

Diary - notebook  
L. F. Martin  
HMAS. SYDNEY.  
April 10, 1940 —

Martinie Trust. P.O. Box 244 HMAS  
3016

The War since joining Sydney 10<sup>th</sup> April 1940.  
April 1940.

11. In harbour Fremantle

12. " " " " " "

13. " " " " " "

14. " " " " " "

15. " " " " " "

16. " " " " " "

17. Proceeded to sea to meet convoy at Cape Leeuwin, to escort back to Fremantle.

18. Picked up Convoy at the Cape and proceeded to Fremantle.

19. At Sea.

20. At Sea.

21. Arrived at Fremantle with convoy.  
(5 ships).

22. Left with Convoy at 3 p.m. to escort to Cocos Islands.

23. at sea

24. at sea

25. at sea

26. at sea

27. at sea

Sun basking on upper deck

Very calm the whole time.

Every one is brown as

a sun

11/10

11/10  
B.V.C.  
a ship

sy.  
VICT.

D. bydrey  
11/10

28. Met with French cruiser Suffren which takes our place in the Convoy, said farewell to convoy and headed for Fremantle.

29. At Sea } (In tropical rig last few days)

30. At Sea }

Month of May 1940

1. Received orders to turn about, and proceed to Colombo via Singapore at 25 knots.
2. At Sea.
3. Submarine (R.23. Rainbow), came alongside in Sunda Strait, also passed active volcano. (Krakatoa).
4. At Sea.
5. Passed over Equator. Arrived Singapore at 4 p.m. had 4 hours leave. Left Singapore for Colombo at midnight.
6. At Sea doing 28 knots, headed for Colombo.
7. At Sea.
8. Arrived at Colombo 7 p.m. went ashore for four hours. (all night leave).
9. Still in harbour (duty).
10. Left Colombo in Search of Dutch Force at 4 p.m.  
NO. 40216

11. Returned to Colombo at 5 o'clock P.M.
12. Admiral's inspection by C. in C. of East Indies. Left for 3<sup>rd</sup> Convoy.
13. At sea crossed Equator again.
14. Still at sea.
15. Turned back to Colombo.
16. Still at sea.
17. Crossed equator on way back.
18. Arrived at Colombo received our first mail since leaving Australia. H.M.S. Kentifort.
19. Left Colombo for Aden passed H.M.S. Lander on way out. Cargo of potatoes for Aden.
20. At sea (20 knots)
21. Received our pay in English currency.
22. Arrived Aden 4 P.M. H.M.S. Eagle (aircraft carrier) and H.M.S. Flower. Left Aden after fueling and disembarking potatoes in company with Eagle and Flower.
23. In the Red Sea.
24. In Red Sea, Flower left us, and we sighted H.M.S. Hobart (sister ship to Sydney) in distance.

25. In Red Sea. Passed seven of latest destroyers and two D class cruisers arrived at Port Suez at 7 o'clock. Proceeded through Canal at 9 o'clock.
26. Arrived Port Said at 6 am and arrived at Alexandria at 3 P.M.
27. Leave given till 11 o'clock. We joined up with Mediterranean Fleet in 20<sup>th</sup> Cruiser Squadron. H.M.S. Neptune, H.M.S. Orion, H.M.S. Leander, H.M.S. Gloucester and H.M.A.S. Sydney.
28. Still in Alex. went ashore and saw the sights.
29. Still in Alex. Never seen so many so many ships. Destroyers everywhere and Cruisers. Australian destroyers are here and have been doing patrol nearly all the time. They have been to Marseilles and other French towns, and Malta.
30. Still in Alex.
31. " " " "

June 1940.

1. Still in Alex. (Swimming over the side)
2. Still in Alex. (Duty ship no leave)
3. Put to sea for manoeuvres with squadron and destroyers.
4. Returned to Alex 4 P.M.
5. Still at Alex.
6. Put to sea and returned 11 P.M. (manoeuvre)
7. Still in harbour (no leave duty ship.)  
(When duty ship we have to be at any emergency to put to sea at a short notice. Gun's crews are closed up day and night.)
8. Still in Alex. Went to Stanley Bay swimming and it beats anything in Australia. Saw new 17.5. defence guns on the promenade on way there.
9. Still in Alex.
10. Emergency Cruise (no leave)
11. In harbour having tea when the news came. Italy declared war at 1 o'clock that night. Put to sea 1 o'clock sharp.
12. Practice with fleet expecting action or air attacks all last night but none came.

We have had 2 false alarms but they turned out to be friendly warships  
13 Today was a eventful day. This morning we were missed by two torpedoes, then afternoon another missed us. We picked up a sub. on our Arctic gear. Two depth charges were dropped and the Captain thinks we got it. An Italian battleship and 2 subs were sunk by bombs at 10:00 AM.

14 The Australian destroyers "Stuart" and "Voyager" each got a sub and two other ships claim success.

15. Up to present 7 submarines have been verified as sunk. Still at sea, met up with the fleet after our lone patrol. This afternoon 18 destroyers, 5 Cruisers, 3 battleships and 1 aircraft carrier a very formidable force. Aircraft were circling the fleet searching for subs. and eventually we anchored in Alexandria at 7 P.M. wondering what will happen when we go out on another patrol. Also for a well deserved spell.





- 23<sup>rd</sup> Returned to Harbour negative air-raids
- 24<sup>th</sup> In Harbour (Stand by Cruiser) No leave  
further air-raid alarms
- 25 In Harbour (Watch ashore) (Ashore in white)
- 26 In Harbour (Duty) Stand-off went swimming  
at Pessel-Tin "Sew aircraft arrived"
- 27 In harbour Emergency Cruiser (No leave)  
weather very hot \* (Extra) Put to sea on a  
urgent mission noon Issued with (Anti-Plank) equipment
- 28<sup>th</sup> <sup>Sunday</sup> Still at sea At 5 o'clock pipe came over  
that we would meet enemy destroyers  
later on action, stations to be sounded  
off at 7 o'clock great excitement although  
our second engagement but our first  
battle at sea.
- The enemy was sighted, and <sup>we</sup> closed up  
at 5-30 retiring at 11-30.
- During that time many shots were  
fired by us, paint blistered off all guns.  
The Italian destroyer "Espero" was sunk  
by us, and we took aboard 47 survivors,  
11 seriously wounded.
- 29<sup>th</sup> <sup>Saturday</sup> Funeral at sea of Italian sailor.
- 30<sup>th</sup> Funeral at sea of 2 Italian ratings.  
\* Ship under 1 hour sailing notice.

London

July 1940

3<sup>rd</sup> June At Sea Sea Raids on 3 cruisers "Sydney"  
HMS "Orcin" and "Leopold" Many bombs were  
dropped by the Iki planes no casualties to  
us "Orcin" lost her plane and 2 wounded.

Hands were closed up from 3-30 till dark  
Second degree of readiness resumed after supper.

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July Iki scouting planes flew overhead but  
no bombs dropped, guns were fired but  
planes were out of range.

Expect to reach Harbour (Alexandria)  
tonight, stamps on sale at police office.

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> In Harbour (no leave) Biscuits landed at Canal pier.

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> In Harbour (no leave) Boarding party  
ready to board French cruisers if  
occasion arises.

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> Still in Harbour (No leave) owing to  
French ships (still negotiations)  
another air raid today 32 bombs  
dropped 1 Matter injured by shrapnel  
1 Bomb fell on the King's estate (Egypt)  
otherwise no casualties.

All guns now closed up in case of  
emergency Expecting battle in Harbour.

July

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> Today the French ships finished negotiations they are being defueled, so they cannot proceed to sea.

The French Fleet at Oran was in action against the British Fleet. Another air raid today no casualties. Went ashore today 2200 leave up (Stanley Beach) Cabin N° 24.

