

An other air Raid a few bombs dropped no damage, our air craft comes lot to planes in a fight.

Thursday 5th Sep

Ship entered harbor at 745 am after a very exciting week at sea.

Friday 6th Sep

Air raid at 12.45 PM no bombs dropped, one plane brought down.

Sunday 8th Sep

Air raid at 5.20 about six planes several bombs dropped 6 people killed. Another raid at 7.30 I was ashore at the pictures it lasted for nearly two hours it was a great sight no damage. Ship entered dock this morning to have mudder & shafts repaired.

Friday 5th Sep 20

We saw the HMS Kent towed in this morning by 4 tugs it was believed to have been hit in the stern by a

mine, several men killed and wounded. The fleet has been giving Messers hell the last 10 days bombardments and bombing. We have had several quips here in the last few days no bombs dropped, however last night they seemed to have dropped every thing they had, its got me beat how they miss us, its hard to believe that 99% per cent of their bombs fall in the water.

Monday. Sep 23

Another air raid several bombs dropped three people killed, side of merchant ship riddled with shrapnel.

Tuesday 24

Sydney goes out to sea alone arrived back in harbor 0300 Thursday more never righted a thing.

Sunday 29th Sep

Left harbor about 1 am this morning 2 Battleships, 5 cruisers, one air-craft carrier and 11 destroyers, there is 1500 soldiers aboard two of the cruisers they are going to Malta, about eleven o'clock this morning planes off the carrier shot down a recon plane which was shadowing the fleet, we had an air raid this afternoon and two planes were shot down, one of them blew up in the air, several bombs dropped remarkably close to Orion we could not see it for spray however no damage was done, the rest of the day was peaceful, HMS York which arrived two days ago is with us, it is an 8" cruiser.

Monday 30 Sep.

Action stations sounded at 12.15 PM we received news that the Italian fleet had ventured out to sea they were 100

miles from us, speed was increased, they were heading for their base, our planes spotted them and reported that the fleet consisted of 16 Battle ship several cruisers, and destroyers, so the chase was given up we were getting a bit close to Italy, so I reckon it was the best thing our admiral ever did considering we were well out numbered all round.

Tuesday Oct 1st

Sydney & Orion left the fleet to day to proceed to Stampalia in the Dodecanese Islands.

Wed Oct 2nd

Still steaming we are not allowed to sleep so well are in very dangerous waters, midnight is the hour to start bombarding the object being a naval torpedo boat & airplane station. We are steaming along and everything is

jet black (rather creepy) we are going to fire our guns and steam out at 30 knots, our target and range is being marked out by navigation.

Thurs 3rd Oct 1940 just 2400 Sydney 15 min fire at 1900g and 20 shells per ship a dealing was is all we could see or hear and now we are speeding away at 30 knots expecting to be hit by Messers famous torpedo boats, 06:30 am we are safe and sound still hitting trail feeling very tired.

Fri 4th Oct 1940

Steammed into Alen at 2345 nothing but lively and so to be Sunday 6th

Chase steammed into harbor this morning a nice addition to our squadron. He had degaussing

gear put on to day cable right round the ship for the magnetic mine.

Tuesday Oct 8th

All the fleet left harbor this morning to bring a big convoy from Malta and have the look for H.M.S. U.S.T.

According to Italian wireless station the bombardment of Stampalia 3rd Oct killed 69 people, no damage 10 torpedo boats chased us and sunk a cruiser.

Official report

Very successful action much damage done, no surface boats sighted

Wednesday October 9th

Our destroyers picked up enemy subs and several depth charges were dropped, three

subs were sunk & a probable fourth.

Thursday 10th

More subs picked up to day 3 sunk

Friday 11th

Destroyer Imperial hit a floating mine today luckily we were close to Malta it got to harbor safely. Reports from cruiser Ajax engaging 3,600 ton E class destroyer it sunk two damaged the other was hit by shells in 3 places 13 killed 27 injured.

Saturday 12th

Short Sutherland reports it got a direct hit on an Italian destroyer, other destroyers also around Sydney, York, Gloucester, Liverpool give chase, York picks out damaged destroyer and orders them to abandon ship which was done very promptly 5 min later smoke was all that remained of 2 destroyers, other destroyers were to fast for us so we give up chase.

About 2 hours later a fleet of enemy bombers came over we had quite an exciting time bombs dropped all over the place however luck was with us no hits.

Sunday 13th Oct

A quiet day we have got a small convoy with us for Alen the battleship and 10 destroyers have gone to bombard Stampalia and we meet them on Monday morning at Harbord

Monday 14 Oct

More subs picked up and destroyers attacked again at least two subs sunk. H.M.S. Liverpool was hit by an aerial torpedo a huge fire was started, it is under control and is being towed back to harbor by the Orion.

