



BOOK THREE ✓

STARTED MARCH 17. 1943

July 8th 43

Books 1 + 2	21 900
Darwin to Millingimbi Mission	350
Millingimbi to Darwin	350
Darwin to Drysdale	300
Drysdale to Wyndham	90
Wyndham to Darwin	280
Darwin to Le Bourcys Lead	200
Le Bourcys Lead to Millingimbi	150
Millingimbi to Gooki Baylandt	300
Gooki Baylandt to Thursday Is.	400
Thursday Is. to Darwin	750
Darwin to Millingimbi	350
Millingimbi to Thursday Is.	400
Thursday Is. to Darwin	750
Darwin to Millingimbi	350
Millingimbi to Thursday Is.	30,000
Thursday Is. to Darwin	750
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	30,750

	30 750
Darwin to Thursday Is	750
Thursday Is. to Gladstone	900
Gladstone to Brisbane	350
Brisbane to Sydney	

Books 1 + 2	21,900	
Darwin to Millingimbi	350	
Millingimbi to Darwin	350	
Darwin to Drysdale	300	
Drysdale to Wyndham	90	
Wyndham to Darwin	280	
Darwin to De Courceys Head	200	
De Courceys Head to Millingimbi	150	
Millingimbi to Groote Eylandt	300	
Groote Eylandt to Thursday Island	400	
Thursday Island to Darwin	750	
Darwin to Millingimbi	350	
Millingimbi to Thursday Island	400	
Thursday Island to Darwin	750	
Darwin to Millingimbi	350	
Millingimbi to Thursday Island	30,000	
Thursday Island to Darwin	<u>750</u>	
	30,750	
Darwin to Thursday Island	750	
Thursday Island to Gladstone	900	
Gladstone to Brisbane	350	
Brisbane to Sydney		

MARCH

17th

Expected to go out today but hung about getting oil + water waiting for Babinda to finish loading.

18th

Left at 8 am with Babinda. About 30 odd Air Force blokes aboard bound for place called Millingimby Mission (that's what it sounds like) on Liverpool River. About 36 hours steaming. Very hot day, went to sleep + woke up in sun – got burned but not sore tho'. Got up to go on Morning Watch and passed out on iron deck in waist. Stoker found me + we got Doc. Passed out again on my feet, but finally they put me to bed. Wanted to do my watch but doc wouldn't let me, Boxie did it. Probably dose of sun stroke. I'll watch it after this. Cripes my legs wouldn't hold me. Boys reckon I had a secret plant of beer somewhere.

19th

Started to scrub mess but couldn't take it. Must be getting old. Slept on settee all morning + arvo then felt pretty right when went on Last Dog. Lumpy sea outside – hot sun. Air Force blokes crook. I came good after supper + did my Middle Watch quite uneventfully. Anchored about 10pm. Going in in morning.

20th

Run aground at Crocodile Islands about 8am. Stuck fast on sand + mud bottom. Babinda couldn't get us out. Tide out. Four boongs came up river in log canoe + led Babinda in. She is to call back for us at 8pm when tide comes in. Queer feeling to be stuck while water goes away. Only in about 18 inches of water when tide fully out. Reefs all round about 10 to 20 yards away.

MARCH

Boys went over the side & walked across
to islands through mud during afternoon.
Hope we get off as we don't want
to suffer fate of Voyager crew who
was left ashore in Starwin. Pumped 26
tons of water out of forid tanks to
make us lighter.

Quite a bit of fun & work after 8 pm.
Only 10 feet of water at high tide.

Sabinda pulled us slightly to starboard
but we appear to be stuck amidships.
Broke quite a few manillas ^{ropes} trying to
pull bows around. Had to give up
as it got too late to see. Skipper
is a bit worried. Ah well it's my
all night in tonight & I hang if it
gonna keep me awake. (This damn bad)

21st Ah - shifted us at full tide
this morning at last. Adee done
damaged can't tell how badly till

we get out to sea & set it operating.
Probably mean going into dock again.

Went up Liverpool River anchored just
off Milbingimbi Mission. From here
Mission looks quite big. Two houses,
sheds, huts etc, neatly laid out.

Big number of boongs there. Can only
unload Sabinda till about 1 pm then
tide is out till after 6 pm, so we
will probably be here a few days
unloading barks & other stuff. Might
get a chance to go ashore.

Weather very hot but this laddie is
going about everywhere disguised under
a sun helmet, taking no more chances.

22nd ^{night} Liberty in afternoon for 3 to
4 hours. Could ashore in whaler crowded
with stokers, seamen & us. Managed to
get ashore without mishap. Tide out so
waded about 100 yards in mud.

MARCH

Boys went over the side + walked across to islands through mud during afternoon. Hope to get off as we don't want to suffer fate of Voyagers crew who were left ashore in Darwin. Pumped 26 tons of water out of forr'd tanks to make us lighter.

Quite a lot of fun + work after 8pm. Only 10 feet of water at high tide. Babinda pulled us slightly to starb'd but we appear to be stuck amidships. Broke quite a few manilas ropes trying to pull bows around. Had to give up as it got too late to see. Skipper is a bit worried. Ah well it's my all night in tonight + hanged if it's gonna keep me awake. (Flys damn bad)

21st

Aha – shifted us at full tide this morning at last. Asdec dome damaged can't tell how badly till

we get out to sea + set it operating. Probably means going into dock again! Went up Liverpool River anchored just off Milingimbi Mission. From here mission looks quite big. Few houses, sheds, huts etc, neatly laid out. Big number of boongs there. Can only unload Babinda till about 1 pm then tide is out till after 6 pm, so we will probably be here a few days unloading trucks + other stuff. Might get a chance to go ashore.

Weather very hot but this laddie is going about everywhere disguised under a sun helmet, taking no more chances.

22nd

Liberty in afternoon for 3 to 4 hours. Rowed ashore in whaler crowded with stokers, seamen + us. Managed to get ashore without mishap. Tide out so waded about 100 yards in mud.

March

Mission itself made up of 3 big houses, machinery sheds and small neat hut big enough for a small family of boongs. Missioner told us hills hereabouts very peaceful compared to Kimberly hills around Port Keat. About 150 odd boongs at mission, some live there permanently. Usually the missioner's wife lives there with him but down south having a baby at this time. Got ride out to Jim Jones ship + had a look around. Saw the much famed Dr Denton the Flying Doctor + his Leiland Dragon. Also went over a Hudson bomber. Boy I'd like to go up in one. Old boong there gave us a bit of a war dance + threw his spears for us. He has 2 wives + 2 more promised him - there two new ones had a fight yesterday according

to the missioner + knocked each other about badly. Cipe he smoked was a queer thing none of the boys would try it. Walked back to the mission thru thick bush. Wandered about looking at gash hicks squatted around, living in half tanks like air raid shelters. Boongs they are thin these boongs. One old chap had legs + arms no thicker in any part but than my wrists. The two kiddies are practically two matchsticks with a belly + head. Little kiddies playing at courtoises. Very interesting - the chant had quite a melody to it, too. (Book called Over the Range by Charles Barrett all about this place) That day but couldn't get swim as tide out. Back aboard about 5 pm. Rained for a change during evening but very hot below decks.