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> Still in harbour (no leave) emergency cruiser. Pictures on board "That Certain of Deanna Dentin".

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> (Still in Harbour) Church The whole Fleet is proceeding to sea today on a very important mission. Aircraft carrier and Battleships proceeded to sea from 0100. We are proceeding to sea at 2200 with 4<sup>th</sup> Cruiser Squadron ("suicide squadron") Mediterranean Fleet. (another air raid) against

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> At Sea. air raids in the

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> Battle Fleet and cruiser squadron in action against Italian Fleet consisting of 3 battleships 10 cruisers and destroyers. After a direct hit on one of the Battleships they turned tail and left

to be assembled or Germaned, except in those ships in the coast in the Italian units verments of French the given Brit-mans vided eep- a 1st 16. follow as re- effect miles rehanit te will peri- regard taking vessels Italian nment ll ves- miles

smoke screens. All that day many ~~so~~  
bombs were dropped some narrowly missing  
our ship. Intense anti aircraft fire from  
our Fleet put 4 out to out of action and  
were seen to crash. We pursued the S. Hi.  
Fleet but they disappeared over the horizon.

We were walking round the upper deck picking  
up pieces of shrapnel as big as ones feet.

Our Battle Fleet stationed at Alexandria  
consists of 3 battleships, 5 cruisers, 1 aircraft  
carrier and 14 destroyers. Had the "Wallaby"  
Flag flying from the foremast during action.

~~Friday~~ B.B.C. announced 27 killed 68 wounded <sup>on 9th September</sup> with 1 destroy  <sup>sunk</sup>  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>. Our destination is Malta to escort

a convoy from there to Alex.

Battle fleet is still with us so  
air raids yet, none is over 2 o'clock P.M.

We arrive at Malta this afternoon some  
time. We arrived in sight of Malta but  
we did not go in, but the destroyers  
entered harbour and oiled.

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> Every night we are at the second degree of readiness that is sleeping at our various stations. A raid at Malta last night, we could see the flashes of star shells in the distance. Picked up convoy with evacuated children from Malta, to Alexandria. We should arrive at Alex Saturday morning. The Battle Fleet have gone ahead and only the cruiser squadron remains behind the convoy.

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> Still at sea. Bombing attacks throughout the day. We have 12 raids today and since being at sea this week we have had 42.

The H.M.S. Gloucester was hit by bombs today. She was steaming along with an only 100 yds off our beam.

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> We arrived in harbour 6 a.m. this morning. We found out that the Captain and several ratings were killed on the Gloucester. A torpedo officer was killed by bomb on the destroyer H.M.S. Vampire also. All night leave tonight.

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> We are emergency cruise today. no leave.

Monday 15<sup>th</sup>

Ship went into dry dock today  
floating dock at Alexandria is a  
target for the Iki bombers. We had  
an air raid tonight 20 bombs were  
dropped but no damage effected.

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> Still in dock weather very hot.

no air raids today.

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> The ship came out of dock  
today I went ashore and met Italian  
soldiers down from "Bairo".

We got orders to put to sea at 4:30am  
next morning, ordinary mail arrived on board.

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> At sea with 3 destroyers as

company, on our way to the  
Gulf of Athens, where their supposed  
to be <sup>the</sup> submarines and supply ships  
we should reach there tomorrow  
morning, we are expecting air raids  
tonight but we will pass the  
hazard in darkness.

The upper deck of the ship is being  
paved over, easily spotted by aircraft.  
Looks like an old tramp steamer now.

The name of the cruiser was  
R.C.T. Bartolomei Callonio  
2-6" guns

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>. What a day for us.

Having breakfast when pipe came over that there would be action stations in 5 minutes time. We were to engage two Italian cruisers. 5 minutes later the first shot was fired by us at these cruisers.

Many more shots were fired at a very great range and they were completely straddling the first I.t. cruiser. As we closed in on them we fired salvoes in quick succession, and then chased the other one which was making a getaway.

Leaving the first one to be torpedoed by the destroyers accompanying us. As the cruiser that got away was the first one we engaged, it was also damaged badly.

The destroyers picked up 545 survivors. While engaged in doing this we were being bombed by the I.t. planes. One hit was secured on the "Havoc" gun. but no damage was affected. There was also submarines kicking around also. It was a very exciting day all told. The only damage we suffered was our forward funnel where a shell went clean through.

# HOW THE "COLLEONI" WAS SUNK OFF CRETE

## 545 MEN RESCUED UNDER BOMBING ATTACK FROM ITALIAN PLANES

**F**RIDAY'S NAVAL ACTION IN THE AEGEAN Sea resolved itself into another chase of Italian ships by the British vessels. This was revealed in a communiqué issued in Cairo yesterday by the Commander-in-Chief of the British Mediterranean Fleet.

The communiqué states :

«Our patrols in the Aegean consisting of H.M.A.S. «Sydney» and some destroyers came into contact with two enemy cruisers of the «Colleoni» class north-west of Crete at about 07.30 on July 19. The enemy was first sighted by the destroyers, the «Sydney» arriving in support about an hour later. The enemy then altered its course south-westwards and endeavoured to escape. Our forces, however, made a determined attack and the accurate fire of the «Sydney» caused vital hits to the «Colleoni» which reduced her speed thus enabling our destroyers to complete her destruction.

«The second cruiser was chased and hits were observed but her superior speed saved her from a similar fate. Our forces rescued no less than 545 men from the «Colleoni» including the captain.

«Our ships were bombed by the Italian Air Force while carrying out this humane work and again a number of times on their return journey.

«On their arrival back into harbour, the Fleet gave their comrades a rousing welcome, other ships in the harbour joining in. There were no casualties in the British ships.»

Sydney, Saturday.

The achievement of the cruiser «Sydney» in sinking the Italian cruiser «Bartolomeo Colleoni» was referred to by Prime Minister Menzies to-day. He said: «Australia congratulates the crew on their fine action. It is the augury of the fate of the Italian Fleet if it ever comes out to fight.

**WALTER BAIN.**

«Reuter.»



Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>

On our way back to harbour we expect to arrive at Alex. about 10 o'clock this morning.

Cleared lower deck for entering harbour, as this is supposed to be a reception waiting for us. All the other ships of the fleet cleared decks and cheered us coming up the harbour. It was a grand sight, we had the Australian flag flying, and the men off the French ships and pump ships all cheered the "wallaby ship" into her berth.

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Much rejoicing on board, and amongst our "branch". I went to an Italian sailors funeral ashore today buried with full naval honours.

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> Congratulatory signals coming from everywhere Australia, England, and from the King, People of Sydney, Premier and Rums Rumster.

We also got a reception ashore, a big write up in the papers.  
Headlines

23<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday All night leave more signals  
arriving. Our raid 4 am this morning.

24<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Painting ship today, camouflage  
dark grey and light grey. funnel is  
repaired and we are seaworthy again.  
The Italian captain of the cruiser we  
sunk was buried today with full  
naval honours.

25<sup>th</sup> Thursday ( ) Still in harbour.

26<sup>th</sup> Friday In harbour, signal ~~at 10~~ to  
proceed to sea zone.

Ship puts to sea at 2.30 am.

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> At sea proceeding to the  
Isle of Crete to shadow  
convoy.

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> Still with the Fleet till 10 am,  
left Fleet in company with  
H.M.S. Neptune to set off an  
oil tanker loaded with petrol  
for Italy. After many air raids  
as we were near the foot of Italy,  
we accosted the oil tanker off the  
coast of Greece.

The crew abandoned their ship and rowed away, while we circled around ready to fire and destroy the tanker. After the crew had got safely away the "Neptune" opened fire and after a few salvos she was destroyed and sunk in flames. After the first few shots she exploded and blew up sheets of flame shot yards into the air as the cargo she was carrying exploded. It was announced later that she was carrying 1500 tons of petrol, so she is best out of the way. We did not shoot this time the sinking was done by the "Neptune".

