

Jues 8th December 1942

CORVETTE OUT-FIGHTS **10 JAPANESE PLANES**

From N. L. OTTAWAY, a Herald War Correspondent. From R. L. OTTAWAY, A HEAR was Consequences. SOMEWHERE IN AUSTRALIA. — The ability of a gallant Australian correcte to "intern a singlence" sared it from the coast of Awy Guines last week. For an hour the corvette, see Their idea was to come in over companied by a sinter thip, carried up atern so that they would have

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For hall the lime of the action states ship could not see un the mountains of spray which bombs threw up sround us OUT-MANOEUVRED

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1 Mygs TEL.B. JYKER H.M.A.S. SWAN. Book NR1. LEFT BRISBANE 6th SEPTEMBER 1945 8th October 1945

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

BOOK NR 1

LEFT BRISBANE 6th SEPTEMBER 1942 8TH OCTOBER 1945

September 6the 1945 Thursday down south, during which was will Japan Similed we are gree again headed north' the left Disbane at 11 AM, and allo' Alisbane is not the best place. Australia of for one and sorry to he leaving. Actually it is A thought that we lave headed away from our homes that how and of knowing what civilizatio shell is and anit kain my the walless boing months away. New that haise interest in this rachet. Sill maybe it won't be boy long well will be out on leivoit thet and can act a normal life after sall there years. Stayed outrided Houlan hay

September 6th 1945 Thursday

Well after about two months down south, during which time the war with Japan finished, we are once again headed north. We left Brisbane at 11am and altho' Brisbane is not the best place in Australia, I for one am sorry to be leaving. Actually it is the thought that we are headed far away from our homes that is worst of all. We have had a good spell of knowing what civilization is and aren't keen on the useless boring months away. Now that the war is over it is impossible to raise interest in this racket. Still maybe it won't be too long then we will be out on Civvie street and can act a normal life after all these years.

Stayed outside Moreton Bay

all afternoor doing KADAR trials the there office are sorry the man has inted. This'll be but ontride at 6 m we that under way a headed shaight of out on ow Acouse at their da foto of licking stamps or making the tear for star to Jacquinol Day first stop. September aple led calmisty but Maybe I'm just agained. September 8th Sahiday! Just as mintersting. There settled Inother day Auffer away down into the said dull old the good things of life . Making roudines of watch helping thobying pleeping and writing Alether I good speed Alder last night Rad Apractice at attion Matino + I sear been well behaved Or but the rept of those things but a roll but that find let us robody very anthraizabic I the have know we are at sed. Emerged into about I there officers and already shorts and sandals today de got the new Jimmy is throwing this weight about the is tone of my first dose of sun again) Kong today said that Mansone there young werchant men who was in Jacquint Bay to hanghost peops le habard. Katerbla is was polobelte a rabin aboy when a day behind us going up there the marst starled. The starid he how . So anguste we'll after a couple is going to give us a bit of your thre routine. Grobably the Jobs. leans quite figureble that has shudied it from believed as fill be able to see that deak at Nerry Sound. a lot of this time.

all afternoon doing RADAR trials, then at 6pm we got underway and headed straight out on our course to Jacquinot Bay first stop.

September 7th

Sea calmish but just as uninteresting. Have settled down into the same dull old routine of watch-keeping, dhobying(Laundry), sleeping and writing letters. Had practice at Action Stations and the rest of those things, but nobody very enthusiastic. We have about 3 new officers and already the new Jimmy is throwing his weight about. He is one of the young merchant-men who was probably a cabin boy when the war started. He said he is going to give us a bit of war-time routine. Probably he has studied it from behind a desk at Navy Board. A lot of these officers are sorry the war has ended. They'll be lost outside at their old jobs of licking stamps or making the tea for <u>men</u>. Maybe I'm just cynical.

September 8th Saturday

Another day further away from the good things of life. Making good speed thru' last night. Sea has been well behaved - a bit of a roll but that just lets us know we are at sea. Emerged into shorts and sandals today - got my first dose of sun again. News today said that Manoora was in Jacquinot Bay to transport troops to Rabaul. Kanimbla is a day behind us going up there too. So maybe we'll get a couple of jobs. Seems quite possible that I'll be able to see Syd again this time.

September 9th + 10th to find them as it was raining yey heavily Timally them the days Byt so nice days either gals a thine but t show they dived The old guil been rolling about a lit which sank However managed H the shart makes my real fied. However it has reasonably good trip so far. bowed & saluted. They looked Very adjually at might hird at fretty scared - probably experting to the shot or something. The acquinet Kay in formoon. Clare Sich Day Mohe apraved them with gettel I + they boded to him. loths desertedy. beens, to be they any radfer a for looking very quiet. Manonai baken lyds with Juss to Raband Spatiaday are Welting them - they wouldn't fuelledy took on some gear a Alfan headed for Raband Smith know what they were Applying how they looked as if they don't throw white is going on A reptember 12, the Wednesday a banker (leleodorg). I little bit of excident at. about \$30. Ourselves - tanker heard yells and when we investigated with our searchlight at was 2. Japap in a dingle I drived Kaboul Toturing formoon Convelles minesurgefing facts . Massona in the Tranges calling out ! Took a while to me mainly excluse volcano

September 9th and 10th

Another two days over. Not so nice days either. The old girl has been rolling about a bit and the strain makes one real tired. However it has been a reasonably good trip so far. Very squally at night.

