



1941

Battle of Matapan

Thursday: 27th of March

Left Greece. Patrolling coast. Tomorrow may be the big day.

Expect to run into Italian Fleet and Air Force. Our own Battle Fleet will be standing by with "Formidable."

Friday: 28th of March

About 7.30 attacked by torpedo bombers. Approx half hour later we sighted 8 enemy cruisers. We were 4 six inch cruisers. The enemy 8-8" and 2-6". We closed and they opened up with 8" at 32,000. We led them to what might have been our own Battle Fleet but the tables were turned and they led us to theirs.

Dago battleship "Vittorio" opened up and we were trapped between two squadrons. We went full ahead and 8" as well as 15" were landing all around us. We were being straddled, as well as spray from the 15" covering our bridge. We made smoke screen. The Fleet Air Arm then attacked the enemy bombers allowing us to get out of their range. We then shadowed them until our Battle Fleet arrived. But they were still 60 miles away. We closed to 30,000 yards again and once more 15" guns sent their projectiles at us and we had to withdraw. A couple came between our after funnel and mainmast. "Orion" had her ensign shot away. We shadowed them again. The "Vittorio" had been damaged by our aircraft. Night came and we were closing on her again, after leaving fleet at 1600. Our air arm made another attack and "Vittorio" put up a terrific A.A. barrage and flaming on con. She was also sweeping horizon with searchlight. Our destroyers had a smock with torps. We swept around for cruisers. There were terrific explosions. The Battlers fired 15" broadside at point blank range. After a while everything went quiet.

This is the greatest Naval Battle of the War. "The Battle of Matapan"

Saturday: 29th of March

Battle still on. Enemy suffering heavy losses. Our destroyers attempting to pick hundreds of survivors, but are hampered by German & Dago Air Force. Destroyers had to leave hundreds to die. Drove planes off shot down 2. C-C sends for Dago hospital ship.

Sunday: 30th of March

On way to Athens for no oil from tanker. "Bonadventure" sunk by sub. three hours after we left her. H.M.A.S. "Stuart" pick up survivors.

Monday: 31st of March

Sailed A.M. Still no oil. Enough left for five days.

Confirmed that 3-8" cruisers, 2 destroyers (Dago) sunk – Covering convoy.

Night Air Raid. One of our tiffies jumps overboard.

During raid we shot tail off a British "Blenheim" and float off a "Walrus."



Evacuation of Greece

Saturday: 5th of April

Arrived at Greece. Oiled and went up harbour with "Ajax."

Sunday: 6th of April

A.M. Germany declares war on Greece. Reconnaissance planes come over. Went ashore to Athens. Ship shifted berth meanwhile. Air-Raid on Piraeus. Tried to get back from Athens but couldn't until after all clear. About 0100 Monday morning Reached Piraeus and saw a ship blazing. Had to go aboard "Calcutta" as I couldn't reach my own ship.

Monday: 7th of April

A.M. Approx 0308 Ammunition ship blows up. "Calcutta" was lifted 3' in air. Fires spread everywhere, including "Calcutta." Couple killed on her. All ships in harbour, bar about two, as well as building around harbour burning furiously. Pieces of ship were coming everywhere. Davits, steel plates, etc. Took shelter in Piraeus. Returned to ship about 0700 in morning. Air Raid. Again sailed. Damage to our ship – One man missing one motor boat blown up.

Tuesday: 8th of April

Aegean. Covering night convoys. Moonlight nights. Pleased to leave that harbour. 25 ships sunk and harbour wrecked. Harbour Master shot. Fifth Coloumist.

Thursday: 24th of April

Patrolling Ionian. Proceeded into deep bay in Greece to evacuate troops.
A.M. Air raid warnings.

Friday: 25th of April

Covering evacuation of Greece, of 10,000 troops and nurses. Air Raid warnings all day. Took troops to Suda Bay, oiled "Stuart" 2200 sailed. Our fighters get two.

Saturday: 26th of April

Covering the evacuation of Greece. Air Raids. 2 ships hit but our destroyers get survivors took them to Suda.

Sunday: 27th of April

We evacuate troops. 946.
Air raid. Opened fire and drove aircraft off. Took them to Suda. More raids but driven off. Our fighters (F.A.A.) got two.

Monday: 28th of April

Patrolling Greece. More Air Raids. Will do more evacuating to-night. We go up to get them, but destroyer reports to us to "Get Going," as Germans have taken possession of the place. Carry on patrolling coast. Our destroyers opened up on theirs.

Tuesday: 29th of April

Air Raid. Our 88 straddled a destroyer, and got away. We opened fire. More raids through the day. Meet convoy going to Alex. 2350 E boats attack convoy. Destroyers and us open up at them. Destroyers also gets ping, but all OK.

