400 rounds on 4 targets. The aircraft reported that shoot was very successful. All shoots were on target except last couple of rounds at first target – they fell to the right. At the shoot at the village, our shells fell right in and around the village and when we had finished the aircraft reported no movement from there. Our infantry will be thru' to

these places in a day or so now + this shoot should clear the Jap out a bit.

These 3 swotties in our mess are grand blokes. It's a pleasure to do anything for them, because they are so appreciative. As for dishing up after meals, they insist on helping every meal.

We have lashed them up to a fair bit of tobacco + cigarettes that we had and they couldn't do enough for us. Mick gave us the Jap invasion money he had and took my address so that he could send more when he got it. Noel reckons if he gets back here next shoot he will do his best to get us a Jap rifle.

or something like that. according to the letter four after Alter shoot mer header thong tale shows no right of back to But airship where going into hapital yet. That our smallies have their hear and had work . No right of going into hospital is all that a block of the stay old. Theyou shay informing Ha. We seem spoon but they could send no ligger flucked it ofon a robe How la ficture out night - as confle of what + least of King I som delided not to meso rande Mest of Kin in Thursday Esland the whaler eight inchora. I year ago so when it raised to decided to get a full nights So the swolling are for some will as top Madeing or return by air. Mahwally of they arent sleep instead of seeing the Oshow. Lusday 1th Stryl. Left Shackang gently different Maretay Think 10th Guried calling of hangemak then Trackang and stought oranight. on the Mike Bay to get Mail lame abound that it ! ammunition. Work got 10 hassenger some Amisering on it was nearly all about the forhight ald in our was agard, They are mostly looders going to himale + Mr. Kay do alter

or something like that.

After the shoot we headed back to But airstrip where our swotties have their rear infantry H.Q. We were s'posed to drop the swotties there, but they could send no barge out and our Skipper decided not to send the whaler right inshore.

So the swotties are to come with us to Madang + return by air. Naturally they aren't exactly displeased.

Monday April 10th

Arrived Madang and stayed overnight. Mail came aboard but it was very disappointing. There was some missing + it was nearly all about a fortnight old.

According to the letters from Marg she shows no sign of going into hospital yet. That's not bad work. No sign of going into hospital + she has a baby 10 days old. Maybe she plucked it from a rose. Had a picture at night – a couple of shorts + Next of Kin. I saw Next of Kin in Thursday Island 2 years ago, so when it rained I decided to get a full nights sleep instead of seeing the show.

Tuesday 11th April.

Left Madang, calling at Langewak then on to Milne Bay to get ammunition. We got 10 passengers in our mess again. They are mostly coders going to L'wah + M.Bay to relieve

alm sen. I Nothrie Hall om chops who have done their time. They are Navy that and they calm see. A Nobbie tall our over even work that the last other Spaker has now got out the bloker are had recently thought deaft to lenguin look the has show service breeds ill-makeres pleas on her Jover 2 years, line I some here Blue bigdelow has & relfishouss - anyway there gone Ray hillington Hich Chapman blokes how restrict A got them. Only one out of ten offered to bell irrespective of the fast that Nobbid. Tegril is the only old there are 10 of the + they have hands left loss here. wolking to do. Tour of the diopped or depth shange them on guling off at limet for practice today. The layer Abank goodness + after that rivilled round Aloohing for it is boly about 36 home fish but me rouldn't see any The change redainly gives the before me A get hid of the rest. ghip or high when I she everylodes We hope wel how our was to ourselves for a shang coming bad & think the jett was bearing thursday April 12th Jafter is Leavier in the wireless cabin than when the guns are firing. my storing night boday hat humen out beautiful

chaps who have done their time. They are Navy chaps and they are even worse than the Raaf blokes we had recently. Maybe shore service breeds ill-manners and selfishness – anyway these blokes have certain got them.

Only one out of ten offered to help irrespective of the fact that there are 10 of them + they have nothing to do. Four of them are getting off at L'wah thank goodness + after that it is only about 3-1/2 hours before we get rid of the rest.