September 11th Tuesday

Arrived at Jacquinot Bay in forenoon. Place looks deserted. Seems to be very quiet. Manoora taken Syd's mob up to Rabaul yesterday. We fuelled, took on some gear, and then headed for Rabaul with a tanker. (Cleodora)

A little bit of excitement at about 0330. Ourselves and tanker heard yells, and when we investigated with our searchlights it was 2 Japs in a dinghy calling out. Took a while to find them as it was raining very heavily. Finally threw the Japs a line, but when they dived for it, they capsized the dinghy which sank. However, managed to haul them aboard, where they bowed and saluted. They looked pretty scared - probably expecting to be shot or something. The sick bay bloke sprayed them with Dettol and they bowed to him. They are rather a poor looking type of Jap. It would be no use belting them - they wouldn't know what they were getting it for. They look as if they don't know what is going on.

September 12th Wednesday

Arrived Rabaul during forenoon Corvettes mine sweeping parts - Manoora in. The ranges here are mainly extinct volcanos

some of which are huge. The first Koughly we can see about 30 odd thing that shuch us avan the medición sizzel ships not rounding regulable gardens on the sides of barges partial books + even a the hills , regetable patches me couple lof midget enternamies. These werendere Host Ming was the are a great thempter of ships send rages in the hills, life could here lood The gaps must have are them plainly from the sea run as many beties as they could aground in order bot There are fisbably I hundreds of them. - well made to in good forihing the scarpos No deave give as Manooa The the harbons shall on the blokes, got ashow to some right is that volcans which storage I caves & lansached them explosed back in 1930, and coursed Then they got to a good here and the loss of so many lives The sides are still bare tot which was I he be flow back to auraie, and they runed it. growths and me black in contast to the greensided older volcanos Own Jops shill aboard -The huge makes is the biggest notody would them. We had various suggestions from other the need + looks as the Odit ships muld as subling their would a hold 3 or 4, of these ships. Mitab Mrowing that back into Shound the foreshow of the sea , etc. Abut so fay all the harbour are more ships run they are doing is a large aground than ever - I have seen

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some of which are huge. The first thing that struck me was the vegetable gardens on the sides of the hills. Vegetable patches were everywhere. Next thing was the caves in the hills. We could see them plainly from the sea. There are probably hundreds of them - well made and in good positions.

In the harbour itself on the right, is that volcano which erupted back in 1930? and caused the loss of so many lives. Its sides are still bare of growths and are black, in contrast to the greensided older volcanos. The huge crater is the biggest I've seen and looks as tho' it would hold 3 or 4 of these ships.

Around the foreshore of the harbour are more ships run aground than ever I have seen.

Roughly we can see about 30 odd medium sized ships, not counting barges, patrol boats and even a couple of midget submarines. There are a great number of ships sunk here too. The Japs must have run as many ships as they could aground in order to save the cargos.

No leave given, as Manoora blokes got ashore to some storage caves and ransacked them. Then they got to a good zero which was to be flown back to Aussie and they ruined it.

Our Japs still aboard - nobody wants them. We had various suggestions from other ships, such as cutting their throats, throwing them back into the sea etc but so far all they are doing is a huge -

and I means huge - file of the was able to hell him about his officers dhobying I they are still non. Lydi not were having beans The work get himself in bolton and other fresh vegetables the bear of thought it was good the Japo they how at prevan hime. have regulables growing events lephinter 13th Thursday Shipper On the way backy we ment obtained furnication Afor faction them some could in Turnel Hill to go before sight seeing in It is honeycombed with area groups of 10 years and change every 10 yands or so They are officer Looking was shared well boarded inside and some and alugbody caught with gear are why almented. Many were would be Adealt Smith as Swell storace saves and contain lots of after withers were like living as no more leave being granted gyarders. This is only one got ashow and get a lide in a buch straight out Will - they whole thankow where sid was . I gunde bein Rabarl is flaghed with such hill shaight away . We had a good eld nothers but being in I am It would have been impossible to get the Japo out of here without a shreek invarion fleet and a organised forky I stonednit story long Shill the know pittere A he is for next time & come lange loss of life. The Jafe are all in good condition they are well armed, have the off. Glad to see him q

and I mean huge - pile of the officers dhobying. They are still bowing after they get anything. The cook gets himself in when they bow at scram time.

September 13th Thursday.

Skipper obtained permission for parties to go ashore sight-seeing in groups of 10 men in charge of an officer. Looting was barred and anybody caught with gear would be dealt with as well as no more leave being granted.

Got ashore and got a ride in a truck straight out to where Syd was. Found him straight away. We had a good old natter, but being in an organised party I could't stay long. Still I know where he is for next time I come off. Glad to see him and was able to tell him about his son. Syd's mob were having beans and other fresh vegetables for tea and thought it was goodoh. The Japs have vegetables growing everywhere.

On the way back we went thru' some caves in Tunnel Hill. It is honeycombed with caves every 10 yards or so. They are well boarded inside and some even cemented. Many were storage caves and contain lots of gear - others were like living quarters. This is only one big hill - the whole harbour of Rabaul is flanked with such hills.