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> at sea. On way back to meet fleet again no air raids today so far time is 1-30 P.M.

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> Still at sea, usual air-raids, one air raid very near finished us. Bombs fell very close and bomb splinters rattled along ship's side. This was at dusk and the planes came out of the sun. Should make harbour tonight.

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> In harbour just to oil  
ship and out again at 5.30 am  
this morning.

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August.

- AUGUST -

At sea with Orion & Neptune  
and destroyer flotilla proceeded  
right into enemy territory in  
search of enemy craft but  
found nothing. had 1 air raid.

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> Patrol completed, returning  
to harbour. arrived at 7 P.M.  
oil ship.

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> In harbour. Stand by Cruiser  
JINKERS (no leave)

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Emergency Cruiser (no leave)  
JINKERS Liverpool & Gloucester & destroyer  
flotilla put to sea.

4 days  
14<sup>th</sup> 11

Queen's birthday. flags flown  
from all ships in harbour.

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> In harbour. including ~~French cruiser~~

JINKERS

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> " " "

JINKERS

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Shielding put round 4" AA guns deck;  
upper deck painted blue against air raids.  
same colour on mid. sec.

JINKERS

## Australian Anti-Submarine Officers

### Decorated For Gallantry

The «London Gazette» dated August 16, records that Lieutenant Ernest T. Lees, R.A.N.V.R., has been awarded the D.S.O. and Lieutenant Frederick M. Osborne, R.A.N.V.R. the D.S.C., for work with H.M. Trawlers overseas. The Navy Office has now announced that Lieutenant Lees was decorated for daring and resource and devotion to duty while serving in H.M.S. «Arab» at Namoros.

It will be recalled that the Commanding Officer of that ship, Lieutenant Stannard R.N.R., was awarded the V.C. recently.

Lieutenant Osborne was decorated for bravery and devotion to duty while serving in H.M. trawlers employed on the coast of Norway.

Both these officers were among the first batch of anti-submarine officers who left Australia for England in January. The Australian Commonwealth Naval Board has undertaken to train and supply a number of these officers and ratings for anti-submarine work for service with the Royal Navy overseas.

Lieutenant Lees was formerly employed as purser in the M.V. «Neptuna» trading between Australia and the East, and was purser in the M.V. «Malaite», well-known in the Pacific Island Service, when this ship was taken over from the builders in England.

He later returned to civil life.

Lieutenant Osborne practised as a solicitor in Sydney before volunteering for the anti-submarine course.

## ITALIAN DESTROYER SUNK

Rome, Thursday.

An official communiqué admits that a destroyer has been sunk by a British submarine in the Ionian Sea, adding that the major part of the crew was saved.

The communiqué goes on to say that the British renewed their air bombardment of Tobruk and dropped bombs on Juru and Safeto, in Kenya, and on Adigalia and Galabat, on the Sudan-Abyssinian frontier. — Reuter.

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> Pay Day.

Repairs on funnel completed today, furnace & shaft returned. Camouflaging on other ships of squadron & destroyers.

H.M.A.S. HODART'S Plane bombed Ft. Somoliland.

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Shifted berth to be de-magnetised. (warming over side.)

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> Finished de-magnetising and shifted back to old berth.

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> (In harbour.) Australian Soldiers came aboard. No air raids since 1<sup>st</sup> August.

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Put to sea 5-30 am. this morning for usual patrol of the islands including "Crest".

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> At sea with H.M.S. Neptune and 4 destroyers. "Plane" catapulted off for reconnaissance flights.

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> At sea. Plane catapulted off again, expected attacks by torpedo boats during last night but none came, on way back to Alex.

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>. Arrived at Alex. this morning.  
~~arrived~~ H.M.S. Kent 8" Cruiser entered harbour  
we thought that it was the  
H.M.S. "Bantua".

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> There was an air raid lasting  
2 hours last night, from 11 to  
12 pm. bombs were dropped  
and 1 bomber was shot down by  
A.A. fire. No further air-raids today.

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> } Emergency cruiser (no leave.)  
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> }

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> In harbour. Battle Fleet put to sea  
with destroyers.

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> Battle Fleet still at sea.

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> Battle Fleet returned last night,  
after bombarding "Bardia" and  
"Libya" much damage done by  
the 15" guns of the battleships.

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> Same lads of the 2<sup>nd</sup> A.I.F. came aboard  
Amphiban hoisted off this  
morning for air patrol

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> Out to sea 10-30 this morning  
proceeding to Bardia, to cover  
destroyers and gunboat on way  
back to Alex.

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> More damage caused by  
destroyers at Bardia, on way  
back to Alex. should arrive  
tonight.

Sunday 25. Arrived in harbour 7 o'clock  
last night "emergency cruiser".

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> Air-raid last night lasted  
2 hours bombs dropped but no  
damage sustained to the Fleet.  
The raider was forced down on  
the desert and is on fire in  
Alexandria, riddled with bullet  
holes.

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> Large hits are now flown  
from the ships as a precaution  
against dive bombers. mail and  
papers came aboard.

Wednesday 28. "Emergency cruiser today."  
The Australian destroyer "Wakerhen"  
was alongside for 2 days getting repaired.  
- 24 guns -



# British Warships Again Bombard Italian Bases

## Enemy Objectives at Bardia and Bomba Shelled

On Friday night British naval forces steaming along the coast of Cyrenaica bombarded the two Italian harbours of Bardia and Bomba, 20 and 160 miles north-west of Sollum respectively.

In the case of Bardia, the British units actually entered the harbour and shelled enemy objectives at point-blank range. Bardia, the key-point for Marshal Graziani's troop concentrations in Libya, has been repeatedly bombed by the R.A.F. and ten days ago was the object of a combined attack by British naval and air forces, when nine enemy planes were destroyed and many shells scored direct hits on targets in Bardia.

At Bomba, the Italian sea-plane base further along the coast which was also shelled by British naval units on Friday night, four Italian warships — namely, two submarines, one destroyer and a submarine depot-ship — were destroyed recently by a brilliant R.A.F. attack reported in the R.A.F. communique issued on Friday.

As in the case of the British naval bombardment of ten days ago, the British units suffered no casualties.

### Dessie Bombed

Aden, August 27.

The Italian base at Dessie was bombed and considerable damage done to the aerodrome, buildings and transport vehicles. Two fires were started. An extensive reconnaissance was carried out by French pilots. All our aircraft returned safely. — (Reuter).

# ITALIAN BOMBER ON VIEW IN CAIRO

## Crowds See Captured War Material

**A**N INTERESTING DISPLAY OF WAR material captured from the Italians opened near the Midan Ismailia, in Cairo, yesterday.

The outstanding exhibit is a Savoia 79 Bomber brought down in an action over the Western Desert on August 17. The pilot responsible for shooting it down also brought down two other machines in the same action. He was flying a single-engined fighter. The wings of the Italian machine, a giant 3-engined aircraft, are made of wood, whereas British aeroplanes are of all-metal construction.

### 600 Bullet Holes

There are over 600 bullet holes in the machine, which are plainly visible from the side of the enclosure.

The Savoia 79 is the latest type of bomber in use throughout Libya, Italian East Africa and the Dodecanese. The wing span is 86.3' and the length 53.2'. The machine landed without lowering its wheels, which accounts for the damage on the underpart of the body. It then tipped up on its nose and the impact bent the propellers. Of the crew of five, three were killed and the pilot and observer wounded.

Other exhibits consist of ten 20 m/m Breda guns for use against tanks or aeroplanes. Upwards of 80 of these weapons, which bear the factory mark "Milano 1939," were captured by the British, together with 1,160,000 rounds of ammunition and a dump of 6 million rounds of small arm ammunition.