MARCH

Mission itself made up of 3 big houses, machinery sheds and small neat huts big enough for a small family of boongs. Missioner told us tribes hereabouts very peaceful compared to Kimberley tribes round Port Kimb. About 150 odd boongs at mission, some live there permanently. Usually the missioners wife lives there with him but down south having a baby at this time. Got ride out to Air Force strip + had a look around. Saw the much famed Dr Fenton the Flying Doctor + his De Haviland Dragon. Also went over a Hudson bomber. Boy I'd like to go up in one. Old boong there gave us a bit of a war dance + threw his spears for us. He has 2 wives + 2 more promised him – these two new ones had a fight yesterday according

to the missioner + knocked each other about badly. Pipe he smoked was a queer thing, none of the boys would try it. Walked back to the mission thru' thick bush. Wandered about looking at gash tribes squatted around, living in half tanks like air raid shelters. Cripes they are thin these boongs. One old chap had legs + arms no thicker in any part than my wrists. The wee kiddies are practically two matchsticks with a belly + head. Little kiddies playing at corroborees. Very interesting – the chant had quite a melody to it, too. (Book called Over the Range by Charles Barret all about this place). Hot day but couldn't get swim as tide out. Back aboard about 5 pm. Rained for a change during evening but very hot below decks.

MARCH

23rd ~~March~~ Got under way about 8 AM.
on way back. No trouble this time.
Ship sure rolling some, but motion
not unpleasant. Hot day.

24th ~~March~~ Going thru narrow early this
morning, bit of a swell on. Sighted
quite a few planes and saw Arch
Arch fire but no raid alarm given.
In about 5 o'clock. Mail aboard
after peram. That's what we like.

25th ~~March~~ Into dock during forenoon.
Acker done swarsted completely. Had to
understand how it managed to work
on our way back from M'gimbi. Apart for
that no damage done when he went
aground. Luckily they have a gear
done ashore so would have to
send to Sydney for one. Dave + I
spent full day at batteries. During
afternoon went swimming off edge

of dock for about an hour, ended up
by bashing my knee against edge.
26th ~~March~~ Worked on motor cleaning
brushes all morning. Boring it
was hot. Ashore in P.M. got a
game of tennis at Y.M.C.A. but
paid for it because lost my wallet
containing £10/15/- + my Timor money.
Suspect "stray" blokes from Allied
Works council of borrowing(?) it.
Can't be helped. Hope I'll save
some more. ~~Went to pictures~~

27th ~~March~~ Worked all day but off to
pictures in evening. Met Eric Shield.
After both being in sight of each
other for 6 months, this is first
time I've seen him since been here.
Talking to Bob Cascoe, Jack Fairweather
& Roy Hengell. All well. King hardly
on at show - not too bad.

March

23rd

Got under way about 8 am on way back. No trouble this time. Ship sure rolling some, but motion not unpleasant. Hot day.

24th

Going thru' narrows early this morning, bit of a swell on. Sighted quite a few planes and saw Ack Ack fire but no raid alarm given. In about 5 o'clock. Mail aboard after scram. That's what we like.

25th

Into dock during forenoon. Asdec dome smashed completely. Hard to understand how it managed to work on our way back from M'gimbi. Apart from that no damage done when we went aground. Luckily they have a gash dome ashore or would have to send to Sydney for one. Dave + I spent full day on batteries. During afternoon went swimming off edge

of dock for about an hour, ended up by bashing my knee against edge.

26th

Worked on motors cleaning brushes all morning. Blimey it was hot. Ashore in arvo, got a game of tennis at YMCA hut but paid for it because lost my wallet containing 10/15/- and my Timor money. Suspect civvy blokes from Allied Works council of borrowing(?) it. Can't be helped. Spose I'll save some more.

27th

Worked all day but off to pictures in evening, Met Eric Shields after both being in sight of each other for 6 months, this is first time I've seen him since been here. Talking to Bob Pascoe, Jack Fairweather + Roy Henzell. All well. Bing Crosby on at show – not too bad.

Moehn

28th Divisions in morning. Ben
Lutter's doing the fool. Took out of
18 miscellaneous bunch there. Refused
scrub out or work after that. Got my
head down nearly all day.

29th Dave + I started other bunch
of batteries + finished early, so we
could go ashore. Played water polo
against Lahole (which came in yesterday)
and beat them 8-0. Our team
beat Commandos 5-3 yesterday.

30th Mail closing at noon so sneaked
off a note to Mang during forenoon.
Mang work when there's a mail closing.
Went alongside to fuel + water at noon.
Went off and played Lahole cricket
got beaten. Great mob of blokes. Different
feeling than between us + Lalgoorah
when she was here. Delayed sailing
for 24 hours - vap sucked by "Engines".

31st Worked during forenoon decoding
in mess. Got note from V bloke that
my wallet found. Appears smoothie took
my shirt by mistake on Saturday as
strangely both shirts exactly similar.
I'm lucky there's honest blokes in the
service. Went ashore with water polo
team - collected my wallet on way
past all intact. About dozen happy
rough smoothie blokes aboard tonight.
Sailed at 1 AM - just my luck to
have the Middle. Bound for Plymouth
first, I think.

~~at the~~

28th

Divisions in morning. Ben Fuller's doing, the fool. Four out of 28 miscellaneous branch there. Refused scrub out on work after that. Got my head down nearly all day.

29th

Dave + I started other bank of batteries + finished early, so we could go ashore. Played water polo against Latrobe (which came in yes'day) and beat them 8-nil. Our team beat Commandoes 5-3 yesterday.

30th

Mail closing at noon so sneaked off + wrote to Marg during forenoon. Hang work when there's a mail closing. Went alongside to fuel + water at noon. Went off and played Latrobe cricket got beaten. Great mob of blokes. Different feeling than between us + Kalgoorlie when she was here. Delayed sailing for 24 hours – vap anchored by “Engines”.

31st

Worked during forenoon decockroaching in mess. Got note from Y bloke that my wallet found. Appears swottie took my shirt by mistake on Saturday as strangely both shirts exactly similar.

I'm lucky theres honest blokes in the services. Went ashore with water polo team – collected my wallet on way past, all intact. About dozen Raafs couple swottie blokes aboard tonight. Sailed at 1AM – just my luck to have the Middle. Bound for Drysdale first, I think.

APRIL 1943

1st April Took Day - maybe that reason why I was destined to have Middle. Warm day. sea calm. Couple spitties decided me as practice for attack, few thayer fast. Met smeltie aboard who was a Teleg in Sydney etc, had good natter about mutual names.

2nd Arrived Drysdale about 11 am, started unloading. Rafters from ashore not there so missioner sent native runner 15 miles to tell them. He must have moved, because they appeared during afternoon. Very hot day - flies damned bad.

3rd Went ashore to help unload drums. 1000. Good firm sandy bottom so work a pleasure. Went up to old mission + nattered to missioner. He has been here 24 years except for 6 months when he was sick. This mission abandoned because of lack of good water. Another place

built 16 miles inland. + thriving. Tribes hereabouts fairly wild. Tribal cuts + markings all over their bodies, even thighs + legs. Hordes of big pink jellyfish about so we unable to go out too deep to swim. Trucks + drums unloaded in good time + we under way at 4 pm. (Albert bollier in our new)

4th Very hot day. Typical of Wyndham. Came down muddy river + arrived about 4 o'clock. Tide out. Sabinda alongside wharf unloading. (Clarrie Barwick went off) Two sharks about which is peculiar in this muddy water. Then worked all night unloading.

5th Finished unloading and on our way before 9 am. Hot day but blew up bit of a swell toward evening.

6th Into Darwin about 3.30 pm

1st April 1943

April Fools Day – maybe that's reason why I was destined to have Middle. Warm day. Sea calm. Couple Spitfires decided use us as practise for attack. Jove theyre fast. Met swottie aboard who was a Teleg in Sydney CTO, had good natter about mutual names.

