

BOOK 3

TEL.B. DYKER

27th April 1945 17th June 1945

Happy Birthday to start the book Marg.

Friday 27th April, 1945

Did an Asdec patrol last night thru' till this morning but the sub is probably back at Tokyo now. In the afternoon ourselves and the Deloraine did a shoot at the point of KIARIRU island. There were two six inch guns and a couple of huts there. It was a beautiful clear calm day and the target could be seen from the ship. We poured 200 shots into it and the Deloraine fired all she had as she was going south after the shoot. It was a shoot worth watching. We wiped the huts out and raised smokes from stores. The Deloraine did a

good shot with her single it inch At one shot made a short hit. on a six inch gum - a burd of flamo way wood as high as the her- topo, lilot of flow reported when gum danaged by strapment + Owhole when. A The fait on the island restainly looked lower and based Haffer we left it. the returned for But + are for make this our base now er of litage is los for back. · Mail som about los not oranuch but nevertheless mail They daughter offeren to be getting prettier and prettier Sahuday April 25th. Called in at Oldage trion frameding

to Hollandia for fully Sunday April 29th In Tollows during formoon weiding about to get fuel get fink as surprise when Noll Hestro. was in a book alongwide us. he is on, he salvage high Tanared . In the extring was able to get across there for supper. There was fresh tomatoes encumber lettuce + thinly sliced ham followed by fuch fait rolad to jelly Well & and you : was that worth while going for? We had a good old maker about things to Noll was coming back with me but as toon as his boot arrived at our ship to fich up his officers

good shot with her single 4 inch and one shot made a direct hit on a six inch gun – a burst of flame rose as high as the tree tops. Pilot of plane reported other gun damaged by shrapnel and whole area.

The point on the island certainly looked lower and bare after we left it.

We returned to But + are to make this our base now as Aitape is too far back.

Mail came aboard too – not overmuch but nevertheless mail.

My daughter appears to be getting prettier and prettier each day by all accounts.

<u>Saturday April 28th</u> Called in at Aitape before proceeding to Hollandia for fuel.

Sunday 29th April

In Hollandia during forenoon waiting about to get fuel. Got quite a surprise when Noel Testro was in a boat alongside us. He is on the salvage tug Tancred. In the evening I was able to get across there for supper. There was fresh tomatoes, cucumber, lettuce and thinly sliced ham, followed by fresh fruit salad and jelly. Well I ask you – was that worth while going for? We had a good old natter about things and Noel was coming back with me, but as soon as his boat arrived at our ship to pick up his officers

they Swan fulled safe has frich + Leaded back for But. I form head ever slightly clamphed again, Christinis of Back at But on the 30th Investory of May at anchor all day of Leens as the we night lied here for a four day. Then is a last coming of soon by the look of signal! but while therfoodily we'll just want about for day West exhaul in the whaler for about half on how to have a surin It was goodsh.

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Jap rifles from another adhore

John rope of the how army

blokes who have been on her? for as much in our mess - got

woods tonight. Thinks it may be malaria. There anothing are as annal good blokes. They certainly dig out in the wess - we can't got 'em for stop beling every no or good mat this 6th Minry to an good mat right thru! Objectively 20 Heil May Ino conveller and outlier steamed down part traval to do a shoot Hoday Nothing could be seen except for show bush as the range was 15000 yards. Or number of the shells droffed short but filet of flame said the area may well rowed tobert larget this Anie more 15 mm. galle again. Mh stid a frathal about of more

the Swan pulled up her pick and headed back for But. Your head was slightly dampened again, Christine – back at But on the 30th.

Tuesday 1st May

At anchor all day. Seems as tho' we might lie here for a few days. There is a turn coming off soon by the look of signal but until then possibly we'll just wait about for days.

Went ashore in the whaler for about half an hour to have a swim. It was goodoh. Quite a few of the boys got Jap rifles from swotties ashore.

Tom – one of the two Army blokes who have been on here for a week in our mess – got

crook tonight. Thinks it may be malaria. These swotties are as usual, good blokes. They certainly dig out in the mess – we can't get 'em to stop helping every meal. This 6th Divvy is a good mob right thru'.

Wednesday 2nd May

Two corvettes and ourselves steamed down past Wewak to do a shoot today. Nothing could be seen except for smoke bursts as the range was 15,000 yards. A number of the shells dropped short but pilot of plane said the area was well covered. Target this time was 75mm guns again.

ML's did a patrol right outside Wewak Harbour and were

fired on They do faholo my himself married nest have have. right close inshore + He not hell the old ships bogo beed fired on but not list or ful times. Friday 4th May thursday their May zea Poyang the homenither m come in this formon with the forenoon Table some emmanchion for las. We are alongfide us and gave up les to take 1400 1 + the cornelles earled final as all a below quite as lot each, so some are going to dollardia to John somewher you going to get a refuel H they have to be Readech learner wire holing both by Tunday morning all afternoon and night at so marke their a hum on loading amore. We are taking then . This thippen doesn't let as know much about what is 600 abound a fulling 800 ashor till are have space for them. going on the frought back four Wilhes on the loying Tella me the Regent theate than burned out Jof O housmiller or plane today to a small for for but he do got quite as four burst down. That where his 'squarie works for By all lindications Wither will have I good knot at I fork from

fired on. They do patrols every night close inshore and have been fired on, but not hit, a few times.

Thursday May 3rd

Poyang came in this forenoon with ammunition for us. We are to take 1400 and the corvettes quite a lot each, so some Japs somewhere are going to get a headache. Seamen were working all afternoon and night at loading ammo. We are taking 600 aboard and putting 800 ashore till we have space for them. Saw Wilkes on the Poyang. Tells me the Regent Theatre been burnt down. That's where his 'squarie' works too. By all indications Wilkes will have

himself married next time home. Must tell the old ship boys about this.

