

**THE WARTIME DIARIES OF  
DR. GARNETT MONEYSMAKER**



© 2011 Garnett Moneymaker. Copyright for diary material claimed exclusive of U.S.  
Government Photograph.

2011 Henry Shapiro. Copyright for front matter, footnotes, and back matter.

## COMMENTS REGARDING THIS TRANSCRIPTION

In the fall of 1937, after an appendectomy and the ensuing financial difficulties caused him to leave college, Garnett Moneymaker, known affectionately to his friends as "Money," enlisted in the Navy for a four year tour of duty. Growing up outside rural Clifton Forge, Virginia, fifty miles north of Roanoke, he possessed a wide range of self-taught mechanical skills, and so was assigned to the light cruiser USS Boise as an electrician. Though his tour of duty was up, after war broke out in the Pacific, he reenlisted. Originally a seaman, he ultimately rose to the rank of lieutenant junior grade. After the war, Garnett returned to school, eventually becoming an anesthesiologist. While completing his medical training in Cleveland he met his future wife Margaret ("Peg") Vilmar. A physical therapist, she served in the medical division of the Women's Army Corps, first in the States and then, in the immediate postwar period, in Japan. After marrying they settled in Albuquerque, New Mexico. During the four years of the war, Dr. Moneymaker surreptitiously kept a diary. Because of its potential historical significance we have transcribed this diary into modern digital form.

Many of the entries in his diary were made during combat. And even for those entries made in moments of less stress, Dr. Moneymaker appears never to have reread them after initially writing them down, as there are many easily detected, correctable mistakes. As transcribers we were torn between absolute fidelity to the original text and the urge to improve readability by making corrections. In an effort to maintain the flavor of Dr. Moneymaker's writing, which at times is quite casual and irreverent, we have taken a conservative approach, only correcting errors that could be classified as "typos" (errors like "her" for "here"). Except in rare instances, we have not changed his spelling, grammar or punctuation, though we have followed misspelled words by [sic], so that the reader is aware that the misspellings are not transcription errors. To avoid cluttering up the manuscript we have only added [sic] the first time for repeated misspellings; not noted or corrected words like "airport" that Dr. Moneymaker wrote as "air port"; not generally noted misspellings of ship or geographical names - correct spellings can be found in the glossary or in footnotes; nor have we added in or noted the lack of apostrophes in the contraction "it's" and in possessives. Because the diary is written in a very personal mix of print and cursive, errant use of capitalization was a particularly difficult matter to resolve. When a capital letter is clearly used, we have left it as is. Another difficulty are the dates that Dr. Moneymaker placed in the left margin and also at the top of every page of his diary. Because our page breaks are not the same as his, we have only included the date at the start of each entry. We have also regularized the punctuation of military abbreviations. In addition, we have added without comment hyphens ("-") where there is a small amount of white space in the original text which suggests a pause in Dr. Moneymaker's thinking as he put his thoughts down on paper. Occasionally Dr. Moneymaker inserted an entry at the top of a page - usually as an afterthought. We have inserted these into the body of the text where they seem to belong, but have set them in italic. Lastly, we have added numerous footnotes to add historical context, explain personal references, and provide information on place-names that will not be familiar to the average reader - even so, having a good atlas close at hand may increase the reader's enjoyment and understanding.

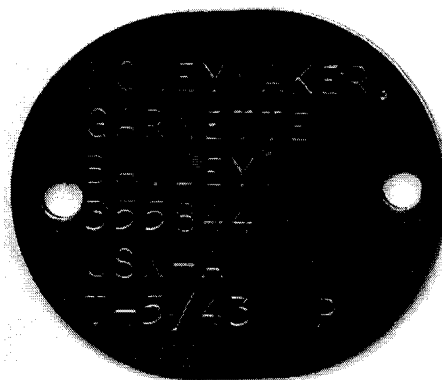
We wish to thank Dr. Moneymaker and his wife, who spent many hours with us answering the numerous questions we had about people and events he has described. We are grateful that we have had the opportunity to transcribe his diaries - even after nearly seventy years his writing seems fresh, even as memory of those days fades.