It would have impossible to get the Japs out of here without a huge invasion fleet and a very large loss of life. The Japs are all in good condition, they are well armed, have the

what the ras he doing there best of geory and sure in a good positional legth who deplose the use but he calmby ignored two. after proving his legging he prehed up lef the atomic bomb should see This I waln boldet a diab - shalled places like this and understand how off down the road as if it, was many Music lives it would have the perfectly normal thing cap but for the atomic bout. along the roads there are seemed so shang to as seeing him fuct wandling along Joh officers galore driving about in his down in the timain head. sedon card presumably helping in the murdening of fotsome A They have almost thurdreds of walked and as if it was the menal thing to see Mushalian sailors also tubets + sections, here, Own Motions White a few passed us taking regulables to thing camp, and are using all Joy, trucks. The sedan quite a, four saladed us. They are are chrong flated fittings + flach reaks. The majority and aneutron make well fed and some look tikelligent It seems orking to say the while we were waiting to John driving about or proking go backs to the ship Camber at their gardens after frighting theme to so long. was just Kishards was unloading a fishel and he shot himself the hand . by the side of the road doing When we got aboard our "massed" of his legging. We asked This were ironing I the dhobying

best of gear and were in a good position. People who deplore the use of the atomic bomb should see places like this and understand how many Aussie lives it would have cost but for the atomic bomb.

Along the roads there are Jap officers galore driving about in sedan cars, presumably helping in the mustering of prisoners. They have almost hundreds of trucks and sedans here. Our blokes are using all Jap trucks. The sedans are chrome plated fittings and flush seats. The majority are American make.

It seems strange to see the Japs driving about or working at their gardens, after fighting them for so long.

One Nip we saw was just by the side of the road doing up his legging. We asked him

what the \sim was he doing there, but he calmly ignored us. After fixing his legging he picked up his water bottle and dish and strolled off down the road as if it was the perfectly normal thing. It seemed so strange to us seeing him just wandering along on his own in the main road. He walked on as if it was the usual thing to see Australian sailors about.

Quite a few passed us taking vegetables to their camp, and quite a few saluted us. They are well fed and some look intelligent.

While we were waiting to go back to the ship Curly Richards was unloading a pistol and he shot himself thru' the hand.

When we got aboard our "wasoohs" were ironing the dhobying

Surgunety The stayed they done yesterday of today full N about oclock lefterber 14 7 Suday Sous One opened the "relebation and baras full of Tofficers and Aliming . folling around in my locking had in this morning probably Rond from one of the shined it aslands Ale N til. spere flying a big while flag mas bang file a six meh guns and I mero has me again Syd and a good waller had - The is a bloke started practicing in 1LO decent whale in case of ships saves a you tor whales and had the an coin - Quite a good 101boy about rilling there altering land I slave exchanged of astron are arrived back derivity. Sept 16th Sunday after anicions mus Shanker annived gol here munación today state Wit Amous AT Out arbor no the Jook dont what of whether i with) news of his horn soveou is an draft . If there is Am" Aut- loom Ut least it is probably legit. What was on the praso Alat Trank is Cappears more had still to est Sud 1 but a glish hand good empled to Salunday Seft 15th settled in a day or so sigd armed out totay equified with Must say by fight on a good pearful tooking life & ammo of hal made out Men-

they done yesterday and today.

September 14th Friday

Saw a Jap barge full of officers and men come in this morning, probably from one of the islands. They were flying a big white flag.

Our mess has once again started practicing in the whaler in case of ship's races.. I am cox'n - quite a good job sitting there steering and slave driving.

A new Spanker arrived here today but we don't yet know if he is extra or whether someone is on draft. If there is, it is probably Cyril. (Appears now that Frank is a gash hand - good)

Saturday Sept 15th Syd arrived out today equipped with a fearful looking rifle and ammo. He stayed on till about 5 0'clock and we opened the "celebration" I had been saving(Burgundy). The jolting around in my locker had stirred it up a bit and the bang was like a six inch gun. Syd and I had a good natter - he is a decent bloke.

Went for a row in the whaler and had the boys about exhausted when we arrived back.

Sept 16th Sunday

After divisions I got permission to go ashore to see Pte Foote "with news of his wife and new born son". At least that is what was on the pass I had to get. Syd still living in open but expect to get settled in a day or so.

Must say he puts on a good brew of teas - made over

fine R eccaping scrubben and some were the way the deck and some work in the boilers. They were all suds X working had mond Abstens Huchos. Havel personnel and are for better go a described sheld MARIA me mind admitting looking by than the Jal army of road. Q donit good 1 finnfea clean. If only and had a firstol! rat. They were all physical londition and all mants had a phoned surface signs of intelligence a ger driver I fold me that They had to young interpreter hought in had been with them. He was from a mission today - 020 of boul haper California and lived these until How 1 they And Alma he was 18 according, to his touched been story by was then I forced , hady had a but, gr, to Japan teach English ant-The office an of the Joingan had twented when charge Auch franky " was a huthless looping pashore to other day. had 141S 1 and he certainly take reared. Whend he barked to at 1 the Sept 19th Monday functed they they worked and board all party of 50 Itad a here ! dennes or day ? having our wonking 100,04

a fire.