Friday May 4th

Did a bit of instruction on the transmitter in the forenoon. Dubbo came alongside us and gave us her extra fuel as she and Colac are going to Hollandia to refuel. They have to be back by Sunday morning so maybe there's a turn on them. This Skipper doesn't let us know much about what is going on.

P.O. Tel brought back a burned out Jap transmitter from a plane today. It's a small job, but he got quite a few good knobs and parts from it.

Salunday 5th May a wondered around the old ariship 500 lb bout of series in late affermoon. Inf warit los high but united it the crakes injugable too are everythere. Tumerous Shalday 6th May boweths returned flower living about along the The went out with Mhs sides of the ship, mostly and Landing Graft for exercise all burked . They are for invasion! Swollies went about overgrown Lith out on correttes the climbed already I Hothing of array much into barges which rushed them good left after the into a Obrack. Boch to But Compt have gone over the of unchased again. shill a lot Monday on May Show leave a man would take if for a P secretify franky granted down south . Guile the huch load of chaps went for a ride stand actually didn't are ampling

Saturday 5th May

At anchor all day – but went inshore for ¾ hours swim in late afternoon. Surf wasn't too high, but was enjoyable.

Sunday 6th May

Corvettes returned and we went out with ML's and Landing Craft for exercises for invasion. Swotties went out on corvettes then climbed into barges which rushed them into a beach. Back to But and anchored again.

Monday 7th May

Shore leave for a recreation party granted. One truck load of chaps went for a ride round the hills down to Dagua but actually didn't see anything

much. We wandered around to the old airship at But. The 500lb bombs of our blokes and the Yanks sure ruined it. The craters, huge too, are everywhere. Numerous planes lying about along the sides of the strip, mostly all burned. They are just about overgrown with grass already. Nothing of very much good left after the salvage mob have gone over them, but still a lot of stuff a man would take if it was down south. Quite a lot of the boys got Jap rifles and the carbines.

<u>Tuesday 8th May</u> Duty ship + will be for good by the

sound of things like mis listering for the Hobout to send us a and Warramungs. The Hundar was will the I inch crucier logistage about he arrival. 11.14.5. Nyufombland as, for mile Mono Stonight said 6th Dim away I was quite fulny. are now July 2 mile from Whati shorts in cape when we Wednesday got May Okilalf watch were near the Counddones ship left when we must up to and of Jumany's collapse come Ofice a message arrow to the What they had all son of what on it may four capo. your all have have to do in So our thippers That huned out smark the Jap + we'll all be home. How for good - it as fohe. We must back to But I but the illest showed sounds as the three has never down to bombard hape Borans. been ruch a thing, but give no or chance + will from wellle Lieset Pring the Artillery Aloke into it guickly. That the that out is who condicts the arming lianson for all our shoot. Atte bla formation and " met Mobart two the full hale of the

sound of things. We are listening for the Hobart to send us a message about her arrival. News tonight said 6th Div are now only 2 miles from Wewak.

Wednesday May 9th

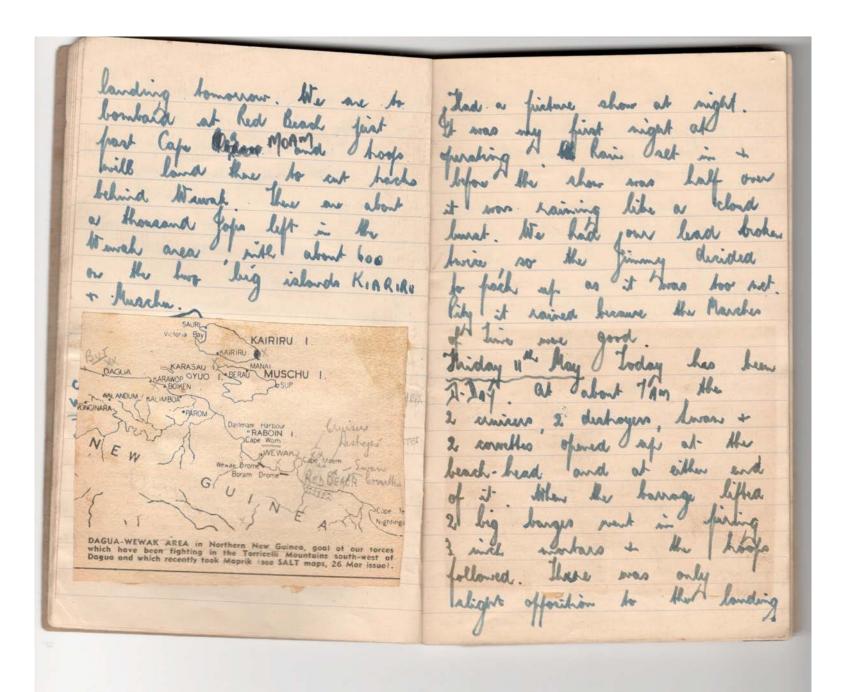
Other half watch got leave today + went ashore but saw nothing new. Good news of Germany's collapse came over today. That's what we want. Now all we have to do is smash the Jap and we'll all be home. Home for good – it sounds as tho' there has never been such a thing, but give us a chance and we'll soon settle into it quickly.

Thursday 10th May

Went out in forenoon and met Hobart and Warramunga. The Arunta was with the 6 inch cruiser H.M.S. Newfoundland a few miles away. It was quite funny – our skipper made us wear khaki shorts and caps when we were near the Commodore's ship, yet when we went up to fire a message across to the Hobart

they had all sorts of shorts on and very few caps. So our Skippers show turned out a joke. We went back to But but the fleet steamed down to bombard Cape Boram.

