

TRIPLE PEARLS Imjuge TEN. B. DYKER, H.M.A.S. CASTLEMAINE PODD. JOINE) CASTNEMAINE an Congissioning Iloff 42 LEFT on DRAFT 24/8/44 Diehance since commissioning 73,168 miles Hours under way 8,183 hours JOINED SWAN 25/9/44 LEFT SYSNEY 21/10/44 September 8

(TRIPLE PEARLS) PM/V98 TEL. B. DYKER H.M.A.S. CASTLEMAINE

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Arrived back at the old ship after a glorious three

weeks leave. Very sorry to have to come back. My only

ambition now is to get home + become a civie for the

rest of my life. Quite a lot of drafts out for the ship. 30

except for Les Ashford, Dave, Boxie + Bill are going to

Blondie + Went are Flinders-bound to become cypher

officers. Can't imagine these as officer type

depot for courses, and all the Sigs + myself are going to

odd seamen, all the Sparkers, Coders, Cooks + Sigs

Tuesday July 25th 1944

Penguin pool.

Practically all the old crew going.

In Adelaide for a week, during which time we looked the place over pretty well. It's a decent sort of place + the people are extra sociable towards servicemen. Quite a contrast to Sydney + Brisbane. The Cheer-Up Hut there is definitely the best in Australia. They will do anything for servicemen.

All the big mob went on draft before the weekend, and about an hour before we sailed two Sparkers arrived + Dave + Bill went off. Only Joe Gallagher, the Sig, + Boxie + I left now awaiting reliefs. The new crew consists

of a large number of dechoyer I's hours out of the Wireless cabin. Goocie her backs for the other side & had to key his last fino watches . I are a fretty good crew. The old stip has a bofors gues aft now don't rechon he tries. He is a good hand with radio but abrolutely useliss + is a hiddley job. Shis headed at sea, hordie know what he will for Marinin + maybe she'll see be the if this thing strikes a trip some fund out flather. Soit can like the one we had from thele Aay whether I leave or not now. to, Gisbane de'll die Wednesday August and heft for I dislike this watchkeeping & shill humanthe. Thought the Bight would to get home to Mang. would put on a rough hund for Marchay august fel arrived in Treventle us but it behaved Remarkably well Lat of shipping space here Quite a post. The hours of Junanble itself is a we only rolled a bit. Quite a few where sich never the less. Our 12 miles for Cluth, and looks a two new Spankers were sich. for Mantle bit of a lough rea part. havelled is the sichest bloke I to ever seen. up to lette by bus + had a On the volde trips he only spech loop about . We Ewar is a mice

of a large number of destroyer now back from the other side + are a pretty good crew. The old ship has a Bofors gun aft now + is a tiddley job. She's headed for Darwin + maybe she'll see some fun out further. Don't care whether I leave or not now.

Wednesday August 2nd

Left for Fremantle. Thought the Bight would put on a rough turn for us, but it behaved remarkably well + we only rolled a bit. Quite a few were sick never-the-less . Our two new Sparkers were sick, Joe Mantle is the sickest bloke I've ever seen. On the whole trip he only spent 1-1/2 hours out of the Wireless cabin. Boxie had to keep his last few watches. I don't reckon he tries. He is a good hand with the radio, but absolutely useless at sea. Lordie knows what he will be like if this thing strikes a trip like the one we had from Milne Bay to Brisbane. He'll die.

I dislike this watchkeeping + still want to get home to Marg.

Monday August 7th.

Arrived in Fremantle. Lot of shipping space here. Quite a port.

The town of Fremantle itself is 12 miles from Perth, and looks a bit of a tough sea port. Travelled up to Perth by bus - had a look about. The Swan is a nice river, the gardens are nice + the city, bigger than Adelaide by look about. The Swan is a nice

rives the gardens are nice & the grandparents. a hid of our own will sity, bigger than adelaide by look, quire us even more to live for. is a clean well set out place. Salanday 12th August Left Trumantle Starged in until 12th loshow going about 18 Am - first stop at Pashow to Alarmin with us. Low Hefal for fuel. Lear goodsh - but for rechans and bornwall the English cruiser some the is sich, so he is enabled behind in . Nice job . Dur reliefs not here, hansmiller. but being sent to garwin, so fill Sunday 13th August Deginning to get do the round hips of Australia on tropical is weather again - runny this ship. While here, & managed day a calm sea for fogot to the sich today for the first time. The to get a tooth out, sprain my anale put my finger out of Joint + get news from Marg that I'm gomas be a father next March. Well pretty to arrive at Unclow on Tuesday + Lofe to play the Hoshaw "football there if possible. proud loo. But thang is a beaut Monday 14 August. But of a wind wother a bet and hid is the best sprang up and sea a bit shappy ever. Un folks will be flash as this last night a today.

river, the gardens are nice + the city, bigger than Adelaide by look, is a clean well set out place. Stayed in until 12th. Horsham going to Darwin with us. Saw Nepal and Cornwall the English ??([ships] come in. Nice job. Our reliefs not here, but being sent to Darwin, so I'll do the round trip of Australia on this ship. While here, I managed to get a tooth out, sprain my ankle, put my finger out of joint + get news from Marg that I'm gonna be a father next March. Feel pretty proud too. Bet Marg is a beaut mother + bet our kid is the best ever. Our folks will be flash as grandparents. A kid of our own will give us even more to live for.

Saturday 12th August.

Left Fremantle about 10AM. – first stop at ONSLOW for fuel. Sea goodoh but Joe reckons he is sick, so he is crashed behind transmitter.

Sunday 13th August

Beginning to get tropical weather again – sunny day + calm sea. Joe forgot to be sick today for the first time. Due to arrive at Onslow on Tuesday + hope to play the Horsham football there if possible.

Monday 14th August

Bit of a wind sprang up and sea a bit choppy thru last night + today.

gre not sich alongide filly a lit it was as calif somewhere Not impleasant this & flattened out fand & more sand as far as the at night for was about only bloke ly could see boyle of giveral stores. who rechons he was sich a postoffice a cleant hotel a billiard Ineeday august 15th Deantiful day loom is a fair number of houses sear flat calm. Show and sig again about beally a fair sing considering now. Went alongride filly at theles where it is . (yes there's even an old' ONShow about midday. Mig rise hear rooms) I posed to be a fino + fall of hide here - and big women here i we say at the 8 surge which makes it a rotten Clayed football on what was foll trying to stay field ups while their spills and but what looked fulling alongide. Wohe about b like a sand fit. However we wie springs . Yet water was flat had a good game & flendy of calm. Quite as big filly here from the lost but we'll play 'em about buice as long lastly as lagain in garnine a get our revenge. Sthilda files. Went off about 1 Pm What out to anchor for night at to play Horeham football. Township 5Pm because ships bumping and itself is typical althack place. swaying too much to stay ted up.

Not unpleasant tho' + flattened out at night. Joe was about only bloke who reckons he was sick.

Tuesday August 15th

Beautiful day. Sea flat calm. Shorts are rig again now. Went alongside jetty at ONSLOW about midday. Big rise + fall on tide here – and big surge which makes it a rotten job trying to stay tied up while pulling alongside. Broke about 6 wire springs. Yet water was flat calm. Quite a big jetty here – about twice as long easily as St.Kilda pier. Went off about 1PM to play Horsham football. Township itself is typical outback place Joe not sick alongside jetty + yet it was much rougher there than at sea. There's a catch somewhere. Sand + more sand as far as the eye could see. Couple of general stores, a postoffice, a decent hotel, a billiard room + a fair number of houses about. S'posed to be a few women here – we saw 8. Played football on what was their sports over but looked like a sand pit. However we had a good game + plenty of fun. We lost, but we'll play 'em again in Darwin + get our revenge. Went out to anchor for night at 5PM because ship bumping and swaying too much to stay tied up.

Wednesday Jugest 16th - Saluday 19th and for laford making it of interest. good weather except for Triday when Quiz sessions Hit Parade Amalen How it rained . Doys getting their done In honely flears blut are now weekly of aundowns now . A goe sich ressions linges of signetters & chocolates hanged if I know how in these quien as files. Makton is 4x limaine. seas. Its wonderful weather here. Its long as they don't overdo it. . Just Mores, Wich barbers & Uden the penetrope will keep up interest. harmed out first edition of backlemaine "leanforts Tend lashed us up lebronicle as 2 hypewritten sheets. a to some games in fremantle + last very good effort for the first edition. four days has seen some strenuous They hope to get a duplicating Jurles in Shalegy Monopoly + Labos machine in Harmin so that they Assie - I made a Kuchers board can here out a copy for everybody, (hodo to civico) and now that and also increase the singe. It is the rage. It's no good anyone will be real good. trying . to a sleep near us when Aporie gave our spare "mike" we are playing and exciting gome to the perstrops, and Mich barker of Thickers! I Josh at man

Wednesday August 16th – Saturday 19th Good weather except for Friday when it rained. Boys getting their doses of sunburn now. Joe sick – hanged if I know how in these seas. It's wonderful weather here.

Geoff Moses, Nick Carter + Uden turned out first edition of Castlemaine Chronicle as 2 typewritten sheets. A very good effort for the first edition. They hope to get a duplicating machine in Darwin so that they can turn out a copy for everybody, and also increase the size. It will be real good. Boxic gave our spare "mike" to the penetrope, and Nic

Boxie gave our spare "mike" to the penetrope, and Nick Carter

and Joe Orford making it of interest. Quiz sessions, Hit Parade, Amateur Hour + Lonely Hearts Club are now weekly sessions. Prizes of cigarettes + chocolates given as prizes. Station is 4X C'maine. As long as they don't overdo it the penetrope will keep up interest.

Comforts Fund lashed us up to some games in Fremantle + last few days has seen some strenuous tussles in Strategy, Monopoly + Salvos. Boxie + I made a "Huckers" board (LUDO to civvies) and now that is the rage. It's no good anyone tyring to sleep near us when we are playing an exciting game of Huckers. Gosh a man

played that game when he was peals like purning. a hid and now his flaging it again with sailors yelling Monday 21st august another very last day ! Romies relief, badning tel gifford come aboards also the 2 seamen's reliffs. Mine over it Sunday 20th august arrived in Darwin Rever thought we'd bot now in Marinis. Kennie Withes come aboard to see us see this place again from out The looks eacher fit. This had here she doesn't look a scrap different than when we left her 9 months here Says that the blfore. Shill seems to be the services ashore are sports mad. the has been playing pootball some dead looks about it - Quite with Melville "A" Alam Another a contract to Milne Ray etc surprise was when me went where there is a continutal traffic alongside to fuel. Mennie of forger and what note. Model arrived aboard - that lereighton was an a merchant what we wonted. Letters pour packet on the other side of Marg & Men . Hemmed - at man the what to us. thill the

played that game when he was a kid, and now he's playing it again with sailors yelling over it.

Sunday 20th August

Arrived in Darwin. Never thought we'd see this place again. From out here she doesn't look a scrap different than when we left her before. Still seems to be the same dead look about it. Quite a contrast to Milne Bay etc. where there is a continual traffic of barges and what-nots.

Mail arrived aboard – that's what we wanted. Letters from Marg + Mum – a man feels like purring.

Monday 21st August

Another very hot day. Boxie's relief, Leading Tel Gifford came aboard, also the 2 seamen's reliefs. Mine not even in Darwin. Kennie Wilkes came aboard to see us. He looks extra fit. Has had 9 months here. Says that the services ashore are sports mad. He has been playing football with Melville "A" team. Another surprise was when we went alongside to fuel. Bennie Creighton was on a merchant packet on the other side of the wharf to us. Still the

little sign of the batterings she have had. Altris client same old Ken. Was like old times with he & Wilhesie. up + long grass cleared giving In the weining the Shipper the place as brother bidy book invited the clew to a party Pirited annie Sigo and to the quarter deck. The had my surprise found Eddie Subliffe a bag five player there but Jack Carge Murray Jowin + a it inded up by our boys for inferstate Lilege working putting on the concert tumo This A gordon is as good a Shipper there. They are blandling all the belegroups and piles from as any crew could ever wont here. Maturally quite a firs The is a man which is quite dib were surfigued & I didn't you among officers. even see the frictures Tuesday 22 not august Wednesday 23rd august . Roscie ~ Went ashoe in evening bo still here I they are to go to fictures. Josh' this Aarwin has been cleaned up. leaving tomorrow Wish & were going too after giffords effort for a newsconer there is very

same old Ben. Was like old times with he + Wilkesie.

In the evening the Skipper invited the crew to a party on the quarter deck. He had a bag pipe player there, but it ended up by our boys putting on the concert turns.

This Gordon is as good a Skipper as any crew could ever want. He is a man, which is quite rare among officers.

Tuesday 22nd August

Went ashore in evening to go to pictures. Gosh this Darwin has been cleaned up. For a newcomer there is very little sign of the batterings she has had. Debris cleaned up + long grass cleared giving the place a rather tidy look.