On the way up here to Syd's I had a bit of a scare when 3 trucks of Japs swerved near me on a deserted stretch of road. I don't mind admitting I jumped clear. If only a man had a pistol!

A jeep driver told us that 40 women had been brought in from a mission today -20 of them were nuns. They had not been touched by the Japs but had had a bad time.

When I got back Frank Donigan had turned into sick bay. His feet had all swollen up after his run ashore t'other day.

<u>Sept 17th Monday</u> Had a party of 50 Japs out here working today. Some were scraping and scrubbing the deck and some were working in the boilers. They were all Naval personnel and are a little better looking type than the Jap army rat. They were all in good physical condition and a few showed surface signs of intelligence. They had a young interpreter with them. He was born in California and lived there until he was 18. According to his story he was then forced to go to Japan to teach English. The officer in charge of the party was a ruthless looking type and he certainly had the Japs scared. When he barked at them they jumped to it.

They worked on board all day, having dinner on our

KAVIENG FANGELANA NAMATAN NABUTO BA RABAUNSIO altho quarter deck but they 01 al Work Almed he de than bur blokes was no more JACQUINDT BAY. could have ame lane been stopped has how AA. has heen Loot May buch place Raves Wednesday leave that show will when harty is accompaniel beautiful mit cleary olhar Akin salar Acad mah Me .O. C 24 about mes hange Manu Rhund Alm phored, Ausender At motor and all there Anau Alexes Jou 30 8 Um Lin "Marcels Aven allino -put ashori the U meanbrie MU ANN . they should have set al ready aboard . the Areanten Mample seen~ Aquare at LALOI had formad 21 m the guarden, auch asford mill interpreter Ohmy others refles a bayonets a captani also

quarter deck, but altho' they seemed to do a lot of work it was no more than our blokes could have done. Shore leave has been stopped as looting has been taking place from the caves. The buzz is that shore leave will be granted when party is accompanied by an officer.

Tuesday Sept 18th

G.O.C. 11th Division, Lt Gen Eather and a couple of other army officers came aboard and we left for New Ireland to take the formal surrender of all Jap forces there. (Our "mascots" were put ashore ~ they should have been dumped at sea)

The interpreter was an Aussie Army captain. (map inserted)

Wednesday 19th Sept

A beautiful morning - clear blue sky, calm seas and bright sunshine. We arrived at NATAMANAI at about 7AM. There was a Jap barge flying 2 white flags on the beach. A Jap semaphored that they were having trouble with their motor and may be later than 0730. In the meantime we were getting set up ready aboard. The seamen had formed a square on the quarter deck armed with rifles and bayonets and also others

interpreter exclained armaed with tonny, gunp the hout Ashe hers vantage franks Defore learning the him officers surrendered Al alphavide owill kitorde also 5 efficients as server of sinc and All while mon dreaded in open for the occasion and m linen, sigt Annes they chad as offices elimbed campaign ribbons I the had aboard 4 rows and filling in low the quarter deck one sillow of which looked like facing one of our last non nilbons If gen the Cather. 1 they showed no endion in Inde general atter fales Just creek + ruthless. his world. mu Caller ANDA a temphation not for the smeet whe Amender she hain these were handabed to ourlikend on them. Elfor e final salute Palvanese by the interpreter. the barge fullid Antan and so inded they surrender nodeld fel enderstood but would as four things talked hal army -Immality the of. " give him . five mandes and An Joras in Two Shelonds orw. Me that finded for Sangelona Just south of Karing to take barger mot on So inte Other amenender of all Warals John had to the bange while the personnel from thear admiral Jammers

armed with tommy guns were in vantage points. The jap barge came alongside us and we could see 5 officers, a crew of six and one white man dressed in a linen suit.

The Jap officers climbed aboard and fell in on the quarter deck facing Lt Gen Eather. Lt Gen Ito, the Jap General then handed over his sword. Eather read out the terms of the surrender and these were translated to Japanese by the interpreter.

Ito nodded that he understood but wanted a few things talked over. Eather tersely remarked "give him 5 minutes, and in the barge not on here".

So the Japs had to climb into the barge while the

interpreter explained the few points. Before leaving, the remaining 4 officers surrendered their swords also.

They were dressed in clean gear for the occasion and on their tunics they had their campaign ribbons. Ito had 4 rows, one ribbon of which looked like one of our last war ribbons. But they showed no emotion in their faces. Just cruel and ruthless. It was a temptation not to train the oerlikens on them. After a final salute the barge pulled away and so ended the surrender formality of the Jap Army and Air Force in New Ireland.

We then headed for Fangelawa just south of Kavieng to take the surrender of old Naval personnel from Rear Admiral Tamura.