Wednesday: 30th of April

A.M. Met Battle Fleet. Covering a convoy. Destroyers with us get a sub. none of our convoy hit. Air raids. Our fighters bring two down (Dago) and 4 stems bombers. Fighters from "Formidable."



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Thursday: 1st of May

Pay Day. Arrive in Alex. Convoy safe, making the evacuation of Greece complete. Our A.I.F. cheer as they pass up the harbour.

Ammunition ship. Some Greek and Yugoslav Warships and submarines join us.

(Lashed up to 4 days pay and leave from ship)

Battle of Crete

Monday: 12th of May

Left Alex. with rest of 7th C.S. Carried on to sea up the Libyan coast. Meet no opposition. Weather a little foggy.

Tuesday: 13th of May

“Orion,” “Ajax,” “Perth to bombard Derma to-night. Destroyers to attack harbour. Air-Force to have smack. They got air target so finish our bombardment. 200 enemy planes concentrated on aerodrome and roads adjoining. Air Raid by 12 88s. No hits by bombs. Three shot down and 4 others damaged by the cruisers.

Wednesday: 14th of May

Left Derma. R.A.F. did their job well. Was an excellent sight seeing that place go up. Air raid warnings but O.K.

Proceeded to Alex to oil at 0200.

Air Raid Warning.

Thursday: 15th of May

0500. Pay Day. Left Alex after oiling. Proceeding to sea on our own. Air Raid warning. Opened fire on Junkers 88., but no bombs dropped. Met a couple of battlers and boats.

Friday: 16th of May

Expect a German invasion of Crete covered by Wap. fleet. We split into small forces, ready to attack. Air Raid warnings but no attack.

Saturday: 17th of May

Patrolling Med. Air Raid warnings. Intend to search between Crete and Greece to-night.

2100 proceed to Alex at 25 knots.

Sunday: 18th of May

Arrived Alex. at 1600 to ammunition and store ship, will sail at 1800 tomorrow morning.

Monday: 19th of May

Sailed on our way to prevent invasion of Crete. A hard job ahead.

Troop carrying planes flying 20 in line ahead, not 1, but hundreds of them. If only our fighters were here.

Tuesday: 20th of May

Patrolling Casea Straits. Torpedo Bombers attack but they missed us all. We pass over track of fish (Torp) 30 secs later on. We did some night firing at E boats. Parachute troops landing on Crete.

Wednesday: 21st of May

Air Raid Warnings. Bombed all day. No direct hits on us but damage done through near misses. One destroyer “Juno” sunk in 30 secs. Another in 3 minutes “Kashmir.”



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Thursday: 22nd of May

Air Raids. Bombed all day again. Near misses again. One destroyer (Greyhound) and two cruisers (Gloucester and Fiji) sunk.

We sink a small sailing vessel full of Huns. Also put a few broadsides of 6" into a Wap destroyer. Also were machine gunned again by Nessevschmidt and Stukas (87s)

Friday: 23rd of May

Fleet returning to Alex. We lost two cruisers, three destroyers, 2 hits on Barham, 1 on Warspite and near misses on other including ourselves. Air Raid warnings but O.K. Some of our R.A.F. at Caso. Two more destroyers sunk.

Saturday: 24th of May

Arrived in Alex. Ammunition and repairs n Mainmast and after funnel. Which almost cut in half by bullets. Shrapnel holes in ships side everywhere. A few of our wounded taken to hospital. No deaths. Bew 4" gun bombes. Destroyers fetch in survivors. Another 6 destroyers sunk.

Sunday: 25th of May

Ammunition ship all day, result of last few days. Big German convoy smashed and sunk. All our ships damaged but successful.

(Signal from C-C we must protect Crete at all costs to ourselves.) We're the luckiest ship in the Med. Let's hope it lasts.

Monday: 26th of May

Storing ship otherwise quiet day.

Confirmed sinking of "Hood" by "Bismark."

Tuesday: 27th of May

Loading extra power boats. "Formidable," "Ajax," "Dido" and destroyers return. "Formidable" hit by bomb. Great hole in her side Starboard bow. Destroyer ("Nubian") has stern blow off. Air Raid Warnings. Our light forces sink the "Bismark." "Prince of Wales" damaged.

Wednesday: 28th of May

Went to sea. On our way to Crete. Air Raids.

Thursday: 29th of May

Air raid warnings. Will arrive Crete to-night for evacuation. Things are bad. If only we had air support.

Friday: 30th of May

Left Crete with Troops. Bombed. Air Raids. We are hit amidship by a 500lbe. Several more near misses do damage. Forhead boiler room out of action. Dusk funeral at sea 13 men 4 ship company, remainder soldiers. More wounded. 1 shot in leg. "Nizam" "Napier" pass us on return to Crete.