Visited Army Sigs and to my surprise found Eddie Sutcliffe, Jack Page, Murray Gavin + a few interstate Telegs working there. They are handling all the telegrams and press from here. Naturally quite a few dits were swopped + I didn't even see the pictures.

Wednesday 23rd August

Boxie + Co still here - they are leaving tomorrow. Wish I were going too after Giffords effort

a good oner. Live had some today. It Chardan exercise was hoppy memories a damed fine held by w/I and of all, the childist panicky shows the new, offics on her but as the Spankers branch his deteriorabed gifford put out the worst. and Sill be better off her. So after this bloke has passed for 25 years I'll say " good huch a Cetty Officer Jancing me to wolk with him for a Castlemaine Joh ashow and followed the new Ordinary Il. Either Fill go gray or do murder. Illuriday 24 august My relief hanal depot routine of carrying bag & hammock all over the place until finally settled in areviet at lunch hims in it Sparken house Aloch 638 Must was only a few minutes work door to her Willes. for not to komplete my Triday 25th ling ting about the packing and leave with the house in forenoon they proceeded other 3. Long is a way to to thrash Wilkes in afternoon leave after all this time aboard at humais. Dichnes in evening The has a good Thillers and

today. A Raedar exercise was held by W/T and of all the childish panicky shows I've seen Gifford put on the worst. And this bloke has passed for a Petty Officer. Fancy we trying to work with him, Joe + the new Ordinary Tel. Either I'll go gray, or do murder.

Thursday 24th August

My relief arrived at lunch time + it was only a few minutes work for me to complete my packing and leave with the other 3. Sorry in a way to leave after all this time aboard. She has a good Skipper and a good crew. I've had some happy memories + darned fine oppos on her, but as the Sparkers branch has deteriorated I'll be better off her. So after 2-1/2 years, I'll say "Good Luck Castlemaine".

Got ashore and followed usual depot routine of carrying bag + hammock all over the place until finally settled in Sparkers house. Block 638. Next door to Ken Wilkes.

Friday 25th August.

Hung about the house in forenoon, then proceeded to thrash Wilkes in afternoon – at tennis. Pictures in evening

(dichures now held in Star Theater, or soche on the rement court to but standard of show very foor. Saluday 26th ang Jook discharge as a consequence of cliding, my feet are decorated with blickers. book A around to doctor grimmery George Male came off to see a withalling store etc, and me the is now on the thready placed under her minutes notice up here Alocant like it a no that we can be all but but he had a damed ready to go wheneves a plane Good spill at Williamstown and is available This 10 minubes business Obesides this is first time he may last days + days the has been for sea since he foined al well spor will just have Morris - I went down to to wait. Tennis again in arro watch Mebille play football against Sunday 27th lug . Gordon "lehoon" ymy not wilkes was playing and I shalled about the form It have an eschar good gomes + in the forenoons There is the will worth watching afternoon , we played bennis at Monday 28th ang Looks as the I'mca. I played without shows we'll be here for weeks in

Pictures now held in Star theatre, but standard of shows very poor.

Saturday 26th August

Took discharge book around to doctor, gunnery + victualling store etc, and placed under ten minutes notice so that we can be all ready to go whenever a plane is available. This 10 minutes business may last days + days tho'.

Ah well, s'pose we'll just have to wait. Tennis again in 'arvo.

Saturday 27th August

Gordon "Choon" and I strolled about the town in the forenoon. Then in the afternoon we played tennis at YMCA. I played without shoes

or socks on the cement court + as a consequence of sliding, my feet are decorated with blisters. George Male came off to see me. He is now on the Hornsby up here. Doesn't like it a bit, but he had a darned good spell at Williamstown, and besides this is fist time he has been to sea since he joined.

Boxie + I went down to watch Melville play football against Army mob. Wilks was playing. It was an extra good game + well worth watching.

<u>Monday 28th August.</u> Looks as tho' we'll be here for weeks in

Tuesday 29th aug Walked about this place any good things about trying to get appointment with dentited, finally doing so at at are the facts that the mail service is excellent, and we 2Pm all a man needs is don't do any dubies while under patience in this culfat. this 10 minutes notice Watched Simaine play the Sige Them of us played termis at at basketball and beat them batholic court in formoon in by one fount. The old ship gilling anos Asseie Wilherich and & quite a name for a sporting ship. went down to watch the old The of the size challenged us Conflemania play "Mercedes" football. and help by aching ad to tennis will tear time draid he beat is too. Wednesday 230th ang bhum Jordon goalkuper. allos as good game to watch. The yxxxx boys wow easily they have a good team but I can Dosie + played rennis in forenoon. Aufe a sugare in afternoon . Dondie Mossman User they need me back as artived here with the overland lover for them.

this place. Only good things about it are the fact that the mail service is excellent and we don't do any duties while under this 10 minutes notice.

Four of us played tennis at Catholic court in forenoon. In arvo Boxie, Wilkerie nnd I went down to watch the old Castlemaine play "Mercedes" football, and help by acting as goalkeeper. Also a good game to watch. The 4XXXX boys won easily. They have a good team but I can see they need me back as rover for them.

Tuesday 29th Aug

Walked about trying to get appointment with dentist, finally doing so at 2PM. All a man needs is patience in this outfit.

Watched C'maine play the Sigs at basketball and beat them by one point. The old ship getting quite a name for a sporting ship. One of the Sigs challenged us to tennis until tea time. 'Fraid he beat us too.

Wednesday 30th Aug

Chum, Gordon Boxie and I played tennis in forenoon <u>Blondie</u>. Mossman arrived here with the overland

without nets sonight It will draft. The will be here for 15 months. Alandie lasted for be open season for mossies your! Wilherie, Klondie Bossie + days at the Officers School +. I drank our beer ration i then requested to withdraw Bet talked tills lights out about he as What gave some of the old times. Like a leastlemaine potential officiris a shoch while they were bogther bant get over her union. Triday at Sept Dumped and gear meeting Blandie how the We got words that we at regulating office at 7.30 And report at 1.30 Por tomorgan. Hunsday ang 31 at Reported to got indetuctions & left about 8Am low first stage of formery. Eleven sailors going The of the going told that we are leaving her to Sydney this Met as Queekstand overland tomorrow as planed and rest to adelaide & Melbourne basel is temporarily concelled. via alice Springs . We all There mess gear on water biller and returned mosquite have to LARRIMAN together then net. That means we shelp split up. Joing to be a

draft. He will be here for 15 months. Blondie lasted four days at the Officers School + then requested to withdraw. Bet he + West gave some of the potential officers a shock while they were together. Can't get over meeting Blondie here tho.

We got word that we report at 1.30PM tomorrow

Thursday Aug 31st

Reported + told that we are leaving for overland tomorrow as plane travel is temporarily cancelled. Drew mess gear + water bottle and returned mosquito net. That means we sleep without nets tonight. It will be open season for mossies now. Wilkesie, Blondie, Boxie + I drank our beer ration + talked till lights out about old times. Like a Castlemaine re-union.

Friday 1st Sept

Dumped our gear at regulating office at 7.30AM, got instructions + left about 8AM on first stage of journey. Eleven sailors going. Five of us going to Sydney via Mt. Isa Queensland, and rest to Adelaide + Melbourne via Alice Springs. We all travel to LARRIMAH together then split up. Going to be

long hip but think will have donned our gas goggles to word some fin among empelvice. of dust + soot then sat on side of tucks all the way. Went for motor funches to adelaide Kives staging camp Ted miles thust is soot everywhere, but down. Unloaded our gear from we had some find acting the buch waited an bour in the goat hain stopped every for sun, had lunch, then reloaded amiles to fill up with water Gassed themil four stations - well our gear on tucks to go to station about a mile dray. sposed be alphions bourist of Of course we couldn't have station shed and either hults Maken and gear there first because or maybe for buildings. Tever that not the way the services seen sol many and hills in my do things. Stacked ourselves & life. There's thousands + thousands gear in calle tucks and ligh of them ranging from inches the yords hegt. Bropped about Oat 2Pm for hARRIMAN, 209 miles eway. Shipped to overall. stides no book a socha 8.30 for rate at this levels. Scraw was fin of salmon

long trip but think we'll have some fun among ourselves.

Went per motor truck to Adelaide River staging camp 72 miles down. Unloaded our gear from truck, waited an hour in the sun, had lunch, then reloaded our gear on truck to go to station about a mile away. Of course we couldn't have taken our gear there first, because that's not the way the services do things. Stacked ourselves + our gear in cattle trucks and left at 2PM for LARRIMAH, 209 miles away. Stripped to overall strides no boots or socks donned our gas goggles, to ward off dust + soot, then sat on side of trucks all the way. Dust + soot everywhere, but we had some fun acting the goat. Train stopped every few miles to fill up with water. Passed thru' few stations – well s'posed be stations. Consist of station shed and either tents or maybe few buildings. Never seen so many ant hills in my life. There's thousands + thousands of then ranging from inches to yards high. Stopped about 8.30PM for scran at Pino Creek. Scran was tin of salmon

train live greisler from branach on the between box 8 blokes + fin of beakfast goodness knows what it fuit. We missed fruit no had was but at tasted goodal. We balmon between 3. We certainly may have to be here a few supplemented that with the N days so drew mosquito alto rations that the Marry gave us after a cold meat Munch (also to take for 24 hours! Iffer good) we were detailed off to left them we got our heads I do a wood party job. down. Your of not slang harmoch collecting wood in the bush. We and so slept very well Chest told some leaptain that we were crashed on deck & had bad sailors & were used to handling might. after being eacher hot water but not wood, so he day the night hund very said we could forget the fob The got someone else for it. faturday and Sept arrived in was a returned digger a a good havingh about 9:30 Am covered sport. all we do boday Dis in dust & root alloted hub dians some rations for a party Many in some hat then had of new a that only requires

Met Phil Perc Greisler from Warrack on the train.

between 6 or 8 blokes + tin of fruit. We missed fruit so had salmon between 3. We certainly supplemented that with the rations that the Navy gave us to take for 24 hours. After we left there we got our heads down. Four of us slung hammocks and so slept very well. Rest crashed on deck + had bad night. After being extra hot day, the night turned cool.

Saturday 2nd Sept

Arrived in Larrimah about 9.30AM covered in dust + soot. Alloted huts (Navy in same hut) then had

breakfast. Goodness knows what it was but it tasted goodoh. We may have to be here a few days so drew mosquito nets. After a cold meat lunch (also good) we were detailed off to do a wood party job of collecting wood in the bush. We told some Captain that we were sailors + were used to handling water but not wood, so he said we could forget the job. He got someone else for it. He was a returned digger + a good sport. All we do today is draw some rations for a party of men + that only requires 4 of us!

Sunday 3rd Sept got a job as mens orderly cleaning the mens via Alice Springs and Adelaide. Wacker - that means I'll go and helping serve the scian they' Mallowne . Even if it gis only for an hour or so I will see Marg (I hope). Am for the galley. Not bad works . Dand builder we just dich outselves out as much scraw as keeping my finges worsed eacher we want. Too much of this mere orderly and I'd be og I A Ins evening our swollie collers fat as a thing. built a fire & here had a brew of tear & some cake, about 9 oclock Monday 4 Left got under way in a convoy of 20 truche about 0900. Choose and I had our Unother surprise - over fill from the old boarding house I de is on his way home on leave. My now provide is names missed out on the colly convinced that I seem for call a none left till last. By know, somebody everywhere that time we couldn't get Drawed mens Alat a we are all to go to Sydney in with our cobbus. Meturally

Sunday 3rd Sept

Got a job as mess orderly, cleaning the mess and helping serve the scran from the galley. Not bad work – and besides, we just dish ourselves out as much scran as we want. Too much of this mess orderly and I'd be as fat as a pig.

Another surprise – met Bill from the old boarding house. He is on his way home on leave. By now Boxie is convinced that I seem to know somebody everywhere.

Received news that we are all to go to Sydney

via Alice Springs and Adelaide. Wacko – that means I'll go thru' Melbourne. Even if it is only for an hour or so I will see Marg (I hope). Am keeping my fingers crossed extra tightly.

In evening our swottie cobbers built a fire + we had a brew of tea + some cake, about 9 oclock.