(I conside our willess communcation take with the show party) Kear admiral Jamma, formally The white man whom the brought abound was, surrendered ashore. This the. madin bag phras. It surondo mander DIERKE. by was fernow rationality but But this fine, the lind, in Mays Sheland brought back 5 Iluns his life the fast The fluxo we M with dressed fermant may have saved his in their black and blue aowas and when where Obecause he I was the only happen amil Automot of the many who had been they cande aboridide 0.0 were fillifully him In was very thin Aste helped their aboard said chadi beme. torbured uppers anno were take our wrish things as being marke Juch The high had berni berni by the threads will was granned aboard on a sketcher common bach, was Obehind the When my anived at EARDER FANGELANA It was falletic to see thin for meague belongings which had had be as ashow annently, If you thad the smed themil the years , a couple of faded intellas regther didn't a fother going allore ting and balland cases ted with The cent as it bolonely other motor book and ishale went Nofe or fall armed guard had not harmed of carrying

The white man whom the Japs brought aboard was a trader named DIERKE. He was of German nationality but had lived in New Ireland all his life. The fact that he was German may have saved his life, because he was the only survivor of the men who had been taken with him. He was very thin and had been tortured by the Japs. Such things as being suspended by the thumbs with the hands behind the back was common.

When we arrived at FANGELAWA our party had to go ashore to take the surrender. Lt Gen Eather didn't bother going ashore. He sent a Lt Colonel. Our motor boat and whaler went off carrying a full armed guard. (I was our wireless communication rating with the shore party)

Rear Admiral Tamura formally surrendered ashore. This time the bag was 4 swords.

But this time, the whaler brought back 5 Nuns and a Priest. The Nuns were all dressed in their black and blue gowns and were very happily smiling as they came alongside. But they were pitifully thin. The boys who helped them aboard said their upper arms were like our wrists. The Priest had berri-berri and was carried aboard on a stretcher.

It was pathetic to see their few meagre belongings which they had treasured thru' the years \sim a couple of faded umbrellas, tins and battered cases tied with rope.

The Japs had not harmed

thit and as the red , take then but had made there suffert the Mary Morant Alemselvo entirely. Caler clothis They had being supplied mithant farment all their most work + it much our content committee advantded hand because yone were young . "The brief. heard March money to clothes longs Reals 5 rest the gave them and such like lacid he thought the tog him. They was Allefly while fight on the island the had been Milled ... tarived in the Kabant during Our officers cook made then comple of good And rogens light meals orders . fest of all fuller reglables pour and Loop followed cold a custand spail for an 4, meat in To one & years hadly light on fruit man they had media beans (cleared first weak they for 3 latos had had lower told us when they first come he abradd the mere to they had freer and these. the rections do . are granans so that mo works Kerel The also gave no ov highmany planed them. wa of a talk about the systems

them, but had made them support themselves entirely. They had to do all their own work and it must have been hard because none of the 5 were young. The Priest said he thought the rest of the white people on the island had been killed.

Our officers cook made them a couple of good light meals with soup and roast vegetables and meat followed by cold custard. For over 3 years they had lived on fruit, beans and a wild berry. This was the first meat they had had for 3 years. When they first came aboard they had beer and cheese. They were Germans so that beginner pleased them.

The priest had no

kit and as the red tape of the Navy doesn't cater for clothes being supplied without payment, our canteen committee advanced the money to buy clothes, soaps and such-like, then gave them to him. He was deeply grateful.

Thursday 20th Sept.

Arrived in Rabaul during forenoon and signalled for further orders. Best of all mail was waiting for us. That is the tonic so badly needed this time up here.

Friday 21st Sept

Skipper cleared lower deck this forenoon and told us he didn't know what we were to do. He reckons there is no work here for us. He also gave us a bit of a talk about the system

would be less than that. It shows of that discharges but nothing concrede has I let been blong fuelly plainly fust what general allihide is out as ho escartly when Makes towards will get out. The proposed Mary hadapional childishness once the men have found out ins to deleane 10,000, pond the it is fike - we are forly the Seturary by reset A Brey O mays with 185 frink and after diversions & went over . & have 179 stop mill lot a string party. There the weat are Out the able to too many sharks he be the little "snag" clause which runing orde the nide in "Key mend will take longer AALD harbour lere. We seven be released . Is by an old which near the shore 21 words the Many of any had, a good break. There were a few facts patrol book hid no, out eventually up to the week but all the tous where and good gear had been taken how these days the 1 Novy interested in The Shipper, said that the Monday 24 Sept furcentage of reserve mens shanged my teartein was 1 for , that is one in every today meting lasted a couple of town. hundred , becomally & think it n distanced star shanaque many

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of discharges, but nothing concrete has yet been bought out as to exactly when blokes will get out. The proposed plan is to release 10,000 from the Navy by next February. That is men with 185 points and over. I have 179, so will be in the next lot. But there is the little "snag" clause which says "Key men will take longer to be released". So by applying those 2 words, the Navy can keep anyone. Ah well, I s'pose they'll let us out eventually. None of the boys have any interest in the Navy these days. The Skipper said that the percentage of reserve men changed over to the permanent service was 1%. That is one in every hundred. Personally I think it would be less than that. It shows pretty plainly just what the general attitude is towards the Navy traditional childishness once the men have found out what it is like we were only there for the war.

Sunday 23rd Sept.

After divisions I went off on a swimming party. There are too many sharks to be able to swim over the side in the harbour here. We swam off an old wreck near the shore and had a good break. There were a few Jap patrol boats tied up to the wreck but all the good gear had been taken from them.

<u>Monday 24th Sept</u> Canteen meeting today lasted a couple of hours. We discussed new managers mainly.