Saturday: 31st of May

A.M. Arrived at Alex. disembarked troops. Cleaning out debris. Also parts of dead men. Air Raid Warnings. "Orion" is badly hit 500 killed. "Dido" in bad way. About 250 killed. "Calcutta" sunk by bombs 100 miles away from Alex.

Sunday: 1st of June

Alex. Dockies working on "Nizam" and "Napier" damaged by near misses. "Phoebe" arrived full of troops. Evacuation almost complete.



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Monday: 2nd of June

Alex. Repairs. Air Raid Warnings.

Tuesday: 3rd of June

Alex. Dock yard workers on job at Fore Boiler Room.

Wednesday: 4th of June

Alex. Dockers etc., still working. Air Raid. Bombs and flares dropped but not on harbour.
Funeral firing party for men off the "Orion."

Thursday: 5th of June

Alex. Dockies, Tiffies still working. We will have to be relieved from this station.

Friday: 6th of June

Alex. Dockies & Tiffies still working.
Air Raid warning.
"Dido" leaves station.

Saturday: 7th of June

Nearly full moon. Out to the buoy. Repairs. War Correspondent to take recordings of a broadcast on board. I sent a message to Aussie. Night Air Raid. Biggest on this town. Bombed city, mined harbour. 1 shot down.

Sunday: 8th of June

Full Moon. Air Raid.
1 shot down by a "Hurricane."
"Orion" leaves station in bad way.

Monday: 9th of June

"Leander" sails with destroyer.
Painting ship. Air Raid warnings.

Tuesday: 10th of June

Air Raid Warnings.

AWOL in Alexandria and 90 Days Imprisonment

Wednesday: 11th of June

Alex. Air Raid. Got draft to "Vendetta." As "Perth" was going home and we had had a guts full my oppo and I decided to stay ashore. (Felt I would crack if much longer in Med.)

Thursday: 12th of June

Still ashore. Its great to lie back in bed in the morning.
Air Raid warnings.

Friday: 13th of June

Still ashore.

Saturday: 14th of June

A couple of Aussie soldiers gave us their uniforms to wear as camouflage.
Air Raid Warnings.



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Sunday: 15th of June

Still going strong ashore.

Air Raids. 2 enemy planes shot down.

Monday: 16th of June

Still enjoying ourselves.

Tuesday: 17th of June

Its a great life.

Air Raids. Bombs dropped in city, misses in harbour.

Wednesday: 18th of June

May go aboard. Changed our minds as we still had a few bob left.

Air Raid.

Thursday: 19th of June

Have seen quite a lot of Alex.

Friday: 20th of June

Money starting to get low.

Air Raids.

Saturday: 21st of June

Broke. Return aboard in afternoon. Placed under close arrest. Air Raids.

Sunday: 22nd of June

Close Arrest

Monday: 23rd of June

Close Arrest. Ship doing repairs.

Tuesday: 24th of June

Ship is ready for sea again. Arrest.

Wednesday: 25th of June

Sailed did speed and gunnery trials at sleeve target. Proceeding to relieve Naval forces at Palestine Station will be Haifa. Arrest.

Thursday: 26th of June

Arrived at Haifa. There are two men of "Vendetta" also on here under close arrest. Bennet Lynch and Dick Lawler.

Friday: 27th of June

Sailed from Haifa. May do bombardment to-night. Will be back in Harbour tomorrow at daybreak. Arrest.

Saturday: 28th of June

Ship again at Haifa. My oppo and I Have warrants read out 90 days in result (Len Brown). Four of us are taken ashore to Haifa Peninsula Barracks, waiting to be taken to Jerusalem.



Sunday: 29th of June, 30-31st, 5th of July

Have several air raids.

Haifa. Few planes shot down.

Saturday: 5th of July

(Had several air raid warnings Jerusalem)

Bags and Hammocks as well as about 9 sailors and their Isent were taken into a truck and transported to Jerusalem. Arrived at about 1600. Saw a chap out of Pete's division. In we went and were searched. Still managed to get my remaining two fags in.

Sunday: 6th of July

Did nothing all day

Monday: 7th of July – Tuesday: 15th of July

Did ordinary work then changed to Cook. Hence this is a great Clink. All I do all day is scrub four tables and keep a fire burning.

I am wearing a pair of army shorts and shirt, also a pair of boots and an A.I.F. hat. Growing a bit of a beard. Its not so hot though.

The routine is – Called at 5.30. Have till 6.30 to wash, make up beds and do deck.