Monday 4th Sept

Got under way in a convoy of 20 trucks bout 0900. Choom and I had our names missed out on the roll call + were left till last. By that time we couldn't get in with our cobbers. Naturally

welcome after the dust. Stopped we made some rude remarks again at noon at on fur about their organisation. However aheds for dinner. Timber was it hund out for the best because 3 persons to a small tim of we were put in our hurch bully beef. Not very losty with 8 other blokes. They force but we were hunging so Lumbers & Jordon foined us down it werk. althen stop making 13 instead of 21+22 about 1530 + another bur made. as in the other tucks. We bountry changing slightly. They have plenty of room, which makes a big difference. The are more sound like to soil Gloods very good, but scenery more sandy as is evidenced by the color of the ant hills Contride Horshaw, leowroy halled which are more grey Unived in Ellist staging about 1030 for 's hould in comp at 1800. This is 120 mile which time our drives built from Larrinah. Quite a good a fire is brand dea. It was Icamp - showers, Imca, dantant an easter good drops & very

we made some rude remarks about their organization. However it turned out for the best because we were first in a truck with 8 other blokes. Then Boxie, Lumbera + Gordon joined us making 13, instead of 21 + 22 as in the other trucks. We have plenty of room, which makes a big difference.

Roads very good, but scenery just same as we could see outside Horsham. Convoy halted about 1030 for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour, in which time our drivers built a fire + brewed tea. It was an extra good drop + very welcome after the dust. Stopped again at noon at a few sheds for dinner. Dinner was 3 persons to a small tin of bully beef. Not very tasty, but we were hungry so down it went. Another stop about 1530 + another brew made. Country changing slightly. Trees are more scrub like + soil more sandy as is evidenced by the colour of the ant hills which are more grey.

Arrived in Elliot staging camp at 1800. This is 120 mile from Larrimah. Quite a good camp – showers YMCA, canteen

+ as for suffer - well - it made arrived at Danka Danka at up for dinner. Gold salad then midday g2 miles from Ellist apreces is vice for duff. apricab Manha Sanha station on icy cold too. The supe of tea side of road + staging camp are what a man books forward on other. Clace just & dust hole. Whichie - winds all also. Another bottle of Ao afternoon shooting dust everywhere per to every 2 men. Only place that seems feel for meaday 5th Sept got called at 0545 had breakfast + got under dust is the I but. Too allesty to dhobie so fist sat around way at 0700. Jush wind blowing from south making it quite cool. reading of writing all afternoon tednesday be sept lips at \$445 Stoffed for our fire I drop of - very toold - under weigh at frew as denal about Doc. aboo and washed no time getting learning to scouldy thes our heads down under a blanket long grass & rolling plains. on the huch I topped at ballage ground becoming quite worky in June (2 tim hut) for busch at 0930. places

+ as for supper – well – it made up for dinner. Cold salad, then apricots and rice for duff. Apricots icy cold too. The cups of tea are what a man looks forward to also. Another bottle of beer for every 3 men.

Sunday 5th September

Got called at 545 had breakfast and got under way at 0700. Fresh wind blowing from south making it quite cool. Stopped for our first drop of brew as usual about 1000. Country changing to scrubby trees, long grass and rolling plans. Ground becoming quite rocky in places. Arrived at Banka Banka at midday. 92 miles from Elliot. Banka Banka station on one side of road and staging camp on other. Place just a dust hole. Whirlie-winds all afternoon shooting dust everywhere. Only place that seems free from dust is the Y hut. Too dusty for dhobie, so just sat around reading + writing all afternoon.

Wednesday 6th September

Up at 0445 + very cold – under weigh at 0600 and wasted no time getting our heads down under a blanket on the truck. Stopped at Cabbage Gum (2 tin huts) for <u>lunch</u> at 0930.
devoid of here. Jasked a few Some hype of country as yesterday. arrived at Barrow breek camp levely groves of men who have about 5 Pm Travelled 183 mill died be been killed working on today. Met Tom leherry who used the overland belegraph line. Shoffed to live in Warrack of heard news at Lea the Wells for lunch at of the old crowd. The Sharps and 0930 again. bought of but but provorts in Alice Juings . plus & contens this time a Thursday Seft 7the Thank goodness wonder of monders a sooman serves in it. "Lot of useless things bought me arrived at alice Springs today, or we would have been in order to ger this moman. gilling up almost as soon as Jessed them Tennant breeks. Not a bad tille place. Typical of this morning + it was folly popular com forman conception of limbal Australian houmahip. White cold too bound about 1 00 mile today. bounty changed to fuildings in flat desert surrounding. Northe the huge round boulders nameds devils thankles they rocky loge - rocky hills at long flak hopped ranges almost

Same type of scenery as yesterday. Arrived at Barrow Creek camp about 5PM. travelled 183 mile today. Met Tom Cherry, who used to live in Warrack + heard news of the old crowd. The Sharps are provosts in Alice Springs.

Thursday Sept 7th

Thank goodness we arrived at Alice Springs today, or we would have been getting up about as soon as we went to bed. Up at 0415 this morning + it was jolly cold too. Covered about 190 miles today. Country changed to rocky type – rocky hills + long flat topped ranges almost devoid of trees. Passed a few lonely graves of men who have died or been killed working on the overland telegraph line. Stopped at Tea Tree Wells for lunch at 0930 again. Couple of huts, but plus a canteen this time + wonder of wonders a woman serves in it. Lot of useless things bought in order to see this woman. Passed thru' Tennant Creek. Not a bad little place. Typical of popular conception of Central Australian township. White buildings in flat desert surrounding. Saw the huge round boulders named Devils Marbles. T

rement dichs in our various are along the road for miles staging camps on the way down Terry infeliabing too. Hinge boulders hanged if a place like this appearing to be first balancing cample havit got dirt deche. abop others. One when along road is called bhurchill Rolp. + I mean DIRT. Want why town for the Shope very much like profile + fictures in evening with Insuite has a stick stuck in to Tarry hopey + generhopper Ino resemble the "elemal" rigar. aivoit shows in alice - both Unived in Hire Splings open air. Tair signed form - quite about 4 Pm. The town practically a lange number of shops. surrounded by high flat forfred sanges. Very hilly hereabouts. Thing that amaged me was the cold nights. Some of the Informed that we will have blokes even avone gratcoott to to stay here fill sunday as there is a railway shike on in South Australia logs not the pictures . or Triday 8th Sept. My at 1 am & . for pleased . After having fell in on parade after beakfast

are along the road for miles. Very interesting too. Huge boulders appearing to be just balancing atop others. One rock along road is called Churchill Rock. Shape very much like profile + has a stick stuck in to resemble the "eternal" cigar.

Arrived in Alice Springs about 4PM. The town practically surrounded by high flat topped ranges. Very hilly hereabouts. Informed that we will have to stay here till Sunday as there is a railway strike in South Australia. Boys not too pleased. After having cement decks in our various staging camps on the way down, hanged if a place like this camp hasn't got dirt decks + I mean DIRT.

Went up town to the pictures in evening with Snowie, Harry, Lofty + Grasshopper. Two civvies shows in Alice – both open air. Fair sized town – quite a large number of shops. Thing that amazed me was the cold nights. Some of the blokes even wore greatcoats to the pictures.

Friday 8th Sept

Up at 7 am + fell in on parade after breakfast

after bunch did some dhobying to be detailed for work. We were definitely not in favour of that and then raffed a fob fulling up marquees for air your blokes word "WORK". got a job at an Ordnance comp a couple of mile who was arising in from worth and were leaving nessel morning away ficking up fapers, but after about in hour of papers, there Cluthing up marquees for them, and was a been, of hear on that the they are leaving before us. We cook-house for last was handled had a lot of fund acting the fool & giving theh the. out do a fur of us too. Not hand to take . after the smach Went Juffi a sens leve a Chay Sharp at Provest HQ in me played with a fing baby evening lad a good old hangaroo + g dog that were pelo there. My this time we matter about old times. Jot decided that it was fine to picked at by the boys from camp when a aver me talking go back to camp, so we welled for loss Gioral Singeonte. Hickored back across the field ariving I was chanling liched the back about 11 an inclead of noon.

to be detailed for work. We were definitely not in favour of that word 'WORK'. Got a job at our Ordinance camp a couple of mile away, picking up papers, but after about ¼ hour of papers, there was a brew of tea on at the cook-house. Jam tart was handed out to a few of us too. Not hard to take. After the snack we played with a tiny baby kangaroo + a dog that were pets there. By this time we decided it was time to go back to camp, so we walked back across the field arriving back about 11am instead of noon. After lunch we did some dhobying and then copped a job putting up marquees for Air Force blokes who were arriving in from north and were leaving next morning. Putting up marquees for them, and they are leaving before us. We had a lot of fun acting the fool + giving cheek tho'.

Went up + saw Perc + Roy Sharp at Provost HQ in evening. Had a good old natter about old times. Got picked up by the boys from camp who saw me talking to two Provost Sergeants. Reckoned I was crawling. Picked the

adnance again. Jast a joke boys up and went to the pitheres again. Tery bishly this time because the Sergeant hold night so at interval me equipped us with fricks and killed Courselves up with a shovels to dig a drain. You for hot dogs. But of a one thing it was kuribly dusky dance going on at a place of for another Saturday was a nearby on our way home . bad day to dry thains so a large number of women in after our morning hear, we alice Springs, large majority referred the implement quietly to being A. M.C. monthers mires. O W walked back overland again. Our presence at door of dance Wonder what the truck driver not appreciated by Groverto who said each day when he called asked us kindly to move on at noon for so to go back. we just as politily said, of In and we sat in the coulse dear chaps " sun + talked. hater we Salunday gthe Sept Up again volunteered to go for a ride at TAM + got sent to up town & collect a friano

boys up and went to the pictures again. Very briskly cold night so at interval we kitted ourselves up with a few hot dogs. Bit of a dance going on at a place nearby on our way home. A large number of women in Alice Springs, large majority being A.W.C. workers wives.

Our presence at door of dance not appreciated by Provosts who asked us kindly to move on - we just as politely said "Of course dear chaps".

<u>Saturday 9th Sept.</u> Up again at 7AM + got sent to Ordnance again. Past a joke this time because the Sergeant equipped us with picks and shovels to dig a drain. For one thing it was terribly dusty, + for another Saturday was a bad day to dig drains, so after our morning tea, we returned the implements quietly + walked back overland again. Wonder what the truck driver said each day when he called at noon for us to go back?

In arvo we sat in the sun + talked. Later we volunteered to go for a ride up town + collect a piano

for the Surgeant's meso. We collected the officers compartment has more a few books etc. from the store in it than our has. Thati where the piano was, then played time we have been lucky for it on the back of the hick Noon. Under way soon offer enhaining - 990 miles A going their town so it could Chardly be called a hard job. go now I There was a cooker after bear went up + sour on Auc and Roy thangs for a the hair and weaks were while then have to bed early very good. at meal stops we as we have to get up of 0430 all bumbled out to lived in the morning !! up for scram then sat down Sunday Sept 10th O here at 0430 along the track and ale it. what an mearphly hour a was Meals very welcome after travelling it cold ? I Brighfast at SAM Train stopped many bines + entrained at aboo . The Terrible their day it little place to refill with water the stops Eight of us together. becaud a compartment to ourselves. Ever

for the Sergeant's mess. We collected a few books etc. from the store where the piano was, then played it on the back of the truck going thru' town, so it could hardly be called a hard job.

After tea went up + saw Perc and Roy Sharp for a while, then home to bed early as we have to get up at 0430 in the morning.

Sunday Sept 10th

Up at 0430 – what an unearthly hour + was it cold?! Breakfast at AM + entrained at 0600. The Terrible Eight of us together. Secured a compartment to ourselves. Even the officers compartment has more in it than ours has. That's twice we have been lucky for room. Under way soon after entraining – 990 miles to go now.

There was a cook on our train and meals were very good. At meal stops we all tumbled out + lined up for scran, then sat down along the track and ate it. Meals very welcome after travelling too.

Train stopped many times thru' day at little places to refill with water. The stops

in Syria. We dashed off + collected were the signal for somebody wood at a stop then they lit from the corriage to rare out the fire in his "ballle - bouler" + and stand a bottle up while held it on the swaying onlide the others filled bricks at it. platform with a stick, while There seemed to be an endless yorder held the billy on the ghean of bottles skewn from fire. The hain was havelling Marinin to Adelaide - bothles of at about 30 odd M.P.H. and the all sorts. wind was quite cool. Besides that Three the day the boys the water tank from the carriage played conds, argued, slept or ahead was leaking & the walk in konducted army versus Marry was blowing all over Indon. weather which were eschar good Nobody hilled, surprisingly lenough You the of al hour they stood there, by which time, the Was when hoffy childed to show Ain hat was wined, half our us how he used to boil a water had spilt, Jordon was wet and hopey was nearly billy of tea in his him hat

were the signal for somebody from the carriage to race out and stand a bottle up while the others pelted bricks at it. There seemed to be an endless steam of bottles strewn from Darwin to Adelaide – bottles of all sorts.

Thru' the day the boys played cards, argued, slept + conducted Army versus Navy wrestles which were extra good. Nobody killed, surprisingly enough.