Had a lecture from Lieut Pring the Artillery bloke who conducts the Army liaison for all our shoots. He told us the full tale of the



landing tomorrow. We are to bombard at Red Beach just past Cape MOAM and troops will land there to cut tracks behind Wewak. There are about a thousand Japs left in the Wewak area with about 600 on the 2 'big' islands KIARIRU and Muschu

(Map inserted on page)

Had a picture show at night. It was my first night at operating. Rain set in and before the show was half over it was raining like a cloud burst. We had our lead broken twice, so the Jimmy decided to pack up as it was too wet. Pity it rained because the Marches of Time were good.

Friday 11th May

Today has been D-Day. At about 7AM the 2 cruisers, 2 destroyers, Swan and 2 corvettes opened up at the beach-head and a t either end of it. When the barrage of fired lifted, 2 big barges went in firing 3 inch mortars and the troops followed. There was only slight opposition to the landing.

The Jops how fled very horriedly Jovendo evening, primere absorber as many signs widered . Out left for But it this time blokes book I some recret documents are if it was rate . Nothing made to mingrae of itself haffored as me'll me the bolor + Autho brikneets take off-2 hours showing around Kin R needed. The Jops fled to hills & will fight in groups. all the day rould her sidfersions bouge along mortons, then further over the smoke from that artillery way back near thental Our that we some this). The high flateau a down infortigues out working on hosition from But he hape wom this can are stouch front bringer boulded Want forten too

The Japs had fled very hurriedly as many signs evidenced. Our blokes took some secret documents just after they landed. A 75mm gun made a nuisance of itself but the Colac and Dubbo silenced it. Apart from that we all stood off shore in case we were needed. The Japs fled to the hills and will fight there in groups. All the day we could see explosions from the mortars, then further over the smoke from the Artillery a long way back near Wewak. Our troops took Wewak Point today but Japs have caves everywhere in the high plateau and our infantrymen are working on them with flame throwers.

Cruisers bombarded Wewak foreshore too.

Towards evening ourselves and Dubbo left for But. This time we sailed thru' Muschu Straits to see if it was safe. Nothing happened so we'll use these straits now. It cuts off about 2 hours steaming around KAIRIRU Island. Straits look rather nice.

(As we steamed past Wewak Harbour I could see about 4 sunken ships, a couple of jetties and numerous barges along the foreshore. Atop of Wewak Point were our Aussie tents and it's from there the Artillery are firing – X this was on the 13th that we saw this).

Sunday 12th May

Shifted our base position from But to Cape WOM. We can see Wewak Point from

here. It was here that some yanks from NADZAB did over the andle all day. The day was 2/10 Tild Regt michaling them for Jops. The yorks billie H land mounded II aussies, so of brankful thefical day in fact at bunch time they let they had better not some within short while one the side. The a range of our disthe Divry game funny war. We are how remaining again. Some of our boy hand but a smoothing are aumining on ablore but couldn't get for around the artilling but one on the go all the him with the break get not for whole me can new artillary I abello bushing on hills and beaufast harassing fire at the Jope in bombas & doing townh area over Her hills I Sipose sto Whigh but The RABE had been making I'm all for a fraceful Olife hard all this much. They are they should for their gens built doing Warch our continually Sunday 13th May Steamed down with 500 founders . They also did the Red heaple over with me Red Teach Jand anchord close on I Day the was on our way beck that we get quite in . Fired orlibers at formand as me passed . Evidently not at good look their Oglansker

here. It was here that some Yanks from NADZAB did over the 2/1st Field Regt mistaking them for Japs. The Yanks killed 4 and wounded 11 Aussies, so they had better not come within range of our 6th Divvy guns again. Some of our boys went ashore but couldn't get far around. The Artillery here are on the go all the time with harassing fire at the Japs in the hills. S'pose it's alright but I'm all for a peaceful life – they should fit their guns with silencers.

Sunday 13th May Steamed down to Red Beach and anchored close in. Fired oerlikens at MOAM as we passed. Evidently no targets for us as we lay at anchor all day. The day was a beautiful tropical day – in fact at lunch time they let each watch for a short while swim over the side. It's a funny war. We are here swimming here – swotties are swimming on the beach, yet not far inland we can see artillery shells bursting on hills and Beaufort bombers doing Wewak area over. The RAAF have been working hard all this week. They are doing Wewak over continually with '500 pounders'. They also did Red Beach over with us on D-DAY. It was on our way back that we got quite a good look thru' glasses

at Nevali Harbour. bould see was on hop as we must up by smoke on Would from where flower throwns were bling on rows in Lill side. Infantry releaving see Hom. On the way of we had a look at a " cover on hillride + artillry on hop firing their guns further it. They go right in whole the hill to prouble be as menare bolac left to go south this from Ylane for clear enemy affuncion. That's I closine + Musicas are the only effective bolac out of me original Newah weapon - on by set find mirible Jose . Aubbo has first some uf for south so las soon as hold us that ag far was known this loves is cleaned up will most of the Jose had been probably go (we hope) Monday Jet May anchord of of old shalf lying about, but your for team in afternoon bothing real wathable. spiring of spirors photology ashow. We got a huch ride cover, but going in amongst right round Other breaks + got No Woush Gount, Jones Oballery shihing brouble didn't affect

at Wewak Harbour. Could see smoke on the Wewak point where flame throwers were being on caves on hillside, Infantry clearing cases on hillside and artillery on top firing their guns further onward.

Colac left to go south this afternoon. That's Deloraine and Colac out of our original Wewak force. Dubbo has just come up from south so as soon as this area is cleaned up we'll probably go (we hope).

