

Ships in Alex		
<u>Battleships</u>		<u>Cruisers</u>
Warspite. C.M.C. Barham		Sydney 6"
Rammillies X		Kent 8"
Valliant		Glasgow. Liverpool 6"
Malaya		Berick. Orion "
Ladybird, Gunboat		Ajex Gloucester
TERROR 15"		Warrator Calcuta A.A. ship
		Birmingham Coventry "
<u>Destroyers</u>		<u>Aircraft carriers</u>
Vampire. Deinty		ILLUSTRIOUS
Waterhen Hero		Eagle.
Stuart. Jarvis		
Voyager Hasty		Medway. M.S.S.B
Vendetta. Juno		Resoarc - - -
Flax. Janice.		<u>Maine Hospital Ship</u>
Havoc. Minhawk		Subs
Hyperion. Nobian		Rainbow.
Diamond Defender.		Patcon.
Hasty Hardy.		
Defiant Hereward.		
Decoy		

Monday 22nd April 1940.
Left Fremantle with convoy at 2:30 P.M. A.T.F.

Monday 29th April
Left convoy with French cruisers
Dufferin at Socos Islands and
hid back for Fremantle.

Wednesday 1st May
One cargo steaming from Fremantle,
received orders to proceed to Colombo
via Singapore as quick as possible.

Friday May 3rd.
Passed by the Dutch East Indies also
Volcano "Kahor Taw" which was active
The ship was guided through passage
which was mined by a Dutch sloop
and the British Sub Rainbow.
They give us further orders.

Sunday 5th May
Reached Singapore 3:30 P.M. called

ship and left a midnight.
8th May
Reached Colombo anchored out to
oil as there are no wharfs.

12th May
Left Colombo to meet 3rd convoy at
at Socos Island.

14th May
Ordered to return to Colombo at
full speed just before meeting convoy.

17th May
Arrived back at Colombo stored
ship and oils

18th May
Left Colombo for Aden.

20th May
Arrived Aden called ship no leave.

23rd May
Left Aden passed through sea
OK for a glass of cold beer
"It's mighty hot."

Port Suez through Suez Canal going
through in the night passed through
Port Said arriving at Alexandria
came day 27 May. It was
a wonder full sight going through
the harbor seeing the British &
French Battleships cruisers destroyers
subs and mine sweepers.

Tuesday 11 June
After a spell in harbor which was
very welcome we proceeded to sea
to look for trouble, sighting nothing
we were proceeding back to port
when we picked up a sub on our
search. Three depth charges were
dropped at high speed, that was the
end of an enemy sub.

Thursday 20 June
Left Aden in company with 5 cruisers
and French Battleship to bombard

an Italian Fort "Bardia" a very successful job, our seaplane was up spotting for us and it was attacked by three enemy fighters who missed the tail gunfire from the ship. The aircraft and the bombs were driven off, our plane landed at the warehouse and collected on landings, no one hurt ship proceeded back to port.

Saturday 22nd June
All ships anchored in harbor about 4 o'clock at night a big air raid took place the bomb dropped very close to us, the planes were driven off by anti-aircraft firing and three Italian planes brought down.

Thursday 21st June
Left Aea to escort a convoy from Malta, but on the 28th June we met three more of our own cruisers.

about four o'clock in the afternoon we sighted three Italian Destroyers Battle stations sounded off and the "Flag of Australia" was hoisted to the top of our mast, this was a very fine moment for me, action started the Sydney opening fire on the leading ship which delivered our fire shot for shot, we got a couple of hits and the destroyer put up a smoke screen trying to get away it was getting dark and one destroyer was losing speed she fired two torpedoes at us they missed thank heavens, the other two destroyers by this time were out of range running for their base, Sydney was ordered to concentrate on the one destroyer while the other ships chased the other two destroyers, a direct hit

on the destroyer magazine caused a big explosion and the ship started to burn, sinking about an hour later.

We stopped the ship to pick up survivors it was dark by this time and they were hard to find however, we picked up 47 some of whom were in a terrible mess, three died before we reached port and they were buried at sea. we met the convoy early next morning off the Island of Crete we got bombed for 14 hours by bombers of all types it seemed like four weeks to me however we got back to port safe and sound (R.C.T. Espedo).

Thursday 4 July. In harbor
Another air raid, several bombs dropped, one sailor killed of English merchant ship damaged hit by strafing.