Any errors, of either omission or commission, are, of course, solely ours.

Moir Robertson  
Henry Shapiro  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  
March 2011  
[henryshapiro@yahoo.com](mailto:henryshapiro@yahoo.com)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Comments Regarding This Transcription	
Book I: November 1941 - April 1942 .....	1
Book II: June - November 1942 .....	19
Book III: June - November 1943 .....	37
Book IV: December 1943 - April 1944 .....	65
Scouts and Raiders Training .....	79
Letter from James Forrestal .....	81
Photograph of USS Boise .....	83
Glossary of Ship Names .....	85
Glossary of Abbreviations .....	89



BOOK I  
November 1941 - April 1942

*It is only when we become conscious of our part in life, however modest, that we shall be happy.*<sup>1</sup>

Nov. 1941<sup>2</sup>

Wed. 19. 13:00 left Honolulu with 5 merchant ships. Think destination is Manila.

Sat. 22. 07:00 crossed 180° set date ahead full 24 hours. Manila bound.

Tues. 25. 18:30 Passed Wake Island.<sup>3</sup>

Sat. 29. 8:00 Passed Guam.<sup>4</sup> Saw Jap. cruiser. We challenged, she high tailed over horizon.

Dec. 1941 09:30 Anchored in Manila. Went ashore. Awful dirty place. Wandered around, movie,  
Thurs. 4. chow, no souvenirs [sic].

Sat. 6. 11:30 Left Manila. Don't know but think we are going to Cebu.<sup>5</sup>

Mon. 8. 00:00 to 04:00 watch. 06:00 No sooner finished convincing White that Pearl Harbor was not bombed than 06:15 over loud speakers "The United States is now at war with Japan." We were not expecting such a tasty appetiser for breakfast. The Jap. cruiser we contacted outside Guam must have been scouting force for Jap fleet steaming toward Hawaii. Am glad we did not fire on her. The patrol force of Honolulu must have really been dozing [sic] off. Just doesn't seem possible. Most of crew took it in their stride, although some few are pale around the gills. Still A.M. We are 50 miles from Cebu. Davao bombed to the south of us. Manila & Olongapo bombed to the north. SS Admiral Cole bombed at & missed. Helena and her convoy arrived in Manila after being bombed at.<sup>6</sup> News report says Boise unaccounted for. Wish I could let mother know we are OK. Drew gas masks P.M.

---

<sup>1</sup> This entry is on its own page, before the main body of the diary.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Moneymaker placed the date in the left-hand margin before each entry. He did not include the day of the week along with the date until December. Some of these day-of-the-week entries were apparently mechanically added after the fact, since they are incorrect up through December 26 and the mislabelings are not likely to be accidental, as the entry for Sunday, December 14 begins "Doesn't seem like Sunday," even though the entry is labeled with an "F" for Friday. We have used the correct day of the week.

<sup>3</sup> Wake Island - this tiny coral atoll, not even three square miles in area, is one of the remotest islands in the Pacific: 2,300 miles west of Hawaii, 2,000 miles southeast of Japan and over 500 miles from its nearest neighbor. At the start of the war it was defended by a small contingent of U.S. Marines.

<sup>4</sup> Guam - the largest island in Micronesia, Guam was the only U.S. possession in the region prior to World War II. Located 1,600 miles east of Manila and 3,800 miles west of Hawaii, it served as a way station for U.S. Navy ships traveling between Hawaii and the Philippines.

<sup>5</sup> Cebu - a port on Cebu Island, Philippines, 350 miles southeast of Manila.

<sup>6</sup> Davao (island of Mindanao) and Olongapo (on Subic Bay, just north of Bataan Peninsula, island of Luzon) - cities in the Philippines 600 miles southeast and 50 miles northwest of Manila. The report Dr. Moneymaker based this on was incorrect; the Helena was at Pearl Harbor on December 7.