One of our funniest turns was when Lofty decided to show us how he used to boil a billy of tea in his tin hat in Syria. We dashed off + collected wood at a stop, then Lofty lit the fire in his "battle-bowler" + held it on the swaying outside platform with a stick, while Gordon held the billy on the fire. The train was travelling at about 30 odd M.P.H. and the wind was quite cool. Besides that, the water tank from the carriage ahead was leaking + the water was blowing all over Gordon. For 3/4 of an hour they stood there, by which time the tin hat was ruined, half our water had spilt, Gordon was wet and Lofty was nearly

frozen - and also a hole had at this time the country sis . beens burnt in one of one but very dry altho' we could see bage which were latted on the where the big waterway would platform. But we got our hear made + hoffy has the be the were told that when it rained the countrylide was hero of the how?" flooded in many plakes, -We slept comfortably because that the barren looking shots we had plenty of rooms yorden + were gran as far as the legh could see . - great cattle country. I slung out hammoche. The Trist day passed their a hain wheel that much that we such places as geepwell, were almost searich but it was Rumbalana. The place we styled comfortable and warm. The country itself was finily at tea for, was abramungoi very very worky with the H 5 miles over the border Metween same Aflat toffed mountain range. N.T + S.A., for we were in Laker at changed to perfectly South dustralio. flat shetches of endless land. . At beakfast next day me

frozen - and also a hole had been burnt in one of our kit bags which were lashed on the platform. BUT we got our tea made + Lofty was the hero of the hour.

We slept comfortably because we had plenty of room. Gordon + I slung our hammocks. The train rocked that much that we were almost seasick, but it was comfortable and warm.

The country itself was firstly very, very rocky, with the same flat topped mountain ranges. Later it changed to perfectly flat stretches of endless sand. At this time the country is very dry, altho' we could see where the big waterways would be. We were told that when it rained, the countryside was flooded in many places, + that the barren looking spots were green as far as the eye could see - great cattle country.

First day passed thru' such places as Deepwell, Rumbalara. The place we stopped at tea for, was Abramunga (?) 5 miles over the border between N.T. + S.A. So we were in South Australia.

At breakfast next day we

There was a cold wind blowing had 540 miles to go. It was and it was filling with dust. this day that the desert really showed out. Stopped at a Left on another thain at 2 mg to Jolly glad to. Again havelled place called Marie for hunde. bogetter as Turible Eight Jook Stayed there for 2 hours. 5 hours to get to Adelaide, Hotel open for those who would but song at really all the it or had money. also a way a yelled gut at people store selling soft drinks + along hack Keally happy the rest 19 hours for three to teromie 420 miles. Copley was hoof train full of blokes. Chenched adebaide at 1Pm, . tear stop. arrived in Terowie pist about 3 weeks since leaving ship - 12 days since we left Harminbefore lunch on Tuesday 12th in which there were travelled by Detrained and had lunch at Terowie. After coming all huch , calle - tuch , trailer tucks + spint last 3 days + 2 nights their auchalia this damed place in overland train. It was the sworst we'd shuch ...

had 540 miles to go. It was this day that the desert really showed out. Stopped at a place called Maree for lunch. Stayed there for 2 hours.

Hotel open for those who wanted it, or had money. Also a store selling soft drinks + the rest. 19 hours from there to Terowie 420 miles. Copley was tea stop.

Arrived in Terowie just before lunch n Tuesday 12th. Detrained and had lunch in Terowie. After coming all thru' Australia this darned place was the worst we'd struck. There was a cold wind blowing and it was filthy with dust. Left on another train at 2PM + jolly glad to. Again travelled together as Terrible Eight. Took 5 hours to get to Adelaide, bur sang nearly all the way, + yelled out at people along track. Really happy troop-train full of blokes.

Reached Adelaide at 7PM, almost 3 weeks since leaving ship, - 12 days since we left Darwin – in which time we've travelled by truck, cattle-truck, trailer trucks + spent last 3 days + 2 nights in overland train. It was

at times a list uncomfortable but Is we not the boys (Harry, was well worth at for the Inovice Lofly Graschoffer) & had seperience. We not a quest buch a day out with them. Silled of blokes among the smothies. in that of fine going fictures Spent the might in adelaide etc. Left on passenger thair at cleaning up under a hot show at the Red Shield Tent. Had been My on Triday might bhoom thinking of a sleeps in clean both didn't here here !!!! but places booked out so had Taluday 16th Ligh annied at to slep an a table at the Red Jenew Ast Melbourne to there Shield . was my pretty wife waiting Reported to Jonens depot in for me at the station. york the morning it were told we lit was good. Sposed to leave couldn't leave till Triday 15th at 12:30 but after seeing So we persuaded them to the fimmy at honedale he let us spend the time doing granted The extension to leave as we pleased up liese forth Monday. That means we

at times a bit uncomfortable but was well worth it for the experience. We met a great bunch of blokes among the swotties.

Spent the night in Adelaide cleaning up under a hot shower at the Red Shield Hut. Had been thinking of a sleep in clean bed, but places booked out so had to sleep on a table at the Red Shield.

Reported to Torrens depot in the morning + were told we couldn't leave till Friday 15th.

So we persuaded them to let us spend the time doing as we pleased up town.

So we met the boys (Harry, Snowie, Lofty, Grasshopper) + had a day out with them. Filled in rest of time going pictures etc.

Left on passenger train at 7PM on Friday night. Choon didn't turn up!!

Saturday 16th Sept

Arrived at Spencer St Melbourne + there was my pretty wife waiting for me. Gosh it was good. S'posed to leave at 12.30, but after seeing the Jimmy at Lonsdale he granted me extension to leave Monday. That means we

to fick up Seven but she had a full weekind together. Wahnally we made the most mined in over the weekend. of it. " Nice - quiet, but just Spirit from Tuesday fill what we wanted, wasn't it, Monday at ! Kalmoral depot. Alepot Mang! itself very nice place - good Monday 18th Sept Left for Sydney scraw & pictures every night. for thoop train left prefly well. Spose it because That Jordon tame down for Newcastle for the weekend and we had used to havel. Anday 25 the Joined H.M.A.S. Tuesday 19th Lift. arrived Sydney Support They down for boiler and must across to Salmbral to find that I've an draft clean + gulal repairs, going to the Sware. Choose, Darkie on I day leave an I might alkins, Macleon Stevo Martie fossibly be lucky. hang a few others from the Stayed aboard most of ship fored to go up worth week. I Went off lunday 1st lot to visit Quentie Mary, this

had a full weekend together. Naturally we made the most of it. Nice + quiet, but just what we wanted, wasn't it Marg?

Monday 18th Sept.

Left for Sydney per troop train. Slept pretty well. Spose it because I was used to travel.

Tuesday 19th Sept.

Arrived Sydney and went across to Balmoral to find that I'm on draft to the Swan. Choom, Darkie Atkins, Maclean, Stevo, Marbie Lang + few others from the shop there.

Sposed to go up north

to pick up Swan but she arrived in over the weekend. Spent from Tuesday till Monday at Balmoral depot. Depot itself very nice place good scran + pictures every night.

Gordon came down from Newcastle for the weekend and we had it ashore together.

Monday 25th Sept.

JOINED H.M.A.S. SWAN. They down for boiler clean + general repairs, going on 7 days leave so I might possibly be lucky.

Stayed aboard most of week. Went off Sunday 1st Oct. to visit Auntie Mary, then

went over to Hyde Cark to like to see Marg & Man so disconfact to the "roop- hor orators" They was fist Accordany consideration. put on a good twin in lighter. Minute Norsham after midnight. Danny Rowden is P.o. Lel Mang at station to meet me. on Iwand and seems a good. She books even fullies than hefore bloke. Sparkers too seen OK. New los looks fully goodsh. Joing I think I'll get on alright To arrived have for weekend on the 4 Ary hain. It was grands here, afflo' the test will come when I get to sea. reining the kid . Walt on, leave with second Aspent weeks first shalling half on Thursday at 5th up the sheet and tolling about Triday artolow ft chined Mellowsee at have yarning . I abually it work of sons Margo Meren them " was an locka good leave - as caught the suffer to Horshow at we didn't have to week about flag. That an eschar hand for anywhere. Hated leaving but to get aboard borridors + desmay when thankful that I had been packed. And I was havelling bucky insulpts to get the

went over to Hyde Park to listen to the "soap-box orators". They put on a good turn in Sydney. Danny Bowden is P.O.Tel on Swan, and <u>seems</u> a good bloke. Sparkers too seem OK. I think I'll get on alright here, altho' the heat will come when I get to sea.

Went on leave with second half on Thursday Oct. 5th.

Friday October 6th

Arrived Melbourne, went + saw Margs Mum then caught the express to Horsham at 7PM. Had an extra hard job to get aboard. Corridors + doorways packed. But I was travelling to see Marg + Mum so discomfort was just secondary consideration. Arrived Horsham after midnight. Marg at station to meet me. She looked even prettier than before. Mum too looks pretty goodoh. Young Sis arrived home for weekend on the 4AM train. It was grand seeing the Kid.

Spent week just strolling up the street, and lolling about at home yarning. Naturally it was an extra good leave - as we didn't have to rush about anywhere. Hated leaving, but was thankful that I had been lucky enough to get the

ynexpected leave all's the sooner on broad biggage iach a had I can be home for good the sooner fill be completely contraited. a real could sleep. Jahnday 14 the Oct arrived lydney 13th Oak Arica in Melbourne & met of repolated back to ship Greece Hamaford. The is going to Spint most of week aboard. garmin in a papilina daw + Stant out , to Quildie Manjo + is quite thrilled about it. Left Teddie + I came back to how Mellourer on Afternoon boops "hain. to the firtues together. Rollin day for travelling. Heavy Left a gast hig with dustations over Victoria & we got Mass the mile for the in case it all the way from fait but of accident of fellow right this to albury Saturday 21 at lot ance again left Met Suchio & Marry (2 of the To go worth Seems to we I anothis I travelled overlands mith) shahld be getting used to it well They are on their way to dig. this seems a fappy ship. Note so I inight see of them again That Spretty good trips. Slept the Shipper a Juning are good bloke

unexpected leave. Altho' the sooner I can be home for good, the sooner I'll be completely contented.

<u>13th Oct.</u>

Arrived in Melbourne, met Bruce Hannaford. He is going to Darwin in a Catilina crew + is quite thrilled about it. Left Melbourne on afternoon troop train. Rotten day for travelling. Heavy duststorm over Victoria + we got it all the way from just out of Melbne right thru' to Albury.

Met Snowie + Harry (2 of the swotties I travelled overland with). They are on their way to N.G. so I might see of them again. Had pretty good trip. Slept on broad luggage-rack + had a real sound sleep.

Saturday 14th Oct.

Arrived Sydney + reported back to ship. Spent most of week aboard. Went out to Auntie Mary's + Teddie + I came back to town to the pictures together. Left a gash rig with Max to mind for me in case of accident.

Saturday 21st Oct.

Once again left to go north. Seems to me I should be getting used to it now – but I'm not. Ah well this seems a happy ship. Both the Skipper + Jimmy are good blokes.

So cherio again Sydney and I so because he was playing hope it's not too berry long about near the ships will and he fill overboard. We had to Monday 23th Och finning some requestion stop in mid ocean lower the who required to "klase sharing !" whales a fich him up. Was about 30 or us of them ! CB's Ray Millington + Alie Anadaham more well represented as the Polet (2 of the Grachers) rens, the Scholinging the yours 2 Spentico 3 Sigo + 1 fin aboard here they wanded Gode all growing beards. Ray a god hard i they gave me Millington atheady has one. So the shance to buy it. So Abob will and nine out of 13 your I'm front of a scholy firm CB" with a beard soon. I It's artainly hard, bot work Good hip - weather warnish An the Atopics but it exercise + real rea well behaved. of fills in the afternoons. Shipper has a pape and hiller for feb. The pupe is 200 Reber Thirdday ahriven Milmo Jay Received message by hight a played thing - too much

So cheerio again Sydney, and I hope it's not too very long before we see you again.

Monday 23rd Oct.

Jimmy saw regulation(?).... who required to "cease shaving". Was about 30 or 40 of them. CB's were well represented, as the PO Tel the Yeoman, 2 Sparkers 3 Sigs + 1 Coder all growing beards. Ray Millingdon already has one. So that will be nine out of 13 CB's with a beard soon.

Good trip – weather warmish + sea well behaved.

Skipper has a pup and kitten for pets. The pup is a playful thing – too much

so, because he was playing about near the ship's side and he fell overboard. We had to stop in mid ocean, lower the whaler + pick him up.

Ray Millingdon + Bruce Bradshaw (2 of the Sparkers) run the dhobying firm aboard here. They wanted a 3rd hand and they gave me a chance to buy in. So now I'm part of a dhoby firm. It's certainly hard hot work in the tropics, but its exercise + fills in the afternoons.