6.30-6.40 shave (never shaved)

Also a cup of cocoa (no milk or sugar)

Till 7.00 P.T. (never did this)

Till 0900 & 30 Breakfast

" 145 Work

" 0200 & 30 Dinner (clean tasks ahead)

" 0305 Work

0400 Tea and library books

2100 Out lights

Meals weren't so hot.

Porridge, not milk or sugar	}	Breakfast
Cocoa, ditto		
Piece of bread and butter		

Little meat plate full of spuds or rice	}	Dinner
Buy Bread		

Hunk of bread and cheese	}	Tea
Tea with milk		

Bed...Three biscuits, two sheets, pillow, two blankets

Working in Cook house I used to pinch sugar etc.

Also ate the staffs stuff whilst I was up there; and indulged in their morning and afternoon tea

Monday: 11th of August

Caught taking sugar once.

No fuss. Was let off.

Tuesday: 12th of August

Reported sick. Was turned in.

Wednesday: 13th of August

Doctor saw me and I was taken to 62 General Hospital, with a touch of fever.

It was great lying back in bed with nurses running around.



After I got up, we used to gamble our cigarettes away that was issued to use there (7 a day). As well as the fags we were issued a bottle of lemonade. Got on very well with one nurse there, nicknamed "Scottie." Also got on well with the Aussie Soldiers in there. Especially with Dick Hammond. They were a great mob.

As I was due to finish my 90 days on the 26th the doctor kept me in till the 25th when I went back in for 24 hrs in which I didn't do any work.

Thursday: 26th of August

1400 Released. Went to Transit Camp where I drew a casual of £100.

As I heard where Peter was, I broke out of camp to go down to see him. It was too late that day to go so went to hospital to see Dick. As I was leaving he gave me another £100.

Slept in Jerusalem the night.

Next day travelled close on 100 miles to see Peter. Arrived there at almost 1600. He received 24 hrs Special leave to see his brother. We had a couple of days to-gether and on the 28th of August we gave ourselves up. Spent the night in Tell-A-viv.

Friday: 29th of August

Pete was taken back to Camp. I was taken to Gaza where I spent the night.

Saturday: 30th of August

Was taken back to the Transit Camp and put in the Guard Room there. There was an Englishman and a Free Frenchman in there.

Sunday: 31st of August

A Kiwi arrived to keep us company

Monday: 1st of September

A Jew is brought in. Also a Belgium who have broken out was brought back. He was going to be shot for sabotage.

Tuesday: 2nd of September

Slept all day.

Wednesday: 3rd of September

Had two teeth filled by the dentist

Thursday: 11th of September

Was brought back to Alex. where I spent the night over at H.M.S. "Nile"ⁱ

It was a racket in the Guard Room Englishman, Kiwi and myself used to break out every night and go up town.

Friday: 12th of September

Was brought back to "Hobart." Spent the night under close arrest.



1942

The Nora Muller

Tuesday: 3rd of February

Saw Commander, got Captain's.

About 12.30 sighted ship getting bombed on horizon. We increased speed and fired at them. They attacked and straddled us with bombs. S.S. "Nora Muller" was hit and set on fire. They abandoned ship, we picked up survivors. 8 women, (2 white, remainder Chinese) 1 child (2 yrs) and crew. Four died and were buried first before sunset. A couple were not expected to live. Several of remainder have been operated on. One woman with her head all bandaged up.

Wednesday: 4th of February

Arrived Batavia early in morning. Took wounded and sick ashore. Also two more corpses as two died during the night. Couple of air raid warnings.

About 15.30 in afternoon all there ashore were recalled. We shipped at about 1800. Information has been received that Jap parachute troops have landed at Banka Island. We are going to try and stop any convoys which our information says might be going there.

Invasion of Tulagi & Guadalcanalⁱⁱ

Wednesday: 5th of August

At sea. News was given us that all ships were proceeding to Tulagi in the Solomon Group to invade same.

Thursday: 6th of August

At sea. All ships went to action stations at 1100 and remained there all day.

Friday: 7th of August

Invasion of Tulagi and Guadalcanal

0610 "Quincey" opened fire on shore batteries

0615 Aircraft bombed Tulagi Harbour

0616 "Quincey" found range and target

0618 Our aircraft bombing and machine gunning Guadalcanal

0619 "Quincey" straddling targets and shots are falling dead on

0620 "Australia" opened fired

0629 Five distinct fires on shore. Destroyer opened fire on ketch (which aircraft bombed) then blew up

0631 "Aussie" firing on villages to the east

0640 "Vincennis" has opened fire on shore with her aircraft spotting for her

0643 Spotting aircraft dropped one, 1,000lb bomb on target, and completely demolished it

0649 Received signal to say that landing force is about to land. We are going to guard East End of convoy.

0650 All transports have now dropped barges in the water. No opposition from shore

0651 "Australia" and "Hobart" have hoisted Australian flag our battle ensign

0655 Have just passed that zero hour will be 0910 and that troops will land then. Have reports there are five torpedo boats in harbour (Japs)