### "Death Trap" Tank

On the east side of the enclosure a small Fiat Ansaldo tank is on view. This carries a crew of two. There is no gun firing to the rear, which makes it vulnerable to attack from that direction and indeed they have proved veritable death-traps. A number of these tanks have been captured in Libya. Aerial photographs of bombing attacks on various objectives in Libya and East Africa are displayed in show-cases near the marquee, and a glass-fronted case contains various types of ammunition.

### The General's Car

An Italian Staff Officer's sleeping-car is exhibited on the north side of the enclosure. It was being used by the General who was captured in Libya in the early stages of the war and who is now in a prisoners-of-war camp somewhere in Egypt. Now, together with many another Fiat captured over the eastern border it has a W.D. number plate, and has become most useful British Army equipment.

A large crowd of Egyptians of all classes visited the exhibition yesterday, and listened with interest to the description of the airlight resulting in the capture of the bomber, which was given over loud-speakers at regular intervals.

BOOK PLACE AT 3.30 P.M.  
 Mrs. J. C. Armstrong of Cairo, to  
 Tyrrell Mathews, Indian Army,  
 son of Major and Mrs. F. W.  
 London.

The Rev. A. J. Wilcox, M.A.,  
 Deputy Chaplain General, officiated, assisted by the Rev. A. T. Burrell.

The bride, who was given away by her father, looked charming in a princess frock of white and silver larme with long sleeves, heart-shaped neck and a small train. Her white tulle veil was held in place by a wreath of orange-blossom, and she carried a bouquet of white roses.

She was attended by three small bridesmaids, Angela, Patricia and Diana Lese, the daughters of Col. and Mrs. J. E. Lese. They wore long picture frocks of pink organdie, with wreaths to match, and carried Victorian posies. Their brides were the gift of the bridegroom.

Mrs. Armstrong wore a frock of commander blue georgette with a navy blue hat to match. Mr. A. T. Murray, Indian Army, was Best Man. After the ceremony there was a largely attended reception at 18, Victoria Building, Zamalek.

**TWO M.C.'S  
 For Officers  
 In Middle East**

The Commander-in-Chief, Middle East, has granted the following immediate awards to officers and other ranks for outstanding bravery, initiative and leadership in recent operations.

**M.C. — Captain G. W. Gesehe**  
 B.H.A. for gallant and daring  
 conduct.

With four guns only he engaged a column of 100 enemy vehicles escorted by 12 guns for over one hour, his O.R. party being in the view of the enemy and under fire. As a result of this action, enemy forties and seven field guns were disabled and abandoned. Throughout the whole period he showed conspicuous dash and leadership in the handling of his guns, and his coolness and gallantry in observing their fire under artillery fire was largely responsible for the heavy damage inflicted on the enemy.

**M.C. — Captain H. S. Dartlett**

0615... 1st degree of machine  
 0625... action Capapalt's new close up  
 0600... Capapalt aircraft 8-20 lbs bombs  
 0615... Break w/t silence to same aircraft  
 0625... Spin fire  
 0640... approx... cease fire  
 0645... Surrender

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> At Sea.

Passed through Rose straits  
on way to Tuda Bay (Cuba)  
Arrived at Tuda Bay 1915 this morning.  
Air raid bombs dropped near Max  
no damage. Put to sea again 1130 to  
join convoy.

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> At Sea.

Patrolling off Malta. H.M.S.  
Newcastle came out to join fleet.

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> At Sea.

Still patrolling off Malta, heading  
towards Libyan Coast. Aircraft  
from Eagle are carrying out a dawn  
raid on Tripoli tomorrow.

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> At Sea. Aircraft returned  
from raid, which was very  
successful. Heard later that

H.M.S. "Renown" was "Ramille"

Aircraft Carrier "Ark Royal" and  
5 Cruisers are chasing an enemy  
force of 3 battleships + cruisers.

Latest report was that one battleship  
was damaged.

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Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> We left dry dock this morning  
till repairs are executed, when  
they are finished we shall enter  
dock again. (All night leave)

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> In harbour. (All night leave).

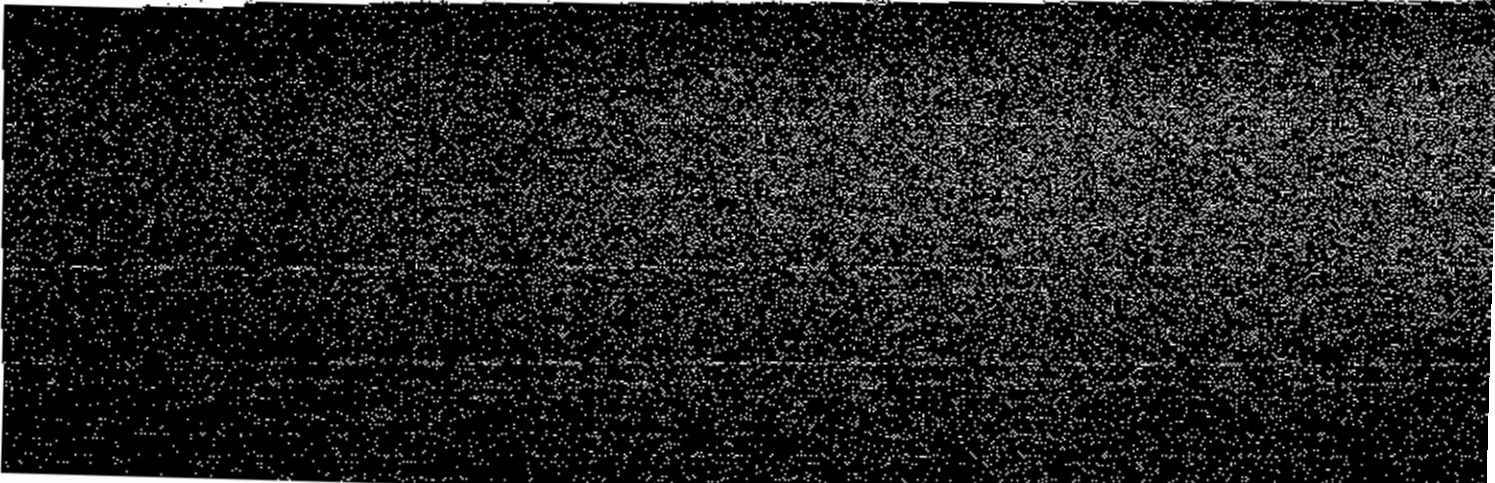
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> " " " " " "  
air raid warning sounded, no bombs  
dropped.

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Two submarines entered harbour  
after sinking supply ships.

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> Mock air-raids on fleet by  
planes of Fleet air arm.

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Ship company photograph.  
taken this morning for  
presentation to Sydney Town Hall  
and citizens of Sydney.  
Battle Fleet put to sea this  
afternoon, leaving Warship "Ramilles"  
and "Sydney" with French ships in  
harbour. Convoy from Australia  
arrived. - S.N.F.G.S. -

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> ordinary mail from Australia  
arrived on board.



Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> Entered floating dock to get our screws finished. alsoudder repaired.

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> In dry dock. Preliminary air raid all night.

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> Left dock today repairs completed except udder which cannot be fixed here. ship under sailing orders again, back to 2000 hours again.

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Battle fleet entered harbour after being at sea 6 days.

H.M.S. "Hunt" a cruiser like H.M.S. "Banshee" was hit by an aerial torpedo off Libya. 37 killed 60 injured. explosion in "Y" turret caused many to be drowned in air.

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> I lifted berth in harbour. "swimming over side". Air raid last night bombs fell in harbour but nothing was hit. (aircraft returned) from Bahrain.