26th October Friday

Arrived Milne Bay. Received message by light from Horace who is at the

Bout to a Signal Station at the bay way about like & could before. enhance. Meles Bay still theavy that made a good shall oral. booking . Naturally it hunds rold I winning over ride in afternoon. and rained here. Roys beginning to do exercise Monday 30th actober With Lakobe went out on eveneries. Tade now the fisil gois on every night on the fisil left M.B. . neach exercise depths changes, wave larget shoet then bombadment with kells If shatting " aircraft . byil a have the action Stations down stops MaDANG. Meanliful hopical weather so good tig arrived after at the as emergences "bomber" Madang Sunday 29th . Madang ret. a real thall place, ballende has kertainly changed since of down & can't see what going was here blast. Well set out on. Septe schanges and gues. fine compos & hubs everywhere. quie no quite a shaking lup down Went ashow to behurch, detas there . was surprised to notice difference Tuesday 31 st alaber To sea about in Madang bouldat find my 2Pm mille Barcoo Tendella y a

Port War Signal Station at the bay entrance. Milne Bay stlll dreary looking. Naturally it turned cold and rained here.

Boys beginning to do exercises now. Boxing goes on every night on the focs'l.

26th Oct. Friday

Left M.B. – next stop MADANG. Beautiful tropical weather so good trip. Arrived Madang Sunday 29th. Madang has certainly changed since I was here last. Well set out camps + huts everywhere.

Went ashore to Church. Was surprised to notice difference in Madang. Couldn't find my

way about like I could before. Even made a good sports oval. Swimming over side in afternoon.

Monday 30th October.

With Latrobe went out on exercises. Had exercise depth charges, target shoot then bombardment with help of "spotting" aircraft. Cyril + I have the Action Stations down after at the emergency "bomber" set. A real dull place, battened down + can't see what's going on. Depth charges and gun-fire give us quite a shaking up down there.

Tuesday 31st October.

To sea about 2PM with Barcoo, Vendetta + a

Tainville. Joing to hangemake for Beautiful sunny day again. Jaking over this will us. find their fielding up convey to Shipper cleared lover dech & take toops make landing at Jacquent day south of Blabaul spiner us the dit about the Hombardarak may take place. operation. appears we are taking We are beariest almost of the store. Inothics to make a landing at Jacquinot May , 90 seas miles Mednesday Or Nov. 1st Annea hangemake fuelled that hed ap south of habilite, on the routh alongide "Perdetta Inining over side in afternoon fanke ship uported to be 35,000 Japo at Kabanel arrived in mills a kning band but only pahole are reported to aboarde + Vindetta amanged for your come as fair south as to get it abound her for a let of a concert in evening. All regresgreat number of fildnes & if we see any they bill only be float plance. It is also repared alant 5.30Am. What there are a couple of

Fairmile. Going to Langewak for fuel then picking up convoy to take troops make landing at Jacquinot Bay, south of Rabaul.

Bombardment may take place. We are heaviest armed of the three.

Wednesday Nov.1st.

Arrived Langemak fuelled then tied up alongside Vendetta. Swimming over side in afternoon. Yankee ship arrived in with a swing band aboard + Vendetta arranged to get it aboard for a bit of a concert in evening. All Negroes - + music real good.

<u>Thursday Nov.2nd</u> Under way about 5.30AM. Beautiful sunny day again. Taking one ship with us. Skipper cleared lower deck + spun us the dit about the operation. Appears we are taking swotties to make a landing at Jacquinot Bay, 90 sea miles south of Rabaul, on the south side of New Britain. There is reported to be 35,000 Japs at Rabaul, but only patrols are reported to have come as far south as Jacquinot Bay. Japs have no great numbers of planes + if we see any they will only be float planes. It is also reported that there are a couple of

subs in Rabarl + they nught Friday Mor 3rd Raining + dull decide to make a mindance of three the day. Seta chopping. themselves. No opposition is experted We were to meet 19 bonger to the landing . The only thing with a Jairmile excert Joday but that purght haffer is that rough weather evidently held the Japa may by landing them up. Wouldn't like to poops by Abangle of which be the swotties in themy. they have a large number. Saturday Nov 4th Queside Jacquinot That bangs are arned with 37 Bay about 5Am took low millimethe guns + as our Shipper says they would be a life finally found our babages and of few A for us to play with he called them in Mot a Thorever me probably throut sign of anything except a couple see anything, altho' we may of big native villages & a end lip Adains a bombardiant. topic plantation with house. The three of us will pahol Inothies going aghave. We pakelloutside the May for tabout I days ing outside. Incidentally this

subs in Rabaul + they might decide to make a nuisance of themselves. No opposition is expected to the landing. The only thing that might happen is that the Japs may try landing troops by barges, of which they have a large number.

The barges are armed with 37 millimetre guns + as our Skipper says, they would be a bit of fun for us to play with.

However we probably won't see anything, altho' we may end up doing a bombardment. The three of us will patrol outside the Bay for about 7 days.

Friday Nov 3rd.

Raining + dull thru the day. Sea choppy. We were to meet 19 barges with a Fairmile escort today but rough weather evidently held them up. Wouldn't like to be the swotties in them.

Saturday Nov.4th

Outside Jacquinot Bay about 5AM, took our ship in then came out + finally found our barges and escorted them in. Not a sign of anything except a couple of big native villages + a copra plantation with house. Swotties going ashore. We patrolling outside. Incidentally this

is an all Australian show hit of shiff there. Wide May is les Shappen said it may not about 500 60 miles worth? towards Kabaul from here largest to date all Australian Monday the Mood Went to achion show in this area, Australian Stations at 5Am. 20 Deaufort Navy army on an Sorce. So that's went in a bombed lengt at 6 Am Sunday Sch Mor. Outride paholling then we went in at abis it at 400 yards bombarded with entil afternoon them at anchor the 4. Clinch quins Then pre maide Kaining still - this closed in do 100 youds on fred place seems more than Miler on, show with Certiken guns. May for sain. Nothing seen from the ship, de Left later in afferson but toubordmost of tanget. to go to Wide May to looked a successful. do bombandaneent matel Barcoo Arrived back in Jacquind bay in appenson. of Tendella. Buyy is that Japo sufficied be moving a (dearen did see barge a things.

is an all Australian show.

Our Skipper said it may not be the first but it is the largest to date all Australian Navy, Army, or Air Force. So that's something.

Sunday 5th Nov.

Outside patrolling until afternoon, then at anchor inside. Raining still – this place seems worse than Milne Bay for rain.

Left later in afternoon to go to Wide Bay to do bombardment with Barcoa + Vendetta. Buzz is that Japs supposed be moving a bit of stuff there. Wide Bay is about 50 or 60 miles north towards Rabaul from here.

Monday 6th Nov.

Went to Action Stations at 5AM. 20 Beauforts went in + bombed target at 6AM, then we went in at 0630 + at 400 yards bombarded with the 4 inch guns. Then we closed in to 100 yards + fired on shore with Perliken guns.

Nothing seen from the ship, but bombardment of target looked successful.

Arrived back in Jacquinot Bay in afternoon. (seamen did see barges + things done over)

Tuesday of the Box 3 of us left Vendette and expelves doing for Mangewak at moon. D boiles clean. Any is that we Decause me are leaving the me off to Phillipines after this. That would be alught . weather is really beautiful Sunday 12th Nov Kay and & Moday. Wednesday 5th Mor. Arrived Langend went for a well's ashow to during forenoon a fuelled. shelp love lige. got a ride out they have alongride ships hill to the anishing and browned blag the left for Malling with Vendella. Swimming over side about looking at the planes. bought of "remarked Jus at for a couple of thomas. Toping ride of ship, and further away was a measurehed three Madany. ingried Jap bomber. Jarb shill Thursday 9th Mor arrived Madang will with and quite some good rubbiels on it, that we thad 4 mail aboard - letters only gbut that what we want." Letters from Marg and home.

Tuesday 7th Nov.

3 of us left for Langewak at noon. Because we are leaving the weather is really beautiful today.

Wednesday 8th Nov.

Arrived Langewak during forenoon + fuelled. Lay alongside ship till 6PM then left for Madang with Vendetta. Swimming over side for a couple of hours. Hoping we get mail tomorrow at Madang.

Thursday 9thNov.

Arrived Madang + mail aboard – letters only but that's what we want. Letters from Marg and home.

Vendetta and ourselves doing boiler clean. Buzz is that we are off to Phillipines after this. That would be alright.

Sunday 12th Nov.

Ray and I went for a walk ashore to stretch our legs. Got a ride out to the airstrip and browsed about looking at the planes. Couple of smashed Zeros at side of strip, and further away was a smashed three engine Jap bomber. Parts still well oiled and quite some good rubbish on it, but we had nothing to carry them away in. Had an enjoyable day tho'.
Whale rare against Vindetta Soccer game quite good but army + our alig word 5 out of 7. Manday 13th Nov Handa prainting beat our boys I televen times we had great few hicking ship. Sparkers had to do an Aussie Kules football about . finally succeeding his getting very the mainmast. By crawling dirty & sweaty necessitating a out on my stomach, - quite a death - defiging art - I was able dife in the How bring . The aring to preterile that I want scared gave us a good hear their we to paint it. all of us covered som a fillure show, the main in frant' almost for one little allaction of which was the Melbre lease. We invited the swothis most. Inesday 14th Movember for minit us neget day in return for the good time we had hed. game of socier organized hebereen our ship Wednesday 15th Nov; Excidement over and the 5th Dir. H.Q mob 30 spectators also Inter ship whales save heats invoted. Ray + & went. grove today. I evens four the cent out to alexishafers to camps rolfetting for the Inake Bit kup

Whaler races against Vendetta our ship now 5 out of 7.

Monday 13th Nov.

Hands painting ship. Sparkers had to do the mainmast. By crawling out on my stomach – quite a death-defying act – I was able to pretend that I wasn't scared to paint it. All of us covered in paint almost for one little mast.

Tuesday 14th November

Game of soccer organised between our ship and the 5th Div.H.Q. mob. 30 spectators also invited. Ray + I went. Drove out to Alexishafen to camp.

Soccer game quite good, but Army beat our boys. Between times we had great fun kicking an Aussie Rules football about – finally succeeding in getting very dirty + sweaty, necessitating a dip in the old briny: The Army gave us a good tea, then we saw a picture show, the main attraction of which was the Melbourne Cup. We invited the swotties to visit us next day in return for the good time we had had.

Wednesday 13th Nov.

Excitement over Inter-ship whaler race heats today. 8 crews from the ship competing for the Snake Pit Cup.

Swithies came aboard and I them and as bottles of been given had 5 to look after. got them them. They left about 9.30 fm shown over boiler rooms lingie room cheering a ringing , having had a steering motor by a stokent then a real good day they rechord. over the bridge + elsenter of interest. Some horrible leveryges going They we watched the whales about that Commander (B) is to ising heats. Une CBS mon their take over the ships to be area heat tobe fixed of for st- on as a base ship at Recommidie. the CBS. They with 3 whales , hooks bad. the smallies got up crows + had Thursday 10th Houmber a shart race ! It was furning as they mount used to fulling an your. Son Bues (CBS) Duffus our but my 5 blokes ton. Daties + brocketts brushes "rowed they all injoyed it. We had it out, but our, CB' crew wow ranning oler the side in . all the way. Tole paid 23/9 which the smothing formed. I for 51- this time, so that is lit of eacher money. good supper was put on for of eacher money.

Swotties came aboard and I had 5 to look after. Got them shown over boiler rooms, engine rooms + steering motor by a stoker, then over the bridge + elsewhere of interest.

Then we watched the whaler rowing heats. Our CB's won their heat. Tote paid 8/3 for 5/- on the CBs. Then with 3 whalers the swotties got up crews + had a short race. It was funny as they weren't used to pulling an oar, but my 5 blokes won.

They all enjoyed it. We had swimming over the side in which the swotties joined. A good supper was put on for them and a bottle of beer given them. They left about 9.30pm cheering + singing, having had a real good day they reckoned.

Some horrible buzzies going about that Commander (D) is to take over the ship to be used as a base ship at Mios Woendi Looks bad.

Thursday 16th November

Finals of the whaler race. Sea Bees (CBs), Buffers Babies + Crocketts Crushers rowed it out, but our CB's crew won all the way. Tote paid 23/9 for 5/- this time, so that's a bit of extra money.

Kumours about ginges Monow (could be left and song "To his a Jolly good Fillow " Haked loving taking over quille correct tong one di boardet mounty our Gutleman. une former also left it None of se franky our Gutleman formelans official also left happy near being broken up, our formelans officially Monow & his one of board moaning about in some harbour up north as a base wallofing mot officially Luddy bare-wallahs ship. foot one. It Aucher miging deck & presented Inaky bit lever to the hands of hob mailed to CBA wholes crews, lengs made boots - green uniforms, clouch from herosere time) There and Shiffer hat + all the happings of show going blokes all over the Isaid goodby to us . The said! ship. Aghi almost unbelievable he was "dammed misunble about the whole thing " but he was the difference in a day between forced to leave the lines on eacher happy ship and now Whe rails a cheesed him as a throngply "Aliscontended new .