0704 "Quincey" opened fire on five torpedo boats up the river

0714 Still bombarding. Yank battleship opened fire on other side of Island. Sending up plenty



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0715 "Aussie" and "Quincey" bombarding on other side of convoy
0733 Destroyer reports shore batteries have opened fire
0745 Gradually filling up invasion barges
0830 Invasion barges ready to land "San Juan" bombed, but fell astern. "S. J.'s" spotter reports that she had two direct hits, presumably on 2 shore A.A. batteries
0845 Invasion barges on way inshore. Large fire ashore in oil dump, shelled by "Quincey" and "Australia"
0851 "Quincey" fixes bridge over Teniga River and blows up warehouses ashore
0855 Barges nearing shore. "Hobart" stands by to bombard
0900 Bombardment by cruisers and destroyers has opened up and hammering beach. Troops expect to land in about 9 minutes
0906 Amphibian tanks have been lowered and preparing to go inshore. Our planes are gunning the beach.
0910 From observation reports there appears to be no opposition to the landing
0913 Bombardment ceases. Troops near shore
0925 First lot of barges returning. Second lot going ashore
0935 Enemy have taken cover in the woods and out aircraft are bombing them
1000 Japs have retreated to the hills. Our bombers following and giving them no rest. Except the bombardment of Tulagi is still continuing it is not unlike our practice at Koro Island
1020 "Canberra" has opened up on Tulagi. Our bombers are concentrating on ammo dumps west of the Tunga River. Twelve of our planes have landed on a Jap drome at Guadacanal. They send signal in "Have 8 bombs each, give us a large target please"
1035 Opposition on Tulagi Is. "San Juan" is throwing shells into hills. Our planes are dive-bombing and gunning the Japs.
1040 C. INC. Task Force 62 & 63 "Hope you will rock the world with your successful invasion of the Solomon and carry on with many more"
Jap heavy bombers are expected from Raboul any minute
1145 Enemy aircraft reported
0124 One plane shot down starboard side. Large stick of bombs dropped astern of us. There were 28 planes with American markings that came over and dropped bombs. The plane shot down also had American markings.
1425 20 planes approaching. Identity unknown
1432 Planes turned out to be friendly
1452 Enemy aircraft reported. We open up
1500 Dog fight overhead. Dive bomber shot down port side
1510 Two more enemy planes shot down. Six planes have been shot down all told
1650 U.S. Marines have taken Tulagi
1740 9 American planes bombing ashore
1850 Destroyers are bombarding northern end of Island. Another big fire started. "Hobart" and "San Juan" are to proceed to eastern end.
At darkness Tulagi and Guadacanal look like a main city street all lit up, with the fires ashore.
Heard we lost three other islands today.

Saturday: 8th of August

Last night could still see gun-fire. Still in action stations to-day. About 1040 had report that 40 enemy planes were heading towards us. Approx 1200 were attacked by torpedo bombers.
Between 10 and planes shot down by ack-ack fire. One transport hit. From C.T.F. 62 – "Well done."
Learnt later that while torpedo bombers attack was on, high level planes were bombing transports. Fighters got stuck into them. Had several submarine scares during afternoon. Depth charges dropped. Marines still meeting resistance ashore at Guadacanal. Supposedly by Japanese Naval men. Marines took no prisoners.



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Sunday: 9th of August

Surface action early this morning. About 0115 H.M.A.S. "Canberra" hit and sunk. "Chicago" hit with two torpedos but still afloat. Another Yank 8" on fire.

During afternoon had another air raid alarm. Cruising around Tulagi and Guadalcanal with convoy.

Monday: 10th of August

Left Tulagi and Guadalcanal last night. Still with convoy. Break into three watches. Submarine picked up. Several patterns of depth charges dropped.

Tuesday: 11th of August

Lashed up to 5 days by Commander. Still with convoy. Another submarine. Several more depth charges dropped.

Wednesday: 12th of August

Still at sea with convoy. Heading for Noumea where we expect to arrive tomorrow. In that night action at Tulagi we lost 3 cruisers, had one damaged. One destroyer lost, one damaged. Lost one transport. Believe Jap force was wiped out.

Thursday: 13th of August

Arrived Noumea about 1500. When all ships anchored, at 1900 Captain gave a talk on Solomon Islands where we learnt that H.M.A.S. "Canberra," U.S.S. "Historia," "Vincennes" and "Quincey" were sunk (Cruisers). Also three destroyers badly damaged. Also learnt that 739 hands were rescued off "Canberra."