Tuesday 15

We arrived back in harbor at 1 pm to day I went ashore to the pictures.

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Wednesday 16 Oct
Air raid at 1 am this morning however they were driven off by gunfire no damage done.

Thursday 20th Oct
We had two air raids today lasting quite some time several bombs dropped.

Monday 21st
Air raids all through the night bombs dropped no damage.

Tuesday 22nd
Another air raid no bombs dropped.

Wednesday 23rd
And still another air raid no damage.

Thursday 24th
Anthony Eden gave a speech to the soldiers at the fleet club he got a rousing welcome the rest of the night consisted of more air raids.

The Hops have certainly spent our sleep these last few days.

Friday 25th
Left Alex at 10.530 with HMS Orion and two of our gunboats we are going off the Dardanelles in search of ships carrying contraband.

Saturday 26th
We pulled up two ships to day and allowed them to carry on after inspection.

Sunday 27th
We passed by where some of the Angers landed at Gallipoli. We could see a monument in the distance.

Monday 28th
We received news early this morning that a state of war exist between Greece & Italy. We are now racing back to harbor to store & fuel ship, we arrived in harbor at 18.30 this evening.

Tuesday 29th
All the fleet left harbor at 00.30 this morning with a convoy consisting of troops I think we have just been informed that the convoy is going to Crete and the fleet is going to stand by Greece in case of a sea raid by the Italian fleet (Hullon XMAS).

We have established a naval base here.

Wednesday 30th
We are steaming between Greece and Italy looking for the Hops but they are nowhere about.

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Saturday 1 Nov
We are proceeding to Alex we have just been attacked by torpedo bombers however they missed us. We arrived in harbor at 23.30. Oil ship under 2 hours notice.

Monday 4th Nov
Byron & Ajax left harbor for Frank said we are doing 30 knots we expect to arrive there at 19.15 tonight. Anchored in Duzge Canal 20.30.

Tuesday 5th Nov.
We have got about 450 soldiers on board army horses, guns and stores the ship is absolutely packed, we left at 3.30 p.m. for Suda Bay situated in the Island of Crete we are doing 30 knots, Ajax has the same on board her.

Wednesday 6th Nov
We arrived at our destination after a uneventful trip at 16.00 at 15.00 every thing was off the ship and we have anchored in the bay. A good night's rest was had by all. A very pretty place.

Thursday 7th Nov.
Six tugs, Destroyers, and mine sweepers arrived here at 09.00, Sydney took on

Thursday 7th Nov.

6.15 and left at 1200 to proceed to meet the battle fleet. 1700 we have just joined up with the fleet we are proceeding to the West of Malta to pick up some reinforcements who are coming through from Gibraltar they have got to get through Pindar.

Friday 8th Nov

We are escorting a convoy which is also proceeding to Malta, a rather quiet day.

Saturday 9th Nov

We are now close to Malta the convoy has steamed into Malta and we are patrolling around.

Sunday 10th Nov

Our reinforcements met us this morning they consist of 1 Battleship, two cruisers one 8" & 6" and four destroyers, we were attacked by nine enemy aircraft.

Sunday 10 Nov Cont.

just after dinner and two were brought down by gun-fire, we spotted a floating mine a few mins ago and they had a few shots at it with the point 5s. Our reinforcements are at present in Malta taking on oil fuel while we are steaming around awaiting them.

Monday 11 Nov 1940.

All the fleet are together again steaming towards Italy, at 1300 Sydney, Ajax, Orion & destroyers Mohawk. Mullan leave the fleet to proceed into the Adriatic sea in the Strait Straits, at 2200 ship goes into the first degree of readiness as we were very close to the southern shore of Italy.

Tuesday 12th

At 0130 action stations went we had sighted 4 large transports & one destroyer.

Tues 12th Nov Cont.

The enemy destroyer fired about 3 shots and made off at high speed, we sank the transports and then made off at high speed to get out of the straits the coast line of Italy was visible, and still the Italian fleet never came out, we picked up the rest of the fleet at 1000. We received a signal from Cin C "Did you have a wild Australian night?"

Reply

"Bongu Chanks"

just before dinner our fighters of the aircraft carrier shot down 2 big bombers they burst in to flame and crashed into the sea, more success after dinner two more were shot down. Last night's action brings our action up to seven. Arrived at Souda Bay 10.15 and fighters left the ship at dawn to

attack Taranto where most of the wolf fleet spend their time.

Wednesday 13th Nov

Our planes had wonderful success, one battleship sunk, 12 badly damaged, two cruisers sunk & 1 badly damaged, and several supply ship & oil tankers sunk two planes were lost.

