

LEFT SYANEY 28 NOV 1943. Mileage since commissioning of ship 17/4/22 until 31/3/44 - 62.598 miles 1/18 hours of way At End of 2 years 17/6/44. 1829 ... 8/ A Total Millage 69, 451 miles

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Mileage since commissioning of ship 17/6/42 until 31/3/44 – 62,598 miles. 7118 hours of way At end of 2 years 17/6/44 7829 " Total Mileage 69,451 miles

November. SUNDAY 28th goodness know how this system down here works, but we Lydney Pownsmille last ship to come from af north, and the first to leave Duryy is that its Mile Kay I don't fancy letting only temporary, but liaisos 'em get their class into no up north. Moresby al well Sydney, you were goodow while line Keehoa bay we had you especially while my Margie was Buna here. Under weigh at JAM had last hangemak Sizehale look at now familiar bridge - wonder when Cafe Housesby we will see it again. Cheeris lydney will Itomically Gelands be back as soon as we can. Madang Teany swell on , rolling heavily . a bad start, let hope St means a good finish. Saven ships in our last southern Konvoy

Sydney Townsville Milne Bay Cairnes Moresby Khaehoe Bay Buna Langewak (Finschafen) Cape Gloucester Admiralty Islands Madang

NOVEMBER Sunday 28th

Goodness knows how this system down here works, but we are 2nd last ship to come from up north, and the first to leave. Buzz is that its only temporary, but I don't fancy letting 'em get their claws into us up north. Ah well Sydney, you were goodoh while we had you, especially while my Margie was here. Under weigh at 7AM – had last look at now familiar bridge – wonder when we will see it again. Cheerio Sydney, we'll be back as soon as we can.

Heavy swell on, rolling heavily. That's a bad start, lets hope it means a good finish. Seven ships in our last southern convoy.

NOVEMBER Monday 29th Shill heavy swell, bit Wed 1st elecember In our way to another Xmas and another New Year. Wonder what unconfortable for sleeping. New hands sort this one will bring . Hope it the end. of looking forward to seeing up north rest get to balandra during forenoon, back of us know what its like and arent at all to lydney goes Wilcannia + Sallarat We enthusiastic. Isened today with khaki battle dress - long khaki find + shirt. It ficked aff mother convoy at 4Pm with fielong and a our northward way we for wearing ashoe in places where mosquitoes go. Teartiful sunny today quite ete congregate + on landing parties. The latest warm below decks aheady Belided to ridications idea of our wet officers is that grow another beard to skell for showing. the Engineer affiries is talking about forming Thurs. 2nd Dec Lake tonight said goodly a choir. It said in the last wal his ship had a choir who sang " Inward Christian to another convoy. Off they go to gladston Soldiers + Maoris Sarewell when leaving + a on north to Townsville we go! Harm rang last night for surface craft harbour & there wasn't a dry eye aboard. Soo yards ahead by RDIF. It turned Slingy how would we be singing like out to be a JANK but by gee the boys that leaving harbour. They'd send no sroved when that alarm bell went. south for going hoppo at that it nighted be a bad idea. Must mention They show good form.

Monday 29th

Still heavy swell, bit uncomfortable for sleeping. New hands sort of looking forward to seeing up north – rest of us know what its like and aren't at all enthusiastic. Issued today with khaki battledress – long khaki pants + shirt. It's for wearing ashore in places where mosquitoes etc congregate, + on landing parties. The latest ridiculous idea of our wet officers is that the Engineer Officer is talking about forming a choir. He said in the last war his ship had a choir who sang "Onward Christian Soldiers" + "Maori's Farewell" when leaving harbour + there wasn't a dry eye aboard. Blimey how would we be singing like that leaving harbour? They'd send us south for going "troppo". At that it mightn't be a bad idea. Must mention that point.

Wed 1st December

On our way to another Xmas and another New Year. Wonder what this one will bring. Hope it's the end. Got to Caloundra during forenoon, back to Sydney goes Wilcannia + Ballarat. We picked up another convoy at 4PM with Geelong and on our northward way we go. Beautiful sunny today – quite warm below decks already. Decided to grow another beard to spell from shaving.

Thurs. 2nd Dec.

Late tonight said goodbye to another convoy. Off they go to Gladstone + on north to Townsville we go. Alarm rang last night for surface craft 500 yards ahead by RDF. It turned out to be a YANK but by gee the boys moved when that alarm bell went. They show good form.

Tiday I'd fee blow into coast. Very pretty Quite ainsworth, Since Williams, both on their a number of islands hereabouts. Theater the way south for leave. Also not Kennie, monotony of open sea. Jaased thru' Wilkes. He is going overland via 16th Lea to Darwin. What a prospect. Mayed off Whitsunday Gasage during Middle so for fictures in evening + save a rotten missed that sight unfortunately. Salunday 1th Dec. arrived Townsville. show. This Toursville is still as bad as wer - full of youks + practically nothing Now approve 1640 miles from Mang + Ahat about 1670 miles too far in my the. ofinion. Deanliful day - + from distance Monday 6th Sec. Had tooth temporarily Hown + hills look ficturenque, but I filled in farmoon. Under weigt about stor still would rather see gronge Road bridge. That calm sea - but windy at Labe in afferioon walked three' the form + night. went for a anim, Water lovely. Ineday 7th Dec. Clove into coast Sunday 5th Acc, Horay got some mail up to baims . Licked up & more for Marg. Have been booking forward corvelles, 3 yanha - now 11 muchant. ships in convey. Joing towards Mosely To it very much. Went for another swim hatoonba + Ballard taking some as at was roactingly hot. Met artic

Friday 3rd Dec.

Close into coast. Very pretty. Quite a number of islands hereabouts. Breaks the monotony of open sea. Passed thru' Whitsunday Passage during Middle so missed that sight unfortunately.

Saturday 4th Dec.

Arrived Townsville. Now approx 1670 miles from Marg + that's about 1670 miles too far in my opinion. Beautiful day - + from distance town + hills look picturesque, but I still would rather see Grange Road bridge. Late in afternoon walked thru' the town + went for a swim. Water lovely.

Sunday 5th Dec.

Hooray, got some mail from Marg. Have been looking forward to it very much. Went for another swim as it was roastingly hot. Met Artie Ainsworth, Bruce Williams, both on their way south for leave. Also met Kennie Wilkes. He is going overland via Mt. Isa to Darwin. What a prospect. Stayed off for pictures in evening + saw a rotten show. This Townsville is still as bad as ever – full of Yanks + practically nothing else.

Monday 6th Dec.

Had tooth temporarily filled in forenoon. Under weigh about 3PM. Flat calm sea – but windy at night.

Tuesday 7th Dec.

Close into coast up to Cairns. Picked up 2 more corvettes, 3 Yanks – now 11 merchant ships in convoy. Going towards Moresby, Katoomba + Ballarat taking some

to Morealy. We are taking the rest for native sillages set in among the to Milne Bay. Out this Barrier palmo. also many white mans houses. Ref during Trist Watch The amarging the number of dwelling that Acc gh thursday. Left Morely portion of are scattered about in the Shails. ronvey + with Youker Cahol croft headed Macks of money was made from copia, for Mile Kay . Seeing plonty of flying fish in there waters . Surny days but tortoise-shell, cocourts pearling a fishing hereabouts before the mak. Milke Kay have had a shower every night as far. itself is a very big open bay, while Triday 10th Dec. Went three' China Shouts the country to nountainous, Rigged + generely timbered. The spot where the about sam. The islands are really Japs landed near the enhance was beautiful. altho of a different type just thick undergrowth. Un AJE St. then Whitsenday Jossage they are sure ear this dollars. The move equally as pretty Many of the islands seen such a collection of ships as there was there. All very densely covered with frees + sorts from ornisers to landing undergrowth, along the forechores are bargs. The boys counted about 50 thick coconst palmo. We sow a

to Moresby. We are taking the rest to Milne Bay. Out thru' Barrier Reef during First Watch.

Dec 9th Thursday.

Left Moresby portion of convoy + with Yankee Patrol craft headed for Milne Bay. Seeing plenty of flying fish in these waters. Sunny days but have had a shower every night so far.

Friday 10th Dec.

Went thru' China Straits about 8AM. The islands are really beautiful. Altho' of a different type than Whitsunday Passage, they are equally as pretty. Many of the islands are big with high hills on them very densely covered with trees + undergrowth. Along the foreshores are thick coconut palms. We saw a few native villages set in among the palms. Also many white mans houses. Its amazing the number of dwellings that are scattered about in the Straits. Stacks of money was made from Copra, tortoise-shell, coconuts, pearling + fishing hereabouts before the war. Milne Bay itself is a very big open bay, while the country is mountainous, rugged + densely timbered. The spot where the Japs landed near the entrance was just thick undergrowth. Our A.I.F. sure earn their dollars. I've never seen such a collection of ships as there was there. All sorts from cruisers to landing barges. The boys counted about 50.

town with that many it would be have a look at the place. I more is difficult to hit them from the air bigger than I'smille but not as well ret. in a bay like this, heft for out. Looks quite nice, would be good Townwille in afternoon with haboombo place in peace time of free from yanks it doing 121 knots. Bave + I hitch hiked 9 kiles the a Sunday 12th Dec. Asstination changed to feel water swimming hole. Had an bains arrived there during stogs. exha good swin then got a ride back into toin had a seral of ADCS + Went up river to fuel - disturbed a went to fictures to "Fleets In". crocodile near the bank los. Very pretty got mail tonight. This is what I needed mountainous country hereabouts, altho bains itself is flat for miles. Went 6 letters, from my Margie and two from alongside Ellab a of come Horace Mon. The happy now (or as happed as is possible this for from Home) limple soon aboard. His heading Sig now but still some dorace (2000y - Les now) Cearlie of pair of shorts from Dad - boy Sill be some swell now. gonna have baby so is getting her discharge from thing. Ho letters Inerday 14th Dec. It sea again, with Monday 13th le . Went ashow to Grarat + a yanker S.c. taking convey

even with that many it would be difficult to hit them from the air in a bay like this. Left for Townsville in afternoon with Katoomba, doing 12 knots.

Sunday 12th Dec.

Destination changed to Cairns – arrived there during Dogs. Went up river to fuel + disturbed a crocodile near the bank too. Very pretty mountainous country hereabouts, altho Cairns itself is flat for miles. Went alongside Plats + of course Horace soon aboard. He's Leading Sig now but still same Horace (sorry – Les now) Pearlie gonna have baby so is getting her discharge from Army. No letters.

Monday 13th Dec. Went ashore to have a look at the place. Town is bigger than Townsville but not as well set out. Looks quite nice, would be good place in peace time if free from Yanks etc. Dave + I hitch hiked 9 miles to a fresh water swimming hole. Had an extra good swim then got a ride back into town, had a scram at ADCS + went to pictures to "Fleets In".

Got mail tonight. This is what I needed. 6 letters from my Margie and two from Mom. I'm happy now (or as happy as is possible this far from HOME). Couple of pair of shorts from Dad – boy I'll be some swell now.

Tuesday 14th Dec.

At sea again, with Ararat + a Yankee S.c. taking convoy

Thursday 16th lec Sea flatfined out, to Mile Bay helly rough onkide. thank Goodness. Went three lebina Wednesday 15th Dec. A hast might was one Shaits during beautiful tropical of these rollen nights when you haven't afternoon. Saw the full shetch of get a chase of getting more than a Islands. They are really beautiful couple of hours alegy because of the The evenly taid out reconst plantations knocks you take. Rolling badly too conhast shongly with the thickly eight plakes boken in morning flus knives + forks, rups, tea & numerous other timbered slopes of the high mountain - ons islands. Mythe Bay - the bay is things shot all over the deck. Ken 26 miles long. Its quite understandable heast sich all day. Seems to be that our ships slipped past, Jap flattening out during Middle a little ships into here last year. It really Juring firm maked with business this huge. There were 50 or to ships in hip. at least 10 pairs of shorts to be fined besides for other jobs. Have + for the bay booked empty. bruisers to do 3 pair for Shipper + a roughe Dechoyers, tankers, merchanten, landing barges + all. After dark there were lights werphere along the shore. thave of my earnings trings because I work too Ahard for it, by gee)

to Milne Bay. Pretty rough outside.

Wednesday 15th Dec.

Last night was one of those rotten nights when you haven't got a chance of getting more than a couple of hours sleep because of the knocks you take. Rolling badly too – eight plates broken in morning, plus knives + forks, cups, tea + numerous other things shot all over the deck. Ken Leosh sick all day. Seems to be flattening out during Middle a little. Jewing firm rushed with business this trip. At least 10 pair of shorts to be fixed besides few other jobs. Have to do 3 pair for Skipper + a couple for the Jimmy. (Don't ask for a share of my earnings Princess because I work too hard for it, by gee)

Thursday 16th Dec.

Sea flattened out, thank goodness. Went thru China Straits during beautiful tropical afternoon. Saw the full stretch of islands. They are really beautiful. The evenly laid out coconut plantations contrast strongly with the thickly timbered slopes of the high mountainous islands. Milne Bay – the bay is 26 miles long. Its quite understandable that out ships slipped past Jap ships into here last year. Its really huge. There were 50 or 60 ships in + yet the Bay looked empty. Cruisers, Destroyers, tankers, merchantmen, landing barges + all. After dark there were lights everywhere along the shore.

The hicks unloading ships looked Well folk, as was expected everyone like a huge caterfillar minding its want to action Stations just before way for the wharves over the months. daybreak, but the sub had decided not heft at bag in young to wait. Tuday 17th Dec Beautiful calm day. Sat. 18th Acc Lid adec patrol all Received report that suspicious wake day - hoping sub wouldn't reappear. been sighted few times by merchant heading back for bains about dark. ship hear the Reef. We ordered to Midnight bripes de are finxed this steam to interregt it as it was hip. I come on for the Middle Watch reported as a sub. Ind a practice of there is signal werpshere. Uppears that action stations - fired a shell for the Gadetone's at least 2 merchant the gun, dropped a depth charge, ships me on a reef to odd miles fired star shells + rockets. yuns north of here & we are being heren to sleep beside gun, so me rent to assist. With arrive there should do something even if to only about 5.30 pm, sor 9 get to bed at 4 Am & get up pel 5-30 Am. lose some sleep. Mould reach position about 3 Am. No hum. al well engling for a quest take

the trucks unloading ships looked like a huge caterpillar winding its way from the wharves over the mounts. Left at 6AM in morning.

Friday 17th Dec.

Beautiful calm day. Received report that suspicious wake been sighted few times by merchant ship near the Reef. We ordered to steam to intercept it as it was reported as a sub. Had a practise Action Stations – fired a shell from the gun, dropped a depth charge, fired star shells + rockets. Guns crew to sleep beside gun, so we should do something even if its only lose some sleep. Should reach position about 3AM. Ho hum. Well folk, as was expected everyone went to Action Stations just before daybreak, but the sub had decided not to wait.

Sat 18th Dec.

Did Asdec patrol all day – hoping sub wouldn't reappear. Heading back for Cairns about dark.

Midnight.