Wednesday: 19th of August

At 0700 "Aussie," "Hobart" and three destroyers put to sea to join South West Pacific Fleet to attempt to stop Jap operations around Solomon Islands.

Thursday: 20th of August

At sea

Friday: 21st of August

Captain gave a talk and said that the Japs had made a landing in Guadalcanal, but Marines stuck into them and not one Jap was left alive. We meet carrier force. 3 carriers, 1 battleship, 10 cruisers and 12 destroyers.

Transcribed Newspaper Cuttings

March 1940

"H.M.A.S. 'Stuart'" and other Australian destroyers first mentioned in taking part in action in Med.

H.M.A.S. "Australia" puts Vichy destroyer out of action in engagement at Dahen.

H.M.A.S. "Hobart" bore brunt of battle which ? the temporary withdrawal of British forces from British Somaliland

June 1940

Italian destroyer shadowed and crippled by and Australian Destroyer

March 1941

H.M.A.S. "Perth" assisted in defending Malta against Stuka attacks, bringing down many planes.



H.M.A.S. "Perth" and "Stuart" took part in Battle of Matapan. "Stuart" with three Royal Naval destroyers helped finish off three Italian cruisers and fight enemy destroyers.

H.M.A.S. "Canberra" and H.M.S. "Leander" intercepted and sunk the "Coburg" raider supply ship and tanker "Ketty Brovig" in Indian Ocean.

June 1940

Italian submarine sunk by Australian destroyer ("Voyager")

July 1940

H.M.A.S. "Sydney" sank Italian medium cruiser "Bartolomeo Colleoni"

June 1941

June 30th (Saturday afternoon) three branches of the Australian services were in co-operative action together.

H.M.A.S. "Perth" shelled French ports in support of A.I.F. advancing in ? They were supported by Tomahawk machines of an R.A.A.F. Squadron.

Evacuation of Greece Lan-Trp.

H.M.A.S. "Perth" arrived off the beach to find Germans in occupation. The Germans had reason to wish they had not been. There is nothing more devastating than a cruiser in full blast against open and unprotected land troops. On a road from Athens to coast Stuka dive bombed 150 Anzac nurses from British hospital. The nurses moved on to their landing place through sheltering ? and ? At one point the attack was so persistent that they were forced to shelter till night in cemetery. They were rescued by and Aussie destroyer H.M.A.S. "Voyager" all safe.

H.M.A.S. "Waterhen," 1090 tons, 27 000 MF, 34 knots, armed with four 4" guns, six smaller pieces and six torpedo tubes, was the first ship lost by the R.A.N. during the war, despite the fact that most of our vessels have persistently been in the thick of things.

Her commander, Lieut. Comdr. J. H. Levain R.N. and complement of 128 were saved.

She has been maid of all work in the Mediterranean ever since. Was in battle of Calabria and Matapan and through the thick of the Grecian and Crete evacuations.

She was damaged in a bombing attack and was sunk while being towed to harbour.

Hand-written Tables at the back of the Diary

War With Japan 8th December 41 – 7th March 42

H.M.A.S. "Perth" (C)	H.M.S.	N.E.I.S. "Van Ness" (D)	Sunk
H.M.A.S. "Yarra" (S)	"Dorsetshire"		Sunk
H.M.A.S. "Vampire" (D)	(C)	Sunk	Sunk
H.M.S. "Prince of Wales" (B)	H.M.S.	Sunk	Sunk
H.M.S. "Repulse" (B)	"Hermes" (AC)	Sunk	Sunk
H.M.S. "Thanet" (D)	U.S.S. "Pope"	Sunk	Sunk
H.M.S. "Thiocian" (D) ⁱⁱⁱ	(D)	Sunk	Sunk
H.M.S. "Jupiter" (D)	N.E.I.S. "Java"	Sunk	Damaged
H.M.S. "Exeter" (C)	(C)	Sunk	Sunk
H.M.S. "Electra" (D)	N.E.I.S. "De	Sunk	
H.M.S. "Encounter" (D)	Ruyter" (C)	Sunk	Surface Action
H.M.S. "Stronghold" (D)	N.E.I.S.	Sunk	Surface Action
H.M.S. "Cornwall" (C)	"Tromp" (C)	Sunk	Dive Bomber



H.L.C. Torpedo bomber	Surface Action	Malaya	Java Sea
H.L.C. Torpedo bomber	Submarine	Hong-Kong	Java Sea
Surface Action	Submarine	Java Sea	Java Sea
High Level Bomber	Surface Action	Java Sea	
Submarine	High Level	Java Sea	
Surface Action	Bomber	Java Sea	
Surface Action		Java Sea	
Submarine	Java Sea	Indian Ocean	
Dive Bomber	Java Sea	Indian Ocean	
Dive Bomber	Indian Ocean	Indian Ocean	
Dive Bomber	Malaya	Java Sea	
Diver Bomber	Malaya	Java Sea	