We hope we have our mess to ourselves for a change coming back.

<u>Thursday April 12th After a very stormy night, today has turned out beautiful.</u>

A sunny day, slight breeze + calm sea. Nobbie Hall our other Sparker has now got a draft to Penguin Pool. He has been on here over 2 years. Since I came here, Blue Bradshaw has gone, Ray Millington, Dick Chapman + George Gavan – now there is Nobbie. Cyril is the only old hand left on here.

We dropped a depth charge for practice today. The Skipper circled round looking for fish, but we couldn't see any. The charge certainly gives the ship a kick when she explodes. I think the jolt was heavier in the wireless cabin than when the guns are firing.

a year ago. It is now very west and comfoliable Ladava best us at but we had a good + the match was fairly oflaged Leve. I Another surprise was A when allonged a game sour Wilhes. This is last ferritory I expected to new him It applies that he had his 27 days leave after Jeans was Allow Levis & had Is months in garning went been booking everywhere for his to Balmoral on lasted Ino home at Madano Hel has been like & did . He is washing here for four worths and In the lo young . the things on - Joboop is rechand it works - good qualus, findenses our ammanition of Tahmally Wille and I did gind a dist of makening after the problem in had a mil. The hadava mot have What depot itself has although 100 for since I was here over rigged a should food net.

Friday 13th April

Steamed into Milne Bay during the forenoon. This place also "a shadow of it's former self". We were about the only ship in here.

Butch arranged a game of Aussie Rules for the afternoon + the Skipper of the Ladova team was Allan Lewis. I had been looking everywhere for him at Madang. He has been here for four months and reckons it is goodoh – no work – good quarters, pictures every night and a place to play football – and a swimming baths. As a matter of fact that depot itself has altered 100% since I was here over

a year ago. It is now very neat and comfortable.

Ladava beat us at football but we had a good game + the match was fairly played.

Another surprise was when I saw Wilkes. This is the last territory I expected to see him. It appears that he had his 27 days leave after the 12 months in Darwin, went to Balmoral + lasted two hours like I did. He is waiting for the Po Yang – the thing we are waiting for for our ammunition. Naturally Wilkes + I did quite a bit of nattering.

After the match we had a swim. The Ladava mob have rigged a shark proof net,

suffort. I'll give of football up built a diving board and even have a showing laid or there. Salunday 14th April Wilher called out in I went back with him after bush to see as youth brusots that about rest of the day horaly moving from the somet franky ashow. The horse nome of a money of the subsissioner Monday 16th April, another Oblantiful The show likely want too bad day ! The weather certainly has but unless women one good action her good her this little. Thilese I rather think they afford a show Bay Go nice when the mealled up here I think the magnite is Their a root breeze out of the same thrus the day + to been what bluon apola to good elever art, than see a Owomen first showing herrelf of. I was glad At get back" about this because any have known to rain how for 3 weeks mas fully now. I hidded it without or stop. The lo young avaised in playing Aportall yerlinday and that their than at 6 Pag a we ment schaight other times that I have done to alonguide her to get

built a diving board, and even has 2 showers laid on there.

Saturday 14th April

Wilkes called out + I went back with him after lunch to see a Yank concert party ashore. The party consisted of 3 women + 2 men.

The show itself wasn't too bad, but unless women are good artists I rather think they spoil a show up here. I think the majority of chaps would rather see a good clever act than see a woman just showing herself off.

I was glad to get back aboard tho' because my knee was pretty sore. I twisted it playing football yesterday and it is sorer this time than other times that I have done that.

Until I can get an elastic knee support, I'll give up football up here.

Sunday 15th April

Divisions in forenoon, then spent rest of the day hardly moving from the mess. This knee is annoying.

Monday 16th April

Another beautiful day. The weather certainly has been good here this time. Milne Bay is nice when the weather is. There's a cool breeze, out of the sun thru' the day + the evenings are cool + starry. As a contrast it has been known to rain here for 3 weeks without a stop.