Cripes we are jinxed this trip. I come on for the Middle Watch + there is signals everywhere. Appears that the Gladstone + at least 2 merchant ships are on a reef 60 odd miles north of here + we are being sent to assist. Will arrive there about 5.30AM so I get to bed at 4AM + get up at 5.30AM. Ah well anything for a quiet life

Sunday 19th Dec. Size out of nine got free with only feet to spare ships run on to reef last night. other two ships a left up to watch One got off last night - I gladstone got off this morning. Other four shuch fost hithgow, Stavell, gladstore, the one on the reef bridges are must be easy. Its not our convoy yet we wait with the ship till morning. Jumpie + burelos gorvettes there also Then the Warrego & a lug are coming 2 damper M.T.B's Lithgew and me went out to help as. We can't anchor as almost outo reef alongide ship + the bottom can't be fathomed here, look hoops (yanks) off to other ships, Lithgow + gladetone lift with ship so we first mine about all night. Sunday at see - when I think of each during forenoon for barins. We what I could be doing at home worked like slave all day & finally with Marg. - or sofer I think of that freed 2 of the 3 ships. White did a great job - the other correctes first mail at bains I should be reading now well maybe it would be Stood back + watched. Once we nearly beller if & didn't think of im. Not drifted outo the reef It would have even the various shades of the water own the neef amaties my want to see farther than thelbourne. Reef very fretty the. been goodinght to us then, but we

Sunday 19th Dec.

Six out of nine ships run on to reef last night. One got off last night + Gladstone got off this morning. Other four stuck fast. Lithgow, Stawell, Gladstone, Gympie + ourselves corvettes there, also ½ dozen M.T.B's. Lithgow and us went almost onto reef alongside ship + took troops (Yanks) off to other ships. Lithgow + Gladstone left with ship each during forenoon for Cairns. We worked like slaves all day + finally freed 2 of the 3 ships. Spike did a great job – the other corvettes just stood back + watched. Once we nearly drifted onto the reef. It would have been goodnight to us then, but we got free with only feet to spare. The other two corvettes left with the other two ships + left us to watch the one on the reef. Cripes we must be easy. Its not our convoy yet we wait with the ship till morning. Then the Warrego + a tug are coming out to help us. We can't anchor as the bottom can't be fathomed here, so we just cruise about all night. Sunday, at sea – when I think of what I could be doing at home with Marg. – or when I think of that mail at Cairns I should be reading now – well maybe it would be better if I didn't think of 'em. Not even the various shades of the water over the reef makes me want to see further than Melbourne. Reef very pretty tho'.

Monday 20th Dec Warrego arived here Tuesday 212 Lec. arrived Twille about during the night + so she had lefin . Itang me if me didn't get a go at the Non de Pander very stuck in the mud ourselves, but got early. The couldn't manourses like us off after a bit of muching about. so she had to give it up as a Stednesday 22nd Started boiler bad job. Muke hopped in again + clean along felly near Repoldid some very cleves risky work + Started rigging arrish all day. succeeded in getting the ship off Went to Opichures at open are on the second attempt, and cheer theatre at night) from everybody. to off back to hearing. - I Spike will get a big Thursday Habt a pain in side so repailed to sich Day. Loe recommend after the work he did said I am to go ashore An In bains about 8 Pm , viled - Spike for days for observation. Cached Jequerted boiler clean + permission granted bit + waited for ambulance Chokeeding to Joursville for bailer but it didn't turn up. clean at 3Am. Just my luch to Friday 24th Imbulance ralled at have the Morning watch 9.A.n. Waihed at theh Day until Mail roya aboard so I'm happy good

Monday 20th Dec.

Warrego arrived here during the night + so she had a go at the Van de Vander very early. She couldn't manoeuvre like us so she had to give it up as a bad job. Spike hopped in again + did some very clever risky work + succeeded in getting the ship off on the second attempt, amid cheers from everybody. So off back to Cairns – Spike will get a big recommend after the work he did. In Cairns about 8PM, oiled – Spike requested boiler clean + permission granted. Proceeding to Townsville for boiler clean at 3AM. Just my luck to have the Morning watch.

Mail came aboard so I'm happy – good old Margie + Mum.

Tuesday 21st Dec

Arrived T'ville about 6pm. Hang me if we didn't get stuck in the mud ourselves, but got off after a bit of mucking about.

Wednesday 22nd

Started boiler clean along jetty near Depot. Started rigging aerials all day. Went to pictures at open air theatre at night.

<u>Thursday</u>

Had a pain in side so reported to Sick Bay. Doc said I am to go ashore for few days for observation. Packed kit + waited for ambulance but it didn't turn up.

Friday 24th

Ambulance called at 9AM. Waited at Sick Bay until

SPon then informed that there were They kitch hihed all this way no vacant beds. Jaken out to army to say Merry was even bringing money because I haven't been fraid. hospital about 9 mile out. 25 Kmas Day Opened parcels, My So in all it was a pretby fair Kunas. She been thinking of wife is a darling Thirst her to que me something to make things home though. Let hope I don't have to spindy many more away neen more tike Kmas. Thanks Marg. 21th Sunday. Doe somes a has good has dimer of how burkey. a look at no once a day then spuds, feas, flum duff with brandy we don't see him till next day. sauce topped off by a bottle of been that the Cadre got us. at. I'm still under observation they bea time we had fuil salad with say. Icron is OK + no one ice cream on Alandia , Shere to worry us so it will do me. arrived here to see we this arrow Escha good concert party called with a cake from Man + a fached the Waratahs on in the evening from Sis also letters from Margie It is the best someent party and Mom. They are real offor. I have seen up to date. and Mom. they are real offor.

5PM then informed that there were no vacant beds. Taken out to Army hospital about 9 mile out.

25th Xmas Day

Opened parcels. My wife is a darling. Trust her to give me something to make things seem more like Xmas. Thanks Marg. Good Xmas dinner of ham turkey, spuds, peas, plum duff with brandy sauce topped off by a bottle of beer that the Padre got us. At tea time we had fruit salad with ice cream on. Blondie + Dave arrived here to see me this arvo with a cake from Mum + a packet from Sis also letters from Margie and Mom. They are real oppos. They hitch hiked all this way to say Merry Xmas, even bringing money because I haven't been paid. So in all it was a pretty fair Xmas. I've been thinking of home though. Lets hope I don't have to spend many more away.

26th Sunday

Doc comes + has a look at us once a day then we don't see him till next day. I'm still under observation they say. Scran is OK + no one to worry us so it will do me. Extra good concert party called the Waratahs on in the evening. It is the best concert party I have seen up to date.

1944 hain. Its definitely the best way January 1st - The start of an New Mean. What will it bring? That seems fairly easy to friedict - train all the way and at two another year of tiring wars - stops V.A.D' + RED CROSS women can stops V.A.D'S & RED Chose women came this the hair distributing freeh with sictories but victories that milh, puit, ice cream and kigaettes bring as much sources to folk The Red Cross do a wonderful as defeate. Let us pray that for a it places like these that the end of this New year shows us where the end of this war you notice it. Anday January Jak In hospital at will be and when prisbane. Not too bad. Not much Started the New years off in to do but get a good rest + a hospital - but don't bount that the main thing food fretty good - When I get but of here fill be on expert. that as a misborhune January lette Quite a first of us cleaned out from Townsville + at table tennis bobs + Quoits by the number of games fire played. sent to hospillal at Briebane havelled down by hopifal

January 1st

The start of a New Year. What will it bring? That seems fairly easy to predict – another year of tiring war – with victories, but victories that bring as much sorrow to folks as defeats. Let us pray that the end of this New Year shows us where the end of this war will be and when.

Started the New Year off in a hospital – but don't count that as a misfortune.

January 6th

Quite a few of us cleared out from Townsville + sent to hospital at Brisbane. Travelled down by hospital

train. It's definitely the best way I've ever travelled.
Bunks in the train all the way and at two stops V.A.D's
+ Red Cross women came thru
the train distributing fresh milk, fruit, ice cream and
cigarettes. The RED CROSS do a wonderful job + its
places like these that you notice it.

Sunday January 7th

In hospital at Brisbane. Not too bad. Not much to do, but get a good rest + that's the main thing. Food pretty good – When I get out of here I'll be an expert at table tennis, bobs + quoits by the number of games I've played.

food Tuesday January 18th for Felt I'd known them for ages to go out for scraw on 28th Maral depot HMASS MORETON BRISBAN went on deaft that day. There to take things easy for arhile visited Jachie Woods folk + had les with them. They were quieter but so hoe says and I'll certainly do that hall I come quite your nice & made me very welcome. Neil Murray was in defet awaiting good again At Mokeron till January 28th. an operation for asking . If its un. Slepst not los bad good scran successful he may get his fichet and good leave. all night in bed Friday Jamary 20th On draft back every night suited me. Also rec'ng to the old thip, HMAS CASTLEMAINE Mang Wisited Straces mother shought maybe I might have got a change but as the Yanks say No soap. So I go to Mithe Bay to frich her up Visions of hatelling in Givenry were shattered when I have I was travelling * not Sorace & Seal this. Inare yes on last day of his leave. Gearl very nice - also the Wehon and Horacis sisters great sports,

night in bed every night suited me. Also rec'vg mail

Discharged from hospital to Naval depot H.M.A.S.

MORETON (BRISBANE). Got to take things easy for

Depot not too bad – good scran, and good leave. All

awhile so Doc says, and I'll certainly do that till I come

Tuesday January 18th

quite good again.

At MORETON till January 28th.

quickly & regularly from my Marg. Visited Horace's mother + met Horace + Pearl there. Horace was on last day of his leave. Pearl very nice – also Mrs. Nelson and Horace's sisters great sports. Felt I'd known them for ages. Was to go out for scran (food) on 28th but went on draft that day. Also visited Jackie Woods folk – and had tea with them. They were quieter but very nice + made me very welcome. Neil Murray was in depot awaiting an operation for asthma. If its un-successful he may get his 'ticket'.

Friday January 25th

On draft back to the old ship HMAS CASTLEMAINE – thought maybe I might have got a change, but as the Yanks say "No soap". So I go to Milne Bay to pick her up. Visions of travelling in luxury were shattered when I saw I was travelling

up on a handing leraft manned h.c.I. pulled into shelfer outside by Janks. First day and a half the bleakwater at Townsville. it rained and quite a few were Deanfiful day. Yank stood by with sich, but the fish didn't get any riple while we went awimming over of my meals . The meals ale too the side, leyclone didn't bouch us good to washe These younds sure + we left about 6 P.M. lat well. The cook was a Tebuary 1st - 2nd professional cook in civice, so that A Weather hund marky + makes things even more perfect. he is certainly leaping about link as a matter of fact there is more a lot sich Mich I & were only room on these things than there two at breakpast out of the looks. Bunks to sleep in - good oh. Aussies on the 2nd A humber of Sunday Weather now typical the crew sich too. My luch tropical summery days a calm seas. held all the way. Tehnary 3rd Cassed this liking Monday for 31th A cipilone reported thank early but rain shortheading this way, so our nine the view for those who hadrit

up on a Landing Craft manned by YANKS. First day and a half it rained and quite a few were sick, but the fish didn't get any of my meals. The meals are too good to waste. These Yanks sure eat well. The cook was a professional cook in civvies, so that makes things even more perfect. As a matter of fact there is more room on these things than there looks. Bunks to sleep in – goodoh.

<u>Sunday</u>

Weather now typical tropical summery days + calm seas. Hope it keeps thisaway.

Monday Jan 31st

A cyclone reported heading this way, so our nine

L.C.I.'s pulled into shelter outside the breakwater at Townsville. Beautiful day – Yank stood by with rifle while we went swimming over the side. Cyclone didn't touch us + we left about 6PM.

February 1st + 2nd

Weather turned nasty + L C I's certainly leaping about. Quite a lot sick. Mick + I were only two at breakfast out of the Aussies on the 2^{nd} . A number of the crew sick too. My luck held all the way.

February 3rd

Passed thru' China Straits early but rain spoilt the view for those who hadn't

Soldher seen it before. got into Milne Day and bedding donned our long in afternoon a stood by ready strides + long sleeved shirts + to go off till gen then got fed up a went to bed. Not wallowed in the mud like a real swottie. be ships in but not bastlemaine leavit say I'm sorry yet. Tebuary with Friday A Worked with Aparkers - did a bit of watchkeping, a bit of day work and finished up Thanding barge book us working on building a hut ashore about lunch time. Not with alow Matter another Sparker sorry to leave youks - they Mile Bay pretty good place arent a patch on our publics to be ashow at - of least it reened but boy I'd like to keep that way to me in my 3 weeks eating their meals. there. Hid bad when it railed A Mile Bay ashoe is big. morquiters bad at night & ecron Seems to be thousands of youtro not the best, but there was here and loads upon blads of the chance to get plenty of sport and excercise. You held held equipment. We drew morguito alle

seen it before. Got into Milne Bay in afternoon + stood by ready to go off till 9PM, then got fed up + went to bed. Lot of ships in but not Castlemaine. Can't say I'm sorry yet.

February 4th Friday

Landing barge took us ashore about lunch time. Not sorry to leave Yanks – they aren't a patch on our Aussies, but boy I'd like to keep eating their meals.

Milne Bay ashore is big. Seems to be thousands of Yanks here and loads upon loads of equipment. We drew mosquito nets and bedding, donned our long strides + long sleeved shirts + wallowed in the mud like a real swottie (soldier).

Worked with Sparkers – did a bit of watchkeeping, a bit of day work and finished up working on building a hut with Alan Mutter, another Sparker. Milne Bay pretty good place to be ashore at – at least it seemed that way to be in my 3 weeks there. Mud bad when it rained, mosquitos bad at night + scram not the best, but there was the chance to get plenty of sport and exercise. Yanks held

Augustement was my mail. der Margie, golf it great her lettige + Jetters from de (extra) fichures every night besides a five gash shows at surrounding camps. Quite a lot of thypic Waygies about. of it youk Alet adelaide beleg there - you Evans Doug Scott is an flather at yoodwough great little workers. They were building Island hub for the Many, and make a lastlemaine after being in and very hiddly job of them. Mountainous wild country very - around Carino all this time arrived on 25th Feb , so I want back beautiful. I hip up this way aboard has after 2 months away in place time would be grand, but now, well its hard to Koy thought it was furny when I arrived in york blue dungarees, appreciate it fully. Went down book + gartend. Quite a charter to where Jake landed last which year to get about in nothing Obut but not many signs shots and sontal again remaining Intredible member of ships A good fair thanks and old Ship None Davies, George Any at times . " tortablishow it ward Colly grey + & ob- Hayes growing rapidly and almost all are ashore doing shelpher of

pictures every night, besides a few gash (extra) shows at surrounding camps. Quite a lot of Fuzzie Wuzzies about. Great little workers. They were building huts for the Navy, and make a very tiddly job of them.

Mountainous, wild, country very beautiful. A trip up this way in peace time would be grand, but now, well its hard to appreciate it fully. Went down to where Japs landed last year but not many signs of war remaining.

Incredible number of ships in Bay at times. Establishment ashore growing rapidly and almost all

of it Yank.

Met Adelaide teleg. there – Joe Evans. Doug Scott is on further at Goodenough Island.

Bigger Event is my mail. Good old Margie. Gosh its great getting her letters + letters from Mum again.

Castlemaine after being in and around Cairns all this time arrived on 25th Feb, so I went back aboard her after 2 months away. Boys thought it was funny when I arrived in Yank blue dungarees, boots + gaiters. Quite a change to get about in nothing but shorts and sandals again.