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3rd

Went ashore to help unload drums. 1000. Good firm sandy bottom so work a pleasure. Went up to old mission + nattered to missioner. He has been here 24 years except for 6 months when he was sick. This mission abandoned because of lack of good water. Another place

built 14 miles inland + thriving. Tribes hereabouts fairly wild. Tribal cuts + markings all over their bodies, even thighs + legs. Dozens of big pink jellyfish about so we unable to go out too deep to swim. Trucks + drums unloaded in good time + we under way at 4 pm. (Albert Collier in our mess).

4th

Very hot day. Typical of Wyndham. Came down muddy river + arrived about 4 o'clock. Tide out. Babinda alongside wharf unloading (Clarrie Barwick went off). Few sharks about which is peculiar in this muddy water. Men worked all night unloading.

5th

Finished unloading and on our way before 9am. Hot day but blew up bit of a swell tow'd evening.

6th

Into Darwin about 3.30pm.

April

Wilcannia in just after us with
Islander + Muliano. Other corvettes
out. Mail aboard - good ok.

Went alongside to oil + water at
6 pm + stayed alongside all night.
Picture party off, but I stayed aboard.
^{7th} Inoculated for anti - tetanus
+ anti - typhoid - one in each arm
today. Doctor went over no too.

I weighed 10 stone - my record so far.
Rained during evening.

^{8th} Left again very sore, crook
headache. Slept all afternoon.

Went alongside Muliano. (Wilcannia
took rest of ships out yesterday - even
our Gabinda. Muliano now taking
over her run. Looks as tho' we are
doomed to be a Moonin' mission ship.)
Turn came alongside us for night so
had Artie to supper. After supper

Jacky Woods came aboard till after 9 pm.
He heard we were going south so
came to say goodbye. HA. HA. HA. Ship
buzzing with rumors but I'm pretty
sure we'll be back in a week or
so. One of the new Fairmiles arrived
tonight. Not bad looking crates.
^{9th} My luck. Set watch at 5 AM.
Left about 7 AM with Muliano +
Turn, on our way to Milingindi
+ Groot Eylandt. Possibly others.
Received report from Wilcannia that
our friend, Freddie the float-plane
attacking their convoy near Wessels.
So we might strike some fun this
trip especially as we may call at
Wessels. Our convoy is loaded with
bombs etc. too. Freddie must have
been on leave. So ago since he
was about.

Wilcannia in just after us with Islander + Muliamo.
Other corvettes out. Mail aboard – goodoh.
Went alongside to oil + water at 6pm + stayed
alongside all night. Picture party off, but I stayed
aboard.

7th

Innocolated for anti-tetanus + anti-typhoid – one in
each arm today. Doctor went over us too. I weighed
10 stone – my record so far. Rained during evening.

8th

Left arm very sore, crook headache. Slept all
afternoon. Went alongside Muliamo. (Wilcannia
took rest of ships out yesterday – even our Babinda.
Muliamo now taking over her run. Looks as tho' we
are doomed to be a bloomin' mission ship) Kuru
came alongside us for night so had Artie to supper.
After supper

Jacky Woods came aboard till after 9pm. He heard
we were going south so came to say goodbye.
HA.HA.HA. Ship buzzing with rumours but I'm pretty
sure we'll be back in a week or so. One of the new
Fairmiles arrived tonight. Not bad looking crates.

9th

My luck. Set watch at 5AM. Left about 7 AM with
Muliamama + Kuru, on our way to Milingimbi + Groote
Eylandt, possibly others. Received report from
Wilcannia that our friend, Freddie the Float-plane
attacking their convoy near Wessels. So we might
strike some fun this trip especially as we may call at
Wessels. Our convoy is loaded with bombs etc. too.
Freddie must have been on leave. Its ages since he
was about.

APRIL

10th Pulled into sort of bay at
Le Bourgeois Head to land gear +
stores. Started to rain + then became
stormy. Breakers and surf too
rough for boat to get ashore, so
impossible to do any unloading. The
rolling bad enough, but they got the
knot practically turning seawards.
Country ashore very thickly bushed
+ green. Along shore, peculiarity is
sandhills stretching down to a even beach,
then next to them, flat topped green
cliffs, then sandhills again.

11th Very rough last night. Had to
take up anchor + steam about.
Anchored during forenoon around another
point. Managed to get stores, including
tractor, jeep, truck etc ashore on
barges, but didn't finish + get under
way until about 7 pm.

Appears there is a bomber that has
made forced landing hereabouts +
hasn't been landing here with stores
etc to work on making it serviceable
again.

12th Picked up boom pilot about 11 am
to go into Millingimbi. Log canoe
containing 8 boom came out + met us.
Charlie the pilot had fusca trousers,
jacket + cap on, probably given him by
one of the boys on a previous visit.
Tied their canoe behind us + towed it.
They had to steer it like as tho it
was a surf boat at Manly. Charlie guided
us safely in, so we didn't run aground
this time. Marvellous how he knows
the channels etc because he has no
chart, relying only on sight. Started
unloading about 2 pm. Lined alongside us
all night.

10th

Pulled into sort of bay at De Courceys Head to land gear + stores. Started to rain + then became stormy. Breakers and surf too rough for boats to get ashore, so impossible to do any unloading. We rolling bad enough, but by gee the Kuru practically turning somersaults. Country ashore very thickly bushed + green. Along shore peculiarity is sandhills stretching down to an even beach, then next to them, flat topped green cliffs, then sandhills again.

11th

Very rough last night. Had to take up anchor + steam about. Anchored during forenoon around another point. Managed to get stores, including tractor, jeep, truck etc ashore on barges, but didn't finish + get under way until about 7pm.

Appears there is a bomber that has made forced landing hereabouts + Raaf blokes landing here with stores etc to work on making it serviceable again.

12th

Picked up boong pilot about 11am to go into Millingimbi. Log canoe containing 8 boongs came out + met us. Charlie the pilot had pussa trousers, jacket + cap on, probably given him by one of the boys on a previous visit. Tied their canoe behind us + towed it. They had to steer it like as tho' it was a surf boat at Manly. Charlie guided us safely in, so we didn't run aground this time. Marvellous how he knows the channels etc because he has no chart, relying only on sight. Started unloading about 2pm. Kuru alongside us all night.

APRIL

13th Held up by tides again, most of stuff unloaded in evening. Kuru not half as useful as Koro's boat, but helping a bit. Koro tonight said that sub was sunk nearly. Probably the one that was reported on our path a Wilsonian.

14th Fine morning, but blew up a storm during Last Day. Lot of a roll. Under way about 3 pm en route to Groke Islands. Kuru coming with us still.

15th Passed between Wesale group & mainland about 8 am. Raining heavily main part of forenoon. We have had more rain this trip than almost whole wet season. Passing between islands all day, Cunningham Group, Ashell Group, some very large others small. Some very pretty little

rugged rock formations + wooded belts. Quite easy to understand how float plane be based on one of these islands. Only half dozen shown on atlas, but there are dozens of isles. Jim crew closed up all day because of report that Jap sub surfaced while crew rowed ashore + forced natives to get them fresh water. Natives then reported to missionary who wireless Darwin. Goodness knows when it happened tho! Kuru again taking bashing.

16th More islands - finally reached Groke about 4 pm. Big island surrounded by many small isles. Flat except for one hill in center. Low booms ashore. One white landmark can be seen from here - Arlie tells me its three solid blocks of marble.