On December 8, the Japanese began their invasion of the then U.S. possession of the Philippines, with landings on small islands north of the main island of Luzon. Troops landed on northern Luzon on December 10 and southern Luzon on December 12, with a much larger force landing on December 22. Manila fell on January 2; retreating U.S. forces completed their withdrawal to Bataan on January 6. On April 10 the last U.S. forces on Luzon proper surrendered, leaving Corregidor, an island at the mouth

*Have not been allowed to send any mail since we left Manila. Would like very much to write home. I am ~~11111111~~ sure that I will not get home for Christmas this year.*

Tues. 9. 04:30 first 24 hours is almost over and we have not been found. I am being kidded quite a bit about being a short timer & civilian. I do not know if I should ship over or extend, or just stay till duration.<sup>7</sup> I'll wait and see how we make out first month or so. Can't get any dope as to how fight is coming along in Hawaii. We joined the Houston, two destroyers, two tankers & the Langley. No contact with the enemy yet. Very little difference in the war routine than what we have been going through the past year. We are just not looking for any liberty in the near future. Constant air attacks off & over Luzon.

Wed. 10. General quarters at 05:15.<sup>8</sup> Air attack over Philippines. Secured about 06:30. Made out \$60 allotment to mother. It will not go into effect until we get a chance to send mail off. Hope I can write home before allotment starts, might shock mother, otherwise. Laps claim Langley sunk and it is about 1000 yds from us. Most of the info. [sic] is from Tokyo so?? Lookouts sighted a swab floating ~ thought [sic] it was a submarine. Heard there were enemy planes over "Frisco".<sup>9</sup> 14:30 GQ. Submarine attack. The Langley fired on her, destroyers dropped depth charges. Not sure if we got her or not. I am reading "Timeless Land".<sup>10</sup> It may seem strange but I am able to read while at GQ. No use to think about being hit too much.

*One of our submarines is beleived [sic] to have sunk a Jap "Carrier" off Manila. I am not going to ship over. Got my hair cut off short.*

Thurs. 11. My God will this GQ never end. It started yesterday evening at 19:27 and at 05:10 today we are still at it. At day break we should know wheather [sic] we are trailing friend or foe. This Aft Gyro is about 15' x 15' x 6' maximum. Really only two places you can stand up. These three switch boards & the center gyro make this place like a dry bake oven. Carter, Ellard & I are just about pooped. I went up at 04:00 this A.M. to get coffee, sandwiches & H<sub>2</sub>O. The gang in Aft Diesel went up last time. After going through these three hatches 6" thick it is like coming out of a tomb. What a relief I was able to take a leak. Secured 06:00. 10:30 GQ again. No sleep. Slept this P.M. for three hours. Germany & Italy declared war on U.S.A. Britain confirmed sinking of Prince of Wales & carrier.

---

of Manila Bay, the only territory on Luzon still under American control. On May 6, in the face of an overwhelming Japanese attack, Lieutenant General Jonathan M. Wainwright IV ordered the surrender of all remaining troops in the Philippines. Recapture of the Philippines did not begin until October 20, 1944, with a landing on the island of Leyte - Manila was not recaptured until March 3, 1945; by the end of June Japanese resistance had been reduced to a few isolated pockets.

<sup>7</sup> Ship over - a term used in the Navy for reenlistment.

<sup>8</sup> General quarters (GQ) - an announcement made aboard a naval warship to signal the crew to man their stations.

<sup>9</sup> On the afternoon of December 8, rumor of a Japanese aircraft carrier off the coast of central California caused Bay Area authorities to close schools, cease radio transmissions, and enforce a blackout. News dispatches from the time suggest this was a false alarm, though the Army continued to insist that enemy planes had been spotted on radar 100 miles offshore.

<sup>10</sup> *The Timeless Land* - a work of historical fiction by Eleanor Dark about the European settlement and exploration of Australia.