Ships that Come and Go

1939-1940

H.M.S. "Hood" (BC)	Sunk	Battleship Bismark	Atlantic
H.M.S. "Ark Royal" (AC)	Sunk	Submarine	Atlantic
H.M.S. "Rodney" (B)	Damaged	Torpedo Bomber	Western Med.
H.M.S. "Royal Oak"	Sunk	Submarine	Scapa Flow
H.M.S. "Courageous" (AC)	Sunk	Submarine	English Channel
H.M.S. "Glorious" (AC)	Sunk	Surface Action	Norway
H.M.S. "Nelson" (B)	Damaged	Magnetic Mine	North Sea
H.M.S. "Malaya" (B)	Damaged	Submarine	North Atlantic
H.M.S. "Edinburgh" (C)	Sunk	Surface Action	Arctic Ocean
H.M.S. "Jervis Bay" (AMC)	Sunk	Surface Action	Atlantic
H.M.S. "Rawlipinde" (AMC) ^{iv}	Sunk	Surface Action	Atlantic
H.M.S. "El-Kantara" (AMC) ^v	Damaged	Surface Action	Atlantic
H.M.S. "Cossack" (D)	Sunk	-	-
H.M.S. "Daring" (D)	Sunk	Submarine	Atlantic
H.M.S. "Duchess" (D)	Sunk	Rammed by "Malaya"	Western Med
H.M.S. "Gypsy" (D)	Sunk	Mines	North Sea
H.M.S. "Belfast" (C)	Damaged	Mines	Firth of Forth



War With Japan

H.M.A.S. "Canberra" (C)	Sunk	Surface Action	Tulagi
U.S.S. "Chicago" (D)	Damaged	Surface Action	Tulagi
U.S.S. "Houston" (C)	Sunk	Surface Action	Java Sea

Ships that come and ships that go: Xmas 40 – July 41 Eastern Med

H.M.S. "Glasgow" (c)	Badly damaged	Torpedo bomber	Oiling in Suda Bay
H.M.S. "Liverpool" (C)	Badly damaged	Torpedo bomber	Patrol work off Crete
H.M.S. "Southampton" (C)	Sunk	Dive bomber	Malta
H.M.S. "Illustrious" (AC)	Badly damaged	Dive bomber	Malta
H.M.S. "York" (C)	Sunk	Dago Suicide Squad	Oiling in Suda Bay
H.M.S. "Bonaventure" (C) ^{vi}	Sunk	Submarine	Patrol work off Crete
H.M.S. "Tenor" (GB) ^{vii}	Sunk	Dive bomber	Tobruk
H.M.S. "Ladybird" (GB)	Sunk	Dive bomber	Tobruk
H.M.S. "Dainty" (D)	Sunk	Dive bomber	Tobruk
H.M.S. "Mohawk" (D)	Sunk	Naval action	Whilst attacking enemy convoy
H.M.S. "Formidable" (AC)	Damaged	Dive bomber	Battle of Crete
H.M.S. "Warspite" (B)	Badly damaged	Dive bomber	Battle of Crete
H.M.S. "Barham" (C)	Badly damaged	Dive bomber	Battle of Crete
H.M.S. "Orion" (C)	Badly damaged	Dive bomber	Battle of Crete
H.M.S. "Dido" (C)	Badly damaged	Dive bomber	Battle of Crete
H.M.S. "Carlyle" (AAS)	Badly damaged	Dive bomber	Battle of Crete
H.M.A.S. "Perth" (C)	Badly damaged	Dive bomber	Battle of Crete
H.M.S. "Gloucester" (C)	Sunk	Dive bomber	Battle of Crete
H.M.S. "Fiji" (C)	Sunk	Dive bomber	Battle of Crete
H.M.S. "Calcutta" (AAS)	Sunk	Dive bomber	Battle of Crete
H.M.S. "Juno" (D)	Sunk	Dive bomber	Battle of Crete
H.M.S. "Kelly" (D)	Sunk	Dive bomber	Battle of Crete
H.M.S. "Wryneck" (D)	Sunk	Dive bomber	Evacuating Greece
H.M.S. "Diamond" (D)	Sunk	Dive bomber	Evacuating Greece
H.M.A.S. "Napier" (D)	Badly damaged	Dive bomber	Battle of Crete
H.M.A.S. "Waterhen" (D)	Sunk	Dive bomber	Tobruk
H.M.S. "Defender" (D)	Sunk	Dive bomber	Tobruk
H.M.S. "Auckland" (S)	Sunk	Dive bomber	Tobruk
H.M.S. "Imperial" (D)	Sunk	Dive bomber	Evacuating Greece
H.M.S. "Kashmir" (D)	Sunk	Dive bomber	Battle of Crete
H.M.S. "Greyhound" (D)	Sunk	Dive bomber	Battle of Crete
H.M.S. "Nubian" (D)	Badly damaged	Dive bomber	Battle of Crete
H.M.S. "Aphis" (GB)	Sunk	Dive bomber	Tobruk
H.M.S. "Hyperion" (D)	Sunk	Mine	Malia
H.M.S. "Ilex" (D)	Badly damaged	Dive bomber	Syria
H.M.S. "Iris" (D) ^{viii}	Badly damaged	Dive bomber	Syria
H.M.S. "Protector" (ML)	Badly damaged	Torpedo bomber	Patrol work off Port Said
H.M.S. "Phoebe" (C)	Badly damaged	Torpedo bomber	Tobruk
H.M.S. "Nizam" (D)	Damaged	Striking wreck	Tobruk
H.M.S. "Gnat" (GB)	Badly damaged	Submarine	Tobruk
H.M.S. "Latona" (C)	Sunk	Torpedo bomber	Tobruk
H.M.S. "Hero" (D)	Badly damaged	Dive bomber	Tobruk
H.M.S. "Glenroy" (AMC)	Badly damaged	Torpedo bomber	Tobruk