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> In harbour (Aquatic sports)  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> Dummy air raids on Fleet,  
swimming over side (water polo)  
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> Ship is getting ready to proceed  
to sea this afternoon.

We put to sea at 1400. first time  
for nearly a month. the longest spell  
we have had in harbour since  
leaving Australia.

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> At sea. Making for vicinity  
of Pappus, to shadow the  
minelayer H.C.S. Protector, which  
reported enemy surface <sup>sub</sup> in vicinity.  
We are on another solo run  
this time, so we may meet up  
with something.

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> Entered harbour last night,  
at 1-30 am. 1330.

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> In harbour } Provision ship.  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> In harbour }  
Saturday } Emergency Cruiser.  
Sunday } Whaler race.  
Making ready for sea.

Monday 30<sup>th</sup>. At sea with fleet and  
destroyers General sweep towards  
Italy & Malta. Heavy air raids  
today, tons of bombs whistled  
down, but no damage was sustained.  
Gloucester & Liverpool put into Malta  
to disembark soldiers with the  
Stuart, the Voyager came out.  
These ships join us tomorrow.  
Tonight the fleet is being spread  
out a distance of 10 miles between  
each ship searching for the Ibi fleet  
which has been reported at sea.  
An enemy aircraft which was  
shadowing the fleet was shot  
down this morning by FAA fighters.

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> "OCTOBER"

At Sea. Ships closed in again  
this morning without seeing  
anything. Joined by the Gloucester,  
Liverpool & Voyager 6.00 this afternoon.



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Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup>

At sea. Left Battle Fleet in  
Company with USS Orion, proceeding  
to bombard "Thampalia" an  
Italian possession in the Med at  
midnight tonight.

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>. Bombardment carried out  
successfully last night.

40 rounds were fired 5 each gun  
at the island port. speed firing at  
30 knots, extra speed in the  
withdrawal 32.2 knots for 2 hours.  
31 knots till daylight, till we  
were well away from enemy  
aircraft bases, which are in  
abundance round where we were  
bombarding. we were expecting  
attacks by E boats by none came.  
On way back to harbour, should  
arrive at 1900.

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Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>. In harbour.

Dequaying gear being put  
around ship, magnetic mines.

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>. Still dequaying.  
Shifted berth.

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>. In harbour, no air raids  
for quite a while.

Monday 7<sup>th</sup>. Out to sea with battle  
fleet at 0830.

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>. At Sea, on lookout for  
I & I Fleet reported at sea.  
Two submarines were sunk  
today by our destroyers.

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> At Sea. Battle Fleet consists  
of H.M.S. Illustrious & Eagle  
(aircraft carriers)

H.M.S. Warspite. Flagship.

H.M.S. Valiant

H.M.S. Renown

H.M.S. Malaya.

} Battleships.

Crucier. H.M.S. York, Gloucester, Liverpool,  
Oman, Ajax & Sydney.

2 H.M.S. ships "Calcutta" and "Cromwell".

About 20 destroyers  
also submarines.

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> At Sea.

1 submarine has been sunk today. No sign of Ebi Fleet yet! We have an Australian news B.I.F. correspondent with us this trip.

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> At Sea.

Four submarines sunk today, probably more, depth charges being dropped by destroyers nearly all day. Destroyer, "Imperial" hit mine, but still floating and proceeded to Malta. We are about 3 miles off Malta, waiting for convoy picked up convoys and headed for Alex. spread out as usual for night patrol.

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>. It has been a bad day for us so far. more subs sunk. 2 E boats sunk by "Spice". 1 Ebi destroyer was bombed and consequently sunk after blowing up. The "York" 8" cruiser accelerated it.

with gunfire. The 4<sup>th</sup> cruiser squadron  
and 3<sup>rd</sup> cruiser squadron chased ~~them~~  
a remaining destroyer home, nearly  
to Taranto. Speed 33 knots with funnels  
streamed. These were run away and we  
were doing 34.5 knots. The *Eti* ships had  
too much start so we packed up,  
when nearing Italy. On our way,  
we passed *Eti* submarines in the  
water, the "York" picked them up on way  
back to join battle fleet.

The time is 5-30 P.M. and we are chasing  
an enemy squadron of 3, 8" cruisers  
and a number of destroyers, have left  
convoy, and after the enemy which  
is supposed to be coming in tonight.  
It is raining heavily, the first rain  
since being here, and visibility is  
bad.

4<sup>th</sup> Cruiser Squadron { *Sydney*, *Orian* and  
*Agincourt* }  
3<sup>rd</sup> " { *Liverpool*, *Gloucester* }  
*York*

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> At Sea. Rained for second day  
in succession. We missed the action  
with the cruisers, and rejoined  
convoy late on. Part of the fleet  
carried out a bombardment last  
night.

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> At Sea. It is presumed that  
many Iri subs were sunk today  
judging by the depth charges let go.  
We are circling the Island of Crete.

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>

Arrived in harbour after  
lunch today. Last night  
the liner Liverpool was hit forward  
by an aerial torpedo. An explosion  
later on, damaged her completely  
blowing off her foredeck. She  
was taken in tow by the  
H.M.S. Orion. Latest was she was  
making 9 knots stern first to  
harbour.

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>

In harbour. Casualties  
on Ajax, 13 killed 38 wounded.

## CRUISER DAMAGED

on, Thursday,  
announces that  
the liner "Liverpool,"  
was damaged in  
by an enemy  
aircraft. The  
striking to her  
side in the Medi-  
the attack was  
now safely in  
ere not heavy.  
of the damage  
it was known  
had reached

continued

In action with 2 bi destroyers  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> In harbour

Air raid last night, bombs  
dropped in harbour, one falling  
on battery. U.S.S. Valiant ~~was~~  
while coming through mine-fields  
they could not manoeuvre. U.S. was  
supposed to be the amount killed <sup>(wounded)</sup>  
The enemy planes were driven off  
two were shot down.

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> In harbour.

The casualties on the "Liverpool"  
● killed 30 wounded.

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> In harbour. Air raid  
last night for 2 hours, plane  
brought down.

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> In harbour.

Air raid again last night  
by six bi planes, bombs were  
dropped most fell into the sea.

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> In harbour.

Air raid again last night  
no damage

FIRST DRAFT TO AUSTRALIA.

A.E.F.

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> In harbour. Air raid  
again last night, very  
little sleep these nights.

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> In harbour.

Air raid exercises on  
fleet by our own planes.

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> In harbour.

Fin & Willis come ashore  
packed their kit. They arrived  
back about 3 hrs. late and got  
a days rest.

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> Put to sea 4-30 this

morning ~~or~~ with H.M.S. Orion  
and 2 destroyers H.M.S. Juno & H.M.S. Jarvis  
on a contraband patrol to the  
Dardanelles, 1<sup>st</sup> degree while passing  
through ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> Straits.

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> At sea. passing many  
small islands. destroyers  
inspected two neutral vessels but  
were let go seeing that they were  
carrying no contraband to Italy.



Hand attack from America  
famed ship beginning  
of packet sent/Boh. 1910.

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> At Sea. Intercepted 2 more  
ships this morning, and they  
proceeded on their way after  
being examined. We are now  
steaming past Gallipoli into  
the Dardanelles. The Great War  
Memorial are plainly visible from  
the ship. There are the wrecks  
of 3 British warships which were  
run in the last war piled  
up on the shore.

Our plane was catapulted off  
this afternoon to search for convoys.  
We have met up with a convoy and  
proceeding back to Alexandria.

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> At Sea.

At 0800 this morning we  
got the news that "Greece declared  
war on Italy". We are now making  
towards Alex. at the fastest speed  
of the ~~fastest~~ slowest ship. Expect to  
arrive at 5-70 tonight.

Plane catapulted off again this morning  
and is flying to Alex.