It was decided to once again Tery important signal arrived saying attempt to hold a faity when that we were too go to we go south. The idea is to to become Senior alpices of a dance one night them to - be formed 20th Matinesusching Ilotilla hold dates a buchas faiting ? Un Shipper will love his command Tuesday 25th Self here but is getting the BARCOO m which is pretty good for him. We 40 Monaged and see light. He is sup I will will be sorry to love dovers a doubt offer as guard over has given us a hellieve good go some haves I of gran. There is all Al mine-sweeping job what so good but it will do me because and of gears it the caves leaves tracks show fromto willow floats it will be down south. Fire "had" of all befores . I Sud gave mer a this being away Thursday 27th Sept Went ashore with couple of hair of gay water the P.O. I set and got a few "iablito wings, for take howe offer chustine and bolin from a care of lineless gear Wednesday 26th Sept. Showed a finiture In the evening love put show on again and it want show in the evening, but without to a Archnical fault over which we a break. Olerhaps more to our have no conhol " it only lasted half a show. However dit still surprise than the watchess. Ilad a fight talk them the day brought our 2/6 fee. about taking our alebin tablet

It was decided to once again attempt to hold a party when we go south. The idea is to hold a dance one night, then later a bucks party.

Tuesday 25th Sept

Managed to get off and see Syd. He is up with half a dozen oppos as guard over caves of gear. There is all sorts of gear in the caves. Cars, trucks, aero parts, rubber floats of all types. Syd gave me a couple of pair of Jap water wings to take home for Christine and Colin.

Wednesday 26th Sept

Showed a picture show in the evening, but "due to a technical fault over which we have no control", it only lasted half a show. However it still bought our 2/6 fee.

Very important signal arrived, saying that we were to go to Brisbane to become Senior Officer of the to-be-formed 20th Minesweeping Flotilla. Our Skipper will lose his command on here, but is getting the BARCOO which is pretty good for him. We will be sorry to lose Dovers - he has given us a helluva good go.

A mine-sweeping job won't be so good, but it will do me because it will be down south. I've "had" this being away.

Thursday 27th Sept

Went ashore with the P.O. Tel and got a few "rabbits" from a cave full of wireless gear.

In the evening we put the show on again and it went without a break. Perhaps more to our surprise than the watchers.

Had a pep talk thru' the day about taking our atebrin tablets.

alunday 29th Seek Just before There was another case of malaria arrival Kaving we got a signal aboard. That's about 5 since learning to go in the minefields were not Friday 28th Sept Off to sea heading chadded. To a gap barge came out for Koving New Greland. the one to take off our parchaus. In the Making some New yealend his your chapping barge was coming alongeide the app bow man made a I slip, and the there they are going to go afficer rushed up and hit him a the island boking for news of some of their chaps who were lost there bednety with a stick. Reard over the air that the during the war. Meads a bit of STRANAN had hit a mine in dong hong nerve to go there as they will lope she is O.K. Goesn't make his be the only white people there. look forward to our coming mine bleared lower, dick for a talk by the Shipper. These had been sweeping lob. comple of thefts involving a large Sunday Both Sept Back in Rabarl, and amount of money lover said that the aboard gave the mail he would take no action at present appears that I am now the frond The would bean it to the boys on "father of a "both". lower deck to take this own Monday 1st lectober It very hot action if they know of the thick and out come of the blues to be dhobied. Alues string a sim is competed as all over the ship means I SouTH. worse than mudder on a ship.

There was another case of malaria aboard. That's about 5 since leaving Brisbane.

Friday 28th Sept

Off to sea heading for Kavieng, New Ireland. We are taking some New Zealand Air Force chappies over there. They are going to go thru' the island looking for news of some of their chaps who were lost there during the war. Needs a bit of nerve to go there, as they will be the only white people there. Cleared lower deck for a talk by the Skipper. There had been a couple of thefts involving a large amount of money. Dovers said that he would take no action at present. He would leave it to the boys on the lower deck to take their own action if they knew of the thief. It is counted as a sin almost worse than murder on a ship.

Saturday 29th Sept

Just before arrival at Kavieng we got a signal not to go in as the minefields were not charted. So a Jap barge came out to take off our passengers. As the barge was coming alongside the Jap bow-man made a slip, and the officer rushed up and hit him a beauty with a stick.

Heard over the air that the STRAHAN had hit a mine in Hong Kong. Hope she is O.K. Doesn't make us look forward to our coming mine-sweeping job.

Sunday 30th Sept

Back in Rabaul, and then aboard came the <u>mail.</u> It appears that I am now the proud father of a 'tooth'.

Monday 1st October

A very hot day, and out came the blues to be dhobied. Blues strung out all over the ship means SOUTH.

case alongaide me. However, it blev Tuesday 2nd Se to sea over O (loor old Hope - Johnson) Thursday 4th Sept A letter Good rul We find quite tea been nought the things of common interest Inday 5th Sept. Oot Went ashore herially up here In pain again organized right recing town. idnesday shall Soft la well in an thing, truch to seed syd and the the ap occupied territor town old matter I had a good there experience .. was quite and a small gap wooden care pon thousands of fillby Japs about mere . When alrival back abound Sirst we passed their other camps was quite a commotion. of the Indians and the Chinese Alphe some of the boys had , had been brought there who Ahat beought back gay madline - guns and the gaps to work disting wash In that looks like amphilion . Soul of them had had bad end of our wondering about time, for devils. We drove down When I got back aboard 25 miles into the Auritory mere lined up to see stacks and stacks of Sans any gap gean. The officery who of all descriptions and rows upon had Cassured the gimmy with is hows, of annunition of all sites. went we had none, so imagine that the Jops are quarding them themselves look when he humed, adound - just as well that they his Oldit and some me with as

Tuesday 2nd October

Off to see Syd - to drink his good cup of billy-tea brew. We find quite a few things of common interest, especially up here. In pain again!