Monday May 14th

Anchored at WOM. Got leave in afternoon and Tom (the swottie), Ferg and I went ashore. We got a truck ride right round the beach and got to Wewak point. Tom's battery

was on top so we went up to see them. On the way up we had a look at a lot of the caves and ex-camps. One of the caves even had an iron gate on it. They go right in under the hill and would be a menace to clear enemy from. Flame throwers are the only effective weapon – or to set fire inside and then seal the exits. Blokes told us that as far as known most of the Japs had been burnt out. There was a lot of old stuff lying about but nothing real valuable. There probably would be inside the caves, but going in amongst burnt bodies and the chance of striking trouble didn't appeal

to so at the line. Sour the get half way round Wund effect of the flavor thrown on Robon seeing it just been gay who was cought whide laker. The forekow had redainly + the was the best imitation of been done over by the hear. a frice of black chancoal I'm There are about 30 odd bouge wor seen in one frage. We want to see tonis mot annealed up on the beach as behind the brank is feat one then managed to get around northanation of bout notes Went beach Our Mir on half filled with water, making strange. The John way round then have branched off gove their the airfill or have roset had a lot of Hoday are attacking a base till how at Newal . We got o about a mile or two away rides back for the brack than We got as for as half way had a sum befor returning sound more transf allowed top be ship. any farther. Unly bloke actually Tuesday May 15" Went out and northered in the apparation me during the formon for allowed to go on a mos other short again. Clarkness laafe mollies siller. But & think Borans I wish 400 odd shells me mu frest soulors to then Mir shafed it we

to us at the time. Saw the effect of the flame throwers on a Jap who was caught outside and he was the best imitation of a piece of black charcoal I've ever seen in one piece. We went to see Tom's mob then managed to get around Wewak beach. Our AIF are half way round, then have branched off gone thru' the airfield and today are attacking a bare hill about a mile or two away. We got as far as half way round and weren't allowed any further – only blokes actually engaged in the operation were allowed to go one - no other swotties either. But I think we were first sailors to

get half way round Wewak Harbour seeing it's just been taken. The foreshore had certainly been done over by the RAAF. There are about 30 odd barges smashed up on the beach and behind the beach is just one continuation of bomb craters filled with water, making stinking swamps. The Japs have sure had a lot of gear here at Wewak. We got rides back to the beach then had a swim before returning to the ship.

Tuesday May 15th

Went out during the forenoon for a shoot again. Plastered Cape Boran with 100 odd shells then ML's strafed it, we

also fired our outiline around lingly with I men in it around the his of the front the the Harbon for well own on were after gins . We moud how before they landed him. up wear Red Beach and did The war of big brant. all another shoot at the feat of as hill more these meel 3 guino watching the stat show. aircraft reported damage to Horse to have a shoot all 15 millimeter guns. aireapt at Misches tomorrow but are said all shoot wood very good. riginals lonight that say our Wish we rould get in " what belofs have been field on by closer + have the satisfaction of 15 mm guns first bouth of A seeing the Nipo get it! Allach to anthor at wom. when and moved broken no we may do that. They are also That are hours swim ashow concentrations of John bear hally good for as it's been may righted. I'll by glad when all this One of the Mbs cought a short jis over Bondraidments are alight bright ! "they booked him then I sifour last being artion O climbed into their dirighy to Operator I spend all the time flay him. The dragged Athe it the Wireless babin escept when

also fired our oerlikens around the tip of the point. We were after guns. We moved up near Red Beach and did another shoot at the peak of a hill where there were 3 guns. Aircraft reported damage to all 75 millimetre guns. Aircraft said all shoot was very good. Wish we could get in real closer and have the satisfaction of seeing the Nips get it.

Back to anchor at WOM. Had an hour's swim ashore – really good too as it's been very hot.

One of the ML's caught a shark tonight. They hooked him then climbed into their dinghy to play him. He dragged the dingy with 3 men in it, around the harbour for well over an hour before they landed him. He was a big beaut. All the craft in harbour were watching the show.

S'posed to have a shoot at Muschu tomorrow but see signals tonight that say our troops have been fired on by 75mm guns just south of where we were today so we may do that. There are also concentrations of Japs been sighted.

I'll be glad when all this is over. Bombardments are alright I s'pose but being action operator I spend all the time in the Wireless Cabin except when

go up for a look on D) ay pleaned arross but Mh had come out. The had been in the narrow which between KAIRIAN + Muscher islands. The knowled ant hours, full-boson or proched spend mon him in the office gree 3 Justs on the brack. Wednesday May 16th Married Wom. Received a sall I years Hoday and have not bolow during the evening The reghetted it for a single mount refit has them fut back the adelaide which because that out which it is he dochies are on while. The knoch out a couple now guns got as four as Madang 5 host must very well . This mailed about It Red, Beach are autolinly disappointed + for another target. In the afternoon me received as rall on the RIT from ML 427. the on some of them rolling had been fired on from dorlies gally methods would Kinaiav island. We fall

I go up for a look. On D Day I was in the W/T Office for 8 hours straight, then back for 3 later on! That was before I did the Middle too. I spend more time in the Office than I do out of it.

Wednesday May 16th

Married 3 years today and have not regretted it for a single moment. Thanks to Marg. Went out with MLs to knock out a couple more guns. Shoot went very well. We waited about at Red Beach for another target. In the afternoon we received a call on the R/T from ML427. She had been fired on from KIARIRU island. We all

steamed across, but ML had come out. She had been in the narrow straits between KAIRIRU and MUSCHU islands. She knocked out two pill-boxes and knocked over 3 Japs on the beach.

Returned to anchor at Cape Wom. Receivd a call from Colac during the evening. Her refit has been put back 3 weeks because the Adelaide dockies are on strike. She got as far as Madang and then got that signal. They are certainly disappointed and we don't blame them. They ought to turn us loose with whips on some of these rotten dockies. Gestapo methods would wake them up a bit.