APRIL

13th

Held up by tides again, most of stuff unloaded in evening. Kuru not half as useful as KHMs boat, but helping a bit. News tonight said that sub was sunk nearby. Probably the one that was reported on our path. Wilcannia's.

14th

Fine morning, but blew up a storm during Last Dog. Bit of a roll. Under way bout 3pm on route to Groote Eylandt. Kuru coming with us still.

15th

Passed between Wessels group + mainland about 8am. Raining heavily main part of forenoon. We have had more rain this trip than almost whole wet season. Passing between islands all day, Cunningham Group, Astrells Group, some very large others small. Some very pretty with

rugged rock formations + wooded belts. Quite easy to understand how float-plane be based on one of these islands. Only half dozen shown on atlas, but there are dozen of isles. Guns crew closed up all day because of report that Jap sub surfaced while crew rowed shore + forced natives to get them fresh water. Natives then reported to missionary who wirelessly Darwin. Goodness knows when it happened tho'. Kuru again taking bashing.

16th

More islands – finally reached Groote about 4pm. Big island surrounded by many small isles. Flat except for one hill in centre. Few boongs ashore. One white landmark can be seen from here – Artie tells me its three solid blocks of marble.

17th Went out sailing in whaler
in afternoon. Engines & guns came &
fished. Sailed off shore & had good
day. Saw long log canoe with
raffier sail & it could certainly
move. These natives are supposed to
have got many of their ideas from
a bit of natives who once sailed
from Malaya or thereabouts. Finished
and left at 4 am for south of
island.

18th Beautiful day. many big
King mackerel fish about. Boy got
one about 25 lbs. Passed one long
island with beautiful white sandy beach -
at one end of this island the cliffs
were coloured a pinky red. Looked
out like a flame & looked very
beautiful. Never seen that color before.
Collected in a big open bay at south

end of Gook. This is where civil Imperial
Aivale flying boats used to call on
way to Chaimo in peace time.

Libbie radio station & shelling, jiffy
etc makes strange sight. here hundreds
of miles from anywhere. Not much stuff
to come off & so under way again
about 5 pm, en route to Thursday
Island. Turn on way back to
Larwin. Told Libbie I'd see him
when we got back. Hope I'm wrong,
but don't think I will be. Good
bloke Libbie. Been goodish having him
alongside us nearly every night eating
with us etc.

19th Beautiful sunny day. Dozens of
schools of fish about.

20th At Thursday Island at noon
forming with rain! seems to be
dozens of ships in. All sorts.

17th

Went out sailing in whaler in afternoon. Engines + guns came + fished. Sailed off shore + had good day. Saw boong log canoe with raffier sail + it could certainly move. These natives are supposed to have got many of their ideas from a tribe of natives who once sailed from Malaya or thereabouts. Finished and left at 4am for south of island.

18th

Beautiful day – many big King mackerel fish about. Boys got one about 25lbs. Passed one long island with beautiful white sandy beach – at one end of this island the cliffs were coloured a pinky red. Stood out like a flame + looked very beautiful. Never seen that color before. Pulled in big open bay at south

end of Groote. This is where civil Imperial Airways flying boats used to call on way to Cairns in peace time. Civvie radio stations + dwellings, jetty etc. makes strange sight here hundreds of miles from anywhere. Not much stuff to come off + so under way again about 5pm, en route to Thursday Island. Kuru on way back to Darwin. Told Artie I'd see him when we got back. Hope I'm wrong, but don't think I will be. Good bloke Artie. Been goodoh having him alongside us nearly every night eating with us etc.

19th

Beautiful sunny day. Dozens of schools of fish about.

20th

In at Thursday Island at noon pouring with rain. Seems to be dozens of ships in. All sorts.

April

When rain cleared up there were 15 ships in. Lahoe has been in here for 15 days. Castlemaine seems to be doing all the work also Wilcannia. Half a dozen MTB's that MacArthur got away from Laken in. Some Yankee mine-sweepers - not half as sturdy as us. Also gun boat. Inverell been here six days. Looks like our turn for spell to fix odd jobs. Warego here too.

21st Pictures in evening. Silent picture "Grimson Runner". Very funny show. Funniest of all were remarks made by the boys during the picture. Had a real good laugh. As to the expected picture full - big crowd of Yanks. Every one of them have revolvers on their in shoulder holsters or with lanyards around their chests. One chap had long jungle knife. No doubt

about the Yanks, they are all show. Our snotties could eat them.

22nd All except Yanks gone out with ships. We are to sit in water from Darwin when she gets in. Maybe a week. Early went over to Horn Island to play Raft cricket & look over the Higgins & new Doomerang fighters. Not a bad job for Aussie built planes. They put on bit of flying show for us. Crofters beat us by 30 runs. Spike made ten, then got one wicket. He is a good sport. Very hot playing tho'. 23rd Easter Saturday. Wonder what Hargis is doing down south. Got wish I could be there. Does look as tho' we are anywhere near going yet. Rugges reckon it will be at least another six weeks. Spent morning in neg de-roaching. Got hundreds. In answer

APRIL

When rain cleared up there were 15 ships in. Latrobe has been in here for 15 days. Castlemaine seems to be doing all the work, also Wilcannia. Half a dozen MTB's that MacArthur got away from Batan in. Some Yankee mine-sweepers – not half as sturdy as us. Also gun boat. Inverell been here six days. Looks like our turn for spell to fix odd jobs. Warrego here too.

21st

Pictures in evening. Silent picture "Crimson Runner". Very funny show. Funniest of all were remarks made by the boys during the picture. Had a real good laugh. As to be expected pictures full – big crowd of Yanks. Every one of them have revolvers on them in shoulder holsters or with lanyards around their chests. One chap had long jungle knife. No doubt

about the yanks, they are all show. Our swotties could eat them.

23rd

All except Yanks gone out with ships. We are to oil + water from Darval when she gets in. Maybe a week. Party went over to Horn Island to play Raaf cricket + look over the Hudsons + new Boomerang fighters. Not a bad job for Aussie built planes. They put on bit of flying show for us. Raafers beat us by 30 runs. Spike made tea, then got one wicket. He is a good sport. Very hot playing tho'.

24th

Easter Saturday. Wonder what Margie is doing down south. Gosh wish I could be there. Doesn't look as tho' we are anywhere near going yet. Buzzes reckon it will be at least another six weeks. Spent morning in mess de-cockroachng. Got hundreds. In arvo

April

Rugby team went off to play. Team from ashore beat them 5-0. Lack of exercise aboard cuts our wind.

25th ANZAC Day. Exercises in morning. Swimming party in afternoon.

26th Raining, but went off and had franchise match of Aussie Rules football. Played rover + suffered quite scratches, kicks - + boy am I stiff.

27th Batteries all forward - had a franchise training run for couple of hours but made me stiffer. Raining again. Some of crew went out in whaler + got good haul of fish.

28th Heavy fog. Played Navy Team Aussie Rules. Got beat but had good game. We beat them in roughness but they too fast for us. Played rover again + took beat kick in right leg.

29th Early morning swim. Batteries in bad way. Long the job. Got acid in every blooming cut + scratch on me. Worked on them all day. Rugby team won game ashore today. Pictures 30th Should have played Aussie Rules but being raining since yesterday night. Rained all day, so blokes ashore called match off.

May 1st Another month gone + no nearer home. Looks like, we'll get home after the war (I hope). Landed in today unescorted. We went alongside to oil + water from her. Blokes aboard got stocks of beer, selling it at 1/- + 3/3 a bottle. I wouldn't pay that if I was dying of thirst. Blokes buying dozens tho. Best place ashore, so went to pictures. Good show "Great American B'cast".