A good few changes on the old ship. Bonc Davies, George Gerrard, Dolly Grey + Bob Hayes are ashore doing stretches of

go and bo day for stealing. a man near mad. Things fall from grog from the wardsoon Aad everywhere. The broke cups plato buch, especially for Bonc as he bottles of frichles a sauce & goodness has a wife and 2 hids. It knows what . Delieve me, its no by is discharged, he will love the fun mothing up a couple of \$400 odd that he is shortly due bottle of stinding Workestershire for Williams our fimmy has Sauce from the deck when your gone to be shipper of a conette stomach is not in the mood The STRAHAN Coor were A new to soon as we arrived at Mile Sparker in her heachis place - Kill Kay we refuelled and headed Sloss - seems opinte a desent bloke. back. Lea catching us worse Pet 27th SUNDAY Thrined Cains after byclone moving in 2 directions and a longhish breaking in hip we caught outskirts of one leg Teb 25th Monray " Cut again Mike Day Shipped water all the way hold extra bad - the mach bound. got rough as soon as we machine on got antide the ruf. beareless the bridge registered our beggist rolling day after day drives roll as 1430 Mooneidening that

90 and 60 days for stealing grog from the wardroom. Bad luck, especially for Bonc as he has a wife and 2 kids. If he is discharged, he will lose the 400 pound odd that he is shortly due for. Williams our Jimmy has gone to be Skipper of a corvette the STRAHAN. Poor crew. A new Sparker in Ken Leach's place – Bill Ross – seems quite a decent bloke.

Feb 27th SUNDAY

Arrived Cairns after a roughish breaking-in trip.

Feb 28th MONDAY

Out again Milne Bay bound. Got rough as soon as we got outside the reef. Ceaseless rolling day after day drives

a man near mad. Things fall from everywhere. We broke cups, plates, bottles of pickles + sauce + goodness knows what. Believe me, its no fun mopping up a couple of bottles of stinking Worcestershire Sauce from the deck when your stomach is not in the mood. As soon as we arrived at Milne Bay we refuelled and headed back. Sea catching us worse. Cyclone moving in 2 directions and we caught outskirts of one leg. Shipped water all the way. Roll extra bad – the "machine" on the bridge registered our biggest roll as 43 degrees. Considering that
these ships were only tested at day continuously between pairies and when built, then his degrees is first Con. O). Ended up with 6 consta about 42° too much for me. That's and 3 Tarrailes searching. We want the biggest soll five heard of in back in with (D), lake at night. these ships a coll like that TUESDAY MARCH 7 the Degun a boiler this makes a man quite tired clean alongside what at Cairne and we were very glad to get WES PARCHE Ment out to Theshuater into Carins. with Standie have a george Davis, 5th MARCH Arrived Cains lake had a good swin - they flavies at night - not los late to read borrowed enough sugar care to feed mail though . us for day. 6th MARCH MONDAY Jaimile reported sat THUR MARCH get Darly of 30 of us contact imide reef & we proceeded detailed to go to thing campo for there about 6 Am will Commander D 48 how beak. Spored to leave and his full shaff aboard. Swept at moon, but as is expected the all day. We set watch on RIT + Auchs didn't leave hill ypm Thad W/r and handled messages all to drive about 80 mile + go

these ships were only tested at 48 degrees when built, then 43 degrees is just about 42 degrees too much for me. That's the biggest roll I've heard of in these ships. Originally thought it was 47 degrees but seems doubt. A roll like that trip makes a man quite tired and we were very glad to get into Cairns.

5th MARCH

Arrived Cairns late at night – not too late to read mail though.

6th MARCH MONDAY

Fairmile reported sub contact inside reef + we proceeded there about 6AM with Commander D and his full staff aboard. Swept all day. We set watch on R/T + W/T and handled messages all day continuously between Cairns and COM(D). Ended up with 6 corvettes and 3 Fairmiles searching. We went back in with (D) late at night.

TUESDAY MARCH 7TH

Begun a boiler clean alongside wharf at Cairns.

WED MARCH 8TH

Went out to Freshwater with Blondie, Dave & George Davies. Had a good swim – then Davies borrowed enough sugar cane to feed us for days.

THUR. MARCH 9TH

Party of 30 of us detailed to go to Army camps for 48 hour break. S'posed to leave at noon, but as is expected the trucks didn't leave till 7PM. Had to drive about 80 mile + go

across the mountaine Deartiful view leave Auchalias They made us very across the plains for the mountain welcome. It major book us to an road. The themselves very heavily hinds, then we spent a couple of timbered + with dence undergrowth hours nathering. I lokes had blanket and ferns Unfortunably it got - all laid out for us. FRIDAY MARCH 10th a lat Burgoyne from dark early so had to cartent "A" company was alloted to take us ourselves with singing our way along the road . Went this 3 around all day. Very decent bloke hor. or & little towns among them Marella We should off by watching their + Itherton Arrived at 16th math + 19th Battalion parade - they fut on a Age about 11 Pm. Aplit up into smart short of look eschar good. The old slouch hat give just the right partice of 5 + dishibited among varions battalions. Dave, kill, Blondie bouch to the AIFS furronality. Thomas a reason of I went to 2/2nd Kattalion there we attended an RY ynuless school for officers, for 1/2 hours. It developed - they are part of the stythe Brigade which was first not formed when Into discussions on Navy procedure was started + were fuit mot to + set - the instructor was asking

across the mountains. Beautiful view across the plains, from the mountain road. Mts themselves very heavily timbered + with dense undergrowth and ferns. Unfortunately it got dark early so had to content ourselves with singing our way along the road. Went thru 3 or 4 little towns, among them Mareeba + Atherton. Arrived at 16th, 17th + 19th Bges (Brigades) about 11PM. Split up into parties of 5 + distributed among various battalions. Dave, Bill, Blondie + seaman + I went to 2/2nd Battalion – they are part of the 16th Brigade which was first mob formed when war started + were first mob to leave Australia. They made us very welcome. A major took us to our tents, then we spent a couple of hours nattering. Blokes had blankets + all laid out for us.

FRIDAY MARCH 10TH

A Sgt. Burgoyne from "A" company was allotted to take us around all day. Very decent bloke too. We started off by watching their Battalion parade – they put on a smart show + look extra good. The old slouch hat gives just the right touch to the AIF personality. From there we attended an R/T wireless school for officers, for 1-1/2 hours it developed into discussions on Navy procedure + sets – the instructor was asking

The questions most of the time. There Throug officers are men. They heat you A Naval officer wouldn't durink out of a fanniker, let alore use it after a raking. We collected a trench like a new too. Indbe the officiale morten, smoke bombs, signal flares, to the Mary where class distinction H.E. rifle grenades a goodness know is carried out above all else. Another what , they want acron to the difference is that throng fighting range where we fired the lot off as officers know their Job becomy their lives depend on knowing it but learnt about the various weapons the infortigenan uses. His job is on our ship the only man who a long, one. This last was one of really known his for is Spike. the for originals of the 2/2nd & had The others are practically useless i of I had some almost unbelievable dits mean that quite without prejudice. to spin. Iffer lunch we were The army officers persuaded the cook taken to a then gue carrier camp to being them some hear & a few Hoy they did wrything but them somersaults a that want them sandwiches which they made us share. They let us use the familian first as there wasn't wought to go round.

us questions most of the time. These Army officers are men. They treat you like a man too. Quite the opposite to the Navy where class distinction is carried out above all else. Another difference is that Army fighting officers know their jobs because their lives depend on knowing it. But on our ship the only man who really knows his job is Spike. The others are practically useless - + I mean that quite without prejudice.

The Army officers persuaded the cook to bring them some tea + a few sandwiches, which they made us share. They let us use the pannikins first as there wasn't enough to go round. A Naval officer wouldn't drink out of a pannikin, let alone use it <u>after</u> a rating. We collected a trench mortar, smoke bombs, signal flares, H.E., rifle grenades + goodness knows what, then went across to the range where we fired the lot off + learnt about the various weapons the infantryman uses. His job is a tough one. This Sgt was one of the few originals of the 2/2nd + had had some almost unbelievable dits to spin. After lunch we were taken to a Bren gun carrier camp, where we had a ride in them. Boy they did everything but turn somersaults + that wasn't thru'

arrived first after us. They another want of trying by gee. We pushed down these jumped ditches 4 swoppies when we didn't even know took our money and bought our climbed up + down week banks tickets for us. In arriving back at The leaptains wanted us to stay longer, canf our beds had been made but as we had a programme to for us. The blokes all said that follow we were whiched back to we needed to be with them for camp. Aach there the last got us & Aren June + 3 leven Jona & at least a week, and we rectally agreed. These A.I.F. of ours are the equiffed with plenty of ammeintion we want he the range + proceedes would's best - fancy bying to compare to that at everything within sight. JANKS with this mot . Makes a Those frens are twonderful guns. man frond of being on Aussie. That evening we decided to go SAT MARCH 11" Theft at 7.30 Am very sorry to go because we had into: a small nearly town for fictures. of good hime. They all had much We mined the Kuch so a deim New us specially there. The same the same experiences - all roled it goodd. thing happened to gave a bo who

want of trying, by gee. We pushed down trees, jumped ditches + climbed up + down creek banks. The Captain wanted us to stay longer, but as we had a programme to follow we were whisked back to camp. Back there the Sgt got us 2 Bren Guns + 3 Owen Guns + equipped with plenty of ammunition we went to the range + proceeded to blast at everything within sight. Those Brens are wonderful guns. That evening we decided to go into a small nearby town for pictures. We missed the truck, so a driver run us specially there. The same thing happened to Dave + Co who arrived just after us. Then another swottie whom we didn't even know took our money and bought our tickets for us. On arriving back at camp our beds had been made for us. The blokes all said that we needed to be with them for at least a week, and we certainly agreed. These A.I.F. of ours are the world's best – fancy trying to compare YANKS with this mob. Makes a man proud of being an Aussie.

SAT MARCH 11th

Left at 7.30AM – very sorry to go because we had a good time. Met up with rest of our boys and they had much the same experiences – all voted it goodoh.

Arove back to Caims via different hours to climb moutain tack voule. It are place went down wood Jassed they 15 Aunals in the 20 mile called Jellies Highway . Only one way Journey, Jossed Mony breck falls traffic. Stretch is 12 mill long about 15 mile out . Those falls + has 146 turns in. Desubiful view very reminiscent of Silversheam? Halle four various places on way down. at granfians. Way down in the Wish Marg had been there to roome we could see the broad enjoy it with me then replace my Darrow Kin Think from top of untform with grey slacks + shut and I wouldn't ever envy the King falle across sugar come fields lover the distant town and out to got back to the ship about sea would have made a wonglerful 1 oclock. New more letters waiting photo. Falls are the best I be area - goodoh . The water falls in 2 wide shears Sunday Maaca 12th Blandie + I were + about 3 Ismall ones. Thight of watch ashow so decided to take Ash of falls is 1,071 feel above see the train trip up to harrow Valle level white the falls "spread their Train left at 2.15 from + took 3 broad while aprovidence a drop of soofet. (out fin book)

Drove back to Cairns via different route. At one place went down road called Gillies Highway. Only one way traffic. Stretch is 1/2 mile long + has 146 turns in. Beautiful views from various places on way down. Wish Marg had been there to enjoy it with me – then replace my uniform with grey slacks + shirt and I wouldn't even envy the King. Got back to the ship about 1 oclock. Few more letters waiting – goodoh.

SUNDAY MARCH 12TH

Blondie + I were watch ashore so decided to take the train trip up to Barron Falls. Train left at 2.15pm + took 3

hours to climb mountain track. Passed thru' 15 tunnels in the 20 mile journey. Passed Stony Creek falls about 15 mile out. Those falls very reminiscent of Silversteam (?) Falls at Grampians. Way down in the ravine we could see the broad Barron River. View from top of falls, across sugar cane fields, over the distant town and out to sea would have made a wonderful photo. Falls are the best I've seen. The water falls in 2 wide streams + about 3 small ones. Height at top of falls is 1,071 feet above sea level, while the falls "spread their broad white apron" (out of a book) over a drop of 800 feet.

There were too steps, down to the bottom we had quite a bit of few on the bank & in the water. godge is of the falls so I climbed down. But naturally farmy. It young rivered there stended like a thousand coming up. Trip back book only an how - low in repayment for the entertainment as it was down hill. The hip was well worth taking. Didn't think our adagio dana was Monday MARCH 13th. Out to see about 6 mm Milne Bay bound once more. You that good . have at again Spike left us & went south foday. a change we had a quilt hip Very sonry to love him - he has done + arrived back early on the 18th a good job aboard & got us a good LUND AY MARCH 19th Jeage Davies, Blandie + I hited out to favor Water name everywhere we have worked. He is an expert reamon + has fulled 12 mile out for a ensine themally the water is so clear that the Tottoms off some work where gut as well as reamanchip was needed. Mays reared can be seens, but the river was in flood + the mater was a lit Iner deck a chered ship at like dially. great place for swimming + passed & he was very moved.

There were 400 steps down to the bottom of the falls so I climbed down. But there seemed like a thousand coming up. Trip back took only an hour as it was down hill. The trip was well worth taking.

MONDAY MARCH 13th

Out to sea about 6AM Milne Bay bound once more. For a change we had a quiet trip + arrived back early on the 18th.

SUNDAY MARCH 19TH

George Davies, Blondie + I hitch-hiked out to Barrow Waters 12 mile out, for a swim. Usually the water is so clear that the bottom can be seen, but the river was in flood + the water was a bit dirty. Great place for swimming + we had quite a bit of fun on the bank + in the water. George is naturally funny. A young civvy + his wife gave us a lift back to town "in repayment for the entertainment we provided on the river bank". Didn't think our adagio dance was that good. Passed out again.

Spike left us + went south today. Very sorry to lose him – he has done a good job aboard + got us a good name everywhere we have worked. He is an expert seaman + has pulled off some work where guts as well as seamanship was needed. Boys cleared lower deck + cheered ship as Spike passed + he was very moved.

The has been sich for a good while Tilho Bay May get to Cains for now I will probably get this hicket. boiles clean. Hope we get right up the top - this rew had been The hold as which put in Sychony he monotonous of makes us feel sat would be at if we can back there. The Engineer Officer also want on draft. of discontented. The was well-meaning, but was too 23ª Junea Mile Day, fulled much of an abstrate old woman. then report neined that ancieft righted three lifeboats a big Stattie the Ander officer has also Chatches of oil on surface about get a draft. The is going to tengland - they'll wake him up over there. He to mile from Moreely Mildura is has to wait till his relief arrives. going out from theirby - Wagge and minselves going from there. Marked Our present thipper, Bank on Contract of at is knob so that we tomentle is a real fing at is doub get outside the Shaits before doub. Some speed for us. Hearly trying to rea this cowether like a churren. Very impopular already. Monday March 20th But Mike Kay bound swell owhide ! Jassel Jarroyne when she was only doing about 8 knot This time to be allached to

He has been sick in Sydney for a good while now + will probably get his ticket. He told us which pub he would be at if we came back there. The Engineer Officer also went on draft. He was well-meaning, but was too much of an obstinate old woman. Robbie the Asdec officer has also got a draft. He is going to England - they'll wake him up over there. He has to wait till his relief arrives. Our present Skipper, Paul ex Canberra + Townsville is a real pig + is trying to run this corvette like a cruiser. Very unpopular already.

MONDAY MARCH 20TH

Out Milne Bay bound this time to be attached to

Milne Bay. May get to Cairns for boiler clean. Hope we get right up the top – this run has been monotonous + makes us feel sort of discontented.