The Po Yang arrived in at 6PM + we went straight alongside her to get our

ammunition. The rould only let they are calling at gregor Harbon us have 1600 shells. Withou for full their going I shaight to Aitage Signal them sent to came about here while me wet (or first damped) behins head forward and mail there as me then I swent and had a look gaint wait to call at hadang at his ship. The is a connected Should be a good him up muchant ship + my soomy , there this tile The miles office is a beauty herday 17th April another beautiful. to contains a separate and reliable day Thejority of blokes readed.

often their long night best night
Whiffen had to be careful

coming out breage of a couple
of how rup. Having the the single tel, & the figs occupy That what &'d like I to got a ship where I was the order Sparker having the office of afternoon he pressed a yout glan all her omyself liberty ship in the neeps of and lune sailors morthed all thippin sound you doin give a night carrying the arrayor guy much room the youth about & I had the 1600 in Offshid book " Sorry One didn't by half front for or three. know we were passing a At a must bo near about 5.30 Ag baller ship"

ammunition. She could only let us have 1600 shells. Wilkes came aboard here while we wet (or just damped) Chris's head then I went and had a look at his ship. She is a converted merchant ship + very roomy. The wireless office is a beaut + contains a separate cabin with 3 bunks in which the single Tel + the Sigs occupy. That's what I'd like to get.A ship where I was the only Sparker, having the office + gear all to myself.

Our sailors worked all night carrying the ammo aboard + had the 1600 in by half past two or three. We went to sea about 5.30AM

We are calling at Dreger Harbour for fuel then going straight to Aitape. Signal been sent to forward our mail there as we can't wait to call at Madang. Should be a good turn up there this time.

Tuesday 17th April

Another beautiful day. Majority of blokes crashed after their long night last night.

Skipper had to be careful coming out because of a couple of new reefs. During the afternoon we passed a Yank liberty ship in the reefs + our Skipper said "You don't give a guy much room" The Yank flashed back "Sorry, we didn't know we were passing a battle-ship"

Triday 20 april arrest Cliffe fust after 8 Pm me dropped a at 1 0100 this morning. pattern of sleft changes - we Awing the formon 120 bag of flow to Oblion stational defalls they dropped a couple more mark rong about but they fachet. Lelles one what a timera to tral appeals at Owens a wrecked ship on the sea bottone which gove the Mong so morning lear will modallie echo. Ne hand quite a stock of shells filled on 4 Fairniles and for them below - makenally the Winsh Force for working Simin when the father of charge went off lumerofuctedly Alshe was as little bit of wondering furt about a month. So that what the explosions were ! a month, to that Wedgesday 18th April I willed chances of going down Gregor haybour but wasted - the middle of though so wonder is that gingers with in + headed for Hilafe hidre show It Homas

Just after 8PM we dropped a pattern of depth charges – we flew to Action Stations while they dropped a couple more charges. But it wasn't a sub, it was a wrecked ship on the sea bottom which gave the metallic echo. We had quite a stock of shells piled on deck as there was no room for them below – naturally when the pattern of charges went off unexpectedly there was a little bit of wondering just what the explosions were.

Wednesday 18th April

Fuelled at Dreger Harbour but wasted no time + headed for Aitape.

Thursday 19th At sea.

Friday 20th April

Arrived Aitape at 0100 this morning. During the forenoon 20 bags of mail came aboard but they were all full of papers + packets. Letters are what we want. I got 2 cakes + some biscuits from Marg so morning tea will be done in style for a few days.

The three corvettes, Deloraine, Dubbo + Colac + 4
Fairmiles are now the "Wewak Force" for working with
the 6th Div to Wewak. We are Senior Officer.
Skipper reckons we'll be here about a month. So that
ruins our chances of going down in the middle of May,
so wonder when we'll go now.