Rugby team went off to play. Team from ashore beat them 5- nil. Lack of exercise aboard cuts our wind.

25th ANZAC DAY

Divisions in morning. Swimming party in afternoon.

26th

Raining, but went off and had practise match of Aussie Rules football. Played rover + suffered cuts scratches, kicks - + boy am I stiff.

27th

Batteries all forenoon – had a practise training run for couple of hours but made me stiffer. Raining again. Some of crew went out in whaler + got good haul of fish.

28th

Heavy forenoon. Played Navy team Aussie Rules. Got beat but had good game. We beat them in roughness but they too fast for us. Played rover again + took beaut kick in right leg.

29th

Early morning swim. Batteries in bad way. Hang the job. Got acid in every blooming cut + scratch on me. Worked on them all day. Rugby team won game ashore today. Pictures.

30th

Should have played Aussie Rules but been raining since yesterday night. Rained all day, so blokes ashore called match off.

1st May

Another month gone + no nearer home. Looks like we'll get home after the war (I hope). Darval in today unescorted. We went alongside to oil + water from her. Blokes aboard got stocks of beer selling it at 3/- + 3/3

a bottle. I wouldn't pay that if I was dying of thirst. Blokes buying dozens tho'. Safest place ashore, so went to pictures. Good show "Great American B'cast".

MAY

What a mess when we got back.
Evidently beer everywhere. Three or four
of our boys been "run in" by the fight
on Darwal. They ought to be shot for
selling at like that. There will be a
lot of sorry sick sailors tomorrow. Hope
we go to sea & it's rough.

2nd May Anchored out from jetty
during forenoon. Went outside with
Darwal to Black Rock & anchored ahead
of her & Darwah which was waiting
there. Under way at 4 am with
those two & tug Forceful.

3rd Dull, miserable day. One of those
days when I'd like to tell them what
to do with the Navy and ships.

We doing zig-zag ahead of convoy &
as it's a rough sea, we alternatively
rolling, pitching & doing "leathered wheels".
This zig-zagging makes a trip

seem longer. Signal received reports
that float-planes sighted near Wessels
today between Wilkannia and us.
Tomorrow will bring us within range
of Wessels, and Wilkannia almost out of
range. Maybe Freddie will get guts
enough to have a go at us this
time. (Darwah is a sister ship to
Period which was ship Freddie did the
damage on. We still owe him for that)

4th Freddie didn't bother us. Come to
the conclusion he's scared of us. Fine day
but ship rolling madly all the time.

5th First day we've had any real
sunshine for ages. Skies flaked all
over face. Still rolling & couple of
real "quaddies" during afternoon watch.
6th In Darwin during Dogs. Mail
aboard. Oh boy some mail! Got about
30 letters & piles of papers. Good old

MAY

What a mess when we got back. Evidently beer everywhere. Three or four of our boys been "run in". Couple fights on Darval. They ought to be shot for selling it like that. There will be a lot of sorry sick sailors tomorrow. Hope we go to sea and its rough.

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Anchored out from jetty during forenoon. Went outside with Darval to Black Rock + anchored ahead of her + Burwah which was waiting there. Underway at 4 am with those two + tug Forceful.

3rd

Dull miserable day. One of those days where I'd like to tell them what to do with their Navy and ships. We doing zig-zag ahead of convoy + as it's a rough sea, we alternatively rolling, pitching + doing "Catherine Wheels". This zig-zagging makes a trip

seem longer. Signals received reports that float-plane sighted near Wessels today between Wilcannia and us. Tomorrow will bring us within range of Wessels, and Wilcannia almost out of range. Maybe Freddie will get guts enough to have a go at us this time. (Burwah is a sister ship to Period which was ship Freddie did the damage on. We still owe him for that).

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6th

In Darwin during Dogs. Mail aboard. Oh boy some mail! Got about 30 letters + piles of papers. Good old

MA/

Marge, whiff + Mum. Took all night to read mail. Everybody aboard happy.
yth Went alongside to oil + water.

George Hale aboard for few minutes, also Alec Duncan. Spent abvo re-reading + writing letters.

8th Got fortnight pay. Odd jobs all day. Fine, but stayed aboard - didn't go off to pictures.

9th Sunday - Mother's Day. Divisions + special prayer. Played footie ashore against Melville. They licked us because they are in good condition through practising. We had good game tho - blood nose + skin off only injuries. Spored to sail at 4 am. I watch at 2 am but

delayed sailing as Darval not loaded.
10th Sailing delayed 24 hours. Japs raided Milingimbi. Labobe + Islander there. That's where we are going again.

11th Milingimbi raided yesterday - few casualties. Dairy cultiva dropped near mission. Marouba sunk but none hurt. Jack Timewather was Sparky on her.

We practised Action Stations + the works in case of any fun developing. Just secured when Red Alarm sounded.

Stood by for hour but nothing seen.

12th Sailing delayed another 24 hours till Labobe + Islander get away before we go in. Milingimbi raided again yesterday. Went ashore for walk about. Visited Les in hospital. Also saw Alec Duncan.

Beautiful night. Lecture on ashore, but we just strolled about till about 9 o'clock.

13th Left at 5 am with Darval. Sea rough + waves very cold. Air said alarm sounded while we still in narrow.

Wish I could have got another letter to Marge while waiting those few days.

MAY

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Everybody aboard happy,

7th

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Sailing delayed 24 hours. Japs raided Millingimbi. Latrobe + Islander there. That's where we are going again.

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Millingimbi raided yesterday – few casualties. Daisy cutters dropped near mission. Maroubra sunk but none hurt. Jack Fairweather was Sparker on her. We practised Action stations + the works in case of any fun developing. Just secured when real Alarm sounded. Stood by for hour but nothing seen.

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13th

Left at 5am with Darval. Sea rough + wind very cold. Air raid alarm sounded while we still in narrows. Wish I could have got another letter to Marg while waiting those few days.

MAY

14th Cloudy, fresh day. Plane sighted in forenoon, unidentified. Anchored off Crocodile Islands until tide well in so that Darval could get in channel OK. She has only about four feet to spare.

Met Chinampa outside, she doing the towing job. Jackie Woods is Sparker aboard. Lay three gross over here this forenoon shipping for shore. Boonga gone back. Unloading started at 9 pm, going all night.

15th Beauforters & Spitties over all day. Determined defend the fuel on landing. Gun crew clocked up waiting for a go - but no Mew. Dull, windy day. Hope to leave tomorrow all being well.

16th Dull day. R.D.F. ashore picked up planes. Red given. Stood by for half hour but then all taken

given. Can't understand why Mew hasn't tried get fuel. Left at 3 pm for T.I.. Raining heavily and sea rough. 17th What a night last night. She rolled everywhere. Everything fell to deck. Lockers kept flying open & gear shot out. Flokes sleeping on the deck & tables lit with gear things and kept rolling from their positions. All books in w/c cabin stacked on the deck & chair jammed between other chair & bulkhead to stop from rolling.

Rough & wet these day & quite a number sick. Dave, Hobart, Wilkins among them. I'm not sick but am not skiving till it calms down. Air raid alarm given from T.I. at 8:30 pm. Wonder if Mew has woken up to them there.

MAY

14th

Cloudy, fresh day. Plane sighted in forenoon, unidentified. Anchored off Crocodile Islands until tide well in so that Darval could get in channel OK. She has only about four feet to spare. Met Chinampa outside, she doing the towing job. Jackie Woods is Sparker aboard. Says three Zeros over here this forenoon ** strafing foreshore. Boongs gone bush. Unloading started at 9pm, going all night.