23^{rd}

Arrived Milne Bay, fuelled then report received that aircraft sighted three lifeboats + big patches of oil on surface, about 60 mile from Moresby. Mildura is going out from Moresby, Wagga and ourselves going from here. Started of at 18 knots so that we could get outside the Straits before dark. Some speed for us. Heavy swell outside. Passed Gascoyne when she was only doing about 8 knots

and her thipper asked as "Where we only 3 ton of roal life & had is the fire to " there a 10 shellow here. The has no mineless so couldn't transmit message. Un about 2 oclock , but after rearching Shippy suggest that we have her all day all we sighted was 3 to morely about go mile away at drives which was apparently the Mission Station ashore here, and supposed life book. Had report when we anchored quite a lot of that leavonlaw from Mile Day to Inggie Stuggies sdilled out in this catamarante to sell benanos, cocomb Morealry is overdise. Almost back to Mile Bay during Morning Watch shell beards, shirts and other when we were ordered to have back small trinkets New boys either finalt sighted ship similar to bought them on exchanged biscuits & tinned first for the Goods. banonbar, in shelfered bay detween here + Moresly. george faries put over a futury act. 25th Steened clow in to coast it arrived at Keaporo hay about lefor. All gave a boong 31. for some bradd then later he from out with some biscuits. The native Ship is the leanonbar. She has

and her Skipper asked us "where is the fire?"

24^{th}

Arrived approximate position about 2 oclock, but after searching all day all we sighted was 3 oil drums which was apparently the supposed life boats. Had report that Canonbar from Milne Bay to Moresby is overdue. Almost back to Milne Bay during Morning Watch when we were ordered to turn back. Aircraft sighted ship similar to Canonbar in sheltered bay between here + Moresby.

25^{th}

Steamed close in to coast + arrived at Khaehoe Bay about 6PM. Ship is the Canonbar. She has

only 3 ton of coal left + had to shelter here. She has no wireless so couldn't transmit message. Our Skipper suggests that we tow her to Moresby about 90 mile away. Mission station ashore here, and when we anchored quite a lot of Fuzzie Wuzzies sailed out in their catamarans to sell bananas, coconuts, shell beards, skirts and other small trinkets. Our boys either bought them or exchanged biscuits + tinned fruit for the goods. George Davies put over a funny act. He gave a boong 3/- for some beads, then later he came out with some biscuits. The native

way he messed about trying to indicated that he wanted the bieris get a line to the ship. The finally so Jeage calculy soid "31." took his money back a walked off. dragged it across by motor boat. When Spike dragged those ships off Our mese bought a big bunch of the relf, he bused to show up rugar bananas. There bananas are close so that the bays could throw shall, but make good benana a hearing line. hater low when custand. One Durgine had perfect the low line broke, Cant muchica while hell, which is unubual for about again at sea getting a new nations as they are usually continually one actors. The int of faction of chaning belief mut which Aprels a the reamon Spike was ! Luckily howelle stain on their better this the sea was ralen or we might native was buying toothpaste offus have encountered trouble towing The also spoke failtless tenglish so was avidently a mission aboy the ship. Menday 24th March Arrived Moresby JUNDAY 264 MARCH aders can bo about 8Am. Juist line the later four leananbar to Meresly Soul at Arine New years Hay 1943. There disgusted the boys with the

indicated that he wanted the biscuits, so George calmly said "3/-" took his money back + walked off. Our mess bought a big bunch of sugar bananas. These bananas are small, but make good banana custard. One Fuzzie had perfect white teeth, which is unusual for natives, as they are usually continually chewing betel-nut which puts a horrible stain on their teeth. This native was buying toothpaste off us. He also spoke faultless English so was evidently a mission boy.

SUNDAY 26TH MARCH

Orders came to tow Canonbar to Moresby. Paul disgusted the boys with the

way he messed about trying to get a line to the ship. He finally dragged it across by motor boat. When Spike dragged those ships off the reef, he used to steam up close so that the boys could throw a heaving line. Later on when the tow line broke, Paul mucked about again at sea getting a new one across. He isn't a fraction of the seaman Spike was. Luckily the sea was calm or we might have encountered trouble towing the ship.

MONDAY 27TH MARCH

Arrived Moresby about 8AM. First time I've seen it since New Years Day 1943. There

is a vest difference in the orderliness Shoals of fish continually about ship of the place + the number of buildings whilst back up and the boys were Went alongside the jetty Clereption fishing all day Jish were knowld on W/1 frightful due to local but nice. The boys caught 300 to noise + out pointion. Ships alloyed -400 - enough to supply the ships to rease wife watch here but Sant company with 3 fish tack for 2 refused us permission consequently we meals - + then to give the Townsville mined about 20 mercages. The fat a bucket full. The find were goodd fillied old so and so. Victure party point ashoe in the Leave granted at 1.15 Pm. I didn't evening but I was on watch go and watch till 4 log so Reg. Reaching trapical everying. TUESDAY MARCH 25th Left the beach over the hill ante a afternoon for Mike Day! Miles for women about here these days. May nepuls mail we singrely then at simile woman at the have gort on the quiet I wouldn't Jank Old bross. Homit seen one mind of this was was was over + attractive one was have with Morg inshad of

is a vast difference in the orderliness of the place + the number of buildings. Went alongside the jetty. Reception on W/T frightful, due to local noise + our position, Ships allowed to cease W/T watch here but Paul refused us permission, consequently we missed about 20 messages. The fat bellied old so-and-so.

Leave granted at 1.15PM. I didn't go on watch till 4PM, so Reg, Joe + I went for a swim at the beach over the hill. Quite a few women about here these days, even a civvies woman at

the Yank Red Cross. Haven't seen one attractive one.

Shoals of fish continually about ship whilst tied up, and the boys were fishing all day. Fish were small but nice. The boys caught 300 to 400 – enough to supply the ships company with 3 fish each for 2 meals - + then, to give the Townsville a bucket full. The fish were goodoh. Picture party went ashore in the evening, but I was on watch.

Beautiful tropical evening.

TUESDAY MARCH 28TH

Left in afternoon for Milne Bay. Mile Bay means mail we sincerely hope. Just on the quiet I wouldn't mind if this war was over + was home with Marg instead of

tengineers moned the Farlane came having to rely on letters to help from Stovell Sheet Burnley so I went over a had a matter to him. in bouch with all back home. Loidery MARCH 30 " Aring M.B. went alongside Jank tanker to oil years for hold me he got \$ 200 - yes 1200 a month. The never bought new out here + wanked hussie -= any clothes or accessories because money to some of our reamen drought rigarettes and exchanged money with they got everything they wanted from then congr. They also get a bonno them. Value slightly our way. to going into dangross areas like hay need to get them 100 dollar Deres as Mail aboard - goodoh - that what we wanked Only letters from bonus. The merchant Sparker aboard Marg + Mum but york what others . informed me he saved \$1650 last. dot I really need when I've get these? you be showed me this = w/r your Now E really altho' I like allot. gen that used to be on the SATURDay APRIL 1st Want along Whitest backen for waker. The is yourk packed Economiation steamer at Queensilif manued mostly by annies signa Boy would I like one of those on with the yands. One of the

APRIL

having to rely on letters to keep in touch with all back home.

MARCH 30TH

Arrived M.B. went alongside Yank tanker to oil. Yanks now out here + wanted Aussie money so some of our seamen bought cigarettes and exchanged money with them. Value slightly our way.

Mail aboard – goodoh – that's what we wanted. Only letters from Marg + Mum but gosh what others do I really need when I've got these? NONE really. Altho' I like a lot.

SATURDAY APRIL 1st

Went alongside West Cactus for water. She is a Yank packet manned mostly by Aussies signed on with the Yanks. One of the Engineers named McFarlane came from Stawell Street Burnley so went over + had a natter to him. He told me he got 200 pounds – yes 200 pounds a month. He never bought any clothes or accessories because they got everything they wanted from their cargo. They also get a bonus for going into dangerous areas. Milne Bay used to get them 100 dollar bonus. The merchant Sparker aboard informed me he saved 1650 pounds last year. He showed me his W/T gear + it looks like the out of date gear that used to be on the Examination steamer at Queenscliff. Boy would I like one of those

jobs. I wouldn't be los proud to job. this itself init in los bad work for you so that price. a condition. Licks clear + androh Wonder would Marg say still that Rather surprised us, as we excluded a condition. Lecho clear + antrohen the Marchant Service is worse off then to see the wooden deche rotted etc. us? It bonus for danguous waters Roel says his next job may be - campes our blokes go in the on with at Wyndham. Wouldn't dangerous wakers before these ships like his job there is a there is a 30 foot ide & fall of bide an 8 khot ament flowing and the water is like thick mud. Quite a wend phonow about them. Leave given for couple of hours in lafternoon, so weat ashore and son couple of blokes I knew contrast to the perfect conditions have They went round and sow Noch Tie've seen the wich at Nyndhow so Testor who showed us over the mow what sort of a job it would be her blung? the is fully raised Sonday APRIL 2nd Mayed aboard until evening then Blondie, Sall + I went off with a frichme frank. Sour Hight for Theodom I quite good. they have done a good salvage

jobs. I wouldn't be too proud to work for the Yanks at that price. Wonder would Marg say still that the Merchant Service is worse off than us? A bonus for dangerous waters – cripes our blokes go in the dangerous waters before these ships even know about them.

Leave given for couple of hours in afternoon, so went ashore and saw couple of blokes I knew. Then went round and saw Noel Testro who showed us over the An Chung (?). She is fully raised now + they'll have her ready for sea in a matter of weeks. They have done a good salvage job. Ship itself isn't in too bad a condition Decks clean + unbroken. Rather surprised us, as we expected to see the wooden decks rotted etc. Noel says his next job may be on wreck at Wyndham. Wouldn't like his job there, as there is a 30 foot rise + fall of tide, an 8 knot current flowing, and the water is like thick mud. Quite a contrast to the perfect conditions here. We've seen the wreck at Wyndham so know what sort of a job it would be.

SUNDAY APRIL 2ND

Stayed aboard until evening then Blondie, Bill + I went off with a picture party. Saw Flight for Freedom – quite good.

a way to hangemak (Finschafen) to Saidon legte Journeber, france Monday with 2 others. Dury is that & Adminally I claude which sounds we get no mail at all while up engeling that monotonous. Might be there which may be breeks . Even a chance of seeing Holbrochen at back here we are supposed to be Tinschafter . 14th in priority for mail. Janko Republication for a change being first. Still we'll ree. berbaily anyway bal reas - clear day hope we can fast mail even if Tutes Day APRIL 4th we can't get any or follow back Arrived at Kuna about 1 Am. how will be getting wound Lat of small shacks, on forshoe -Monday April 3ra Under Minigh at also remains of Jay & landing 10 Am. Just stop , is Anna to benges shewn along waterport. drop passenges. Jack Woods is Trees with tops shot off new shore. Jook aboard loraking for hanapat. on one of the ships we are replicing those see him. Buna anchorage they have Surger ashow says that convettes toped to get ashive to see fin the hanguak do any runs remetery but no sec. leave given

On way to Langemak (Finschafen) Monday with 2 others. Buzz is that we get no mail at all while up there which may be 6 weeks. Even back here we are supposed to be 14th in priority for mail. Yanks being first. Still we'll see. Certainly hope we can post mail even if we can't get any or folk back home will be getting worried.

MONDAY APRIL 3RD

Under weigh at 10AM. First stop is Buna to drop passengers. Jack Woods is on one of the ships we are relieving. Hope I see him. Buzz ashore says that corvettes from Langewak do runs to Saidor, Cape Gloucester, Arawe + Admiralty Islands, which sounds anything but monotonous. <u>Might</u> be a chance of seeing Holbrooks at Finschafen.

Beautiful weather for a change anyway. Calm seas – clear day.

TUESDAY APRIL 4TH

Arrived at Buna about 7AM. Lot of small shacks on foreshore – also remains of jap landing barges strewn along waterfront. Trees with tops shot off, near shore. Took aboard 10 ratings for transport. Buna anchorage very huge.

Hoped to get ashore to see cemetery, but no rec. leave given.

Left about 1800 with ship for and equipment to build there places up. When aussies do a great yob LAE but they can't get the Shaff to WEDNESDAY APAIL 5th Jassed LAE about do a job like the Janks. 6 Am. Thoys said it was well lighted LANGED AK very busy looking - hat up + appeared to be quite a lot yenywhere - fretty country too. of works there. Weather still Invited to a convert party on splear + sea calm. Cassed Rossing the Aunbury (cowette), boncelt Janky Island - Reems all youther - boy theyir got the year thrived LANGERAK were yank and they furt on short but good turn Really about 1000, - leana gove jouth so I'll miss Jachie Woods. Its nice - concert pady on after unbelievable the shaff they're got ashow ourliken deck, andiente reabed energature here the buildings they're put up a the busy lines of thicks having on quarter deck. The night was cloudless + starmy with bright moonlight - the ship had a everywhere. Yot to thand it to the slight slow roll - made it hard yanders - they nightent be fighting to believe that not so very many men, but they have the organisation

Left about 1800 with ship for LAE.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 5TH

Passed LAE about 6AM. Boys said it was well lighted up + appeared to be quite a lot of works there. Weather still clear – sea calm. Passed Nassing Island – seems all Yanks – boy they've got the gear. Arrived LANGEMAK about 1000 – Cowra gone south so I'll miss Jackie Woods. Its unbelievable the stuff they've got ashore here, the buildings they've put up + the busy lines of trucks tearing everywhere. Got to hand it to the Yanks – they mightn't be fighting men, but they have the organization and equipment to build these places up. Our Aussies do a great job but they can't get the stuff to do a job like the Yanks.

LANGEMAK very busy looking – huts everywhere pretty country too. Invited to a concert party on the Bunbury (corvette). Concert party were Yanks and they put on a short but good turn. Really nice – concert party on after oerliken deck, audience seated everywhere on quarter deck. The night was cloudless + starry with bright moonlight – the ship had a slight slow roll - made it hard to believe that not so very many

Leave granted for I'm hous + I miles from here in 3 directions thee went achore, It's impossible to is heavy fighting going on. Aunderry bays, said they have been describe the shift the yanks have to Adminally Islands the other schoe It makes Mile Day look like a little native willage the places on althor they have heard the genfie they howit ber proubled by Janks have an calmost perfect torganisation. It was the bigged planes which is nice to hear. While eye opener the ever had seeing at Timshaper the wollies look them for a run up to Sakelberg & showed The wonderful words + huge then around . Wish our A main that buildings etc. Want and had a look at the Tinschafen War cenetery Shipper would let us go if he had the charce but doubt it Noth Aussies + Jambel there. The place THURS APRIL 6th 1000 bane up to will look very nice when the Tinschafen to get water at about 0600. coconnet frabus + the lowns grow properly pares too are well kept to only about 3/2 mile for hangened Quite a bit of shift allos here too by matives working under America. low see tops loffed off trees in fighting Alte got ficked up in a feel

miles from here in 3 directions there is heavy fighting going on.

Bunbury boys said they have been to Admiralty Islands + the other places + altho' they have heard the gunfire they haven't been troubled by planes, which is nice to hear. While at Finschafen, the swotties took them for a run up to Satelberg + showed them around. Wish our Skipper would let us go if we had the chance, but doubt it.

THURS. APRIL 6TH

Came up to Finschafen to get water at about 0600. Its only about $3\frac{1}{2}$ mile from Langemak. Quite a bit of stuff ashore here too. Can see tops lopped off trees in fighting.