Monday (continued)

Arrived in Alex. on schedule  
mail came aboard, oiling ship  
Preparing to proceed to sea again  
at short notice

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> Refueled, and put to sea again  
at 2330.  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 11 P.M. with  
"Battle Fleet" On patrol to Crete  
and surrounding Islands.

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> At Sea.

Planes from the  
Air Craft Carrier bombed the island  
of Rhodes (Iti. air base) with success  
last night. ~~except~~ expect action  
with enemy fleet tomorrow,  
although they have been reported  
still in their harbour, and very  
likely they will venture out to  
engage us. The sea is quite choppy  
and we are rolling a good deal.  
The "Ajax" is not with us on this  
patrol owing to being unseaworthy some  
during her action with enemy destroyers.

Wednesday (continued)

The "Lydney" is second in command of the Fleet and in command of the light forces while this present patrol is in progress.

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> At Sea. patrolling along the coast of Greece met us with nothing so far.

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER

At Sea. Still patrolling round "Greece" very close inland. Raiders came over today, no damage sustained to Fleet.

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> At Sea.

We had the torpedo Bombers over today, we fired a very heavy barrage, including 6" they fly as low as 500 feet and launch their torpedoes at the ships; which they did but none came near our ships, but very close, too close in fact.

Saturday (continued.)

We are now on our way back to Alex. with half the Fleet; the other half has gone to our new base at the Isle of "Cret". Suda bay is the place and we will be going there shortly. We are expecting to arrive at about 12 o'clock tonight.

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>. Arrived at Alex. at 2300. Last night refuelled ready for sea again.

Monday 4<sup>th</sup>. Put to sea at 1100, making 30 knots for Port Said. expect to arrive there at 1930.

Arrived at Port Said on schedule anchored in the mouth of the "Canal" ready to refuel and take on army stores and soldiers.

Luda Bay is likely to be our new base  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  way to Italy.

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>.

Shifted back to Italian  
department to take on  
soldiers, ship is being stored  
with provisions for the soldiers  
we had 500 soldiers on board  
for transport to "Luda Bay"  
Ship is well laden with Army  
equipment, gunnammeter carried  
Left for "Luda Bay" at 1030.  
doing 28 knots all the way  
in company with U.S. Ajax,  
which is on the same operation  
as ourselves. Altogether there are  
52 officers down aft. 21 Army below  
the ship expects to arrive at  
"Luda Bay" at 1430 tomorrow  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> At Sea. Soldiers

Swathes  
sea rich.  
color as mill pond.

Everywhere all over the place  
passed through "Koro" straits  
1030 this morning, expecting  
Iki. bombs, but only had  
two raids negative damage

"Suda Bay" is a litta bay in the Gulf of  
and a perfect anchorage for fleet "Bessie"

Wednesday (continued)

Arrived at "Suda Bay"  
on schedule, and tied up  
alongside a little wharf "Sjane"  
pulled in on other side.

Started disembarking stores  
and soldiers finished unloading  
in two hours. 8 hrs. was allowed  
for it to be unloaded, but  
everybody got stuck into it  
and finished early.

Aircraft party went ashore,  
pilot and observer to reconnoiter  
the land.

Ship moved out to an anchorage  
in the bay, extra half hour  
sleep in, in the morning.

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>. Still in "Suda Bay"

waiting for oil tanker to  
arrive in convoy. Started  
refueling at 0930. Putting to  
sea at noon.

Put to sea by ourselves at noon,

to meet up with the fleet off the coast of Greece. Passed convoy of seven <sup>ships</sup> on way out loaded with stores and equipment for "Luda Boy", "Watuken" and "Vampire" was with them.

Met up with the fleet at 1700 proceeding to Malta to pick up reinforcements from Gibraltar.

~~Thursday~~

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> At Sea. Patrolling with Fleet towards Malta.

Sea is very rough.

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> At Sea. Left the Fleet 12 noon today for lone patrol in the direction of Malta.

A floating mine was sunk by machine-gun fire today about 150 yards away.

Expect to meet Fleet and reinforcements tomorrow morning. Sea is rough as ( )

(continued) Roughly we fired about  
260 rounds, also firing 4"  
star shells to illuminate the  
target. After about 1/2 hour we  
left all the ships afloat or sunk  
along with the two enemy destroyers  
which engaged us. Two torpedoes  
were fired from us, the first one  
missed, the second found its  
target, with a terrific explosion.  
We then turned about and left  
at full speed, with Italy in sight  
on a starboard beam. Expect to  
rendevous with Fleet at 0900 in  
the morning.

Tuesday, 12. N. Leo.

Met up with Fleet this  
morning, passing round coast of  
Greece. Heard that aircraft from  
"Illustrious" raided Taranto and sunk  
two I.t. battleships. Two planes  
were shot down this morning, and  
two in the afternoon, by our <sup>fighter</sup> ~~fighters~~

## British Access

November 13.  
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Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>. At Sea.

On way back to Alex.  
at last, should arrive there in  
the morning same time.

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>. Arrived at Alex. 0630

this morning all night leave  
to 25% ship's company. Last  
night Alex had an air-raid 200  
people killed. Premier of Egypt died.

Friday 15<sup>th</sup>. Preparing for sea. Shifted  
beer to wharf to embark

300 soldiers and stores for  
transport to Greece. Sailed at

1700 for Greece doing 32 knots.

in company with H.M.S. Glasgow  
H.M.S. "Yak", "Berwick", "Glawson" and

"Ocean" have already left, should meet  
with them later on, half of

soldiers come from Cyprus. "Cypriote"

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> At sea. Still doing 30 knots

had numerous alarms throughout  
the night, but the ships identified  
themselves, passing numerous islands  
in the Dodecanese Group.



Saturday (continued)

Should arrive in the Port of Athens tonight or this afternoon.

Entered the Gulf of Athens and passed two Greek destroyers on way out to sea. Time of arrival is 1400. <sup>GREEN</sup> Pelat came aboard with much pomp, and ceremony, streaming towards our hulk, all the Greek people are shouting and whistling as we ~~pass~~ <sup>recur</sup> along side. Started disembarking soldiers and stores. Greek sailors on wharf are swapping their cap shells for "K.M.A.S. Young" tally. Finished unloading and moved to another hulk waiting for further orders. Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> In harbour. Greek people are watching us from a nearby hill.

Tailed at 2 o'clock to cover Greek convoy for Greece from Port Said.

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> At Sea. Met up with convoy this morning, patrolling round in circles.

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> At Sea.

Left convoy, we are now making towards Abn, arriving there sometime tomorrow forenoon.

Passing through "Kao strait" tonight at 2000.

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> At Sea.

Should arrive in harbour today some time.

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> In harbour.

Went ashore first time for month. Air raid exercises.

many civilians killed and wounded ashore in air raids - while fleet was at sea.

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> In harbour.

Air raid last night, more civilian casualties.

Preparing for sea, in the morning.

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> At Sea. To patrol and cover convoys. "Ramilles", "Barham", "Eagle" and "Orion" with 4 destroyers in company.

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> At Sea.

Passed through Rose straits  
on way to Tuda Bay (Cull)  
Arrived at Tuda Bay 1915 this morning.  
Air raid bombs dropped, near by  
no damage. Put to sea again 1130 to  
cover convoy.

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> At Sea.

Patrolling off Malta. 11 AM

Newcastle came out to join fleet

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> At Sea.

Still patrolling off Malta, heading  
towards Libyan Coast. Aircraft  
from Eagle are carrying out a dawn  
raid on Tripoli tomorrow.

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> At Sea. Aircraft returned  
from raid, which was very  
successful. Heard later that

H.M.S. "Renown" was "Ramillie"

Aircraft Carrier "Ark Royal" and

5 Cruisers are chasing an enemy

force of 3 battleships + cruisers.