Rumours about Ginger Morrow(Com (D)) taking over quite correct. Every one on board moaning about it. None of us fancy our happy crew being broken up, routines altered + then laying in some harbour up north as a ruddy base –wallahs ship.

Friday Nov. 17th

Cleaned lower deck + presented Snake Pit Cup to CBs whaler crew. (Cup made from kerosene tin). Then our Skipper said goodbye to us. He said he was "damned miserable about the whole thing" but he was forced to leave. We lined the rails + cheered him as he left, and sang "For he's a Jolly Good Fellow". Hated losing him because he was a real gentleman. Our Jimmy and all our popular officers also left today. Ginger Morrow + his base walloping mob officially took over.

Saturday Nov 18th

Decks ringing to the tramp of hob-nailed boots – green uniforms, slouch hats + all the trappings of shore going blokes all over the ship. It's almost unbelievable the difference in a day, between an extra happy ship and now a thoroughly discontented crew

We seen to have nothing to litre this which has 4 himes look forward to but a stay the fire former of a converte the in harbon for maybe months is the next polaful ship after The new mole and definitely the Arentay & Mungar, has to unpopular. 5 new Mohrs his this not in Messundil as a base Sunday Nov 19th If ship & mother of somethes. The did say that when things Airisions inspected by Jinger + his sad looking got organized me would be 22 ring frem, Knose. at clean aspending most of our fine at lower dich he apan as the rea algaine - but didn't say when that night be , what a progent dist that "as was had moved It course this ship has spacious Shippus quarters + officin's wardroom too for away from Madang we had to follow ". He is now leaftain () - that is, in charge + is allegente elaborate for the parties which Jinger thous. of all ships below the Jackford - rowetter in all that. He The one last might with never explainated why a ship muraes is followed up by

We seem to have nothing to look forward to but a stay in harbour for maybe months. The new mob are definitely unpopular. 5 new blokes in our mess.

Sunday Nov. 19th

Divisions inspected by Ginger + his sad looking 2½ ring perm, Knox. At clean lower deck he spun us the dit that "as war had moved too far away from Madang we had to follow."

He is now Captain (D) – that is, in charge of all ships below the Taskforce – corvettes + all that. He never explained why a ship like this, which as 4 times the fire power of a corvette + is the next powerful ship after the Arunta + Munga, has to rot in Mios Woendi as a base W/T ship + mother of corvettes.

He did say that when things get organised we would be spending most of our time at sea again – but didn't say when that might be. What a prospect.

Of course this ship has spacious Skippers quarters + officer's wardroom + is elaborate for the parties which Ginger throws.

The one last night with nurses followed up b

a full day today with any Wednesday Nov 22nd Well it looks as this your officials of murses. I if the old ship is shill capable The Navy is a handy revise for of being at sea. We thought that supplying drink - at least as with there base blokes & the fast fair he officers & nurses are concerned that we are gome spend as let Tal well " it's in a good sauce. If him at buchon, that the Monday & Tuesday 20th 21st Non old ship would fought she was Aid various job about capable of going the rea. Good meather, settled routine ship. Went to send at 4/m. Thad action Stations for an hour, this sort of seas time is good. during which time we had a . Thursday Nov 23th balled in Cat shoot with 4 nich and outihers, Illandia to fuel. This is another Sat of a grand I inale it seems place that has grown unbelievably to us the old Shipper gove since I was latt here. It whild us a big wave as we passed do featle down south good to him on the way out. Wet see what they can do to these he miches he was taking us out places in such a short him.

a full day today with Army, Air Force officers + nurses. The navy is a handy service for supplying drinks – at least as far as officers + nurses are concerned. Ah well, it's in a good cause.

Monday + Tuesday 20th 21st Nov.

Did various jobs about ship. Went to sea at 4PM. Had Action Stations for an hour, during which time we had a shoot with 4 inch and oerlikens.

Sort of a Grand Finale it seems to us. Our old Skipper gave us a big wave as we passed him on the way out. Bet he wishes he was taking us out.

Wednesday Nov. 22nd

Well it looks as if the old ship is still capable of being at sea. We thought that with these base blokes + the fact that we are gonna spend a lot of time at anchor, that the old ship would forget she was capable of going to sea.

Good weather, settled routine - this sort of sea time is good.

Thursday Nov 23rd.

Called in at Hollandia to fuel. This is another place that has grown unbelievably since I was last here. It would do people down south good to see what they can do to these places in such a short time.

as for ships - well five seen quite Triday Nor 24th Left Hollandia headed er four ships in various places that for this Wingi. Joing out of this is the most the ever seen Holloydia I sour more rubbins this is the most I've ever seen. There must be over two hundred floating about that Fire ever ships in this bay. Inall craft seen. There seemed to be almost are first like and scurrying about. mughing floating about aboy. He New boys went across the the water. I can imagine how Weshalia to play challings matches Lydring Harbon would look with of deck bockey got bealm. all this which is it. Reems to me this mot never Saluday Nov 25th Reputipel day wins ampling but whale races. at sea. Nice and cool - the Standed at anchor all might. sort of weather that would be after dark there were lights alhar special on a pleasure armie energeden. This stayed like up a Sunday Nov able Minored Minos it was like the light off a Winde Aller coming in Marin' rity. Signalling light seemed the boon the harbour seems to be time fireflies, everywhere. huge. We anchored a long

As for ships – well I've seen quite a few ships in various places but this is the most I've ever seen. There must be over two hundred ships in this bay. Small craft are just like ants scurrying about.

Our boys went across to the Westralia to play challenge matches of deck hockey – got beaten. Seems to be this mob never wins anything but whaler races.

Stayed at anchor all night.

After dark there were lights everywhere. Ships stayed lit up + it was like the lights off a city. Signalling lights seemed to be like fireflies, everywhere. Friday Nov. 24th

Left Hollandia headed for Miss Windi. Going out of Hollandia I saw more rubbish floating about than I've ever seen. There seemed to be almost everything floating about atop the water. I can imagine how Sydney Harbour would look with all this rubbish in it.

Saturday Nov 25th

Beautiful day at sea. Nice and cool – the sort of weather that would be ultra special on a pleasure cruise.

Sunday Nov. 26th

Arrived Miss Windi. After coming in thru' the boon, the harbour seems huge. We anchored a long

way out from any point of The size of the bille hide shore. Wonder how long se padeling about annexes us. Some of the hide are fist big wough to will be shuch here? got our direct service by ulf hold a fradely i get here they to Madang going but so fair it's no huge surcess. Some of the boys went give away out from the show. I can imagine what a france while pound would be in if At to church offer we get in their hide this size came their kids this size came to blackes ashow for summing et. kanve affair Monday 27 the floor & Shill muching Tuesday 28 th Nor graciono going prost with our dirict service " to sea again this is quite at It's not of working now. head for Ours baris wallachs. We Quite a lot of boongo me going he bish them as he Monotai as got imposhion hour for Con 3. They are are coming here . There always seems to be some of their forddling about in their lakabis H back her for & weeks, after

way out from any point of the shore. Wonder how long we will be stuck here?

Got our direct service by W/T to Madang going, but so far it's no huge success.

Some of the boys went off to church after we got in. They reckon there are beaut beaches ashore for swimming at.

Monday 27th Nov.

Still mucking about with our direct service. It's sort of working now.

Quite a lot of boongs here. There always seems to be some of them paddling about in their lakatoies. The size of their little kids paddling about amuses us. Some of the kids are just big enough to hold a paddle + yet they are away out from the shore. I can imagine what a panic white parents would be in if their kids this size came so far out in a small sort of canoe affair.

Tuesday 28th Nov.

Gracious, going to sea again, this is quite a treat for us base wallahs. We are going back to Biak then on to Morotai as an inspection tour for Com.D. Then we are coming back here for 6 weeks, after

which we go to be based at that position. Monatain, Allen from them we are 30th dec Moldai is a collection of suffered to do fallfinding job. islands it reems. Islands neally Diak is burnhing & will laid out with cocomet flaubabious flames of all sorts. Hothey are but an very flat. This raids going duleage in continuous are still carried out against Isteams. The island on one here to only about 300 miles of them has some sort from the lig of the little beletes. of whitestone hills and these The next steps up is the Villipines stands out for miles away as + they aren't sure by any means. a landmarkel. Enterdingly hot day here. Wednesday 29th Dec, Realized - mahane in aff rabins 1032 all one of king ambibious which was afternoon. lelored up in 2 watches to almo the Equators brossed in the up of while in for the it at Snon gladest fiel any five hours than the we are hungs their it rained all in from watches a many never Alining the him we were in served to be set of this

which we are going to be based at Morotai, then from there we are supposed to do pathfinding jobs.

Biak is swarming with planes of all sorts. They are going overhead in continuous streams. The island, or one of them, has some sort of whitestone hills, and these stand out for miles away as a landmark.

Wednesday 29th December.

Realised one of my ambitions which was to cross the Equator. Crossed it at 6AM. Didn't feel any bump tho'. It rained all during the time we were in

that position.

<u>30th Dec.</u>

Morotai is a collection of islands it seems. Islands neatly laid out with coconut plantations, but are very flat. Air raids are still carried out against here. It's only about 300 miles from the tip of the Celeles. The next step up is the Phillipines + they aren't ours by any means.

Exceedingly hot day – temperature in W/T cabin 103 all afternoon. Closed up in 2 watches on the W/T while in for the few hours. Even tho' we are in four watches, a man never seems to be out of this

damedy office. Left for home : about The work fast is alight but doit like the way it's role. Hiday 1st flow Another months Saluday 2nd Dec lealled in at Bisk to get some stores, then money the ends - another month on to Mind Windi. Sive noticed never getting how for good. the word Miss, on the map Seems mour as the I'll never a four himes. I believe it is the have any other existence but this one, Spore it must end native name for reland that - night waiting for us. sonday. Still very hat . hay like from Mang & Mun. Bit more this a men earns his money in a dholey fin. Bit of I ar disagreement in the firm Deanhented now for a while. Sunday 3rd Dec. Job dressed for divisions but stain spinhled + Klue has desided by get down so diss meruit held out next payday. After Alinhing it over & Band decided to also. after getting dussed up loo -Maho a mon homesich

darned office.

Left for "home" about 4PM.

Friday 1st Dec.

Another month nearer the end – another month nearer getting home for good. Seems now as tho' I'll never have any other existence but this one. S'pose it must end someday.

Still very hot. Days like this, a man earns his money in a dhoby firm. Bit of a disagreement in the firm + Blue has decided to get out next payday. After thinking it over I have decided to also.

The work part is alright but don't like the way it's run.

Saturday 2nd Dec.

Called in at Biak to get some stores, then on to Miss Windi. I've noticed the word M105 on the map a few times. I believe it is the native name for island.

Aha – mail waiting for us. That's what I needed. Letters from Marg + Mum. Bit more contented now for a while.

Saturday 3rd Dec.

Got dressed for divisions but rain sprinkled down so divs weren't held. After getting dressed up too .

Makes a man homesick

when in harbour and he Just the months at anchors valises its Sunday the weather Time spart in keeping wakker beautiful this afternoon & for this new up againiation. realizes its Sunday the weather is beautiful this afternoon & I could just imagine spinding the Our advantage is that we get day at the beach then talking day at the back then titting plenty of openating practice. in the cool of the coming at those thad a scouple of home historing to the bruchess. receation parties to beaches the inagrication is sometimes a one the islands. Great interest. bad thing to have methinks. taken in water follo - we flag Jachie Woods at night: We the Stopped aboard for first had a good old , matter about forbright they went gay + the old aclass . Jack got will to one fichness thour engaged last time have and ashore one on the Alloraine and one on a TANK h.S.T. and the is a very serious laddie we had quite it and discussion Christe as few boonge about Nice lade I is Jack. here a they are allowing

when in harbour and he realises its Sunday. The weather is beautiful this afternoon + I could just imagine spending the day at the beach, then sitting in the cool of the evening at home listening to the wireless.

An imagination is sometimes a bad thing to have methinks.

Got cross to Cowra to see Jackie Woods at night. We had a good old natter bout the old class. Jack got engaged last time home and as he is a very serious laddie we had quite a discussion. Nice lad is Jack. First month at anchor.

Time spent in keeping watches on this new W/T organization.

One advantage is that we get plenty of operating practice. Boys had a couple of recreation parties to beaches on the islands. Great interest – taken in water polo - we play every day over the side. Stopped aboard for first fortnight, then went gay + went to one picture show ashore, one on the Deloraine, and one on a YANK L.S.T.