Ships that come and Ships that go: July till December Eastern Med

H.M.S. "Barham" (B)	Sunk	Submarine	Sollum
H.M.A.S. "Parramatta" (S)	Sunk	Submarine	Tobruk
H.M.S. "Jackal" (D)	Badly damaged	Torpedo bomber	Tobruk
H.M.S. "Flamingo" (S)	Badly damaged	Dive bomber	Tobruk
H.M.S. "Neptune" (C)	Sunk	Mine field	Bardia
H.M.S. "Galatea" (C)	Sunk	Submarine	Egyptian Coast

B	Battleship
C	Cruiser
D	Destroyer
S	Sloop
MLC	Mine Laying Cruiser
AAS	Anti Aircraft Ship
AMC	Auxiliary Merchant Cruiser
GB	Gun Boat
AC	Aircraft Carrier

Hand-written Summaries at the back of the Diary

Evacuation of Greece

We evacuate Greece successfully. We were bombed a great deal (reason no air force on our side) but we carried out the operation very successfully.

Battle of Crete

Signal from C-C to all ships – "We must protect Crete at all costs." We break up into squadrons and smash a great invasion fleet one night by sea. Thousands of bodies floating on water. Many more on beach. But enemy air power is too great. We have lost 6 destroyers, 2 cruisers and others hit, including ourselves. We evacuate the island successfully. Parachute troops and troop carrying planes capture it.

We have no fighter support to combat the Huns, so decide to evacuate. The greatest Sea v. Air Battle of all times.

Roughly 500 planes engaged the last few days. We are bombed continually. Hit once in the Boiler Room. 13 killed. Buried at sea that night. Huns admit heavy losses. They lost about 60,000 men besides 200 planes at least. A plague breaks out later, and altogether things are bad for Jerry.

Steaming: "Perth"

January	8,370.5 miles	
	24 days at sea	A.S. 19 knots
February	3,323 miles in 10 days	
	A.S. 20 knots	
March	8890 miles	
	26 days at sea	A.S. 19 knots
April	9463 miles	
	26 days at sea	A.S. 19 knots
May	8275 miles	
	23 days at sea	A.S. 19 knots
	In past 151 days, we have done 109 days at sea	
	38,321 miles	
	A.S. 19.5 knots	



Sept 3 rd – 1939 } April – 1940 }	West Indies Station
April – 1940 } November – 1940 }	Australian Station
November – 1940 } December – 1941 }	Eastern Med. Station
December – 1941 } March – 1942 }	China Station

ⁱ HMS *Nile* refers to the Royal Navy base at Ras el-Tin Point, Alexandria, Egypt.

ⁱⁱ “Guadacanal” should be spelt “Guadalcanal;” this spelling mistake occurs throughout the subsequent diary entries

ⁱⁱⁱ HMS “Thiocian” is possibly a reference to HMS *Thracian*

^{iv} HMS “Rawlipinde” is a misspelling of HMS *Rawalpindi*

^v The only reference to a ship by the name of ‘El-Kantara’ is that of an Auxiliary Cruiser used by the French Navy

^{vi} HMS “Bonadventure” is a misspelling of HMS *Bonaventure*

^{vii} HMS “Tenor” is possibly a misspelling of HMS *Terror*

^{viii} HMS ‘Iris’ is possibly a misspelling of HMS *Isis*