Thursday May 17th A abbo arrived Jahrday 19th May Sill four that + I Rollandian last night they brought is 400 more of the inch shells + last night gefainst her trick and some store coffeel a c 2 ton of sufflies briefer goodses sproff the huges when we'll get, away. - " A esting " math alow! freferelly " or beautiful clear might + no head downs. left organis ready booths I wan while any 1 Thougantille till them. con

Thursday 17th May

Dubbo arrived from But and Hollandia last night. They brought us 400 more rounds of 4 inch shells and 3 ton of supplies. Cripes goodness knows when we'll get away. Secured a picture from ashore – 'Destiny' with Alan Curtis and Gloria Jean. In contrast to our own last show, this one went perfectly – a beautiful clear night and no break downs.

Friday May 18th

At anchor all day while repairs done to brickwork in the boilers. Colac left again, this time for Bougainville. She doesn't go south now until the middle of June so she will wait at Bougainville till then.

Saturday 19th May

Still doing repairs to brickwork below. I've copped a cold as have a good many others, and I spent the afternoon sleeping.

Night orders say we are going to sea at 5.30 tomorrow morning, going to Cape Moam firing 400 rounds and remaining there all day.

Sunday 20th May

Out for shoot at Moem but after a couple of shots rain spoiled observation and we had to return to Wom. While at Wom. we are always ready to go if the troops strike any trouble that we can help with.

do that rine the Jopa arrived Monday 21 at May has been here in 1942. How some in them some worthis again Jahan by our hoops this morning alongaide in a lunge old Jafe troubs are afront love the bands They couldn't steen linhed up between the statch properly to bumped us all over. between Red Beach and Morn which means the John will only our anchorate slow Timbore be able to retent I to the holle we first our the Lills ho The Shipper said that is one land out as 15 mm gues in a Wensh Force fot almost finished, village about 4 side away. so it looks as the we might Weather short flower obselvation god home this time. Tuesday 22 May West down so be directed us onto his ola villages . On these how to the states thehing Moone longer we rained many of + Red Gearli and fired a Also but no Nit must have couple of hundred brounds into got quite a hadade. The hades y could of gun emplacement. Merey bombardment in the fait of Kingeri Erland over again in Novale Harlow this time Must be the first ship to

Monday 21st May

Cape Moam has been taken by our troops this morning and our troops are almost linked up between the stretch between Red Beach and Moam, which means the Japs will only be able to retreat to the hills. The Skipper said that is our Wewak Force job almost finished, so it looks as tho' we might go home this time.

Tuesday 22nd May

Went down to the stretch between Moam and Red Beach and fired a couple of hundred rounds into a couple of gun emplacements. For the first time we anchored in Wewak Harbour this time. Must be the first ship to do that since the Japs arrived here in 1942. No sooner in than some swotties came alongside in a huge old Jap barge. They couldn't steer it properly and bumped us all over.

Wednesday 23rd May

From our anchorage close inshore, we fired over the hills to knock out 75mm gun in a village about 4 mile away. Weather spoilt planes observation so he directed us onto two other villages. on these two targets we ruined many of the huts so Nip must have got quite a headache. He hates these bombardments.

Dubbo and ML's did the point of Kairiru Island over again

to get out of they bombour and and had a couple of shots go I back for befor Wow to fried on them again anshor . They is getting Thursday 24th May O But fort amunition for maches and Walle - when me looded to has been making a habit the gumes are returned to woon and Aubbo some alongaja de take her show off. O'that is the last of the any thousand and did our last shoot we have had four loyang. 20 villages inland Results son Friday 25th May 1 Went old very Good . Willing engaged the good that fired on long In another aus - their returned yesteddau + silvhed it. to anchor I in Wewal. Our Ofinited about all of our Arrive worms said tooloom meable ammunition. We have fined a four Abourand Lounds ground her and done a lot of damage sor we will be be bearing I quite in for Nips with day Will finest as four more bendatites I if they are about of ammunition we have

and had a couple of shots fired on them again.

Thursday 24th May

Went to But for ammunition for ourselves and Dubbo. When we loaded the ammo we returned to Wom and Dubbo came alongside to take her share off. That is the last of the thousands we have had from Poyang.

Friday 25th May

Went out past Wewak Harbour and fired on another gun – then returned to anchor in Wewak. Our motorboat did survey work soundings again round the harbour as we are short of ammunition. During afternoon the Nip fired a few more shots at us and as we are short of ammunition we had

to get out of the harbour and go back to Cape Wom to anchor. Nip is getting bit desperate or something because he has been making a habit of firing lately.

Saturday 26th May

Went back into Wewak Harbour and did our last shoot at 2 villages inland. Results were very good. Artillery engaged the gun that fired on us yesterday and silenced it. That finishes about all of our useable ammunition. We have fired a few thousand rounds around here, and done a lot of damage, so we will be leaving quite a few Nips with headaches if they are alive to feel them

hip down was as list roughish for further down. Univer at with us for about 5 meho most off boday. They more these H. m. as. Hallies on their short hab to Madang Tayor moored suf the stream. Lets get gut of here go back to bein battery.

They got a great ribbling from
the boyd here below they Slept Too new Sparking arrived. Nothie's relief + Kay Millington's. Nothie is storying the till in the how been calling A Rest a Chocar + kelling him to entit The or real rest for us. south so o Jour, watches will in the real fife, and he were to say he would, when we her least There my will no cont johned of the Many One on you way to the the desolute show of loge Woon + advingly Islands afor sit. the fitted plateon of Warch Point 29 li May Tuesday. Gerined at Manus I and Ament alongwide as big what. Howethy of rait recognis the Mare. we say goodbye to themsel to good widdlewed before me sail links the smith to Madang.

Sunday 27th May

Tom and Bert, the two swotties, who have been with us for about 5 weeks went off today. They wore H.M.A.S. tallies on their slouch hats to go back to their battery. They got a great ribbing from the boys here when they left. We have been calling Bert a Choco and telling him to enlist in the real AIF, and he used to say he would when we Sea Scouts joined the Navy.