7th July
Left Aea during a heavy air raid returned next day no damage done.

8th July
Left harbor about 7 P.M. with the Fleet to meet and escort convoy from Malta back to Aea from this day up to the 12th we were heavily bombed by enemy, between those days we had 49 raids no hits on any of our ships all arrived safely in port.

19th July
At sea again with two battleships 5 cruisers 6" and a few destroyers sighted the Italian Navy which consisted of 2 Battle ships, 12, 8" cruisers and about twice as many destroyers. Battle stations sounded off once again the Flag of Australia is flying at our masthead, a running battle took place, the Italians racing for home

Thursday 25th of July
0430 Air raid over Alex harbor a few bombs dropped pretty close to our ship one bomb fell on the palace wall making a mess of it.

Saturday 27th of July
0230 Proceeded to sea with three battle ships one aircraft carrier 2 cruisers and several destroyers to guard a convoy through the open sea.
1430 Just had an air raid a few bombs dropped no hits.

Sunday 28th July.
Ten o'clock H.M.S. Sydney H.M.S. Neptune leave other ships to intercept a tanker carrying petrol to an Italian port. 1900 Air raid several bombs dropped some extra close no cas 2000 Tanker has been sighted and crew are leaving the ship in saving boats.

H.M.S. Neptune opens fire with four inch guns while Sydney keeps watched after several rounds tanker bursts in to flame, a really nice fire we got now on our way back to harbor.

Tuesday 30th July
Arrived back in harbor about 12 o'clock air raid at 6 o'clock a few bombs dropped no damage.

Wednesday 31st July.
Left harbor at 0500 with two other cruisers and four destroyers, very peaceful day till 1745 the dear Italian bombers start dropping their bombs no damage, our job was to attract the attention of the bomber while the battle ships brought a

convoy from Gibraltar consisting of several ships carrying fighter planes for Alex & Malta etc about time
Thursday 1st August.
We got a bit of a scare about 11 o'clock we seen four big planes coming to wards us, however they happened to be short Netherlands Bombers they stopped with us nearly three hours that ended a very peaceful day.

Friday 2nd.
Entered harbor at 8 o'clock. no leave went to bed at 1 am after oiling ship.

Saturday 3rd
We are stand by cruisers today no leave under 24 hour notice for sea and life grand.

Sunday 4th August
To day we are Emergency Cruiser at 1 hours notice for sea. We have not had an air raid for four days I think the Italians have run out of Bombs. There is some talk of leave if we are still in harbor tomorrow. Day of Day.

Monday 12 August
After a spell in harbor during which time our funnel was patched up and armour plate was put around the 4 inch gun deck and the ship was painted "camouflaged" it looks very queer the decks are painted royal blue, we left harbor at 5:30 this morning for 9 hours for the "Hops" a very peaceful day, not even a seagull flying around and the sea is lovely and calm.

Wednesday Aug 13th.
Still steaming, our air craft left
the ship at 7 o'clock this morning
on patrol returned at 10 o'clock
left again at 2.30pm returned at
2.30pm end of another beautiful day
just altered course increased speed
we are steaming fairly close to Italy.

Wed Aug 14th
Action stations at 1am ship is
passing between Rhodes and Crete and
Islands, we expected to be attracted by
motor torpedo boats (they must of being
asleep) we never saw any, we stopped
two Greek merchant ships for inspection
At 3 o'clock this afternoon a sub was
flushed up on the arched, the destroyers
had a go at it, I guess they fixed it
We are now entering harbor it is
1930 or I guess that ends the day.

Thursday, 15th Aug
Air raid sounds of at 9.55PM,
to the Hope again several bombs
dropped some very close, a boom
defence vessel was hit one man killed
all clear sounded of at 11.15.

Wed 21st Aug.
Air raid sounds off at 10.15 PM three
raiders a few bombs dropped all
clear 11.15 P.M.

Thursday, 22 Aug
Air raid at 4 o'clock in the morning
bombs dropped between castle and
we all clear at 4.35, our plane leaves
ship for patrol at 5.45am arriving
back at 8.15am.

Friday 23rd Aug
(Left harbor at 11.15am) we had 3
air raids during early hours of the
morning they lasted for two hours
plenty of bombs dropped.