Leave granted for 2½ hours + I went ashore. Its impossible to describe the stuff the Yanks have ashore. It makes Milne Bay look like a little native village. The Yanks have an almost perfect organisation. It was the biggest eye-opener I've ever had, seeing the wonderful roads + huge buildings etc. Went and had a look at the Finschafen War cemetery. Both Aussies + Yanks there. The place will look very nice when the coconut palms + the lawns grow properly. Graves too are well kept by natives working under Aussies. We got picked up in a jeep

by a yank Intelligence officer who The Yank showed + fold us many devided to show the all around things which he shuck as an The drove us night up to Sakelberg Intelligence officer, and we had a and Scarlet Beach explaining where real good hours hip. the fighting had taken place or They same night there was other various, things of interest a compart party of yorky putting Amains of Jap barge barges de " go a show "on the I whoa. I'm two days behind myself there We steamed back to hangeneet ou signboards is a complete history of the fighting and the parts It played by various units. The hoot. and a swimming party was f held over the ship's side It solid our thussies were wonderful was good on the water. The water fighters, but we had to hand it here is perfectly clear for fathoms No him for the way the yanks almost. Unfortingabily go adadent had built the place up. Fancy occured when Geter leooper was a road as good as our sububas hanging outo the motor boat + woods hading right up Satelberg. got his foot in the way of

by a Yank Intelligence officer who decided to show us all around. He drove us right up to Satelberg and Scarlet Beach, explaining where the fighting had taken place, + other various things of interest.

Remains of Jap barges, etc were pointed out. Along the road on signboards is a complete history of the fighting and the parts played by various units. The Loot. said our Aussies were wonderful fighters, but we had to hand it to him for the way the Yanks had built the place up. Fancy a road as good as our suburban roads leading right up Satelberg. The Yank showed + told us many things which he struck as an Intelligence officer, and we had a real good hours trip.

That same night there was a concert party of Yanks putting on a show on the T – whoa – I'm two days behind myself there.

We steamed back to Langemack and a swimming party was held over the ship's side. It was goodoh in the water. The water here is perfectly clear for fathoms almost. Unfortunately an accident occurred when Peter Cooper was hanging onto the motor boat + got his foot in the way of

the screws. It made a mean of his Durnley every day. (Bit over 100 mileshere) SATURDAY. APRIL SH Arived glowcester anale & foot & lete had to be taken ashoe . Seened about half a dogs about gam. ban see here too the or more deep cuto across his foot. effects of the bombardment given it Fidoy APRIL JH It anchor all by the thropic Ausrie" Waronunge & the youhs youbs appear to have loads of shaff ashow here too. day domining party in afternoon again but I have a conter cold & Yolcond in background giving out and so got my head down all afternoon. This raid hed Juff of senone locanionally during Logo. Days sow spinal of fill were to take convoy Abach to black smoke cole door ! think Languak but now he have the for of escorting another one to it was a plane the bolinically I clouds. We sure any specing places this trip. Goe towards ashow here. Onle a plot of ships in the bay. Under weigh about 1830 headed for lape gloudeler. Sure getting a blong way away from your wood Marque. I high it was only the distribuce between the C.T.O to Dorgen Day

the screws. It made a mess of his ankle + foot + Pete had to be taken ashore. Seemed about half a dozen or more deep cuts across his foot.

Friday APRIL 7TH

At anchor all day. Swimming party in afternoon again but I have a corker cold and so got my head down all afternoon. Air raid Red during Dogs. Boys saw spiral of black smoke come down – think it was a plane.

Under weigh about 1830 headed for Cape Gloucester. Sure getting a long way away from you now Margie. I wish it was only the distance between the C.T.O + Burnley every day (Bit over 100 mile here).

SATURDAY APRIL 8TH

Arrived Gloucester about 9AM. Can see here too the effects of the bombardment given it by the "Shrofie" "Aussie", Warramunga + the Yanks. Yanks appear to have loads of stuff ashore here too. Volcano in background giving out puffs of smoke occasionally.

We were to take convoy back to Langemak, but now we have the job of escorting another one to the Admiralty islands. We sure are seeing places this trip.

Joe Evans ashore here. Quite a lot of ships in the bay (Borgen Bay)

SUNDAY APRIL 9th. Danty of 30 of the majority of us who went went ashare to have a look around hound these only 5 reached the where fighting took place when Marines top. It took is one on how first builded here. Object was to to climb up Jancy carrying a visit Till 660 where Japs attempted pack up all the way . Onges to retake hill after younds had The weight of my perspiration was chased them off. We Qualked about 3 mile along the beach & sour wighing my down (at least it felt like at Thyway we sow quite the effects of the bombardment from a few things of interest at the sea - Jak barges ber sunt top such las the focholes, tenches in close to show where they and gear of all sorts lying, were evidently at anchor. The we about. Numerous decomposed t waded their swamps with mud bodies lying about unburied linky in places coming our boots. Then the hill 660. At was muddy from the bonds the clothing left. Thought of taking a shull as a sourceive the previous night's rain + boy but maybe they wouldn't let me was lit a climb. Anyway out keep in low the mandelprice at have

SUNDAY APRIL 9TH

Party of 30 went ashore to have a look around where fighting took place, when Marines first landed here. Object was to visit Hill 660 where Japs attempted to retake hill after Yanks had chased them off. We walked about 3 mile along the beach + saw the effects of the bombardment from sea, - Jap barges been sunk in close to shore where they were evidently at anchor. Then we waded thru' swamps with mud in places covering our boots. <u>Then</u> the hill 660. It was muddy from the previous night's rain + boy was it a climb. Anyway out of the majority of us who went round there, only 5 reached the top. It took us over an hour to climb up. Fancy carrying a pack up all the way – cripes the weight of my perspiration was weighing me down (at least I felt like it). Anyway we saw quite a few things of interest at the top, such as the foxholes, trenches and gear, of all sorts lying about. Numerous decomposed Jap bodies lying about unburied. Only the bones + clothing left. Thought of taking a skull as a souvenir but maybe they wouldn't let me keep it on the mantelpiece at home.
Think Sis would be about the willected a fap helmet a a fung shells only one who would appreciate it. Naturally the Yanks + thirt Intelligence Japa must have ruched sharight up had cleared any real good sourcening out long ago. Still, the what we the shap opposate side of the hill + been nown down by the yanks sow was overy interesting, & we tenched in at the for All the could build a reconchuction of exactly what happened. Some of the Japa stormed to within a couple of equipment loging about was bullet Midden . water bottles, helmets, ammunition pouches. In one place about yards of where the Youk's were. a gouple of yards square we coursed I boming down the hill we 8 Japa who must have rushed took another thack & it was a togething. Sow those too rubber shows work of apt stopping ourselves from the Japa used for the climbing. They have the big too separate from the main sole. Wouldn't have falling ! I couldn't have had the mach because & fell a beaut back to authing my wrist for fut a stilling in it when minded a fair but they all seemed to have feet in them.

Think Sis & Val would be about the only ones who would appreciate it. Japs must have rushed straight up the steep opposite side of the hill + been mown down by the Yanks trenched in at the top. All the equipment lying about was bullet ridden – water bottles, helmets, ammunition pouches. In one place about a couple of yards square we counted 8 Japs who must have rushed together. Saw those rubber shoes the Japs used for tree climbing. They have the big toe separate from the main sole. Wouldn't have minded a pair but they all seemed to have feet in them. Collected a Jap helmet + a few shells. Naturally the Yanks + their Intelligence had cleared any real good souvenirs out long ago. Still, what we saw was very interesting, + we could build a reconstruction of exactly what happened. Some of the Japs stormed to within a couple of yards of where the Yanks were.

Coming down the hill we took another track + it was a work of art stopping ourselves from falling. I couldn't have had the nack because I fell a beaut, losing my gaiters I was taking back, + cutting my wrist. Doc put a stitch in it when I

New Ireland Madana + landing got aboard. In it so happened we 5 flarines up near Raboul I think to were the only ones out of the 30 to really see anything worth while. my more burges. The rest just walked about the forthose ell. We were glad that Consay APRIL 18th Another beautiful we shuch to the clints, but I'm day but no sign of our leaving. downed if I'd do it again. Somming party what over to I can see Marg loghing disgusted a small illand nearly, where when I hell then I had I to have there was a good sandy beard + a shipe in my write. Mun should flenty of falm here. There are no be able to held Marg that wothing palms on the flowcester area, because goes on that I don't get some soit of the one time active volcanses of a cate or bruise for. from which the love flow come. Our Admiralhies, hip has been This particular area is all country cancelled a so buyyes are rife formed ferri the lava plains. as to where we'll age now. Type of routy is scrubby or They range from us going to help not gungle like A Terr

got aboard. As it so happened, we 5 were the only ones out of the 30 to really see anything worth while. The rest just walked about the foreshore etc. We were glad that we stuck to the climb, but I'm darned if I'd do it again.

I can see Marg looking disgusted when I tell her I had to have a stitch in my wrist. Mum should be able to tell Marg that nothing goes on that I don't get some sort of a cut or bruise from.

Our Admiralties trip has been cancelled, + so buzzes are rife so to where we'll go now.

They range from us going to

New Ireland, Madang + landing Marines up near Rabaul. I think I'll wait + see before I listen to any more buzzes.

MONDAY APRIL 10TH

Another beautiful day but no sign of our leaving. Swimming party went over to a small island nearby, where there was a good sandy beach + plenty of palm trees. There are no palms on the Gloucester area, because of the one time active volcanoes from which the lava flow came.

This particular area is all country formed on the lava plains. Type of country is scrubby + bush, not jungle like New

Junea . be shot. No will probably have I Still at anchon all day. to keep our fatholes closed as the WESDAY APAIL 11th lipsed to go Japa have been know to float out today but ship not ready about, hanging on to logo + to soiling order again randelled. throw hard grenades their a ships MEDNESDAY. APRIL 19th Scuttles. Sailing orders also say In our way at 11 gm that bodies of Allied soldiers seen headed for the Raminally Islands floating are to be fiched up, with a tship. though durive tomour ydentified a buried at sea, but as its 2% miles threw had by bodies aren't to be touched. rifle practise at a target in afternoon I special forty has been detailed Admirallies arent up considered at as "repel boardies party" as every all safe. Our orden are full to man on the upper dich has a sturt. No noval party is allowed findal tommy que rifle, or ruthans ashoe unless on impostant duty. original The coders are in it but Anyon cought souvening, or seen Stokers, Sparkers & bloke on essential ou high ground after sunset will Jobs aren't included.

Guinea.

Still at anchor all day.

TUESDAY APRIL 11TH

Sposed to go out today, but ship not ready so sailing orders again cancelled.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 12TH

On our way at 11AM headed for the Admiralty Islands with a ship. Should arrive tomorrow as it is 270 ?(less) miles. Crew had rifle practise at a target in afternoon. Admiralties aren't yet considered at all safe. Our orders are full + strict. No naval party is allowed ashore unless on important duty.

Anyone caught souveniring, or seen on high ground after sunset will

be shot. We will probably have to keep our portholes closed as the Japs have been known to float about, hanging on to logs + throw hand grenades thru' a ships scuttles. Sailing orders also say that bodies of Allied soldiers seen floating are to be picked up, identified + buried at sea, but Jap bodies aren't to be touched.

A special party has been detailed as "repel boarder's party" + every man on the upper deck has a pistol, tommy gun, rifle or cutlass assigned. The coders are in it, but Stokers, Sparkers + bloke on essential jobs aren't included.

Just as well I'm not superstitions is 3 regreat deque (was all hory Sounds grim in the orders. They are and oiled as soon as we got in I and of bay is DEEADLER BAY. said to ind with keep alert on her worked out or chart that we "Keep alive. Geobably find that it. are 8 mile as the crow flies from will be another linewhilful hep the? Mirror like sec - beautiful where the hoops are still fighting. clear night with moon reflected in bould bear gainfire at times thrui day of at night re guallaches. res - Would be monollous here m a perce time fut. the go all the time THURSDAL APAIL 13th Jassed between Moorest to equator fire been as islands early in morning. Alcomed for, about 100 mile South of it. part has Megros about 10 Am Boys said they could see Maranders bombing About 3100 sea miles from home but as I didn't nee it, I doubt that 3100 too many for me It anchor overnight. it. Many fires on islands about - dont-FRIDAY MARIL 14 Jook a bloke from know what they are. Then wonderful the Amalla aboard for passage coconnet plantations here in peacetime. hed all alongaide yout tanker back to hangemak . The has

Just as well I'm not superstitious to a great degree as tomorrow is 13th.

Sounds grim (was all hooey) in the orders. They are said to end with Keep Alert + Keep Alive. Probably find that it will be another uneventful trip tho'.

Mirror-like sea – beautiful clear night with moon reflected in sea – would be marvellous here on a peace time trip.

THURSDAY APRIL 13TH

Passed between islands early in morning. Steamed past Los Negros about 10AM. Boys said they could see Marauders bombing but as I didn't see it, I doubt it. Many fires on islands about – don't know what they are. Been wonderful coconut plantations here in peacetime. Tied up alongside Yank tanker and oiled as soon as we got in. Name of bay is SEEADLER BAY. Len worked out on chart that we are 8 mile as the crow flies from where the troops are still fighting. Could hear gunfire at times thru' day, + at night see gunflashes. Lot of Liberator planes about, on the go all the time.

Nearest to equator I've been so far, 100 mile South of it. About 3100 sea miles from home – that's 3100 too many for me.

At anchor overnight.

FRIDAY APRIL 14TH

Took a bloke from the Benalla aboard for passage back to Langemak. He has

got malaria. Under way for running from the top to the Langenah about 6 Am. Thatance coart edgl. Looked like the is about 32,5 miles. Sor a streams francing down the mouter flight of Spilling our Manus Island side after a theory rain. Meren experted to see Spittion up Red alah as we were going in these parts. Sea, chopping for into Langemark. Jak fighter seen a start but we funed a got a reco over Tinschafen ? That of the sea astern of as + offer that ach - ack thrown at him at he it was alright. soon scooled for home. Dest of SATURDAY APRIL 15th New guinea in all was the mail that came aboard. Josh it was good as we sight during forenoon Geralian thought love wouldn't get any up type of rountry when we got herd. Jood old Margie mile -Sin else. Very high ruggld no letter for how the maybe montaine hearily fimbered mland. I missed the mail. May come but on the seasondaids the abopt were great but almost bare, before we go out again? Istimming over the side for except for ships of tres

got malaria. Under way for Langemak about 6 AM. Distance is about 325 miles. Saw a flight of Spitfires over Manus Island. Never expected to see Spitties up in these parts. Sea choppy for start, but we turned + got the sea astern of us + after that it was alright.

<u>SATURDAY APRIL 15^{TH} </u>

New Guinea in sight during forenoon. Peculiar type of country when we got in close. Very high rugged mountains, heavily timbered inland, but on the seawardside the slopes were grey but almost bare, except for strips of trees running from the top to the coast edge. Looked like the streams running down the mountain side after a heavy rain.

Red alarm as we were going into Langemak. Jap fighter seen on recco over Finschafer. Bit of ack-ack thrown at him + he soon scooted for home. Best of all was the mail that came aboard. Gosh it was good as we thought we wouldn't get any up here. Good old Margie wife – no letter from home tho' – maybe it missed the mail. May come before we go out again.