So with a last look at the desolate shore of Cape Wom and the pitted plateau of Wewak Point we say goodbye to Wewak and good riddance, before we sail into the sunset to Madang.

Trip down was a bit roughish which doesn't look too good for further down.

28th May Monday

Arrived at Madang and moored up the stream. Let's get out of here its too darned hot.

Two new Sparkies arrived. Nobbie's relief and Ray Millington's. Nobbie is staying here till we go south, so four watches will be a real rest for us.

Have my wish, we can't get fuel or water here so are on our way to the Admiralty Islands for it.

29th May Tuesday

Arrived at Manus and went alongside a big wharf. Honestly I can't recognise the place.

Its as year since I was here + fin hub, buildings whaters + goodness know what to for shipping well there isn't low type of enaft affront that Sanchoed, in the aircraft Madana Uhrothe somin (Idephigable) error comies ballestipo, reaissa destroyers (our own of slass are here Smith Kippers) frigates aloops (Jank Bishah and audie) concles + hundred and one other small worm but otherwise the

It's a year since I was here and at that time the place had a few tents up and that's all. Now there are hundreds of tin huts, buildings, wharves and goodness knows what. As for shipping well there isn't a type of craft afloat that isn't anchored in here. Aircraft carrier (Indefatigable), escort carriers, battleships, cruisers, destroyers (our own N class are here with the Kippers), frigates, sloops (Yank, British and Aussie) corvettes and the hundred and one other small craft.

Secured an old Deanna Durbin picture 'First Love' on board. Sound track was worn, but otherwise the show

went quite well.

Wednesday 30th May

Left Manus about 2pm, headed now for Madang. We arrive tomorrow and are supposed to leave on the following day, but after being mucked about so much we won't count on going until we leave Madang. Another roughish night. Whacko when we do our trip south.

Thursday 31st May

Arrived Madang and things don't look too bright. Navy Board has said that Brisbane can't take us until 18th June. We are wondering whether we will get away even then. We are starting a boiler clean as we well over 1000 steaming of the boys left and two good relo of the cominal was solubushed along official lines. He rigged have well over 1000 steaming hours up.

June 1st Friday

Arranged to play the Dubbo football today, and after all my talk about never playing again I was talked into playing. However I took things easy so that I would not twist my knee. I had an elastic bandage round the knee, too. I expect a blast when Marg reads this because I won't have the nerve to say it in my letter today.

In the evening we got a selection of short reels to show. Unfortunately the reels were dry and not to sailor's tastes. Quite a few

of the boys left and so when it started to rain we finished the show up even tho' we had good reels of The Battle for China left.

June 2nd Saturday

Young Nobbie Hall left us today. He is going down on the Stuart. Out of the 11CB's who left Sydney there are now only 4 left.

June 3rd Sunday

Quite a good day today. It was decided to hold a swimming carnival charging 6p for entry, and with donations to send the profit to the Children's Hospital. The carnival was conducted along official lines. We rigged up speakers so that

the comedy of being Ironto could be amounced and also mode rould be played between events. The wellale had a fain oft day was a success + realized about 210. about from the out out, I as Malf on which huma staight work and chave when hindre in will envelope to some towards into at the front the entants had be stress The forbed or real Home. I then do a northy din the Inother movelly event the boys discrete as a final another got rigged highly bragained + Oliveads . He finale furnish the No get inter shorts els middle self the four where a Jacuffle book place then purpled in . Ask another for as well: as the profilable day for the hidden Taptel defined Mich was boot works for omaches. smealus Than gloves exent a balaclara O the went there

events could be announced and also records could be played in between events. The whole day was a success and raised about ten pounds. Apart from the usual straight events there were novelty events. One of them was a costume dive in which the entrants had to dress up then do a novelty dive. One of the boys dressed as a pirate and another got rigged in tights, brassiere and beads as a girl. The pirate pursued the 'girl' up the tower where a scuffle took place, then they jumped in. Yet another donned thick sea boot socks, sweaters, gloves, scarf and balaclava, then went thru'

the comedy of being cold and testing the temperature of the water before falling in. 'Butch' had a pair of blue strides with one leg long and one cut out, a half a short, one shoe and one sock on different feet, and a slouch hat turned up at the front. He looked a real Dave.

Another novelty event was to don shorts, shirt and socks at various stages of a race. The antics of the chaps trying to get into shorts etc under the water were really funny.

So as well as a profitable day for the Kiddies Hospt'l it was a most enjoyable day for ourselves.

Langeman . We are going And the bolac Stor rolling at Tomasille then exactly a hid by longer will below to Bristone. at east that is what we suffered to do - goodness know while they'll feet Our back on not again. The bolow was littly 15 millimetre guns over at H Bougainville S. She got hit the engine room or how stokens mu tilled a Tow she is at group them another Bable for Russia hongural being folded unaugi he as about hedious fol as we have no shown we to finish A there. Still specially if we shike rough whatled . I have bright Dup hat's another 2/6 for me. here the sea is unablilled so about 2/30 Mg it is probably very rough further down.

June 4th Monday

That makes me 25 today. Quarter of a century - not exactly a kid any longer.

Got letters from home, cards from all at Burnley plus one from my clever daughter. Also got latest photos of My Pin Up Girl daughter. She's a good line.

Showed Battle for China at picture show in evening. It was real good. Had got half way thru another of the Battle for Russia, when a valve blew in the machine and as we have no spares we had to finish there. Still that's another 2/6 for me.

June 5th Tuesday
At sea about 2/30pm going to

Langemak. We are going to tow the Colac to Sydney, calling at Townsville then we will return to Brisbane. At least that is what we are supposed to do – goodness knows whether they'll put us back or not again.