Latest report was that one battleship  
was damaged.

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> M. Sea.

Still patrolling of Malta.  
one Ith cruiser & battleship  
damaged & destroyer sunk  
by the Gibraltar fleet.  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> M. Sea.

Still patrolling  
on way back to Alex should  
arrive there tomorrow (am).

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> In harbour. arrives  
yesterday 1400. all night leave.  
H.M.S. Manchester & H.M.S. Southampton  
arrived at Alex.

December  
1<sup>st</sup> In harbour.

H.M.S. Woolwich (destroyer repair ship)  
arrived in Alex. rammed the  
hospital ship "Haine" little damage  
done. (divisions)

Mon. 2<sup>nd</sup> In harbour

a new sloop arrived.  
Tue. 3<sup>rd</sup> In harbour.

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> In Harbour.

Glaucosken hit by torpedo  
fore and aft at "Luda Bay"

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> Put to sea for sub  
calibre shoot, with "Gax" +  
Orion. returned 0530.

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Put to sea to provide  
cover for convoy to Luda Bay  
(sea very rough), accompanied by  
Orion + (Gax)

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> P.M. course for Luda Bay.  
Arrived Luda Bay 1230.

Snow visible on Mountain Peaks.

Put to sea again at 3430, cover  
convoy to Pireus. Pireus.

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Arrived Pireus 1030.

Report of Greek Victory much cheering  
in Athens leave till 2330. Starboard watch

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Alongside Pireus HMS Orion  
left for Alex. Port watch

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> alongside at Pireus put to  
sea 1630. No leave.

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> At Sea.

En route to "Suda Bay" Crete.

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> At Sea.

Arrived Suda Bay 1100. Left

Suda Bay 1430, very rough through night.

Friday 13<sup>th</sup>. Arrived Piraeus 1000, visited

ruins ashore in Athens. "Acropolis"

14.14.3. Coventry reported to have been

hit by aerial torpedo. Starboard watch.

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>. Alongside at Piraeus. Put to

sea 1630, En route "Suda Bay"

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> At Sea.

Arrived "Suda Bay" 0830.

Parted company with "Orion" 0230,

Left Suda Bay 1300, en route for

"Piraeus" with convoy.

Monday 16<sup>th</sup>. Arrived Piraeus 0930 anchored

in the bay. Convoy proceeded

into harbour. Mail came aboard

from "Orion". Left Piraeus 1200 for

"Suda Bay" speed 28 knots arrived

Suda Bay 1900. Biler came alongside

top-up fuel. Left Suda Bay 0330

to rendezvous with Fleet and cover

(Continued) convoy to Malta.

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> At Sea very rough.

Met Battle-Fleet this afternoon, and cruisers, a big offensive is going to take place.

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> At Sea still rough.

Tonight the Battleships, "Valiant" and "Warspite" are bombarding "Valona" an Albanian port, while the Cruisers "Sydney" & "Orion" proceed ahead into the Adriatic Sea to cover them.

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> "Valiant" & "Warspite" successfully

bombarded "Valona", 54 rounds

15" were fired by each ship,

which caused enormous fires

and damage. We did not see

anything although we were well

up past "Orion" & "Dreadnaught"

turned about at ~~0130~~ <sup>0130</sup> at 23 knots

following the battleships.

At present 3<sup>rd</sup> Cruiser Squadron is detached from Battle Fleet.

Friday 20<sup>th</sup>

Ship was sighted about midnight identified as Italian hospital ship, it was shadowed till 0900 by us.

Opened fire on Italian reconnaissance plane, HMS Ajax opened fire on low flying aircraft.

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> Left Cruise Squadron en route to "Luda Bay"

0900 opened fire on floating mine (missed it) practice A.A. gunfire arrived Luda Bay 2330. embarked aircraft.

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Left Luda Bay 0800 en route to Malta, Passed floating (this time sunk it.)

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>

En route to Malta.

set two mines adrift,

arrived Grand Harbour "Valetta" 1100. Looked over Submarine "Stuart" Stuart Decoy Imperial in dock for repairs.



Micra.

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>

Ashore at Valletta.

Down the "Gut". Sydney went into dock no 4. (Starboard watch 48 hrs leave.)

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas day.

Returned to ship 0700 for Xmas dinner. Xmas celebrated with zest, open gangway so went off.

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> Ship undergoing repair, all scuttles being closed up, rudder being repaired.

Alex.

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> Leave up.

Port watch 48 hrs leave. very wet day.

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> Air raid alarm 1030-1115  
no bombs dropped.

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> Air raid again 1130-1115  
bombs dropped "no damage".

3 bombers 5 fighters passed overhead, R.A.F. prevented another squadron from reaching Malta.

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> Still in dock, hell of a noise, with riveters working night and day, rudder taken off to be repaired.

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup>.

(Down the Gut) "Matter Laci"

"New Year's Eve."

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> Very quiet last night  
quietest night of the year.  
burned in 9-30.

Just the same today cold and  
miserable.

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> Still raining "Red Lion"  
(very good!)  
cold and miserable

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>. Rudder back in place  
again, dock half flooded

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> Pictures.

Still raining!

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Left dock ~~at~~ 1000 for  
Hamilton wharf, refuelling  
ship.

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Alongside, reammunition  
ship + provision, (Food bayes)

Bardia. taken by H.M.S. tonight.  
few casualties.

H.M.S. "Glasgow", H.M.S. "Dumfriesshire", H.M.S. "Juno"  
arrived in Malta to refuel. + Flex

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> Left Malta 1600 for  
rendevous with Fleet, in  
company with "Stuart"

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>

Met up with Med. Fleet  
H.M.A.S. Perth in company.

Pipe came over, that Ship is very  
likely to return to Australia.

Ship in uproar. Many signals  
exchanged between ships.

Parted company with Med. Fleet at  
1400, on way to Alex. expect to  
arrive in Alex.

Patrolling along Bardia tonight.

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> M. Sea.

We were 40 miles off Torbruck  
at 4 o'clock this morning. Expect  
to arrive at Alexandria

2100 (~~tonight~~) tomorrow night.

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> M. Sea.

Expect to arrive at Alex.

2100 tonight.

Arrived in Alex. on schedule. 96  
bags of mail ashore. "balloon barrage"  
in operation.

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> At Alexandria

provision ship, expect to depart from Alex. about 1600. All flags flying (Egyptian & mas) 1600. departed from Alex. with band playing on ax, en route to 22 knots Port Said. should arrive there about 0200. and proceed through the Canal. Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>. On way through Suez Canal at 8 knots. held up by dust storm in one of the lakes.

visibility about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile.

Passed through Canal at 2000, refuelled at Port Suez, Departed Suez 2150 at 28 knots to overtake convoy travelling to "Mambasia", then refuelling at Seycelle Islands, the next stop should be "FREEMANTLE" with good fortune.

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> At Sea (Red Sea) passed convoy 30 miles astern. Turned about for it to catch up.

aircraft catapulted off. Met up with convoy 1200 of ships "Empress of Canada, Orford, "Oncaes", "Mathmanii", "Mathnanii", "Mathallan", "Viceroy of India", "Duchess of Athol", ~~and~~ "Dominion Star"

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> In Red Sea.

Still with convoy, weather very hot. H.M.S. Kimberly, H.M.S. Carlisle (C) cruiser in company. Aircraft Capapulled, proceeded Aden.

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> Red Sea.

Orders to proceed to Aden with Empress of Canada remaining about 8 hours. Should arrive Aden 2000 tonight departing 0400 in the morning. (Refuel)

Passed slow convoy 8 ships (freighters) on way to Aden, H.M.S. "Hindustani", H.M.S. "Caledon" (C) class Cruiser in company. Also passed H.M.S. "Yarra" patrolling in the Gulf of Aden.