Wednesday 3rd Oct.

Strolled off again to see Syd and the mob he is with. Had a good old natter. Got a small Jap wooden case from Syd. Upon arrival back aboard there was quite a commotion. Appears that some of the boys had bought back Jap machine-guns and ammunition. So that looks like the end of our wandering about ashore. When I got back aboard we were lined up to see if we had any Jap gear. The officer who went with us assured the Jimmy that we had none, so imagine his look when he turned around and saw me with a Jap case alongside me. However it blew over. (Poor old Hope-Johnson)

<u>Thursday 4th Sept</u> A letter but nought else.

Friday 5th Oct.

Went ashore on an organised sight seeing tour. We went in an army truck for a tour thru' the Jap occupied territory. It was quite an experience. There were thousands of filthy Japs about. First we passed thru' the camps of the Indians and the Chinese, who had been bought there by the Japs to work during the war. Some of them had had a bad time, poor devils. We drove down 25 miles into the territory. We saw stacks and stacks of arms of all descriptions, and rows upon rows of ammunition of all sizes. The Japs are guarding them themselves - just as well that they didn't

We some the snechs of many many ships sincheding distroyers that out blokes had St News that ship had got all of them on us. Sill quarantee use 8 decorations - Sullyper DEto I think that the stacks of machine lynns and Ack Ack guns is more admensions + various other heads of Department gol. J Sm 5, moluding of 1.6. Leligraphier than, those of own pussies. We stopped and exchanged words Whech is an honder. with a first Japa - and made sure Many for our service around Winnich & Afairpe, so at least that they balled us. Quite a the 12-18 how days work good short Went alongeide the glabbo to fuel during the hectic, ferrods were recognised, but a twonder what Ihr was alonghide the Jap hig What has been lifting at another live effect the echandrow and shain The Antho is the down have back to Recorded have later. But it looks Anssie. The is the bug that as though it could be ending was a box of minesweeping, and if supposed to have a lipp aboard her. I had a look at her, and on doeshit go off too close then I could bed really home for good by Christmas - 2 to hope 050 - perhaps see ful on Sweled ship all day / organised for sea - Arthed all the weight first lost & get quite frat. day the on Muddle Watch - & fasty being able the Allep all might - Constrad of Jup/ Mr On way be Arisband hours las we have been doing

use all of them on us. I'll guarantee that the stacks of machine guns and Ack Ack guns is more numerous that those of our Aussies. We stopped and exchanged words with a few Japs - and made sure that they saluted us. Quite a good show. We saw the wrecks of many, many ships including destroyers that our blokes had done over. Went alongside the Dubbo to fuel. It was alongside the Jap tug that has been lying at anchor here. The Dubbo is to tow her back to Aussie. She is the tug that was supposed to have a leper aboard her. I had a look at her, and \sim

<u>6th.</u>

Fueled ship all day ~ Organised for sea - worked all day on the Middle Watch

<u>7th</u>

On way to Brisbane

<u>8th</u>

News that the ship had got ~ 8 decorations ~ Skipper DSO I think and various other heads of Department got DSM's, including our P.O. Telegraphist which is an honour.

Mainly for our service around Wewak and Haipe(?), so at least the 12-18 hour days work during the hectic periods were recognised, but I wonder what effect the exhaustion and strain could have later. But it looks as though it could be ending - a bit of minesweeping, and if one doesn't go off too close, then I could really be home for good by Christmas - I do hope so - perhaps I'll put on the weight I've lost and get quite fat - and fancy being able to sleep all night - instead of just 4 hours as we have been doing for some long time.

Atr. Och

<u>9th Oct</u>

Looking back in repospect and rel-reading these dearies it would almost seen that life then consisted of swimming a general sport, mard with bouls of rea time. However the reality was different sport was encouraged din lessure time Doccupy the Iminia. Many who didn't farliespape in sport bleane depressed and had to be self south for heatment. There were the long hours of reputitive borecton at sea in champed conditions with most of the time thinnklesting or thinned from Working in watches sowelimes meant he hours on dity 4-6 hours off, but when off duty these there other required duties to perform. Annung action or clamb, or even plachies,

1980

Looking back in retrospect and re-reading these diaries, it would almost seem that life then consisted of swimming and general sport, mixed with bouts of sea time. However the reality was different - sport was encouraged in leisure times to occupy the mind. Many who didn't participate in sport became depressed and had to be sent south for treatment.