The Colac was hit by 75 millimetre guns over at Bougainville. She got hit in the engine room – two stokers were killed. Now she is at Langemak being patched enough to tow her down. It will be a slow tedious job, especially if we strike rough weather. Even tonight up here the sea is unsettled so it is probably very rough further down.

weather across the boat lea No can slick it the if we Weather beautiful do book abroad bedard use amazip. Anot Tryway armed Limah berides for other job white ght happed for other John while though this things will OK. Throther beautiful aller calm dos lle glay I according by our navigation shiffer conflowed and low in Somowille Oon mill lit from selling to fuel them any power. Je Hind sooney me get an going threi Art

We can stick it tho' if we are headed towards good old Aussie.

6th June Wednesday

Arrived L'mak in forenoon and took on fuel, then tied up alongside a Liberty ship at the wharf. Boys selling their Jap rifles to the Yanks and getting all sorts of prices, until the Yank skipper complained and our chaps were stopped from selling anymore.

Leaving with the Colac tomorrow we think.

7th Thursday

Left during forenoon with Colac in tow. Heavy tow line that should stand up if we get rough

weather across the Coral Sea. Weather beautiful and so towing at 8 to 9 knows. Anyway we are headed the right way, and besides we can't get trapped for other jobs while towing this.

8th June Friday

Things still O.K. Another beautiful, clear, calm day.

According to our navigator we will be in Townsville on the 12th to fuel, then all being well, we'll be in Sydney on or about the 19th. I'm hoping we don't stay in Sydney too long – the sooner we hit Brisbane the sooner we get on leave.

We are(n't) going thru'

China Straits this time. Instead we are swinging wide and going thru' Jomard Island in the Louisiade Archipelago. That's almost 100 miles east of Milne Bay. After there we will be in the Coral Sea, so tomorrow afternoon we'll see what she looks like.

(map inserted)

Saturday 9th June

Well we came into the Coral Sea at 7am this morning, and it hasn't played up a bit. Just a nice steady roll at present. Just as well too, because today we got an anti typhoid inoculation. At least I think that is what it was – a man gets so many needles poked into him that he doesn't know what they are. We got the lot in one innoc. instead of in two parts as usual. And believe me, its sure a dose. A man feels stiff in every joint. The majority of the boys are getting around like old crocks. A man has

The day today has her man against 1 1st (arrage bolar again looks beller Via reported reported retationary at 1 where Anisoidhua tinson blue look from seawards. the printing undiring

to grin when he sees it. I hope scientists don't discover any more new wogs or the Navy will surely inoculate a man against it.

Sunday 10th June

Weather still good altho' the nights are getting a bit fresh.

Monday 11th June

Thru' the Great Barrier Reef at Grafton Passage during the forenoon. It was good to see the coastline of Aussie. She looks better than any port of N.G. Actually it does look good too. The mountains of the Great Divide are along the coast and have a real blue look from seawards.

The day today has been beautiful. The sun was quite warm, out of the wind and the majority of us spent the afternoon in the sun getting as much as we can before we almost perish down south.

We are going into Townsville tomorrow forenoon for fuel and some fresh food, then coming straight out to tow Colac again.

Very bad news tonight about cyclone down the coast – it is reported to be stationary at where we are heading for. Heavy floods etc, in northern NSW. As if that wasn't sufficient for one night, the announcer mentioned the

over the hills bore inland I'd like to show 46 degrees cold wind to definitely from here on. pres received Stration Ovolile, we went behirreffe chuna gree stry 4 got OH bellers 12 cakes Other fragers from and sinfue julland Jackie Stoods moller were hasifal supposed four the francels big islands you see the dill alled fo air sporis has Jakh away anyth has about 50 hiddies hands but which

heavy fogs in Melbourne and said the maximum temperature there was 46 degrees. Good gracious surely there must be people dying everywhere at the temperature. That's an awful temperature to be confronted with on the way home.

Tuesday 12th

Left Colac outside at Magnetic Island with the Strahan while we went in and fuelled. My first impression of Townsville in 1942 was that it was a very picturesque tropical town. Well it looks just as well. Coming in between the two big islands, you see the single rise of Castle Hill with the town itself spread

round and over the hills base. Behind this are the mountains inland. I'd like to show Marg this place on a cruise.

Sun shining, but bitingly cold wind. It's definitely overalls, shirt and socks for me from here on.

Due to forethought somewhere, we received mail here today. It was very much appreciated. I got 4 letters, 2 cakes, and the papers from Marg. Another surprise was a parcel from Jackie Woods mother. It was one of the parcels that stores makes up. It was very kind of her especially as she has Jack away and also has about 5 kiddies.

you had a really good hip the got feel food about and suffer bought consided Leke roll fast Sandy leafe. Maybe shill brougher up as of a huge salad . The west the Symber sally shift but we think that male advantage of the good weather biles of lettuce and tomatoes and ale fabout 6 hour ahead of hime of me could continue Tresh with about for. Mith that you can drink this way we would great lighty It first offers a mon har gat about midday bunday of it well off be was orbide Wednesday 13th Passed Mrni Stitutulday large this former. Looks fretty early him you our hour line probed I leaving frans I down between of the the bolar agriff at about lines of islands. Sun wares but what very cool i nights

gree definitely toold.

Thursday quie 14 th Sea a WAN Of 5/30 Lunger was hand the heavy toming cable in by hand - git a fit It artially but not rough The way

We got fresh food aboard and supper tonight consisted of a huge salad. The meat was the Yankee salty stuff, but we hid that under piles of lettuce and tomatoes. Fresh milk aboard too. Milk that you can drink. It just shows a man how well off he was outside.

Wednesday 13th

Passed thru' Whitsunday Passage this forenoon. Looks pretty each time you pass down between the line of islands. Sun warm but wind very cool and nights are definitely cold.

Thursday June 14th

Sea a little choppy but not rough actually. So far we

have had a really good trip. Tonight we turn out and head south past Sandy Cape. Maybe she'll roughen up a little then. We have taken advantage of the good weather and are about 6 hours ahead of time. If we could continue this way we would reach Sydney at about midday Sunday.