Quite a few boongs about here + they are always

hanging about the ship begging Crahallis for Ineria. hi his (food) Kids of 3 A A accosionally one of the baddies 4 years faddle all over the would forget, and say America, place, in their small labatori. but would hastily tourst Three laddies about 3,4+5 himself when the older lad backed were alongride us one day when it him. They sport out Jup suddenly they broke into singi man no " good " then as an (istal Pachini Thomas in English. after Mought added "ashallion They funt all they had into it good " They got this hi his. These boong thids could buy and the smallest kid looked in mortal agoing as he indearouned and sell as while hid of this to reached the high notes. Then own age. they began singing god fless bling that we are Cong (3) Inerial Maturally the fassed base stide quite a lot of they convertee none alonguide and a f rude remarks about yanks & so after a fabber together the find that I know Sparkers on hido starked subsituting alletter almost all of theme.

hanging about the ship begging ki ki (food). Kids of 3 – 4 years paddle all over the place in the small lakatois.

Three laddies about 3, 4 + 5 were alongside us one day when suddenly they broke into singing Pistol Packin' Momma in English. They put all they had into it and the smallest kid looked in mortal agony as he endeavoured to reach the high notes. Then they began singing God Bless America. Naturally we passed rude remarks about Yanks, + so after a jabber together, the kids started substituting "Osstrahlia" for America.

Occasionally one of the laddies would forget and say America, but would hastily correct himself when the older lad barked at him. They spat out "Jap man no **xx good" then as an after-thought, added "Osstrahlian good". They got their ki ki. These boong kids could buy and sell a white kid of their own age.

Seeing that we are Com (D) base ship, quite a lot of the corvettes come alongside us + I find that I know Sparkers on almost all of them.

Riche out and went to have had for ages) they fifed three ists of frickups - one on the Debraine - Live mentioned Jelean Lower Dechil "Know low Jimmy explained that I bottles If thinky and 4 bolles of give that before - that's the promble wife this damed stay in and place job - wingthing seens officers store. That warranted them heating as up on the The bouforts I wind have appre dich without our bunch treaked us well this time - we for 21 2 hours while all our get regular insues of soop, 1. lockon were rearched. Blokes Shorthi Obushes & hoothparke. It who had been saving up and odd bottle of her for Knas is my helpful. 24th Alexander Kness Eve had it conficeated from them. Will what a day for flue rearching the ship the . the day before finas . Just Juny made as take our hammode when Ane men starting our on the upper black and small them to be searched. He hold lunch (the first fest steggies we

Broke out and went to three sets of pictures – one of the Deloraine – I've mentioned that before – that's the trouble with this darned stay in one place job – everything seems the same always.

The Comforts Fund have treated us well this time - we get regular issues of soap, tooth brushes + toothpaste. It is very helpful.

24th December Xmas Eve.

Well what a day for the day before Xmas. Just when we were starting our lunch (the first fresh veggies we

have had for ages), they piped "Clear Lower Deck". Knox our Jimmy explained that 9 bottles of whisky and 4 bottles of gin had been stolen from the officers' store. That warranted them keeping us up on the upper deck without our lunch for 2½ hours, while all our lockers were searched. Blokes who had been saving up an odd bottle of beer for Xmas had it confiscated from them. After searching the ship, the Jimmy made us take our hammocks on the upper deck and unroll them to be searched. He told

us that there would be no been should be home, and can issue thas Day while the culpit was found. A Kakadley Naturally really feel that it is know. having the formon it was feeling is running they high " fifted that all messes except the Globers would get the Xinas been flage for Xmas decorations returned issue timmediately every ness refund them and threw the green it. So affer a lot of hat air then, over the side. it was filled that all moses Three bollles of whichy found including I lohors would be given the bliv issue. Just as well for in an unused booker in the stokeno meno. because without a cloubt there 25 th December Know Day would have her fromble on the Merry Knos Margo & all ship. Now of the Stoken had my folk back how . My been proved to have stolen the thought never back there it spints and the ship's company Victoria today. Sincly negot shuch logether that it was not right to femish them without proof. times on the one offer of

us that there would be no beer issue Xmas Day unless the culprit was found. Naturally feeling is running very high. The messes that have drawn flags for Xmas decorations, returned them and threw the green trees over the side.

Three bottles of whisky found, in an unused locker in the stokers mess.

25th December Xmas Day.

Merry Xmas Margo + all my folk back home. My thoughts were back there in Victoria today. Surely next Xmas or the one after I should be home, and can really feel that it is Xmas. During the forenoon it was piped that all messes except the Stokers would get the Xmas beer issue. Immediately every mess refused it. So after a lot of hot air it was piped that all messes, including Stokers would be given the beer issue. Just as well, too because without a doubt there would have been trouble on the ship. None of the Stokers had been proved to have stolen the spirits, and the ship's company stuck together, that it was not right to punish them without proof.

I had the formoon watch a has to thank for the officers was not relieved until 12:30 mg, was not relieved while 12.30 mg -fofularity 1 1 On the whole are , had as good up at bit for as offer konis. Imas dinner, and I must admit officers acted as whallers even that I was quite full when a radings downed the officers I left the table . shits a raw the ship "for ginger" Morrow i or bounnade a fair hours. Blokes were being Monthor thippen of the Inon hom (3) the sour over the ride clothes a Read. Iso Iso did rounds all - officers me being made mishing up a thing these at work - and our "fake" officers hunch him but he got a very made tows of the other ships silent reception. City too, because masquerading as real officers. ginger is a good bloke . he thater after as comple of home the abrays flew fofular with things again went flat, and "Inist Liendenand Know that he Me ios Windi.

I had the forenoon watch + was not relieved until 12.30PM so arrived down for dinner late. On the whole we had a good Xmas dinner, and I must admit that I was quite full when I left the table.

"Ginger" Morrow - or Commander Morrow, Skipper of the Swan, Com (D) RAN. DSO DSO, did rounds wishing up a Merry Xmas at lunch time, but he got a very silent reception. Pity too, because Ginger is a good bloke – he has always been popular with the men. It's only his supercilious First Lieutenant Knox that he has to thank for the officer's unpopularity.

After lunch things brightened up a bit for a few hours. Officers acted as whaler's crew + ratings donned the officers shirts + ran the ship for a few hours. Blokes were being thrown over the side, clothes + all - officers were being made work – and our "fake" officers made tours of the other ships masquerading as real officers. However after a couple of hours things again went flat, and so ended Xmas Day in Miss Windi.

Sunday 31st Dec . Divisions The other two were old hands with during the forenoons, then the budges to love , leve bost his wallands were read out for 2 badges + got 28 days cells at have the aller look his three blokes. One of them was the one who stole the liquor 3 badges (3 is for 13 years in the the others have were blokes who tany) and got 14 have cello had a couple of bottles of spirito suspireded. Which find means probation. They need goe as he of fin and stand in their lockors. 1 Churringly everyone who had is the only raking of his fishing a bottle for more of beer in their rake in the district , bo they are lockers had been given 30 days heging his here & holding the stoppage of leave, 014 days Oak 11 rells own his head. (exchan wolk all day) and 22 Jacks Jess come across to months stoppage of been isenes) see no toneight and we The shap who stole the a grand old nother about the CAO and the Warry My spirits get go days sell at old Jimmy Williams is this Shype military prison lat have

Saturday 31st December

Divisions during the forenoon, then the warrants were read out for three blokes. One of the was the one who stole the liquor, the other two were blokes who had a couple of bottles of spirits of their own stored in their lockers. (Obviously everyone who had a bottle or more of beer in their lockers had been given 30 days stoppage of leave, 14 days with NR11 (extra work all day) and 2 months stoppage of beer issues). The chap who stole the spirits got 90 days cell at military prison in LAE. The other two were old hands with badges to lose. One list his 2 badges + got 28 days cells at LAE. The other lost in 3 badges (3 is for 13 years in the Navy) and got 14 days cells suspended. Which just means probation. They need Joes as he is the only rating of his ??? rate in the District, so they are keeping him here and holding the cells over his head.

Jack Jess came across to see us tonight and we had a grand old natter about the CTO, and the Navy. My old Jimmy, Williams is their skipper.

Leeks. Ginger Morrow not at all January 1st 1945. Will have me go keens and having to lean here. New years. Kig events have The has excellent quarters here + happened during the old year has a decent ship for when he let's hope that Wew year Obrings went to go to sed whereas on as hig development, and that the Plats the won't have there we do really are the end of advantages. Our The German the Leading this turmoit ? tig our Sig and one leader and you by good burgs - signal going from our branch, rame saying that upon arrival of Hmas Ollalypus at Miss Mendi Know got and apprintment as Commander of and his staff Shipper of the Puebezon' so that are to transfer to her. That is one deshayer I don't would means no get rid of all these to go to gast basevallahs and will Obecome as sea going ship again Que P.T. ! Plat should be here in a char bow of the yanks basket ball

January 1st 1945.

Well, here we go on a New Year. Big events have happened during the old year – let's hope the New Year brings as big developments, and that we do really see the end of this turmoil.

<u>Jan 4th</u>

Good buzz – signal came saying that upon arrival of HMAS Platypus at Miss Windi, Commander D and his staff are to transfer to her. That means we get rid of all these gash basewallahs and will become a sea going ship again. Plats should be here in a few weeks. Ginger Morrow not at all keen on having to leave here. He has excellent quarters here + has a decent ship for when he wants to go to sea, whereas on the Plats he won't have these advantages.

The Yeoman, the Leading Sig, one Sig and one Coder are going from our branch.

Knox got an appointment as Skipper of the Queberon so that is one destroyer I don't want to go to.

<u>Jan 3rd.</u>

Our P.T.I obtained the loan of the Yanks basket ball

court ashore for 2 hours, a a - fechnicolor, and was real funny crowd of us from the ship must for 6th off to seas about 10 and. off to play. Anly a four of no had played before but the horstai Quille convelles lowra + others were very keen torrybody hapenda, and are going to do enjoyed the games. The flaged a bonbardment near Marstai in at bey hand and were thed conjuction with RAAF & some Tomotions will bring out the Manho là book. Murgy is that Maps have been firing on convoy shiftness in us, but it was worth At! I got rolled rather heavily from this place which is only on the concrete & skin my 30 miles from Monstai The kneer a arm, but plenky of bootamunders and some of book byine ourtment will stop that theat in to bourbard it I had from ferlaining. Jan 15th Went ashow to some shift theorem back at them. The buyy is that a smoke screw fictures a saw Boto Type in had to be laid to penable "Princers - the Pinate. It was them to get out. Durgeys

court ashore for 2 hours, + a crowd of us from the ship went off to play. Only a few of us had played before, but the others were very keen. Everybody enjoyed the games. We played it very hard and were tired. Tomorrow will bring out the stiffness in us, but it was worth it. I got rolled rather heavily on the concrete + skun my knee + arm, but plenty of zinc ointment will stop that from festering.

<u>Jan 5th</u>

Went ashore to pictures + saw Bob Hope in Princess + the Pirate. It was

in technicolour, and was real funny.

<u>Jan 6th</u>

Off to sea about 10AM then Morotai with corvettes Cowra + Kapunda, and are going to do a bombardment near Morotai in conjunction with RAAF + some Yank PT boats. Buzz is that Japs have been firing our convoys from this place, which is only 30 miles from Morotai. The Cootamundra and some PT boats went in to bombard it + had some stuff thrown back at them. The buzz is that a smoke screen had to be laid to enable them to get out. Buzzes

have credited the Jopo with cool breeze makes plenty of cool size unch guis + goodness knows apots. Requiring up & aleady what but the what aneftable afred of her knots Wonder will is that the Japa have a couple the Japa annoy us at Marchin they usually mint there nearly of 2, mel guns. Arined black about midday every night. Is long as they + left at 4 Pm. It is certainly dost make a missame of themselves goodal being at seas again. Late at might because I have Othe only disadvoutages and the to do the Othorning Watch at 4 Am. fast that scuttles have to monour January & Arrived Monstai about the closed at nights + the messadichs get very lat - also 2 octoch. a bit of shipping me can't aget mail meanly every scattered about. Clahes of all day But sea time is definitely hypes continually in the air coming better than barbour time - at A going all the time. bougle least up here it is. January It Sur warns, but of milks known RAAF blokes aboard to confer with Jinger about the

have credited the Japs with six inch guns + goodness knows what, but the most acceptable is that the Japs have a couple of 3 inch guns.

Arrived back about midday + left at 4PM. It is certainly goodoh being at sea again.

The only disadvantages are the fact that scuttles have to be closed at nights + the messdecks get very hot – also we can't get mail nearly every day. But sea time is definitely better than harbour time – at least, up here it is.

January 7th

Sun warm,

but cool breeze makes plenty of cool spots. Keeping up a steady speed of ten knots. Wonder will the Japs annoy us at Morotai - they usually went there nearly every night. As long as they don't make a nuisance of themselves late at night, because I have to do the Morning Watch at 4AM tomorrow.