There were long hours of repetitive boredom at sea in cramped conditions with most of the time food being uninteresting or tinned. Working in watches sometimes meant 4 hours on duty 4-6 hours off, but when off duty there were other required duties to perform. During action or alarms, or even practices,

one could be off duty but money my 2 a penny photos of required for action station only for the family ele albays around Abus, might a day, Then where action my would ; because the possibility was over go back on of ship being his & sinking was watch keeping this in the radio always with us, rear cabin (about the size of a Refluences to going ashow bathroom) So work was after mostly didn't mean, a pleasant ride to a fifty always I shippers of 12-16 hours a day & in some ships headined that a break cases I can rendember never from the compinement of a ships laying down for more than an Inssidection was good for morale. Admat a time for days. Anning alert " Red Signals" To in most cases me found our own your ashore southines even although an an raid or your swimming & flogling our clothes attack night not touch the on a laff. bad crew member ship there was the fron of not knowing - on the fear that then had something to talk about on his return, friends on other ships on ashare might be killed ! The physical effort of escorting Anning landings va convoy slow supply ships hot sauch slow speeds he I rough weather could lasily Jade the nerves and danger of attack I carried a I body belt with my cause tensions among the

one could be off duty but required for action station duty for hours, night and day. Then when action was over go back on watch keeping duties in the radio cabin (about the size of a bathroom). So work was mostly 12 -16 hours a day and in some cases I can remember never laying down for more than an hour at a time for days.

During alert "Red Signals" although an air raid or gun attack might not touch the ship, there was the fear of not knowing - or the fear that friends on other ships or ashore might be killed.

During landings, or convoys, or shoots, where there was a danger of attack I carried a body belt with my

money, my $\frac{1}{2}$ a penny, photos of the family etc always around my waist, because the possibility of ship being hit and sinking was always with us.

References to going ashore didn't mean a pleasant ride to a jetty always. Skippers of ships realised that a break from the confinement of a ships wassdecks? was good for morale. So in most cases we found our own way ashore, sometimes even swimming and floating our clothes on a raft. Each crew member then had something to talk about on his return.

The physical effort of escorting slow supply ships at such slow speeds in rough weather could easily jade the nerves and cause tensions among the

New which could lead to houble We might here see them again. in such cramped conditions I shave sat for hours in a Night after might + day after thay small (unconseil an conditioned m of holding on to englithing those etongs) hat humid torreless office with headphones on, and static learned while you walked or take ! was applyaccally and mentally by bad reception conditions nearly shaling In convertes three were . deafening we, while we have at least 100 men living in been endaged in some nort of areas no larger than of dangerous situations, and have couple of loundge rooms. not known what was happening It theyou decame necessary outside - whether we were in I danger to work together to build on safe. If wasn't always up a common pride of the that tway, of course - but it this and its achievements. In must be redembered that we this way we became like a mu all in our early 205 family back interested in Law empressionable ages The achievements of others. Overriding what appears our 4 years. In our returns Perhaps calcul, and at fimes to norchal life we found that we felt that people duchit separation from home & family midlistand what had * the compant doubt whether happened " things in normal

crew which could lead to trouble in such cramped conditions.

Night after night and day after day of holding on to everything while you walked or ate was a physically and mentally strain. On corvettes there were at least 100 men living in areas no larger than a couple of lounge rooms.

It therefore became necessary to work together to build up a common pride of the ship and its achievements. In this way we became like a family each interested in the achievements of others.

Overriding what appears perhaps casual, and at times even pleasant, was the separation from home and family and the constant doubt whether we might never see them again.

I have sat for hours in a small (not air conditioned in those days) hot humid wireless office with headphones on, and static caused by bad reception conditions nearly deafening me, while we have been engaged in some sort of dangerous situations, and have not known what was happening outside - whether we were in danger or safe. It wasn't always that way, of course - but it must be remembered that we were all in our early 20's - at an impressionable age.

In my case this spread over 4 years. On our return to normal life we felt that people didn't understand what had happened - things in normal

nacessary life hadn't changed such the concerption totalive full day but we had befor the by day, or even the intense was most of us had a physical effort required to keep resplessness that took time hip with the name long hours to lose. We missed mateship, Alhard work, or the discipline a common language, Chin necessary to cope mentally the swearing , land the day apple day! disclipined whitine. We felt Alt that a long while that civies though that ago - and pubels means all of a sudden me should Inothing except to me a penget to years of change in offus like me I + perhaps, for but lives (not bought on by that reason wont worth the ourselves) Possibly Sthey were comments. AD night - the fast, once over, 1980 It's only a memory on emotion, but it took us a long time to, leain that, and in the process many suffired, checause of the mental conflicts These dearies dont always show the fear, the bravado, the toneliness, the intensive haped,

life hadn't changed much but we had. After the war most of us had a restlessness that took time to lose. We missed mateship, a common language (even the swearing), and the disciplined routine. We felt that civvies thought that all of a sudden we should forget 4 years of change in our lives (not bought on by ourselves). Possibly they were right - the past, once over, is only a memory or emotion, but it took us a long time to learn that, and in the process many suffered, because of the mental conflicts.

These diaries don't always show the fear, the bravado, the loneliness, the intensive hatred,

the concentration necessary to live just day by day, or even the intense physical effort required to keep up with the long hours and hard work, or the discipline necessary to cope mentally day after day.

But thats a long while ago - and perhaps means nothing except to me and others like me and perhaps for that reason isn't worth the comments. BD

1980