Thursday 14th

Arrived back in Souda at 6.30 am this morning, we had an air raid and one of our destroyers got hit in the stern, HMS Decoy, 2 rating killed, but not much damage ship.

Friday 15th

We are alongside the wharf getting on supplies, guns, torries, and about 600 soldiers. HMS Orion, Gloucester, Devick, Gloucester, Ajax are also doing the same, 5 PM we left harbor for Greece.

Saturday 16th
We arrived at Piraeus at 2.30 PM we did 30 knots all the way. I think all Greece turned out to welcome us the wharfs were crowded with cheering people it was a wonderful sight, they seem to be wonderful people as the soldiers left the ships cheering & clapping away renewed it was a wonderful welcome.

Sunday 17th
Left Piraeus (which is the sea-port of Athens which is 8 miles away) we had to cover a convoy which was due in Piraeus on Monday about 5 o'clock.

Monday 18th
Sydney, Ajax & Orion have just arrived which had gone in we are now steaming back to Athens.

Wednesday 20th
Arrived in Athens at 0930 sighted ship went ashore.

Saturday 23rd Nov
Left harbor at 10600 this morning with the rest of the fleet to cover a convoy of high speed reinforcements.

Sunday 24 Nov
Arrived at Suda Bay (Crete) at 0930 this morning. 1 PM just preparing to leave harbor when all of a sudden a heap of bombs dropped between Ajax & us no hits aircraft was very high trust the Wops. left harbor at 1200.

Monday 25th
Shadowing convoy which is proceeding to Malta, a floating mine was blown up by gunfire from a destroyer other wise a rather quiet day.

Tuesday 26th
Rommel's & Bismarck have left your squadron to go back to the 1st fleet another quiet day.

Wed 27th
We have just received following news 12.30. Renown, Ramillies & destroyers are chasing Italian fleet consisting of two battleships & cruisers & destroyers later report 1 enemy cruiser badly damaged. 1 battleship torpedoed by FAA off Cape Royal.

Friday 28th
Entered Aegean at 1515 in company with Orion. rest of fleet still at sea.

Saturday 29th Nov
0945 Manchester, Birmingham to 6" cruiser have just arrived.

Monday 1 Dec.
HMS. Terror arrived a mine gun-boat which has two 15" guns & several small guns.

Friday 6th Dec 1940
Left Athens in company with Ajax & Orion having very rough weather gale blowing.

Saturday 7th
Called into Suda Bay for about two hours. we are now carrying on to Port of Athens still very rough and cold.

Sunday 8th Dec
Arrived at Port of Athens at 10.30 am we received a great welcome. A great noise of ringing bells & shots started off at 11.50 we thought it was an air raid and closed up ready for action however it turned out that news had just arrived from the Greek Army in Albania that they had captured an important town hence the celebrations.

Monday 9th
I went ashore today and I had a wonderful time it's a great place I seen the ruins of Athens that was built BC.

Tuesday 10th
We left Athens today to cover a convoy of Greek ships the weather is awful.

very cold and rough.

Thursday 12th Dec

Left convoy and arrived in Suda Bay at 1430 the oil however it was too rough so we are proceeding back to Athens, as far as we know we are under loan to the Greek Government for a while. H.M.S. Gloucester was hit forward & aft by two aerial torpedoes however it managed to get back to sea under its own steam.

Friday Dec 13th

Arrived in Athens at 10.30 this morning the weather is rather calm we are anchored in the bay, left again with convoy at 1200 still very rough. went into Suda Bay and will left again in the middle watch we are now proceeding to meet the fleet.

Monday Dec 16th

Met the York, Gloucester, Orion,

at 1700.

Tues 17th

At the Haspate, Valiant, Illustrious and 13 Destroyers we are now proceeding up the Adriatic to bombard Valona. The plan of attack is as follows. Sydney, Ajax, Orion, steaming right up looking for surface craft. York, Gloucester going in the opposite direction, planes off Illustrious and Red 7 from Greece are going to drop flares and bombs. Haspate, Valiant are going to bombard with 15" guns and destroyers are providing a screen for the battleships. Zeroes over midnight.

Wed 18th Dec.

Bombardment very successful all ships and planes got away with out being attacked. The Hops must of being asleep. There is a buzz about another attack some where to night.

Thursday 19th

We are now proceeding to Malta to go into Dock.

Monday 23rd

Arrived in Malta this morning it raining cats & dogs.

Tuesday 24th

We moved into dry dock today.

Wed 25th XMAS Day 1940

I am duty in the Motor boat, all our messdeck is all decorated up and it looks very nice, we had a very good dinner including turkey also 1 bottle of beer.