Swimming over the side from

tilm till folm got the water folo ball & had some fur the not much chance. We couldn't help is a bombardment. Tope we can SUNDAY APRIL 16th Mart to Finschafer get up there soon the' the Thousant had any real excitement to water ship Monday & Therday - expecting to this time away . 441. Swimming go out, but all goal shipping over side each day during 1st sent in harbour as big landing Mednerday April 19th Warf achoe is to take place up coast with hove a flordie, Ciched up within next fut days Grobably a ride in a feel with an Unseie Wenah or Hollandia. Every sort who books as 25 mile interned to Marco. MPS let us gos because of ship from aircraft carriers battles cruises, dichogens et all an men Wallaby sailing. We get sorts of landing right going " good spin ashore from the past in continuous convers. This hoops. Wonderful scenery along be going to be a big show. the route to Mareo - we could We thomay very shongly that look over Satelling and see could get into it the big convoys way out at sea

4PM till 6PM. Got the water polo ball + had some fun.

SUNDAY APRIL 16th

Went to Finschafen to water ship.

Monday + Tuesday - expecting to go out, but all gash shipping sent in harbour, as big landing is to take place up coast within next few days. Probably Wewak or Hollandia. Every sort of ship from aircraft carriers, battlers, cruisers, destroyers + all sorts of landing craft going past in continuous convoys. Must be going to be a big show. We hoping very strongly that we could get into it, but not much chance. We couldn't help in a bombardment. Hope we can get up there soon tho'. We haven't had any real excitement this time away – yet. Swimming over side each day during 1^{st} Dog.

Wednesday April 19th

Went ashore with Dave + Blondie. Picked up a ride in a jeep with an Aussie who took us 25 mile inland to Wareo. MP's let us go because we were Wallaby sailors. We got a good spin ashore from the troops. Wonderful scenery along the route to Wareo – we could look over Satelberg – and see the big convoys way out at sea

On the way back we stoffed swothis suit. Alandie got a pair and had a look over some of the dungances & the got some Matilda banks. They look a gash gear that a fank didn't want, and were able to sell shudy job. On aring back at Scarlet beach we got a life most of it. Quite a good day. from one of the angel (native 20th Stent to seal, with Down adminstration with mot. The spin eacorting 2, ships bound for us quite a few dits about the admirally Islands. natives a sail we would have Fidge 21st April arrived a fuelled her very badly off if it hadn't there awaiting orders. have been for the Terginies help. Saturday 23rd thil Libert Saturday 23rd Phil Liberty given to We had an how of liberty hos Negros. All didn't would to left so got a ride about go alloe so we went again 10 mile about the coast where got a ride out to the air the Yanks are alfogether wh Ship a had a book at the the hitchtight over 70 mile Liberators Kittyhawho Spitfires + Lightning looking about I copped a green there's certainly some discraft there.

On the way back we stopped and had a look over some Mathilda tanks. They look a sturdy job. On arriving back at Scarlet beach we got a lift from one of the Angu (native administration unit) mob. He spun us quite a few dits about the natives + said we would have been very badly off if it hadn't been for the Fuzzies help. We had an hour of liberty left so got a ride about 10 mile down the coast where the Yanks are. Altogether we hitchhiked over 70 mile looking about. I copped a green swotties suit, Blondie got a pair of blue dungarees + we got some gash gear that a Yank didn't want, and were able to sell most of it. Quite a good day.

20^{th}

Went to sea with Bowen, escorting 2 ships bound for Admiralty Islands.

<u>Friday 21st April</u> Arrived + fuelled then awaiting orders.

Saturday 23rd April

Liberty given to Los Negros. Bill didn't want to go ashore so we went again. Got a ride out to the air strip + had a look at the Liberators, Kittyhawks, Spitfires + Lightning. There's certainly some aircraft there.

Two squadrons of ansies there tot to contain essentials, but to my They man all the fighters Rejority inexperienced eye they look The of them arrived while highburg was good guns. A Will on hos Negros. They showed Burgs when we got back was us about + spendas the dik, that howen + ouvelves, were taking Quite a four Jops still sculling the beland to green Island, which about in the bush. Nobody is is on the east laide of Now Ireland. allowed in except patrols, ias a South way to be over the top number of men have been killed of New Geland. But it was by land mines which the Jops have decided to just send the form Set everywhere. Still a bit of, so we missed out again. It was fighting going on on Manus Island backs to hangunake for us has Region has the anatif so when April arrived handenate is the more important. That a look but No MAIL. What sort of at some of the fat light guns a Mary is this? Trouble is that were raphied also al couple that we are poepecting to go to of b inch naval guns. Juns only Milne Agy for a boiles clean

Two squadrons of Aussies there, 76 + 79. They man all the fighters. Majority of them arrived while fighting was still on Los Negros. They showed us about + spun us the dits. Quite a few Japs still sculling about in the bush. Nobody is allowed in except patrols, as a number of men have been killed by land mines which the Japs have set everywhere. Still a bit of fighting going on on Manus Island. Los Negros has the airstrip so is the more important. Had a look at some of the Jap light guns that were captured, also a couple of 6 inch navel guns. Guns only contain essentials but to my inexperienced eye they look like good guns.

Buzz when we got back was that Bowen + ourselves were taking the Celano to Green Island, which is on the east side of New Ireland. Route was to be over the top of New Ireland. But it was decided to just send the Bowen so we missed out again. It was back to Langemak for us.

24th APRIL

Arrived Langenmak – but <u>NO MAIL</u>. What sort of a Navy is this? Trouble is that we are expecting to go to Milne Bay for a boiler clean

so our mail is probably waiting swimming over side during bogs there. To mail here! I be rigged goals for water polo + Inerday 25th April. ANDAR Day also to dering boards down aft. wait hill I'm in it - That'll Water here is very very days be, the day. Befathours, I we offen have to Jachie Nood on the Coura. He make to get under wigh as our round across in their whole bolt enchor drage & we draft close couldn't stop to talk. Will get to the shore. together first opportunity. Those ment to a good concert got ashoe with letters as schoe last night the Mussie shows portnan + , hitchhild out quile + warly all professionale Horie Dargie so that I could get postal was in the party. Have , Kill notes + send belegton for Margo ment + said it was the best bithday. They'll arrive late but show they have seen. I would In Andding myself for fingally I over whatch as he was dressed finding how to get them. I have when we were hold to set watch. worried mought speakle It just filled in my time till the west cleared afor

so our mail is probably waiting there. No mail here!

<u>Tuesday 25th APRIL ANZAC DAY –</u> Wait till I'm in it – that'll be the day.

Jackie Wood on the Cowra. He rowed across in their whaler but couldn't stop to talk. Will get together first opportunity.

Got ashore with letters as postman + hitchhiked out 9 mile so that I could get postal notes + send telegrams for Marg's birthday. They'll arrive late, but I'm kidding myself for finally finding how to get them. I sure worried enough people. Swimming over side during Dogs. We rigged goals for water polo + also a diving board down aft.

Water here is very very deep 30 fathoms, + we often have to rush to get under weigh as our anchor drags + we drift close to the shore.

Boys went to a good concert ashore last night. An Aussie show + nearly all professionals. Horrie Dargie was in the party. Dave + Bill went, + said it was the best show they have seen. I worked Dave's watch, as he was dressed when we were told to set watch. It just filled in my time till the mess cleared up.

Wednerdag 26th APRIL Went round how for this day. To Timechafen to water hip that thing about waiting to go all we look water for is on her day. A mally left at about 5 la. way to Sydney. I would have stored great houble too as the Rowen way to sydney. I would have stoud heat hould too as the hown away but the have owes we at was tied up alongide of us + mouthe pay - I can't sacrifice that an anchor cables got trangled. It how come in today. Shy took was close at times that we that ship for Adminally clords. both heat from drifting achore. It appears that the Hown now the bungled the hours about 4 onto a reef and ripped her times and badly damaged the ardee done off as well as stanchion in her starbets waist. domaging the addee compartment. The had own anchor chain go She is going to Sydney for reparse cauget over his flutes. herdige and be think it neight have held form for gifting while held how for driffing while we hole fle Mondate shipper will take a "can" for that Thursday 27 the April Many happy Wish IA were W when Marg. exhibition when we get in.

Admiralty Islands. It appears that the Bowen ran onto a reef and ripped her Asdec dome off as well as

damaging the Asdec compartment. She is going to Sydney for repairs. And to think it might have been us.

Went round to Finschafen to water. Ship that we took

stowed away but the Navy owes me a month's pay + I

water from is on her way to Sydney. I would have

Bowen came in today. She took that ship from

<u>Thursday 27th April</u> Many happy returns Marg. Wish I were

Wednesday 26th APRIL

can't sacrifice that.

home for this day.

Hung about waiting to go all day. Finally left at about 5PM. Great trouble too as the Bowen was tied up alongside of us + our anchor cables got tangled. It was close at times that we both kept from drifting ashore. We bumped the Bowen about 4 times and badly damaged the stanchion in her starb'd waist. He had our anchor chain caught over his flutes. Bendigo held Bowen from drifting while we broke free. Bowen's skipper will take a "can" for that exhibition when we get in.

Mo Robertson our adec officer, + Somebody got a paper, andling about the last original officer left us on first Middle". Truecott. He today Not one of our original office has been appointed 3rd heretary are left now. This shipper is reputed to the Ansaig diplomatic delegation to be leaving us of hilve Bay in Imerica. It says "Tourcost can Teaching for Thilse bay for boile who on the warship HMAS Carthemains clean in the trafuna Sea" that a laugh Triday 25th April Beautiful day . It was only at sea a blooming Almost unbelievable the number of 2 og Wable or so ships we passed between Langeweek Saturday 29th April . Two calendar and Anna - Destroyers, assoult ships months away from Sydney. Roll on Liberties + unnumerable small craft roll on. When we were bumping lealled in at Duna for an with Bowen toother day we spring how or so Sow a Ulletcher class dechoyer under full weigh leak. That'll have to be fixed loday they look solid job , but this time in . We may go linto dock.

Mr. Robertson our Asdec officer, + the last original officer left us today. Not one of our original officers are left now. This skipper is reputed to be leaving us at Milne Bay. Heading for Milne Bay for boiler clean.

Friday 28th April

Beautiful day. Almost unbelievable the number of ships we passed between Langemak and Buna. Destroyers, Assault ships, Liberties + innumerable small craft. Called in at Buna for an hour or so. Saw a Fletcher class destroyer under full weigh today. They look solid jobs, but I prefer our Tribals. Somebody got a paper cutting about our first Middie – Truscott. He has been appointed 3rd Secretary to the Aussie diplomatic delegation in America. It says "Truscott saw action on the warship HMAS Castlemaine in the Arafura Sea". What a laugh. He was only at sea a bloomin Dog Watch or so.

Saturday 29th April

Five calendar months away from Sydney. Roll on, roll on. When we were bumping with Bowen t'other day we sprung a rivet + have developed a leak. That'll have to be fixed this time in. We may go into dock.

Chaining heavily. appears there has going south. Majority seen convinced been floods tashore. There has been that it will be only by whet or 30 inches of rain. Soir bit of a months. Ill want bill + mail to kays aboard - the rest - worked on arrials all today is at the CostOffice which is at Jusday May 2nd A vert off first imagine what the med is a store fighty gt 8 Am with Big The . I'm content to sit aboard herry & thitle Jusser. After much Tunday 30h April mail. maching about we got over the founday 30h April all day. got one freing forms + whatnot are to gamactodo about 10 Am. Then after turing forms + whatnot are couldn't pay and have another to at a truck till 1/30 m. So we collect. Morey for our I.T.P. mut and had screw with the Monday 1st May, Well that another yanters then got our heads down. wonth over. Makes our total of course when we got the huch 5 worths now - already the we really worked Mumping everything burgges have started about us from hails to sides of beef.

Raining heavily. Appears there has been floods ashore. There has been 30 inches of rain. Fair bit of mail came aboard – the rest is at the Post Office which is at present cut off by road. Can just imagine what the mud is like. I'm content to sit aboard + pore over my mail.

<u>Sunday 30th April</u> Raining all day. Got one pay – and have another to collect. More for our T.T.F.

Monday 1st May

Well that's another month over. Makes our total 5 months now – already the buzzes have started about us

going south. Majority seem convinced that it will be only 6 weeks or 2 months, I'll wait. Bill + I worked on aerials all today

Tuesday May 2nd

Bill and I went off as store party at 8AM with Big Pusser + Little Pusser. After much mucking about we got over to Gamadodo about 10AM. Then after fixing forms + whatnot we couldn't get a truck till 1/30PM. So we went and had scran with the Yanks then got our heads down. Of course when we got the truck we really worked lumping everything from nails to sides of beef.

Thursday - Thiday 4th + 5th Tinisked work We managed to have some few on actuals on worked on R/I probable the To get tack an old lounch loved our lighter. Boy did we preh. Laturday May of got haffed to play have some kouble theeping her secure We got back aboard finally football in afternoon. We played he Bundabug - + wow by 3 goals after of oclock buckily our scran The groundy me played "was some had been saved. Wednerday May 3rd leollected anothe ground. In 300 4 patches there was slicky black hud, anhle day, bay - pull my fewing money that couldn't be avoided, while A have 113 now Clinte a lot to we the other parts of the ground were Wahed on acials up the most like rement huchily be were boll all day with Aill! We are both out of condition of so were fairly about the some doing a fob even. Pery stiffs after it bet so we argued all the time of didn't mind that . the ren there as I to whose him it will do us the world of good. was to leave out to the end of the yardian.

We managed to have some fun tho'. To get back an old launch towed our lighter. Boy did we have some trouble, keeping her secure. We got back aboard finally after 7 oclock, luckily our scram had been saved.

Wednesday May 3rd

Collected another pay – with my jewing money I have 13 pounds now. Quite a lot to me. Worked on aerials up the mast all day with Bill. We are both about the same doing a job so we argued all the time up there as to whose turn it was to lean out to the end of the yardarm. <u>Thursday + Friday $4^{\text{th}} + 5^{\text{th}}$ </u> Finished work on aerials + worked on R/T portable sets.

Saturday May 6th

Got trapped to play football in afternoon. We played the Bundaberg - + won by 3 goals. The ground we played on was some ground. In 3 or 4 patches there was sticky black mud, ankle deep, that couldn't be avoided; while the other parts of the ground were like cement. Luckily we were both out of condition and so were fairly even. Very stiff after it, but didn't mind that – the run will do us the world of good.

Sunday May The a detailed "volunteer" The detailed to escort 2 youk habel sub on the surface. An chulch fragly what ashoe in formen. Will represented the M. took over one of them while ye encaped the other them the I parkers the heather. thing that + 20 mile out to sea. Materdays footballers limping Sals looked nice job on surface. about everywhele so as could be We did 14 knots + they heft expected a quiet day was had up without any prouble " cuthing by all boday. Monday May Ofthe aut to sea them the water , like the lows! of a deshoyer. It ahight Marg. doing estercises all day, arriving Jot Jack in after 10Pm. in about 61m That wears that this boiler deen Tuesday May gth, Bundaling yanh Her has been no shore leave and us out again at CAM for anti-sub esternises. Aroffed weath for the football party. Genades as depth charges + her fickure parties at night the for anti-sub exercises Aroffed on the whole we put of a good technology May 10th Out early again. show & would have got the last. This this for monocover the

Sunday May 7th

A detailed "volunteer" church party went ashore in forenoon. Bill represented the Sparkers, the heathen.