Friday June 15th

Sea sprung up a bit bumpy thru' the night and our tow line parted leaving the Colac adrift about 4AM. At 5/30 everyone was called and we had to haul the heavy towing cable in by hand – quite a job too. By the time we

alor fut us saming rootin - gam line shirsed reach o lydney with they would have the hour given heavy small and a show Send heavy swell and as she wind made things difficult. good line . alow mough leading down the goon got going lagain. But making I to 6 hook in contact find as list of money as to of to 10 lefor. The mere about of him but that but that

finished it was too late to go to bed, so that was about an hours sleep I had after coming off the Middle.

During forenoon we got as close as we could risk to Colac but time after time the costin-gun line missed reaching the Colac so that they could haul the tow over. Sea heavy swell and a strong wind made things difficult. Finally we drifted close enough for a hand line to be thrown over. After that we soon got going again. But with this sea we are now only making 5 to 6 knots in contrast to 9 to 10 before. We were ahead of time but

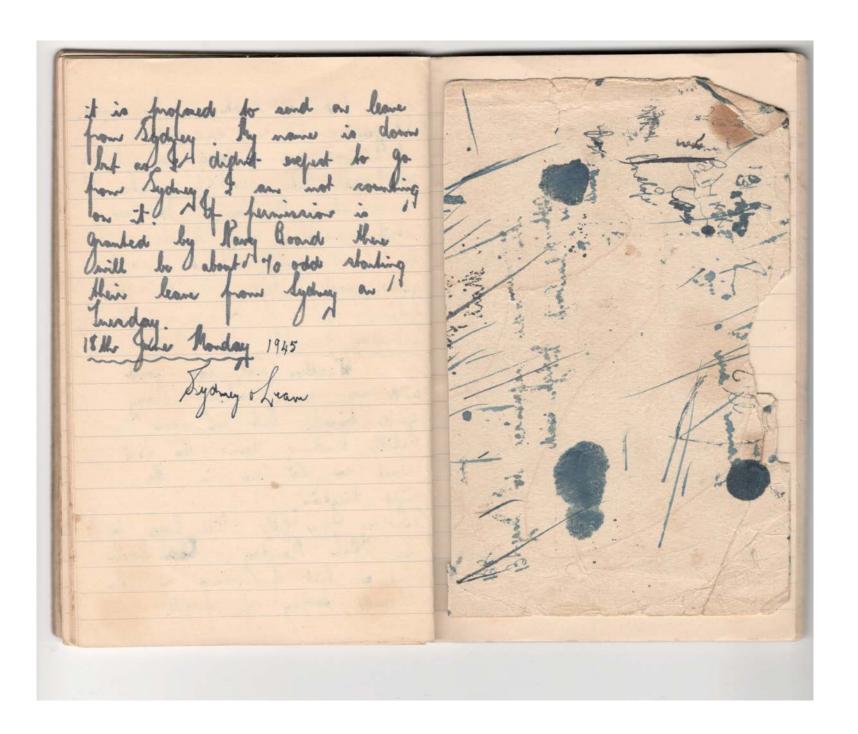
that show put us back a few hours. Skipper sent an amended time of arrival at Sydney, as being 24 hours late, which makes it sometime Monday. If we strike weather any worse and the tow again breaks we'll never reach Sydney with the Colac.

Saturday June 16th

Weather not too good and we are making very good time. But we are still heading down the NSW coast so we are in the right direction.

Sunday June 17th

Still hope to be there Monday. Coxin put a list of names on the board today of people



it is proposed to send on leave from Sydney. My name is down but as I didn't expect to go from Sydney I am not counting on it. If permission is granted by Navy Board there will be about 70 odd starting their leave from Sydney on Tuesday.

18th June MONDAY 1945 Sydney + Leave

A.R.S superhet. used for a.w. IC.N. RIT. DIF. AF AMP 6576 IF 755 KUS. Ranges m/F 140 to 740 Kys Two seperate tuning units provided 70/F 765 to 2 megs. HIF MIF both feeding the same H/F 2 16 20 megs. 1/F + A/F stage . R/F 1/F +BFO moductances have won dust stages for fine time adjustments & imported variable AWA AT 5 transmitter frequenange 200 Kg 28 860 Kg/5 m/F 140 to 500 C.W. MCW. QRIT 2.5 6020 YAWA- ATISC HIF 2 to 20 megs. CW.M.CW. RH and pulse 40 to 520 1 H/F osc. 2 to 5 megs Power supply. 550 volta to P.A. plates 360 v morbufferplates input to final 90 WATTS IF. PA. sperates on fundamental

from 2 to 5 megs and doubles from 10 to 20 mcs Modulation on CW and w. tube HIFP.A) operates as AF osc. and with emission switch on m.c.w. for this oscillator modulates P.A. grids. For RIT the circuit acts as a muke amplifyer modulating P.A. grids Heying: Ley relays makes + breaks all cathodes. aerial limiter 6x5GT AR8 6076 H/F tuner (R/F) M/FMIXER GUTG 6A8G 6A86 "mixer 61660s FIRST 1/F GUTG 2mg 1/F 607G DET. AF. M.V.C. 6G8G. 6A8GBFO

R.C. 8. TRANS- REC. Tunction. RC. 8 is designed especially for installation in versels of all types, trucks or ground station RIT. C.W. orman can be sent or recieved. The complete equipment has been specially designed for dependable operation under adverse service conditions All parts have been treated to withstand vebration temper ature, as humidity and sea water atmosphere. Range is between 2 9 10 mc/s, in two bands 2.4.4. 4.2. to 10 mc/s vision is made to operate the er by remote control. Power output value afree is capable of an author of 7 somilivatts over output of trans is between 4 lo watts depending on greg.