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> Departed Aden 0600 this morning in company with

"Empress of Canada", rendezvous with rest of convoy 1600 tonight. Met up with convoy, proceeding to vicinity of "Mombasa".

Should arrive at Fremantle 31<sup>st</sup> January 1941 if we don't run into a raider.

Negative second degree of readiness, defence stations only with down stand; 1000

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> Indian Ocean.

Still with convoy.

Weather very hot (3 watches.)

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> Indian Ocean. with convoy

Intercepted Swedish oil tanker

Allowed to proceed after  
altering course. hot & choppy.

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> Indian Ocean. with convoy

Passed over equator into

Southern hemisphere. 1215 today  
55° 30 minutes south

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> Indian Ocean.

Reconnnoiced with HMS "Beres"

as ocean escort with convoy.

On way back to cover the arrival  
of "Shastid" & "Indes" at "Moulana".

Weather very hot and rough.

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> Indian Ocean. "rough weather"

Carrying out bombardment of  
a defended port in Italian

Somaliland, called "Mogadish" at  
dusk tonight. 1<sup>st</sup> degree 5 o'clock.

Several Cruisers have bombarded this  
place, but after a few rounds did a  
swift retreat under cover of smoke  
screen

## ① Seychelles Islands ②

① The Seychelles Group consists of 50 large islands and numerous smaller ones of total area of 156 sq. miles. "Male" is the largest (14x7) mls and most important with capital Pt. Victoria situated on it.

② History:-

1506 The islands were visited by Portuguese.

1742 First colonised by the French, hence the French names.

1794. Captured by British ships.

1815. Formally ceded to Great Britain by treaty & administration appointed.

1900. Separate Governor appointed.

~~1900. Separate Governor appointed.~~

③ Population:- About 50,000 chiefly descendants of the French (Creoles); Indian Coolies, negroes, & British officials. Creole is the principal language (French patois).

3) continued Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>

The general idea was to sink any shipping in the harbour, there is also supposed to be the raider's lair.

Not a shell was fired by us or the shore batteries, there were no ships in the harbour so we gave it up, on way out 30 knots.

The shore batteries were supposed to be 9.2 guns and unknown calibre guns also.

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Indian Ocean.

Proceeding to Seychelles Islands to refuel, expect to arrive 0900 on Friday. Speed 12 knots.

Meanwhile raider hunting.

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> Indian Ocean.

Intercepted freighter at 1200 today, was allowed to proceed.

We are on lookout for missing freighter long overdue. Flying fish around ship.



-continued.

### Geography.

The group is of coral formation and mountains, make rise to 3000 ft. The isles are fertile and abundant in succowood vegetation. The climate is very healthy & temperate.

3) Currency: Indian Rupee 100 cents 1/2

6) General. 1) The post office acts as reporting officer & Defence. None, garrison company of Indian troops at Make and local Volunteer defence force.

2) Port facilities, Cruiser anchor or moor in outer harbour. The anchorage is much studded with shoal patches. Moor ships five shackles on each. Bottom generally clear coral, but sticky in patches.

4) No water supply provision available by giving notice.

5) Air. No landing ground, six seaplanes bays in inner harbour.

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Arrived "Sechelles" 0900

this morning "refuelled"

Report by W/F from ship being  
attached by raider in the near  
vicinity. Put to sea again 0130,

doing 30 knots hoping to meet  
something before morning (2<sup>nd</sup> degree all night)

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>

Still hunting for raider.

Search for 3 days at 25 knots, then  
return to Sechelles.

Aircraft refueled.

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>

At Sea.

On way back to X Seychelles Isl.  
(Aircraft Refueled.)

Monday 27<sup>th</sup>

Arrived at "Sechelles" 0900

refuelled. departed for Fremantle

0200, expecting to arrive on 4<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> At Sea.

Painting ship.

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> At Sea.

Passed out of "Doldrums"

-continued-

6/ Medical, Government Hospital  
suitable for Naval personnel.  
No Malaria or Typhoid.

v. o. Prevalent.

7/ Cyclones are of rare occurrence.

NOV  
OF

ammunition expended by HMAS "Sydney"  
during defensive operations to date 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec. 1941

Main armament: - 6"

Left of A Turret. 370. Common pointed  
(armour piercing)

Ballistic caps

42. High Explosive

Right of A .. 372. C.P.B.C.

39 H.E.

Left of B Turret. 331 C.P.B.C.

50 H.E.

Right of B .. 320. C.P.B.C.

48 H.E.

Left of X Turret. 264 C.P.B.C.

44 H.E.

Right of X .. 264 C.P.B.C.

43 H.E.

Left of Y Turret. 255 C.P.B.C.

40 H.E.

Right of Y .. 260 C.P.B.C.

44 H.E.

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup>. Indian Ocean.

Cleaning ship painting deck  
Into Easterly Trade Winds.

Friday 31<sup>st</sup>. Indian Ocean.

Distance from Fremantle was  
2053 miles at noon today.

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup>. Indian Ocean.

Passed out of Tropics 0800  
This morning. (Australian Station  
tomorrow)

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>. St. Sea.

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>. St. Sea.

Ran into cyclone 100 miles  
an hour. ship hove too  
slipping astern.

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>. St. Sea.

Cyclone put us a day  
behind schedule expect to arrive  
alongside at Fremantle 0650  
in the morning.

Wednesday.

NOM  
OF

Bartolomeo Gallenae  
Sunt 19<sup>th</sup> July 1940

The Sydney's action

H.M.A.S. Sydney.

It was early Thursday morning when  
the Sydney put to sea,  
With only four destroyers to keep us  
company

The Japs dont know of us coming  
no zoomers come in sight.

Night action stations sounded off  
and we spent a peaceful night.

And the morning (dawn) stand to  
nothing seemed to miss

The crew were looking forward to a  
day of peaceful bliss,

The boys had been to breakfast  
the watch was down below,

The rest were on the upper deck  
enjoying a peaceful blow,

At eight fifteen we called along  
the boys all heard the pipe

All hands get into battle rig, the  
enemys in sight.

And to our action stations Japs' company  
all rushed,

NON  
OF

With our determined faces,  
We'll either do or bust.  
While we were waiting Jack Collins made  
the pipe,  
By crickey boys I wo cruisers, they look  
a lovely sight.  
The enemy opened fire on us, thought they  
had us bluffed,  
But they didn't know the "Sydney"  
boys who really could be rough.  
We got the order broadsides the  
salvos left the ship,  
the first one was a perfect shot  
it hit the Iki ship,  
We continued on pumping out the shells  
not one of them did miss,  
The skipper cried she's done for lads,  
This company I could kiss,  
The Iki crew dived overboard, our  
deckboys had a go.  
The cruisers now with Davy Jones sunk  
by a torpedo.  
The other boat was going fast

The one we kept our eyes on,  
But she is very far ahead of us  
fast catching the horizon.  
The mad Australians all at it again  
was the signal sent

But undeterred by such remarks  
was to action that we went.  
Now the three of us were cruisers  
our ornament the same,

and by sinking one of them we  
upheld the "Sydney" name.

The Bartolomeo was the ship's (Collini)  
second name)

And through our battle with these  
blakes we received our fame,

The Destroyers picked the survivors up  
some were the Norwich heroes

It's these gallant little boats that  
most of our respect goes

When we returned to harbour and  
steamed up to our berth,

The Fleet's crew lined up on the rails  
and cheered for all their worth.



We're looking forward to the time its  
Tjomey bound we hope.

We don't care much how near it is  
though most of us were broke  
With the surrie ensign flying from  
our foread mast,

We'll proudly dip our piece of silk  
as Bradley head we pass,

Our predecessors masthead - the ship of  
B. molen fame.

And we are proud to be the one  
that upheld her name.



FINIS.