Yesterday's footballers limping about everywhere, so as could be expected a quiet day was had by all today.

Monday May 8th

Out to sea doing exercises all day, arriving in about 6PM.

Tuesday May 9th

Bundaberg. Yank and us out again at 6AM for anti-sub exercises. Dropped grenades as depth charges + on the

whole we put up a good show + would have got the sub.

Were detailed to escort 2 Yank patrol subs on the surface. An ML. took over one of them while we escorted the other thru' the China Straits + 20 mile out to sea. Subs looked nice job on surface. We did 14 knots + they kept up without any trouble, cutting thru' the water like the bows of a destroyer. Its alright Marg.

Got back in after 10PM. That means that this boiler clean there has been no shore leave except for the football party. Been picture parties at night tho'.

<u>Wednesday May 10th</u> Out early again. This time for manoeuvres +

Junnery shoot. alone lowed a -the to prisbare. The trouble with this sheer for us to shoot at In is that nothing goes wrong. This completes on trials & tomorrow Tursday May 11th hoaded a lot of we are bound for hangemak. Timbe gear including a free aboard + net a few aboard leve on idea we and for hangemak. Har passenges are going south of will be disap- the - board. One is they Alinetan while we go north. Durges have been rife during this weeks . Micial Tholographer flow the auchalación Inque. To took quite a fur shongest being that will be late aboard & they'll plobably gone by sine welke. Jordness know after in the paper one of theed where the bays get the buyyes. In addition to the Bouten, Thiday May 12th Unived hangemak the geeling also broke her done ! 13 hours after leaving Miled Kay had the go south for a new one. The behave has just some for a I look us 37 when we went down In the side swimming quarter of refit at Melbourse + her Gondersees In how after arising & good it was takes failed so she has gove tro. Couple of letters waiting

Gunnery shoot. Plane towed a sleeve for us to shoot at. This completes our trials + tomorrow we are bound for Langemak. Quite a few aboard have an idea we are going south + will be disap-td when we go north. Buzzes have been rife during this week – strongest being that we'll be gone by six weeks. Goodness knows where the boys get these buzzes.

In addition to the Bowen, the Geelong also broke her dome + had to go south for a new one. The Echuca has just come from a refit at Melbourne + her condenser tubes failed so she has gone back to Brisbane. The trouble with this ship is that nothing goes wrong.

Thursday May 11th

Loaded a lot of gear including a Jeep aboard + set out for Langemak. Few passengers on board. One is Roy Dunstan Official Photographer for the Australasian + Argus. He took quite a few photos aboard + they'll probably appear in the paper one of these days.

Friday May 12th

Arrived Langemak 23 hours after leaving Milne Bay. It took us 37 when we went down. Over the side swimming quarter of an hour after arriving. Goodoh it was too. Couple of letters waiting

- a conter wallet from Margo + no first getting good when me and anniversary letter My supe and ander which. is a sport by gee. Rechons Lid Inday May 14 the Merived Madang early is at Scalet Beach - wish I'd - forenoon - this has been quite known that before, I could have a decent little place in peace booked him up weeks ago. ine. Durns thilly had nice building JATURDAY MAY 13th Loaded bage + here . If course weighing is battered bags of mail, and odd gen. badly now Surrounding very pretty took one soney swattie passengers it seems that the further all in afternoon. In evening we ment - may goes the pretties it is alongaide a yant ship and Next alongide has old felly unbraded 15 buoys onto our + all hands unloaded the mail foint to take up to the te. Mail would be very welcome Moresby at Madang There was a to the swothis Made Severe enquiries pickhe show on the yand a se about Side moto + was informed! where all chickned, down aft that they are all up here now looking at it. The dam thing They are in a bay a fur mile

- a corker wallet from Margo + an anniversary letter.
My wife is a sport by gee. Reckons Sid is at Scarlet
Beach – wish I'd known that before, I could have
looked him up weeks ago.

SATURDAY MAY 13TH

Loaded bags + bags of mail, and odd gear, took one some swottie passengers in afternoon. In evening we went alongside a Yank ship and unloaded 15 buoys onto our foc'sl to take up to the Moresby at Madang. There was a picture show on the Yank + we were all clustered down aft looking at it. The darn thing was just getting good when we got under weigh.

SUNDAY MAY 14th

Arrived Madang early in forenoon - this has been quite a decent little place in peace time. Burns Philp had nice building here. Of course everything is battered badly now. Surrounding very pretty it seems that the further up a man goes the prettier it is.

Went alongside an old jetty + all hands unloaded the mail etc. Mail would be very welcome to the swotties. Made some enquiries about Sid's mob + was informed that they are all up here now. They are in a bay a few mile

from this & jelly. If I get the chance darked whisping out the other way I may be able to go af by barge mande the Kapunda. Days said the to see one day. Manho the tapundar figd back with her winch. h. c. barges - afait from them it The are Japs on the islands + is all pussies. Wandered round the convetter up here do patrols each rear ship - found Jap cloth cap wight to present subs coming in tunie hullons by ended up by "I barges to get them away. Things diving to a Jap gas mach - that there is shill a 5 inch gh We must out a hid up alongside - commission on the island. a for - commission on the island a for Moresby + unloaded buoys Sund up - the convettes have bombarded the here is very very shong teens lace. This sort of thing is part much sholiger Shar Langemaks -- Johe. Sonebody might get huit this is 160 miles worth of Linch ading real ammunition . Josh a couple of smothing Monday May 15th Arrived off Langush passengers aboard + left for hangered about of Am, went down to Nusking about 6 Pm. Its we were emined Island 300 4 mile down to field past the islands have bullets of a yearly Mankar. Jook or

from this jetty. If I get the chance I may be able to go up by barge to see one day. Yanks run the L.C's barges - apart from them it is all Aussies. Wandered round near ship + found Jap cloth cap, tunic buttons + ended up by diving for a Jap gas mask. We went out + tied up alongside Moresby + unloaded buoys. Sun up here is very very strong. Seems much stronger than Langemak – this is 160 miles north of L'wak.

Took a couple of swottie passengers aboard + left for Langemak about 6PM. As we were coming past the islands tracer bullets started whizzing out the other way towards the Kapunda. Boys said the Kapunda fired back with her 4 inch. There are Japs on the islands + the corvettes up here do patrols each night to prevent subs coming in or barges to get them away. Buzz is that there is still a 5 inch gun in commission on the island. A few of the corvettes have bombarded the place. This sort of thing is past a joke. Somebody might get hurt using real ammunition.

Monday May 15th

Arrived off Langemak about 7AM, went down to Nussing Island 3 or 4 mile down, to fuel of a Yank tanker. Took on

water collected a colonel & a few by a how. an gonna try to get officers + left for Madang again. Emission to get ashow Early what Thered close in to Saidor about this are book like staying in, so bar but, not much to see there that I can mail "my cousin whom Tuesday May 19th Anchored close in haven't seen for four years" Aning the forenoon Clis scrubbed Lave + I wonthered around all over the sails for the whaler to take the place + had a look at where it sailing in the afternoon the The wolthis were burning all sol of an supposed to be hele for a you . Then booked them' where for days + do a bombardsheart with the gaps had had this hospital the starrego on the islands when hat + measor. Quite a lot of old she arrives got an immediate all laying about igaretter postcards signal about 2/m recalling us gear a various other shift. got a to hanguak . Is we didn't leave By howisach + some contes being till blad leave was given All 5/9. pera seemed well set out. It flaces Made anguiris about barge to there there were geisha girls of where Syd is but had missed mores also.

water, collected a colonel + a few officers + left for Madang again. Passed close in to Saidor about 6AM, but not much to see there.

Tuesday May 17th

Anchored close in. During the forenoon CB's scrubbed the sails for the whaler to take it sailing in the afternoon. We are supposed to be here for a few days + do a bombardment with the Warrego on the islands when she arrives. Got an immediate signal about 2PM recalling us to Langemak. As we didn't leave till 6PM leave was given till 5PM. Made enquiries about barge to where Syd is but had missed by ½ hour. Am gonna try to get permission to get ashore early next time we look like staying in so that I can visit "my cousin whom I haven't seen for four years".

Dave + I wandered around all over the place + had a look at where the swotties were burning all sorts of gear. Then looked thru' where the Japs had had their hospital huts + messes. Quite a lot of old stuff laying about, cigarettes, postcards gear + various other stuff. Got a Jap haversack + some cards. Camp place seemed well set out. At places here there were Geisha girls or nurses also.
Sow 3 near Jap grow near fitty. Alle of been second a hot of run. Would like to get ashow here Each day the winner drops out which for four of fire hours again. Heat time we are in a swollie sons that different bloke must win such day. Affer about a dogen have is gonna quie us some invasion it will be close to my here money. "Had a sup (or conduced but say this for this Shipper - he mille tim) full of tea at Imca to us as much leave as he possibly tent, then I back abound Took an , & aflow as swimming everywhere on a domp or so, swothiss with possible. If he wasn't wich a real various illenesses. Two on spetchers tig is his dealing with the blokes Mednesday 1th May arrived Linah would be quite good. But he heats about ASAM. Buelled at Mussing -lines + all like dut book our then watered . Lay at anchor all Intliant Junney Officer has been day. A winning our the side for stiered of all thates because he rearly 2Por hill belog I make a word. mus on a ref a while back. The Shiffer organized race round the tiddy helps all boops watches makes a much better job. This ship each day . dust prize is

Saw 3 neat Jap graves near jetty. Would like to get ashore here for four or five hours again. Next time we are in a swottie is gonna give us some invasion money.

Had a cup (or condensed milk tin) full of tea at YMCA tent, then back aboard. Took on a dozen or so swotties with various illnesses. Two on stretchers.

Wednesday 17th May

Arrived L'mak about 8AM. Fuelled at Nussing then watered. Lay at anchor all day. Swimming over the side from 2PM till 6PM – make + mend.

Skipper organised race round the ship each day. First prize is bottle of beer, second a tot of rum. Each day the winner drops out – which means that different bloke must win each day. After about a dozen have won it will be close to my turn. Must say this for this Skipper – he gives us as much leave as he possibly can - + allows us swimming everywhere possible. If he wasn't such a real pig in his dealings with the blokes he would be quite good. But he treats officers + all like dirt. Coop our brilliant (?) Gunnery Officer has been relieved of all duties because he nearly run us on a reef a while back. The Middy keeps all Coop's watches + makes a much better job. This

young Middy is a decent chap + Liberties + the lo young files 8 h.S.T. ga good hand too. tecat of 2 your destroyed a la 4 Thursday May 18th hear till 5/30 Pm meetres Theard quite a few tales of in aboo. Allondie + I went ashore together. I found that Sid has houlde at Hollandia area so maybe wentless run will break. We'll see. really gone from Scalet Beach Ten to help well out from coast Alondiet colter also left. So we - roube Cossibility that we will hild hiked about nathing to bloke to first consette there, unless Denalla until time to go back. got back = subweying up that way. My will in time for storm before going on to outside Australian Mankabed Territory has we get there. Arachired Abardon y watch . Triday May 19the Under weigh during The day Class this stations then folewoon headed for Hollgadis School Stations I'm in the whales probably calling at ataipe. It a at abandon ship which is better than 500 odde mile this and so it only on a bloomin raft. Chobably go a show convey me want get M to Action stations before timed each there until Monday. Siched up night now for few days

young Middy is a decent chap + is a good hand too.

Thursday May 18th

Leave till 5/30PM in arvo. Blondie + I went ashore together. I found that Sid has really gone from Scarlet Beach. Blondies cobber also left. So we hitch hiked about nattering to blokes, until time to go back. Got back in time for swim before going on watch.

Friday May 19th

Under weigh during forenoon, headed for Hollandia, probably calling at Ataipe. It's a 500 odd mile trip, and as it is only a slow convoy we won't get there until Monday. Picked up 2 Liberties + the Po Yang, plus 8 L.S.T.'s. Escort of 2 Yank destroyers, a PC + ourselves. Heard quite a few tales of trouble at Hollandia Area, so maybe our eventless run will break. We'll see. Have to keep well out from coast en route. Possibility that we will be first corvette there, unless Benalla is surveying up that way. We will be outside Australian Mandated Territory when we get there. Practised Abandon Ship stations, then Action stations. I'm in the whaler at abandon ship which is better than on a bloomin raft. Probably go to Action stations before sunset each night now for few days

Salunday May 20th Inched up 4 mu, back in close. boy see signs - bombardneut ashore. Tom shelf nov UST + a deskoyer making now 12hST, 3 werehant ships + is reported to have a fut a school - field field , good + other places. a fur goal barges . Escaled by 3 The quite a place in pears line. Yand delhoyas, all c. and ourselves Sunday May 21st Abought of planes flur own but identified at our own there is - idulally we are in a forgign not - this belongs to the hatch + me are outside Austie Mandabed Levenbory motor boat now flies the lithite burger that another place flow over country they flow off that only a maign affort. , that of hici in here, along the four are supposed At have seen it. Tashfora . Renalla in , but we are At cather very warm Seine to be hist convetter in to Hollandia. on epidence of flow on board hop bloken hand in . Monday May 22 nd go into this place like Arisbane. We go af to orders here for us so we will have to wast till they come Shipper let a mob go across to the coast past Hollandia then - illand swimming hooked goodoks

Saturday May 20th

Picked up more L S T + a destroyer, making now 12 LST'S, 3 merchant ships + a few gash barges. Escorted by 3 Yank destroyers, a P.C and ourselves.

Sunday May 21st

Couple of planes flew over but identified as our own. There is buzz that another plane flew over convoy then flew off. But only a few are supposed to have seen it. Weather very warm. Seems to be an epidemic of flu on board – two blokes turned in.

Monday May 22nd

Go into this place like Brisbane. We go up the coast past Hollandia then

turn back in close. Can see signs of bombardment ashore. Town itself is reported to have a pub, a school football field, gaol + other places. Was quite a place in peace time. Incidentally we are in a <u>foreign</u> port – this belongs to the Dutch + we are outside Aussie Mandated Territory. Our motor boat now flies the White Ensign afloat.

Lot of L.C.I.'s in here, also the Taskforce. Benalla in, but we are first corvette in to Hollandia. No orders here for us so we will have to wait till they come. Skipper let a mob go across to an island swimming. Looked goodoh.

Show Asyedale got coul precoving - all mined by fire. The big fehol on the foot. Had to bring him - there was avidently set alight back aboard as he was in exchance - incendiques. They thought back a pain. Doe lanced the anelling + mplete Jup latte & hope to get let the blood drive the forson out = working. The latte would be Doy have to wear footbeer of now - the par couple of hundred quid nor melday May 23rd bot of ach ach the Tooray past got signal that fire about 449. Auchon It was a - ar to be Dir, but Udelaide raid but our mob eleft then'st - the 20th June Whachor hook ry we don't know. I have here I come. We are Inother environing party went ashow most 3's thousand miles for - again I was on watch territiged reather while but well got there . Mednerday May 24th Chief Liffie , and peters, aboard. for others went ashow to see if they - heft Hollandia during afternoon. lought get any good machinery and force of 5 provisers in 18 deshayers a large humber tof new micraft engine landing up when we left. They winder bouber the sets, I other I shalf a going to do some place over.

Stew Drysdale got coral poisoning on the foot. Had to bring him back aboard, as he was in extreme pain. Doc lanced the swelling + let the blood drive the poison out. Boys have to wear footwear off now.