In the evening we had a picture show. It was Bette

Davis in Mo" Sheffington - good the ficture, "To have or have not" starting thumphry Bogant. That Laborday 21st April for good show him had about Lead 24th April Bot Age to do line - ameging . The espect on delar so July how roselles south + me to go shead + I went whose logther. Sunday 22nd April Last night & this himming we did be didn't short milit 130 m. We and ander pahal up year got how rubbish bins that the island when the John used didn't small low back laid a flanks between them I as had to get stores in but no sign of anything. Returned la real. The houble of might was that it alleded had anthor of Ket, leaving of the rain door thunder and there about Jockach reaching Ronday 23rd Rhil low of lighting on forming rain continued the trop went of surfing lodgy tides we couldn't hear Bot It pio Ogood suf you became of rain + thunder

Davis in Mrs. Sheffington – good show too.

Sunday 21st April

Off to sea in the afternoon with our fleet to do minesweeping. The corvettes swept + we go ahead covering them.

Sunday 22nd April

Last night + this morning we did an Asdec patrol up near the island where the Japs used to get stores in, but no sign of anything.

Returned to anchor off But, leaving there about 9 oclock reaching Aitape 2 oclock.

Monday 23rd April

Some of the boys went off surfing today. It is good surf here.

In the evening we had

the picture "To have or have not", starring Humphrey Bogart. That's two good shows we've had aboard.

Tuesday 24th April

Bob Dyer concert on ashore so Ferg, Lou + I went ashore together. We got out to the "Regal Theatre" at about 6PM + the concert didn't start until 7.30PM. We got two rubbish bins that didn't smell too bad, laid a plank between them + so had a seat. The trouble of the night was that it started raining about 6.30PM. Believe me, it did rain too. Thunder and lightning + pouring rain continued right thru' the show. At times we couldn't hear Bob Dyer because of rain + thunder

It says a lot for his show and have got met on the Jundreds the majorthy of the my back in the heavy driving I'm. Will , once back abound all. I don't remember ever being - soon died ourselver, made a bear + muy right again so not wet before them! the show the thunder eased as let tednesday 216th Shill Off a by first But No one of the was Bob Ayer are accordinate + 4 money Oir his show The mome he pohed 200 rounds into twee plantan bone sisself were - places when they are siposed rough + harsly common which. In how gons quarting the like the youth concert fastis. chamela. Mirraft very fleared The whole I show word I wohar good after the show me fradelist with our shoot! borrestes I did top but the whom in thools a shoot but with their single = wich gam (Woolwork's gav - wolling or huch back to the Oweler one 26 May are ineffective. front live went out by "ducks" Dearfort tombus did the place ho as a bonge thence her the ship. It she had have had our taken our shoot of between as wel left quite as lit of any they shots they cutainly es mero lashof.

It says a lot for his show when the majority of the hundreds there sat thru' it all. I don't remember ever being so wet before. Thru' the show the thunder eased a bit + we could hear alright. There was Bob Dyer, an accordionist + 4 women in his show. The women were Aussies and naturally weren't rough + harshly common voiced like the Yank concert parties. The whole show was extra good.

After the show we paddled about in water till we got a truck back to the water front. We went out by "ducks" to a barge, thence to the ship. If we had have had any dry spots they certainly

would have got wet on the way back in the heavy driving rain. Still, once back aboard we soon dried ourselves, made a brew + were right again.

Wednesday 25th April

Off to sea in the forenoon. Went up past But to one of the big islands near the mainland. We poked 20 rounds into two places where they are s'posed to have guns guarding the channels. Aircraft very pleased with our shoot. Corvettes did a shoot, but with their single 4 inch gun (Woolworth's gun – nothing over 2/6) they are ineffective.

Beaufort bombers did the place over after our shoot + between us we left quite a bit of a mess ashore.