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Beaufighters _+ Spitties over all day. Determined defend the fuel we landing. Gun crews closed up waiting for a go – but no Merv. Dull, windy day. Hope to leave tomorrow all being well.

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MAY

18th Arrived T.I. 2 Alerts.

Did boiler clean. Saw two pictures. Did couple jobs. Copped the Laddy of all boats on my neck.

Out on 29th towed Abargo to place just off Cape York.

31st Wilkamsia + ourselves outside. Twelve ships lined up but we only taking two. Fine day.

1st JUNE Another month nearer (nearer to what?) Fine thru day but got cool + rough during Jop. Got Adde's part from Wilkamsia by line. Some nearly put hole in her, with his "ray gun".

2nd Rough, with cool wind all day. Left Wilkamsia, not Fairmile in forenoon. Fairmile getting a do over in this sea. Outside Ngiriki about 3 pm and unloading barges

JUNE

Maronbra brought out fuel for Mh. She covered with camouflaged net + draped from stern to stern with greenery. Looks like a floating mangrove tree. Should be very effective close inshore. New out here couple of days ago.

3rd Still unloading barges + gear from Admiral Halstead. Longer job than they thought. Under weigh about 3 pm. Fair sea + we are rolling a bit.

4th Sea calmer. Fine sunny day. Saw lot of smoke from shore line, looks very much like big bush fires. Rounded Cape Down about 3 pm & anchored outside the narrows at 9 pm. Wish we could have been in by now, then we would have had our mail. Incidentally it's my 23rd birthday today. Getting quite ancient.

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Rough, with cool wind all day. Left Wilcannia, met Fairmile in forenoon. Fairmile getting a do over in this sea. Outside M'gimbi about 2pm and unloading barges

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JUNE

5th Arrived in Darwin about 3 pm.
Mail aboard 4 pm. Whacker - letters
papers, parcels, cakes. Mum + Marg
again. Everybody happy. Went alongside
derrick wharf, picture leave granted but
only a couple went off.

6th SUNDAY - Afternoon spent re-reading
& writing letters. Mail closing at 6 pm
means we must be going out. Buzz
says M'ginti to unload one ship then
wait for Wilcannia to bring another.
Skipper kicked up fuss & said Wilcannia
should do her own dirty work.

7th Under weigh about 9.30 am with
Dutchman Sibogon. Making only about
6 or 7 knots - anchored at 8.30 pm till
3.30 AM.

8th Sun warm, but rough sea all
day. Broke couple of greenies over
bridge. Drew gun fixed atop the

bridge + tested O.K. Wouldn't like to
be the bloke who mans it up there
in action.

9th Into Millingimbi during Dogs.
Lamp got channel marked off
on both sides with white flags.

All blacks ashore gone back, missionary
also gone further inland.

10th Shifted out near entrance, but
close inshore and anchored. For some
unknown reason the powers that be on
this tub have decided to paint ship
again while we are here.

11th Fine warm day. Lighted rose about
20 yards of port side, in arvo. Appeared
three different times. Last time Gungy
gave him a burst from the Drew gun
but just missed. Sea snake about
too. Boys made sure their legs didn't
dangle in water after that.

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7th

Under weigh about 9.30am with Dutchman Sibigou(?). Making only about 6 or 7 knots - anchored at 8.30pm till 3.30am.

8th

Sun warm, but rough sea all day. Broke couple of greenies over bridge. Bren gun fixed atop the

Bridge + tested O.K. Wouldn't like to be the bloke who mans it up there in action.

9th

Into Millingimbi during Dogs. Chinampa got channel marked off on both sides with white flags. All blacks ashore gone bush, missionary also gone further inland.

10th

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11th

Fine warm day. Sighted croc about 20 yards off port side in arvo. Appeared three different times. Last time Dungey gave him a burst from the Bren gun but just missed. Sea snake about too. Boys made sure their legs didn't dangle in water after that.

JUNE

Two of the boys went inland to where a couple of Andersons just recently collided + crashed. Got quite a bit of gear, including 30 calibre machine guns, one of which will be O.K.. All crew of both bombers killed and buried nearby. Jimmie refused Boie permission for us to go + see if we could salvage any of the wireless gear. He's a fanatical old woman. Hope the Pigo wireless goes crook now - our excuse will be "no parts to fix it".

12th + 13th Finished painting ship. Weather fine.

14th Under weigh at 1.30pm. Chivampa went out + met Enorell Dawal + Tulagi, collected mail from Enorell for us. First time any ship has brought mail out for us. We then took Tulagi and Silago + set sail for

Thursday Island. After having beautiful weather at Mgimbi, its rough here already - and we are only doing 7 knots too 15th Rough all day. Very uncomfortable motion. Let the chap who designed these things never went to sea in them. Horace sick all day - Dave pretty bad. Only 6 out of 13 in for supper.

16th Still leaping about, altho' its flattened out a bit. Not sick yet this ship, but am not skiving till its over.

17th Ship commissioned a year today. 30,000 miles to her credit, which isn't bad considering we had a fair while in Sydney getting fitted out! In T.I. during Pigo. Sailed off Tulagi outside. Did speed trial - reached 15 knots - not bad after a years work

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JUNE

Went ashore to see "Host of Kin".
Had Middle Watch - Red alarm at
midnight lasted till about 0115. Others had
to get up but being on watch it
didn't affect me. Big flying boat flew
over & dropped 5 eggs on Horn Island,
but no damage done. Four engine bombers
same as ones that raided Townsville last
year. Could be seen plainly.

18th Busy day on bells. Hoovering up
franchising. Revised my opinion of them a
bit. They look to have a good burst
of power when diving & climbing.

19th Fine day, would be nice day for
sitting at Brine. It with Margo just
taking life easy. No hum. 10000 mile.

20th Outside the Black Rock about 2-3pm
got under weigh with Liberty freighter &
Prinville at 6 pm. Doing 11 to 12 knots all
way so far. Welcome change for us.

Liberty freighter is biggest ship we have
had for a while. Well armed. Yanks.
While waiting outside the Rabinda our
old pal passed us on her way back
from Merambur. Greeting & waves exchanged.
At sea lumpy as is usual lately.
Rolling badly. Let the bloke who
designed this never went to see in
the damn things. Keeping up 11 to 12
knots all day. Something new for us.
22nd condenser broke down last night &
starboard engine useless. Closed down for
couple of hours then proceeded on one
engine. Convoy didn't stop for us.
Steamed closer inshore & got along at
about 6 knots all day. To offset the
port engine pushing us over to starboard
a sail was rigged on forecast. Let me see
the only corvette that has been under
sail. Skipper broke w/ silence to

JUNE

Went ashore to see "Next of Kin". Had Middle Watch – Red alarm at midnite lasted till about 0115. Others had to get up, but being on watch it did not affect me. Big flying boat flew over + dropped 5 eggs on Horn Island, but no damage done. Four engine bomber same as one that raided Townsville last year. Could be seen plainly.

18th

Busy day on Bells. Boomerang up practising. Revised my opinion of them a bit. They look to have a good burst of power when diving + climbing.

19th

Fine day would be nice day for sitting at Crimea St with Margo just taking life easy. Ho hum. Wotta night.

20th

Outside to Black Rock about 2.30pm. Got under weigh with Liberty freighter + Inverell at 6pm. Doing 11 to 12 knots all way so far. Welcome change for us.