Tuesday May 23rd

Lot of ack ack fire about 4AM. Reckon it was a raid, but our mob slept thru' it so we don't know.

Another swimming party went ashore – again I was on watch. Beautiful weather.

Wednesday May 24th

Chief Tiffie + few others went ashore to see if they could get any good machinery. A large number of new aircraft engines, wireless bomber sets, + other stuff but all ruined by fire. The big petrol drum there was evidently set alight by incendiaries. They brought back a complete Jap lathe + hope to get it working. The lathe would be worth a couple of hundred quid new.

<u>Hooray</u> just got signal that we are to be in Port Adelaide on the 20^{th} June. Whacko. Look out Margo here I come. We are almost $3\frac{1}{2}$ thousand miles from Adelaide but we'll get there. Great cheers aboard.

Left Hollandia during afternoon. Task force of 5 cruisers + 18 destroyers forming up when we left. They are going to do some place over

Thursday May 25th Alues being anid - May 27th thrised hanganak a while bing drobyding encycline. that Langunah has had no Mondie + & Vegen preasing firm for blues now as phati Shiff will and sent from there requesting be figt about finished. hooked as the me will cop Mary ower the at months pay - trip, unfortunately. day thing hound what is to Jodaya which we'll probably rollich Mile Day on our stay home. Iniday May 20th Reantiful warm day and a fas lets wedged. bit of a sing song on foir it evening boo had his whelele whelele aday a dev from backlemaine be sorry to actionde West Salor Ouguolde Ollie Twit leave this meather exchange for what it will be - welf) had a challinge sailing down south in June + July. with hoven and Skuell, and if it snowed all my shore - lucky enough to win I'd shill go, juit mich to price of me bottle top home each was given.

Thursday May 25th

Blues being aired + whites being dhoby'd everywhere. Blondie + I began pressing firm for blues now, as khaki stuff will be just about finished.

Navy owes us a month's pay today which we'll probably collect at Milne Bay <u>on our way home</u>.

Friday May 26th

Beautiful warm day - bit of a sing song on foc'sl in evening. Doc had his ukelele. Will be sorry to leave this weather in exchange for what it will be like down south in June + July. But if it snowed all my leave, I'd still go, just to get home.

Saturday May 27th

Arrived Langemak. Appears that Langemak has had no signal about our going south. A signal sent from here requesting orders. Looks as tho' we will cop another trip, unfortunately.

<u>Sunday</u>) Hung round at anchor waiting to see <u>Monday</u>) what is to happen. Many buzzes <u>Tuesday</u>) flying round, and a few bets wagered.

Monday a crew from Castlemaine (Len Ashford, Wert, Snow Reynolds, Allie Twist + myself) had a challenge sailing race with Bowen and Stawell, and were lucky enough to win, for which a prize of one bottle of beer each was given.

Nome challenged as to a swimming and of gear aboard. The officers loo race a first two. Our blokes got 2nd affet Prfirits for gear, Vielles & + 3rd flaces. Wahred at Finschafen a fuelled at - ghas What sailing for fur hours - not Mussing on Wednesday Inerday so , wind but had pleasant afternoon. will know tomovor what doing. Tiday June 2nd heft borniralhie at Wednesday May 31st Under weigh about This bag lis a popular 6:30 Any headed for Admiralhie Ino his with this Shiffer 3 lacorte + 3 cowettes escaling one ship threeding Liday June 3rd hijved Langemah at about 11 knob , but having to dy this last convey is a meisance. ming appendon Mail came aboard By the time we get back we mainingly. My thought it would be won't have too much spare time I held at Mile Hay. I got 18 to get to Udelaide by 20th form which was about the most. ~ a desonality hid the great to Day early in forenoon Shipper soon at a heap of mail the + to off affer withit . The bright mor foller themait forgothe you

Bowen challenged us to a swimming race + just won. Our blokes got 2^{nd} + 3^{rd} places.

Watered at Finschafen + fuelled at Nussing on Tuesday so will know tomorrow what's doing.

Wednesday May 31st

Under weigh about 6.30AM headed for Admiralties. Two corvettes escorting one ship. Proceeding at about 11 knots, but having to do this last convoy is a nuisance. By the time we get back we won't have too much spare time to get to Adelaide by 20th June.

<u>Thursday June 1st</u>

Arrived SEEADLER Bay early in forenoon. Skipper soon off after rabbits. He bought

cases of gear aboard. The officers too swopped spirits for gear, rifles + tommyguns.

Went sailing for few hours – not much wind but had pleasant afternoon.

Friday June 2nd

Left Admiralties at 6AM. This 6AM is a popular time with this Skipper. 3 escorts + 3 ships.

Saturday June 3rd

Arrived Langemak during afternoon. Mail came aboard surprisingly. We thought it would be all held at Milne Bay. I got 18 letters, which was about the most. I'm a Personality Kid. It's great to get a heap of mail tho, + to know folk haven't forgotten you.

- select another 10 letters - which o Swimming during Just Gog. It will be Tang barry having to spend the ow lotat so we made the nost of - the hole. It been raming I Tanag swimming down south on lean - for 3 weeks Melbourne couldit = book l - and worse as regards weather. SUNDAY. JUNE He Today & Join the TEDAY JONE (the bollested 4 page and ane ranks of the ancients . 24 years old - paid up until 22nd June Well & never been bissed. What about - sollect leave + side victualling voluntees? Here hooked for grey have - in adelaide . but can see no sign but and tooked round ship. Went Left for Mile Bay al 6 Aug - Jeshow one formoon to try to Mos Ar Jude 5th anived in Milne - over to games-dodo for Slops May about 1/10 + were greeted with Int missed boat + got bely a surprising news that the are to Benching. do a boile clean here. Leens artikay got over to gamadodo and gam Walked their med silly especially as we have to do one again when we go into dock. male deep, got drenched with rain. Spore it is to fill in the entre at 130 worth of yante dungares

Swimming during First Dog. It will be our last, so we made the most of it. Fancy swimming down south on leave - bah.

SUNDAY JUNE 4TH

Today I join the ranks of the ancients. 24 years old + never been kissed. What about volunteers? Looked for grey hairs but can see no sign yet. Left for Milne Bay at 6AM.

MONDAY JUNE 5TH

Arrived in Milne Bay about 11AM + were greeted with surprising news that we are to do a boiler clean here. Seems silly especially as we have to do one again when we go into dock. S'pose it is to fill in the extra 8 days. Collected another 10 letters – whacko. Fancy having to spend the time in this hole. It's been raining here for 3 weeks now. Melbourne couldn't be much worse as regards weather.

TUESDAY JUNE 6TH

Collected 4 pays and are now paid up until 22nd June. We'll probably collect leave + victualling pay in Adelaide.

8th + 9th. Worked round ship. Went ashore one forenoon to try to get over to Gama-dodo for slops, but missed boat + got only a drenching.

10th SATURDAY

Got over to Gamadodo about 9AM. Walked thru' mud ankle deep, got drenched with rain, but got 30 pounds worth of Yank dungarees.

reargles + undeparts for as + stokers. the dit about Lunday being Unrived at shore boat at 1115 + by of lest'. Doy this is sure beaching had to wait they patiently (!) in Started early and is getting whil Stawell & Dunbury got there arougher tought . What a blip stores there which took them unhill This will be. Safe to say that 1030. got back about \$ 1800 to for of crew bein rick and all yoing to rea at 6 Am. The about but 2 of passingues are really out 22 passangers going south on of commission. The army capitains is leave this Toke ploup baptain army is bad as five ever seen anybody they Captain, about is Neval Officers 7. were afraid he would go dow the le rahings. They'll be solvy if ride. He rechons haid rather spend it get rough (that if is the I months in the pungle than have superfluous there. It will be rough) another converte RAAF officer almost JUNDAY JUNE 11th an ow way to the same. as a matter of fact the Tristone. Joing shaight alions pensenger Naval officers, are doing outricle the third, so it will be Il the work as only fimmy a the Joday has disproved Junnery Officer + Middy are all sich.

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singlets + underpants for us + stokers. Arrived at store boat at 1115 + had to wait there patiently(?) until Stawell + Bundbury got their stores there, which took them until 1630. Got back aboard about 1800. Going to sea at 6AM. About 22 passengers going south on leave. Air Force Group Captain, Army Captain, about 4 Naval Officers + 16 ratings. They'll be sorry if it gets rough (that <u>if</u> is superfluous here. It <u>will</u> be rough)

SUNDAY JUNE 11TH

On our way to Brisbane. Going straight across outside the Reef so it will be tough going. Today has disproved the dit about Sunday being a "day of rest". Boy this is sure breaking us in. Started early and is getting even rougher tonight. What a trip this will be. Safe to say that 80% of crew been sick; and all but 2 of passengers are really out of commission. The Army captain is as bad as I've ever seen anybody. They were afraid he would go over the side. He reckons he'd rather spend 12 months in the jungle than travel on another corvette. RAAF officer almost the same. As a matter of fact the passenger Naval officers are doing all the work as our Jimmy, + the Gunnery Officer + Middy are all sick.

Alondie - Dave gralified for "Kilge Biddle Watch & couldn't sleep. Dechs Water blut but I fave lasted hoday covered with water. And for first two since ship was commissioned hopeful about next for alleys the. there was three or four inches of bant inductored why the ald Man water in the wees dichs. It came didn't go inside the reef for a through the sie rents. The vent to list of sheller. He gets wook timeet. the all ration also flooded + the al well we are headed home milles cabin had a couple of inches so let im come. They'll probably I wake on the dech. The batteries were be per times worse (if possible) roched in salt water & the funes in Aass Sharts. we wile. Salt water on battery acid MONDAY JONE 12th Quile a breaking in give off chlorine gas, wough of dray night. Aust be among the which will prove deadly. The cable walghest we have me shuth. locker + for forridy stores had to and that not because we arentbe purpled out. In the light of day the were broked really what need to it. Tay title sleep last night boom after roming off the It is waned - a mere.

Blondie + Dave qualified for 'Bilge Water Club", but I have lasted today out in one piece. Don't feel too hopeful about next few days tho'. Can't understand why the Old Man didn't go inside the reef for a bit of shelter. He gets crook himself. Ah well, we are headed home, so let 'em come. They'll probably be ten times worse (if possible) in Bass Straits.

MONDAY JUNE 12TH

Quite a breaking in night. Must be among the roughest we have ever struck. And that's not because we aren't used to it. Very little sleep last night. Even after coming off the Middle Watch I couldn't sleep. Decks covered with water. And for first time since ship was commissioned there was three or four inches of water in the mess decks. It came through the air vents. The vent to the W/T cabins also flooded + the wireless cabin had a couple of inches of water on the deck. The batteries were soaked in salt water + the fumes were vile. Salt water on battery acid gives off chlorine gas, enough of which will prove deadly. The cable locker + two forr'd stores had to be pumped out. In the light of day the mess looked really what it is named – a mess.

heft rough all day - all our passinger Ino we donned sweaters & soche this praying they get off in Kriebane. morning. Alues is show nig useday - Wednesday 13th + 14th. Want ashow for a shall offer sic thingy Whill rough, but flattened out but only want to a minster show. a bit thill a hellewa lot of chops that with cars hams a people running not too happy. My luch still everywhere its too dangerous for a holding socha good. Julling colder lad like we I prefer the feare a as she go south. Inridentally our hitten Finday fine fill heft at 6 Any bound sticking the rough theather like a seasoned old salt. Off Morelow - Silary . Hoing 205 reve plus 2 hight balanders about 5 Pot and hat tide les just light flat stand up to even at the hight. swell. all the recently topped Thursday five 15th fiel of alongelide sich sailors quite pappy now ETA 68 Norstedd what at 7.30 Am. Jane place Seluday fine Ingthe theere pretty feel hed you an own way home That mere shill moderabe. Abouters time. Arisbane matives Sent Inst pucking her along. Hoing 205 an off on leave here. To the first the bidge + 230 below. Jot her First lap of 1080 miles towards have)

Kept rough all day – all our passengers praying they get off in Brisbane.

Tuesday & Wednesday 13th + 14th

Still rough, but flattened out a bit. Still a helluva lot of chaps not too happy. My luck still holding extra good. Getting colder as we go south. Incidentally our kitten is sticking the rough weather like a seasoned old salt. Off Moreton Light Caloundra about 8PM and steamed up to anchor at Pile Light.

Thursday June 15th

Tied up alongside Newstead wharf at 7.30AM. Same place as we tied up on our way home last time. Brisbane natives sent off on leave here. For the first (First lap of 1080- miles towards home) time we donned sweaters + <u>socks</u> this morning. Blues is shore rig. Went ashore for a stroll after six thirty but only went to a newsreel show. What with cars, trams + people running everywhere its too dangerous for a lad like me. I prefer the peace + quiet safety of the ship.

Friday June 16th

Left at 6AM bound for Sydney. Doing 205 revs plus 2 knot tide. Sea just light flat topped swells. All the recently sick sailors quite happy now. E.T.A. 6AM.

Saturday June 17th

Breeze pretty fresh, but sea still moderate. Stokers pushing her along. Doing 205 on the bridge + 230 below. Got her

(21 lydrey- shes went off on leave) why to 244 seve which is our record afting stocked up with above. We up to date. Should be in about sure put some shaff aboard in those 6.30 Por al That's 12 hours ahead of the days. Headed for adelaide at 2 for \$3. our time good reffort. Hope it' Labuday June 24 the Quite a surprise. Sea the same from typelly onwards. my calm - only a long ewell. But by its give cold This is a lyons lola today & she can shill I beat the best of in. Inday fine 25th List rougher but shill 69, 451 miles up at noon boday. not bad. yesterday was hot compared to today. If I dooked out on dich Sydney at & oclock. Manly puries whe first sight. Joodah. Ell, bet I'd see ice, but I'm hanged Third up at Thursally oil wharp. I im going out to looky even. Ill The if the like this in Melbourne. Duy Want ashow for mechand. Manday. What round to ayrmont at big on hot water bottles Margo. Seied into South Auchalian waters to there his sweep cable, they field up at No & busy at home love. and 3 Am. Unother state to my list. In till Friday, doing nothing else Saud leafe throw when God it about but new round all the fime In but too for out for land

up to 244 revs which is our record up to date. Should be in about 6.30PM. That's 12 hours ahead of our time. Good effort. Hope it's the same from Sydney onwards.

Ship is two years old today + she can still beat the best of 'em. 69,451 miles up at noon today.

Sydney at 6 oclock. Manly ferries were first sight. Goodoh. Tied up at Kurrabo oil wharf. Went ashore for weekend.

Monday.

Went round to Pyrmont to leave LL sweep cable, then tied up at No. 2 buoy at Lane Cove. In till Friday, doing nothing else but run round all the time. (21 Sydney-ites went off on leave).

Getting stocked up with stores. We sure put some stuff aboard in those few days. Headed for Adelaide at 2PM/23.

Saturday June 24th

Quite a surprise. Sea very calm – only a long swell. But boy its sure cold.

Sunday June 25th

Bit rougher but still not bad. Yesterday was hot compared to today. If I looked out on deck I'll bet I'd see ice, but I'm hanged if I'm going out to look even. I'll die if its like this in Melbourne. Buy up big on hot water bottles Margo. Passed into South Australian waters about 3AM. Another state to my list. Passed Cape Otway where Dad is about 2PM but too far out from land.