Friday 27th

I am going on leave to day from 12 o'clock till 0700 Monday.

Saturday 28th

We had an air raid yesterday Sunday.

and one plane was brought down. We had an other raid this morning at 11.50 which lasted about 3/4 of an hour 2 planes being brought down.

Jan 6th Monday

We had an other air raid today but the wops soon beat it so soon as the Spitfires & Hurricanes got after them.

Tuesday 7th

Ship pulled out of dock today looking which Japan, nearly all new lower deck portholes have been filled in, the quads was taken out and fixed up, the pump was taken out of the stern and the engines overhauled and all the ship painted, HMAS Stuart also had a refit.

WED 8th Jan

We left Malta today at 0600 in company with the Glent we expect to meet the battle fleet at 1200 tomorrow.

Thursday 9th Jan. 1941
Met the fleet at 1130 HMAS. Perth which recently arrived here is with them.
"Glossal News"
We have just received news from Link H. A. that we are proceeding back to Australia.
We expect to arrive in Aden on Friday night 2100 to fuel & supply. Ship's ready for our trip home by day.

Friday 10
Arrived in Aden at 2100 pretty light night we are sailing and storing ship.

Saturday 11th
He left today at 1600 HMAS Medway gave us three cheers and their best played. This a tough winding back also sent us the following signal.
"The Rover and best of luck. We hope to feel very lonely without you."

Sunday 12th Jan
Entered Canal at 0315 this morning we are being escorted by bombers. 1015. We had to anchor in one of the lakes owing to a dust storm. We got underway at 1600 again. He age just about got Port Said now where we are going to oil, time now 1850. Arrived at 1910 oiled and left at 2130 doing 25 knots to catch up with a convoy of 10 huge liners full of Italian prisoners.

Monday 13th
joined up convoy they look real fine steaming along.

Tuesday 14th
took the Empress of Canada into to oil we also filled up ourselves.

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Thursday 16th
We left Aden at 0515 this morning we expect to pick up the rest of the convoy sometime to-nite. we are having very warm weather, we are escorting the convoy as far as "Bombard" on the east coast of Africa. We expect to arrive at Seychelles Islands on the 20th where we fuel, we are looking out for any raiders which may be around, our plane leaves the ship daily looking for them.

Monday 20th
6 PM we have just turned and we are now proceeding to Seychelles Island. we expect to arrive sometime Tuesday evening, we have received new orders we are now proceeding to Mogadishu which is in Italian East Africa if there is any ships in the harbor we are to try and sink them, we expect to arrive there at sunset and go in as close as 4,000 yds from shore.

Tuesday 21st Jan
Action stations sounded off at 1710 and the ship went in it was just dark by the time we arrived, there was no ships in harbor so we left not firing a shot.

Thursday 23rd Jan
Action Stations sounded off again at noon today smoke was seen on the horizon we thought it might of being a raider however it turned out to be a British cargo boat we went pretty close she had two guns on the stern which were ready and manned I guess they were relaxed when they saw our White Ensign, we are now proceeding to Sey. Chells and with a bit of luck we will get there in the morning.

Friday 24th

Arrived at Seydell at 9:30 am and started to fuel, about noon a wireless message was picked up from a ship which stated it was being shelled by a raider, another message was picked up about 2 o'clock which gave the ship's latitude but no longitude we finished fueling at 3 pm and just as we were leaving a wireless message came through saying cancel previous messages as we are alright, this last message is thought to have been sent by the raider by 3:30 pm we were doing 30 knots.

Saturday 25th Jan

We are still searching for the raider we have reduced speed to 25 knots now and our plane leaves the ship today to scout around.

Monday 27th

Arrived at Seydell oiled ship again and left at 1:20 pm for H. A. doing 120 knots.

Monday 3rd

Still at sea, we are now doing 3 knots ahead a terrific gale is blowing and the ship is jumping round like a jitter-bug at 12:30 speed was increased to 10 knots at 3 pm we were doing 14 knots the gale is easing down.

Tuesday 4th Feb. 1941

Speed was increased at 4:30 am this meaning we are now doing 21 knots they have just fished that we will arrive back in H. A. at 6:30 am

Wednesday 5th Feb. Today is our 29th day at sea since leaving Malta roll on tomorrow.

Wednesday 5th Feb.

Arrived at H. A. at 6:30 am a real nice day oiled ships and moved to the

disappointment of all on board we sailed at 4 pm for Sydney doing 25 knots, we have got the A.M.B. on board making records and arranging broadcasts.

Sunday 10th Feb.

We reduced speed to 20 knots at 04:50 this morning, we expect to arrive in Watson Bay and anchor at 12 o'clock. We are proceeding up harbor to No. 1 Circular Quay at 09:30.

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