Liberty freighter is biggest ship we have had for a while. Well armed. YANKS. While waiting outside the Babinda our old pal passed us on her way bck from Merankee. Greetings + waves exchanged.

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Sea bumpy as is usual lately. Rolling badly. Bet the bloke who designed these never went to sea in the darn things. Keeping up 11 to 12 knots all day. Something new for us.

22nd

Condenser broke down last night + starb'd engine useless. Closed down for couple of hours then proceeded on one engine. Convoy didn't stop for us. Steamed closer inshore + got along at about 6 knots all day. To offset the port engine pushing us over to starb'd a sail was rigged on foc'sl. Bet we are the only corvette that has been under sail. Skipper broke W/T silence to

JUNE

advise Darwin of trouble. Just as we finished sending message our "donk" issued forth smoke, caused by a shot somewhere. Have to get a bloke from ashore to come and fix it. Ship seems to be cracking up in a lot of places lately. If they don't give us a refit soon, she'll be in a bad state.

23rd Fixed condenser temporarily last night. Now doing 8 knots. Sea flattened considerably. Passed How about 4 pm - used searchlight to try & find buoy to enter narrow & carry straight on, but couldn't locate it so anchored at 8 pm. We are about 50 miles out from Darwin & tonight we could see the blurred ray of the searchlight there, which isn't bad.

24th In Darwin during Dogs - mail aboard - happy again. Letter to RAAF concert at Larraheyah so sent out. Very good

show. Conducted by Harry Heath of Amaten How fame.

25th Hitch hiked to Coonawarra to get some signals. Saw Ivan Moyle, Jack Jess there. Coonawarra machine gunned in big raid last Sunday. Could see bullet marks but no damage done. Spitfire got 22 planes in that raid. Saw fastest cockatoo I've seen for years at the station. Bird been there so long he screeches a few words in good readable morse.

Spent afternoon rigging new aeriels. Padre aboard for service. He is a fine chap. Showed him our hopper dog in the w/cabin, and he said it about time we went south then. Paid today also got new ration coupons.

26th Aeriels occupied morning. Off to pictures in evening Topalong barabidy. Best part was remarks from audience. Sing song later.

JUNE

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26th

Aerals occupied morning. Off to pictures in evening Hopalong Cassidy. Best part was remarks from audience. (sing song later)

JUNE

27th Football against Doon at East Point.
Doon were runners up in N.T. premierships.
Ended up as a friendly scramble instead
of straight match. Good fun tho! Only
put one finger out of joint this time.

28th Air raid about Island Easy time for
on shore. Nine bombers seen plainly - Yanks
& Inverell opened up but target too high.
3 fighters seen very high - looked like
dog-fight. Load of eggs dropped along
beach others dropped further inshore.

Had to go ashore to HQ at 5:30 so
stayed ashore & saw Jack Woods, Jack Treathen
Bob Pearce to say goodbye. Called to see
Geor Male but he out at Coomawarra so
didn't see him. Met Joe Hammond from
the Telegraph - he just arrived here to
set up sounder lines working to Adelaide.
Told me Ed Sutcliffe & few of the boys
working sounders down at Adelaide River.

Wish I'd known that before. Might have
been able to say then.

29th Out with Inverell & Yank at 9 A.M.
Feels good to see Darwin for the last
time. Messages of goodwill exchanged between
us & various ships etc. Hope I don't see
this place for a long while again.

The three of us did a gunnery
shoot at target towed by Millanda.
Ours very very good. Five out of the six
shots would have been effective against
a sub. Yank shot badly - only one near
target - Inverell got about 5 short & 1
too high. Two Spitfires came over
& machine gunned target & were right
on it. Boy those planes are manoeuvrable
& fast. Hate to be in a life boat
they strafed.

Windy in arvo - rough outside the
Loon. Hope we can keep up our 10-12 hot

JUNE

27th

Football against Boom at East Point. Boom were runners up in NT premierships. Ended up as a friendly scramble instead of straight match. Good fun tho'. Only put one finger out of joint this time.

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Air raid about Stand Easy time for an hour. Nine bombers seen plainly – Yanks + Inverell opened up but target too high. 3 fighters seen very high – looked like dog-fight. Load of eggs dropped along beach others dropped further inshore.

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29th

Out with Inverell & Yank at 9 A.M. Feels good to see Darwin for the last time. Messages of goodwill exchanged between us + various ships etc. Hope I don't see this place for a long while again.

The three of us did a gunnery shoot at target towed by Willanda. Ours very very good. Five out of the six shots would have been effective against a sub. Yank shot badly – only one near target – Inverell got about 5 short + 1 too high. Two Spitfires came over + machine gunned target + were right on it. Boy those planes are manoeuvrable + fast. Hate to be in a life boat they strafed.

Windy in arvo – rough outside the Don. Hope we can keep up our 10-12 knots

JULY

30th & 1st Sea rough - doing 10-11 knots OK.
Diurnal trip. Boys cleaning up their
blues & dickie pants etc. Be a big blow
if we don't get away this time. Had
signal to say all our accounts now
transferred to KUTTABUH, so next pay
we get will be at Sydney.

2nd Arrived T.I. early in forenoon.
Went alongside ~~for~~ to fuel & water.
Pictures in evening. Deane Durbin

3rd Roll on the boatmunda -
Went ashore during forenoon & bought up
some stores. Blondie & I catered this
month.

4th Church in evening at Quetta
Memorial Church.

5th Skipper cleared lower decks & told
us officially that as soon as boatmunda
get in we will head for home.
Read signal from No. 1 giving us

special wrap-ups. "Soon we'll be in
Sydney swinging round the buoy".
Saw couple of the boys ashore & said
a cheerio.

6th Boatmunda in during afternoon.
Two of them aboard here for awhile.
Reckon rats are busy down south.
Boota had two ships torpedoed in
her first convoy.

7th This is it - hooray. "Goodbye T.I.
Hope I don't see you for a long time
again." Passed Whji Gardine Strait &
got inside Barrier Reef. Bit of swell
on & wind very strong. Anchored at night.

8th Good old Australia on our starboard
side. Mountainous country. Passing quite a
few islands as we are inside reef.
Met Aussie & her "gang" during lunch.

9th Archer Point, north of Endeavour River
all passed - convoys passed thru mts.

JULY

30th + 1st

Sea rough - doing 10-11 knots OK. Disml trip. Boys cleaning up their blues + dickie fronts etc. Be a big blow if we don't get away this time. Had signal to say all our accounts now transferred to KUTTABUL, so next pay we get will be at Sydney.

2nd

Arrived T.I. early in forenoon. went alongside ** K to fuel + water. Pictures in evening. Dianna Durbin.

3rd

Roll on the Cootamundra – Went ashore during forenoon + bought up some stores. Blondie + I caterers this month.

4th

Church in evening at Quetta Memorial Church.

5th

Skipper cleared lower deck + told us officially that as soon as Cootamundra gets in we will head for home. Read signal from NOIC giving us

Special wrap-ups. "Soon we'll be in Sydney swinging round the buoy". Saw couple of the boys ashore + said a cheerio.

6th

Cootamundra in during afternoon. Few of them aboard here for awhile. Reckon subs are busy down south. Coota had two ships torpedoed in her first convoy.

7th

This is it – hooray. "Goodbye T.I. hope I don't see you for a long time again." Passed thru' Jardine Straits + got inside Barrier Reef. Bit of a swell on + wind very strong. Anchored at nite.

8th

Good old Australia on our starb'd side. Mountainous country. Passing quite a few islands as we are inside reef. Past Aussie + her "gang" during First.