<u>January 8th</u>

Arrived Morotai about 2 o'clock. A bit of shipping scattered about. Planes of all types continually in the air, coming + going all the time. Couple of well known RAAF blokes aboard to confer with Ginger about the
bombardnaent. Leaving at JAM - to bed second line I took Amore - arrive at 10 Am. -y time on come on watch. Establishment to be bombed by Place is galela Bay in Halmeheras Rease then done over by us. . All me - Red alarm sounded about 20 alile south of Moratai. 3 of us arrived there I about at 11/30 Pm and lasked hill 9.30 and + steaned about first and of distance of the two flat midnight . ach ach seen but we sour no planes. Dach to bed leffed hills, hille Tarahani + but another Red at 3 Am which Sig Jarahani. lashed hill 3.30 pm. Ach ach above Knose explained that intelligence ship but our not nighted no reports say there are 10,000 gaps flower - very dark night. This concentrated in the area int lair raid business is alright at bivouace tranches etc. 3,000 mere derent hours, but handing up and suffored to have been dispired of bed at meanthly have is one secondly by our bomboss. However He adds . Just like the old Darmin days I didn't bother to they are concentrated at big Tarahami, atop which they

bombardment. Leaving at 7AM tomorrow – arrive at 10AM.

Establishment to be bombed by RAAF, then done over by us.

Ah me – Red alarm sounded at 11/30 PM and lasted till midnight. Ack ack seen but we saw no planes. Back to bed but another Red at 3AM which lasted until 3.30AM. Ack Ack above ship, but our mob sighted no planes – very dark night. This air raid business is alright at decent hours, but hauling us out of bed at unearthly hours is over the odds. (Just like the old Darwin days). I didn't bother to go to bed second time I took my time + came on watch.

Place is Galela Bay in Halmahera about 20 miles south of Morotai. 3 of us arrived there about 9.30AM + steamed about just out of distace of the two flat topped hills, Little Tarakani + Big Tarakani.

Knox explained that intelligence reports say there are 10,000 Japs concentrated in the area in bivouac, trenches etc. 3,000 were supposed to have been dispersed recently by our bombers. However they are concentrated at Big Tarakani, atop which they

have 90 millimetre guns (3 inch) shafed the air, followed by the Jaconfighted (16) are going in first to loomb at Leartighters which I had to destroy the felly with rocket bouls Skip the area the 100 king the after we left a Beaufighter will bould with High togetorive + for alongende us + gove a flame bonts. 2. Beanforts will be Hennahabson of worket bourt reconsistance + 4 Gilfines our tining . Gost they are sudden cover. These we are to shear to boy don't they hich up a in + franch 350 shells into stack. We had babby the them the cometter 100 africe. most decorabed man in the RAAF We went to Ochion the at abound. This air Vin Marshal now 9.30 and + got shuch into it. + thinks . Our mob lonly got away 330 a munpaper sovrespondent a shells as they had handle with - noverell photographi aboard the guns, but that good work. taking shots of the burn The dowelles just in Cabout les Ill' probably get a film each. Then the 40° again

have 90 millimetre guns (3 inch).

Beaufighters (6) are going in first, then 60 P40 will bomb with High Explosive + flame bombs. 2 Beauforts wll be reconnaissance + 4 Spitfires air cover. Then we are to steam in + pump 350 shells into them, the corvettes 100 apiece.

We went to Action Stns at 9.30am + got stuck into it. Our mob only got away 330 shells as they had trouble with the guns, but that's good work. The corvettes put in about 60 each. Then the P40s again strafed the air, followed by Beaufighters which had to destroy the jetty with rocket bombs.

After we left a Beaufighter flew alongside us + gave a demonstration of rocket bomb firing. Gosh they are sudden + boy don't they kick up a splash. We had Cobby the most decorated man in the RAAF aboard. He's Air Vice Marshal now I think.

A newspaper correspondent – a newsreel photographer aboard taking shots of the turn – I'll probably get a film contract out of this as I

was in a group taken by the there was a lat of smoke about, newsreet chaps. I'm in a and from where we the grandry of how fill above here i foreshore look shiffed. Ilebucien have turner a fledy after us the Warhank fighters haman for my leading lady went in and dive bombed the area. I watched them from Morotai all day. Not bokerd the appen deck in it was an act worth watching . The planes by air raids I at night this screamed down in A almost fyne. sufical dives and released their January 9th - Out again to furt on flame bombs. a couple appeared to hit dumps of how sort the same hursd again. Our because they were some black distinguished passinger this time Alles Alig plashes of was O Killer I kaldbell. flance at theread, Josh those We sheamed in very close planes got shick linto it. this time + foured another When we all lift them was 330 shells linto their onea.

was in a group taken by the newsreel chap. I'm in a quandary as to how I'll chose between Lana Turner + Hedy Lamarr for my leading lady.

Stayed at anchor at Morotai all day. Not bothered by air raids at night this time.

January 9th

Out again to put on the same turn again. Our distinguished passenger this time was Killer Caldwell.

We steamed in very close this time + poured another 330 shells into their area.

There was a lot of smoke about, and from where we are, the trees + foreshore look stripped. After us, the Warhawk fighters went in and dive bombed the area. I watched them from the upper deck + it was an act worth watching. The planes screamed down in almost vertical dives and released their flame bombs. A couple appeared to hit dumps of some sort because they were some big flashes of flame at times. Gosh those planes got stuck into it.

When we all left there was

smoke a fires all about. I and share - the important ones wouldn't like to have been a from my omfolk and a fur Joje in that area. These boular I ments at least give us the - 14 like Oan wathat player was feeling that we all giving the -reded to play water polo over at the Tyndethas in as as last little yellow rate back som of the Odiat they have given us resource of was asked. Un hear at times That a bit of drew . I quite enjoyed the game. evens for blokes like guald a gow 17th Went off playing Jack thompsons . January 12th arrived back Tasket ball again. What running about a using up at Miss Woendi after a good of energy , a mais a fool to dash about the this in the propries. If the Wavy asked him to work half as hard hip . no mail , but expect it, homorrow. Jan 13th Mail aboard , that is the maing news item in any day. I got quite a as we played basket ball, he would hick up a great fuse.

smoke + fires all about. I wouldn't like to have been a Jap in that area. These bombardments at least give us the feeling that we are giving the little yellow rats back some of the dirt they have given us at times. That's a bit of evens for blokes like Gerald, + Jack Thompson.

January 12th

Arrived back at Miss Windi after a good trip – no mail, but expect it tomorrow.

<u>Jan 13th</u>

Mail aboard – that is the main news item in my day. I got quite a

good share – the important ones from my own folk and a few others from gash people.

<u>Jan 14th</u>

An extra player was needed to play water polo over at the Vendetta + as a last resource I was asked. Our team drew. I quite enjoyed the game.

<u>Jan 17th</u>

Went off playing basket ball again. Lot of running about + using up of energy. A man's a fool to dash about like this in the tropics. If the Navy asked him to work half as hard as we played basket ball, he would kick up a great fuss.

+ dood - about publica - prot Want to the factures on geloranie with from Mande a Stad plus evening but it was a ment kake - books from Sis you & Drown show. Auna overallo for boije In a good Jan 19th Shanks seen in my mahu file of papers. It's goodal. so no swimming today two 25 the January Went Orff of the convettes were amming but our mob called it off flay boff ball but goind was bethy wheat so we flaged the for a day You 23th all our parcels Dington basket ball Then me flaget a yout team. Considering + papers arrived at last. that they flay the game 500 bage for our ships all nearly all the fine, and also dumped on our quarter deck. had full reserves, confined to Just like a Xmas / getting the fact that only 2 of our all this shaff-noor. O getat leans had played mucht before excitement & plenty Oop moise we didn't do so bad. The +, rubbick in that meadech I got 2 rates . a facel for Janke beaks us 8 gools for 3.

Went to the pictures on Deloraine in evening, but it was a weak Joe E Brown show.

<u>Jan 19th</u>

Sharks seen in water so no swimming today. Two of the corvettes were swimming, but our mob called it off for a day.

Jan 23rd

All our parcels + papers arrived at last. 500 bags for our ships all dumped on our quarter deck. Just like a Xmas getting all this stuff now. Great excitement + plenty of noise + rubbish in the messdeck. I got 2 cakes - + a parcel from Marg – writing pads – book + shirt from Mum + Dad, plus Mums cake – books from Sis, my overalls from Boxie + a good pile of papers. It's goodoh.

25th January

Went off to play soft ball, but ground was being used, so we played the Bingoa basket ball. Then we played a Yank team. Considering that they play the game nearly all the time, and also had full reserves, compared to the fact that only 2 of our team had played much before, we didn't do so bad. The Yanks beat us 8 goals to 3.

Our blokes filay a basking - officers dishing party. In game which what the youths will view of everyone the officers classy play. Twicked my law carrying an Olike 03's hnee a but . goe rechons it's aming of senging till the early hours of the thoming. And get town a muscle. It will come good. Victure farty on youth at these when a bloke had 2 deshays escont Went mainly to bottles of run in this locker he got 60 I days at cells. The york get a book at the ship. They Care beautiful ships - well Othery is dely except for a gwelling armed comfortable clean + hopical been iserie Ilike ouro. happy. So they should be happy Officers of yatings receive the same. for abt think today fold us best of food that Knobbie Blue of I milly + gian the Monight on the Awar probably be going to the Platyte the quarter deck has been when the good as he wants decosted will coloured lights experienced alparkers with him. + screened with fram bough That means that are well be to make an arbour for

Our blokes play a bustling game which upset the Yanks classy play. Twisted my knee a bit. Doc reckons it's torn a muscle. It will come good. Picture party on Yank destroyer escort. Went mainly to get a look at the ship. They are beautiful ships – well armed, comfortable, clean + happy. So they should be happy – they get the best of food + gear + treatment. Tonight on the Swan the quarter deck has been decorated with coloured lights + screened with palm boughs to make an arbour for an officer's drinking party. In full view of everyone the offices are carrying on like OD's, dancing + singing till the early hours of the morning. And yet at Xmas when a bloke had 2 bottles of rum in his locker he got 60 days at cells. The Yank Navy is dry except for a weekly tropical beer issue like ours.

Officers + ratings receive the same.

<u>Jan 26th</u>

Chief today told us that Knobbie, Blue + I will probably be going to the Platypus when he goes as he wants experienced Sparkers with him. That means that we will be

It such a ridiculous thraft cancelled. Jaken off here in the Spanher There won't donare finish me from the Plate but on here when it I go to his told base ship tale arrives seems a bit ridiculous, because one Sparker is Thing in the Sparking are a bit heated at the present as good, as another in the Nard. It would be different of 27 is going that the young we were doing some exceptional work but all we are doing is 1.B. Nary new arhit aboard. "He was making shelches of plain Spankers file of operating of life on the lower deck. Made I abually we let I gannie know abelahes of the boys in various exactly how we feel towards it. a gave him to spederstand that he would get no propulsion kidding themselves at having at all ford us. I alm not themselves shelphed. Kelling I thang yet . mulie its Feb 3rd and of the chaps who got sendenced to sells for having rentain, because we are going Iliquos at Xmas, got Ibach to do all we can tol t

taken off here + the Sparkers from the Plat put on here when she arrives. Seems a bit ridiculous, because one Sparker is as good as another in the Navy. It would be different if we were doing some exceptional work, but all we are doing is a plain Sparkers job of operating. Naturally we let Dannie know exactly how we feel towards it + gave him to understand that he would get no cooperation at all from us. I am not telling Marg yet – until its certain, because we are going to do all we can to get such a ridiculous draft cancelled.

Phew won't Horace punish me if I go to his old base ship.

Things in the Sparkery are a bit heated at the present moment.

<u>27th Jan</u>

Had the young A.B. Navy war artist aboard. He was making sketches of life n the lower deck. Made sketches of the boys in various poses + places. Boys were kidding themselves at having themselves sketched.

Feb 3rd

One of the chaps who got sentenced to cells for having liquor at Xmas, got back

And I fait tiple finh today. If the stories he helle the military prison at LAR about have they there will be anes a four proverte for whom quile 14 word be safe after the other shap who got go days. attempted to escape lover was caught. Then first before there Mays come out . Betto had alter or tonny - gun + a things and escaped. My Lill then he had not been Goodness know how we would at on in the jungle. He was mile has had all her money Istoffed now.

today. If the stories he tells about the military prison at LAE are true then there will be quite a few provosts for whom life won't be safe after the war.
The other chap who got 90 days attempted to escape once but got caught. Then just before Harry Mays came out, Betts had stolen a tommy-gun + a few things and escaped. Up till then he had not been caught.
Goodness knows how we would get on in the jungle.
He was a proper bad lot. His wife has had all her money stopped now.