The shings finely about in the There another buys - in a day or sor Joirniles are going to go throw that channel J. Tof they from the steel go throw to the stee of they fire. I then if me aget throw it will probably be It But about 9Pm to arrived Lunday 26th April Turned out a treatiful day loday Prite a for of the long went off making again 1430 Mar was Considered safe to things our smothing them' by bonge " these bombondonents my getting with a famice. A flave hade a bit monotonous nour. I had! sighted a sut hear Wench Alah bank wahara waamaf with robust about that big island an hour for bunch in which I - me all ordered for go look had to dish up the mers. In thispen was ashow offers 20 Then at my action Stations wild is operator - the only Spanker the liberty man. The I deloraine left in the office - A for His how a Andbo have ason away . Our Back on watch at 6 peloph to thipper some back it with do my hast flog . I was a him at four of the librity on lift tick of being about in the shaned sound to take thing as four of the library men The sheared Nound to thehere the boys were surfing + attacked there hoday. Its gun fine

There's another buzz – in a day or so Fairmiles are going to go thru' that channel + if they pass them we'll go thru' to see if they fire. Then if we get thru' it will probably be considered safe to bring our swotties thru' by barge.

These bombardments are getting a bit monotonous now. I had the forenoon watch, had half an hour for lunch in which I had to dish up the mess. Then at my Action Stations which is operator – the only Sparker left in the office – for about 4-1/2 hours. Back on watch at 6 oclock to do my Last Dog. I was a bit sick of being stuck in there today. The gun fire

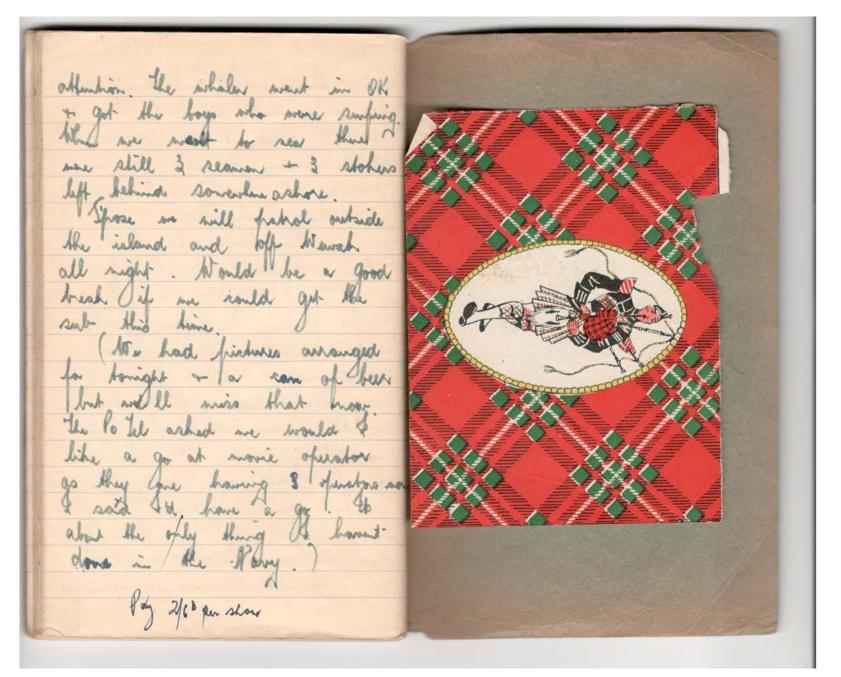
makes things jump about in the W/T cabin quite a bit. Left But about 9PM + arrived Aitape about 1 or 2 AM.

Thursday 26th April

Turned out a beautiful day today. Quite a few of the boys went off surfing again.

About 1430 there was quite a panic. A plane had sighted a sub near Wewak round about that big island + we all ordered to go look.

Our Skipper was ashore plus 20 odd liberty men. The Deloraine + Dubbo were soon away. Our Skipper came back + with him a few of the liberty men. We steamed round to where the boys were surfing + attracted



attention. The whaler went in OK + got the boys who were surfing. When we went to sea there were still 3 seamen + 3 stokers left behind somewhere ashore.

S'pose we will patrol outside the island and off Wewak all night. Would be a good break if we could get the sub this time.

(We had pictures arranged for tonight + a can of beer but we'll miss that now. The PO Tel asked me would I like a go at movie operator as they are having 3 operators now. I said I'd have a go. Pay 2/6 per show. It's about the only thing I haven't done in the Navy.)