9th

Archer Point, mouth of Endeavour River all passed - convoy passed thru nite.

July

Weather beautiful during day - getting colder at night.

10th Beautiful day, calm sea. Passed close in to Townsville. Went thru' Palm Island during dark last night + going thru' Whitunday during light tonight. Mountains + islands seen in sight all day tho.

Spike said he had intended anchoring off Hammond Island where a dance is held every Saturday night, but didn't like the risk of going in in the dark. Boy, the crew would have "roared, roared" when they got ashore if he had. Reef ends tomorrow so before we can look forward to a bit of rough weather from here onwards. Very cold at night already.

11th Thru' more islands - turned to go into Gladstone in evening - anchored outside. Beautiful clear night, but very cold.

12th Dress of the day now "flues". Went alongside jolly in forenoon. I went ashore about 4.30 pm + picked up the rest of the boys in the town. Quite a nice little country town. Houses well spread out. People very sociable + kind. They got up a sort of social so that we would have somewhere to go besides pictures. Nearly all the boys rolled up + we had a real good time. It was a great welcome back to civilization. Mary is reported to have bad name in this place - I saw off Lithgow stabbed last week, but not one of our boys got into trouble, + town folk very pleased with crew.

13th Lithgow, Jalong alongside us. Beridge pier all day but no leave given. Did chobbing + kiddied blues again. Left at 9pm with Jalong Lithgow, Park sub ches + 2 ships for Brisbane.

JULY

Weather beautiful during day – getting colder at night.

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Beautiful day, calm sea. Passed close in to Townsville. Went thru' Palm Island during dark last night + going thru' Whitsunday during First tonight. Mountains + islands been in sight all day tho. Spike said he had intended anchoring off Hammond Island where a dance is held every Saturday night, but he didn't like the risk of going in in the dark. Boy, the crew would have "roared, roared when they got ashore" if he had. Reef ends tomorrow so s'pose we can look forward to a bit of rough weather from here onwards. Very cold at night already.

11th

Thru' more islands – turned to go into Gladstone in evening + anchored outside. Beautiful clear night, but very cold.

12th

Dress of the day now "Blues". Went alongside jetty in forenoon. I went ashore about 4.30pm + picked up the rest of the boys in the town. Quite a nice little country town. Houses well spread out. People very sociable + kind. They got up a sort of social so that we would have somewhere to go besides pictures. Nearly all the boys rolled up + we had a real good time. It was a great welcome back to civilization. Navy is s'posed to have bad name in this place – 1 man off Lithgow stabbed last week, but not one of our boys got into trouble, + town folk very pleased with crew.

13th

Lithgow, Geelong alongside us. Beside pier all day but no leave given. Did dhobbying & tiddled blues again. Left at 9PM with Geelong, Lithgow, Yank sub chaser + 2 ships for Brisbane.

July

14th Five ships now with us. Beautiful day today - sunny & warm - slow smooth ground swell. Wish we could have it like this all the way. Saw a whale thrashing his ~~tail~~ tail about trying to break free from something, probably a killer shark, which eventually dragged whale down. Had an Aoro over us today - looks funny after others we have had. Air cover given during night here weather permitting. Star shells now laid out on deck to illuminate surface if we contact a sub. Halgoutis got a sub somewhere hereabouts.

15th Sighted Gipsy House mountains at 8 AM, then Baloundra. Turned in between Macton & up towards river. Left convoy to come on alone. Lithgow and ourselves seeing - spike pushed us up to 15.5 knots to win the lead in

River very narrow & dirty but terrible lot of shipping about. Tied alongside Stant at Newstead Wharf to foil. Liberty given at 6 PM. Dave Ted & I went up town. Saw place full of Yanks & hard faced women - hard to get a screw even. Finally we went to the brenne which is the Livoli circuit here. ^{changed bus to take it} ^{without in forenoon} 16th Off early. Even more Yanks in light of day. This is a "good Yank town sport" by a few Aussies. Went & saw Lloydie House, Ray Milley, Jack White & a couple of Brisbane Telego & crew. Went out & saw Jack Woods mother at Annurley & spent fair bit of time out there. Walked round Brisbane a bit then went to newsreel at night. Saw the pictures Damien Parer took on our way to Timor. Called "A bonnet on Patrol". Recognised the ~~the~~ 'thorp'

JULY

14th

Five ships now with us. Beautiful day today – sunny + warm – slow smooth ground swell. Wish we could have it like this all the way. Saw a whale thrashing his tail about trying to break free from something, probably a killer shark, which eventually dragged whale down. Had an Avro over us today – looks funny after others we have had. Air cover given during night here weather permitting. Star shells now laid out on deck to illuminate surface if we contact a sub. Kalgoorlie got a sub somewhere hereabouts.

15th

Sighted Glass House mountains at 8AM, then Caloundra. Turned in between Moreton + up towards river. Left convoy to come on alone. Lithgow and ourselves racing – Spike pushed us up to 15.5 knots to win the lead in.

River very narrow + dirty but terrible lot of shipping about. Tied alongside Stuart at Newstead Wharf to oil. Liberty given at 6PM. Dave Ted + I went up town. Darn place full of YANKS + hard faced women – hard to get a scam even. Finally we went to the Cremorne which is the Tivoli circuit here.

16th

Off early. Changed berth to Eagle St Wharf in forenoon. Even more Yanks in light of day. This is a “good Yank town spoilt by a few Aussies”. Went + saw Lloydie Trounce, Ray Miller, Jack White + a couple of Brisbane Telegs I knew. Went out + saw Jack Woods mother at Annerley + spent fair bit of time out there. Walked round Brisbane a bit then went to newsreel at night. Saw the pictures Damien Parer took on our way to Timor. Called “A Corvette on Patrol”. Recognised the “Bhoys”.

17th Went ashore for a walk with
Ted in late afternoon. Bloomin' Saturday
even + night + not a bit of life in
the place. What a hole. Even hotels
closed at 1 pm till Monday. Took a
couple of tram rides to fall in time,
then ended up at the photo to see
~~James~~ TARRAN. Thank goodness we are leaving
tomorrow

18th Under weigh at 6 AM. Saw numerous
ships, subs etc on way out. When we
got right out there were 16 ships waiting.
Loaded ourselves out + Genels, Bendigo,
Lundberg + Yandra + ourselves taking
4 ships, among them our old friend the
Durwah. They don't take any chances
it seems hereabouts. 5 ships escorting 4.
Heavy flat topped swell but not too
bad. Lot of fish + porpoises about.
About 20 porpoises swimming ahead

of our bows at one time. Got a sub ping
about 8 PM + went to Action stations for
half hour or so. Searched for it but
couldn't locate it again, ~~but~~ so finally
raced ahead + picked up convoy again.

19th

17th

Went ashore for a walk, with Ted in late afternoon. Bloomin' Saturday arvo + night + not a bit of life in the place. What a hole. Even hotels closed at 1 pm till Monday. Took a couple of tram rides to fill in time, then ended up at Metro to see TARZAN. Thank goodness we are leaving tomorrow.

18th

Under weigh at 6AM. Saw numerous ships, subs etc on way out. When we got right out there were 16 ships waiting. Sorted ourselves out + Glenelg, Bendigo, Bundaberg + Yandra + ourselves taking 4 ships, among them our old friends the Burwah. They don't take any chances it seems hereabouts. 5 ships escorting 4. Heavy flat topped swell but not too bad. Lot of fish + porpoises about. About 20 porpoises swimming ahead

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