Friday 23rd cont.
We are proceeding to Libya for a
bombardment, we are guarding 3 gun
boats and some destroyers. The bombard-
ment is due at dawn Saturday

Sat 24th August
Bombardment carried out very
successfully, ship arrived back in
harbor at 1900, I was sailing ship
till 12 o'clock, then to bed. By
the way I was 24 to day "Why
"Happy Returns" come.

Sunday 25th Aug.
Air raid at about 12 o'clock a
few bombs dropped.

Monday 26 Aug
Air raid at 03.15 several bombs
dropped 1 killed 4 injured ashore
another raid at 10 o'clock no boats
just looking around.

Tuesday, Aug 27.
Another air raid in the very early
hours of the morning few bombs
dropped no damage.

Wed Aug 28th.
Another early morning raid our
beautiful sleep is suffering badly.
bombs dropped many miles from us

Thursday, Aug 29th.
Air raid alarm at 04.15 all
clear at 04.30 raiders passed over
our plane left on patrol at 05.45
returned at 09.30.

Friday Aug 30th.
Left harbor 03.30 in company with
2 battleships, 1 air craft carrier, 1 8-inch
cruiser, 2 more 6-inch cruisers, 12 destroyers.

Sat Aug 31
A fighter plane of the ~~base~~ air
craft carrier (Lugie) brought down

an Italian bomber this afternoon.
A signal to all our ships was
received from 1st Hood Admiralty.
Wishing us luck in our present enterprise
We are expecting trouble between now
and Sunday. 8 o'clock we received news
from one of our air-craft that the Italian
fleet consisting of 2 Battle ships, 3 cruisers
and 8 destroyers were at sea 100 miles
from us "Boy O' Boy" every one is eager
to have a go at them.

Sunday 1st Sep. 1940

Received news from our craft that the
enemy fleet were back in harbor they
don't know how lucky they were.
There is a small colony proceeding
to Malta we are escorting it after it
reported a severe bombing raid, one of
the ships had its rudder blown right
off she is steering by her engines. speed
reduced to 9 knots.

Monday 2nd Sep.

In the early hours of the morning
6 destroyers, 1 air craft carrier, 1 battleship
and two anti air craft cruisers of the
Gibraltar fleet managed to get through
to join us in the Med. they had
to pass Panderora which is a heavily armed
Island of rock (Morocco Gibraltar) which has
got 11" guns, is mined, with only a small
channel to get through Sicily is on the
other side however a few slow bombers
and battle ships gave a hand and they
got through alright. the Illustrious has
the carrier and she has got the latest
fighting planes on board so we should
be safe now. Time 7:15 PM Two Italian
bombers just shot down by gun fire they
dived into the sea burning very brightly
air-craft shot down the other four
Flax Destroyer sunk two subs about
an hour ago and another destroyer picked

up a mine which one of the bombers
dropped it has been a very exciting day
Tuesday Sep 3rd.

A rather quiet day we are preparing
to carry out a bombardment. 8 PM
Sydney, Flax, Orion, Hyperion, leave
the fleet to carry on to Scarpanto
which is a fairly big Island, there
is a motor torpedo base, aerodrome,
on the other side is a seaplane base

Wednesday Sep 4th

0515 First degree of readiness action
stations sound off Sydney and Flax
are going to bombard the torpedo boat base
and aerodrome. Orion & Hyperion are
taking the other side seaplane base
0550 Our air-craft is calculated in
the air to spot for us and look out
for M.T.B. 0620 Sydney opens fire
first few shots wide, look on the

target. The Flax reports two M.T.B.
are out, Ten mins later 1 M.T.B. is sunk
and the other badly damaged, Sydney is
still bombarding our air-craft reports
that three other M.T.B. are run aground
damaged and aerodrome is on fire. We
now steam off. 0700 picked up our
plane and pick up Orion & Hyperion.
10 o'clock we jammed up with the rest
of the fleet to do a bit of bombing
Ritodis was bombed by air-craft off
the Illustrious. Tishby was bombed
by the battle ships also Tishby. 11 o'clock
air-raid 5 1/2 planes dropped some
real big bombs all landed in the water
some mighty close to the ships, they
were driven off by gun fire. 11:05
Dut reported in vicinity of ship Flax
drops depth charges and a circle of oil
about 200 ft was seen, end of sub RLP.