*After a sleepless nite & good many of us missed chow, crew is crapped out everywhere. Especially engineers. There is very little fresh air for us bellow [sic]. Crew still in good humor but don't know where we are headed for. Jap. battleship sunk off Manila.*

- Fri. 12. 00:00 to 04:00 Webster & I have IC [interior communications (aboard ship)] watch. We are in Celebes Sea still going south. <sup>11</sup> Maybe Australia. Left the two destroyers & tankers to go on south. Houston and Boise north again to pick up another convoy. 15:30 pick up the Gold Star, still looking for more of the convoy. We are going to GQ every nite <sup>12</sup> hour before sunrise & sunset. We are practically back in our old routine. I still have not given up sunbathing. Dungarees are allowed to be worn at all times, even on top side. So far the war hasn't really touched us. We have retaken Wake and the fleet is on its way to Guam. Wish we were with it. <sup>12</sup> This convoy business is onerous [sic] duty. Quite a bit of tension until we do pick up our convoys. I know they must be relieved to see us.

*I would much rather be in aviation and if we ever get back to the states I am going to try & get in Army aviation. Maybe. Thirteen more shooting days till Xmas.*

- Sat. 13. We have completely gathered all of our second convoy and are heading South again. We have two English Destroyers with us and a few of the Dutch subs & cans are patrolling this water through the straits. <sup>13</sup> Sure wish we had our Pom-Poms instead of these old 3" guns. <sup>14</sup> 5" AA guns are not very effective against dive bombers, but they do okay for torpedo bombers and horizontal. I have heat rash all over my butt from sweating so much and I have been running around in skivies [sic] all day with soda plastered over said place. Haven't sat down all day.

- Sun. 14. Doesn't seem like Sunday. We tied up to dock in Balik Papan, Borneo to refuel. <sup>15</sup> Still do not know when, or where we will go after refuel, probably Australia.

*No news is good news and we sure have not heard any except from Tokyo. I sure would like to see an American news paper.*

---

<sup>11</sup> Celebes Sea - the body of water south of the Philippines, east of Borneo and north of the Celebes Islands (the old name for Sulawesi, Indonesia).

<sup>12</sup> Crew members had no real way of determining how the war was progressing, but the situation on Wake Island and Guam was not as Dr. Moneymaker describes it here. Wake Island was captured by the Japanese on December 23, 1941, after a 16 day battle. Occasional air and naval bombardments failed to dislodge the Japanese forces, and the island remained under Japanese control until the end of the war. After two days of aerial assaults, lightly defended Guam was quickly overrun by Japanese forces on December 10, 1941. It was liberated in the summer of 1944.

At some point Dr. Moneymaker must have learned the truth about the situation on Wake Island - compare this entry to the entry for July 27, 1942 in Book II.

<sup>13</sup> Can - or tin can, naval slang for a destroyer.

<sup>14</sup> Porn-porn - a type of anti-aircraft (AA) gun.

<sup>15</sup> Balik Papan - the old spelling of Balikpapan, a port on the southeast coast of Borneo. The Japanese invaded the British controlled northern half of Borneo on December 15 and Governor Charles R. Smith surrendered British North Borneo on January 19. Dutch and other Allied forces surrendered the southern, Dutch controlled, portion of the island on April 1, 1942.

- Mon. 15. We left Balik Papan about 06:00 and are going S. through Macassar stS.<sup>16</sup> We still have the Houston with us and four tin cans, also the Otis & Holland. I borrowed "Mein Kampf" of all books, to read. Don't like it, he is the most egotistical nut I have ever seen, except I haven't seen him.
- Tues. 16. Anchored in Makassar, Celebes about 11:15. I hear that we are waiting on the Houston to return wherever she went. This looks like a real nice town but we are not being allowed to go ashore; have to be prepared for anything. I suppose I am in here until 6 months after the War. They can hold me I am not going to ship over.

*Hot will not even describe it, more like heat waves directly from hell. The ice box is the only cool place & I don't want to be hung up in there.*

- Wed. 17. Still at Makassar, waiting for/on something. We have not taken on any provisions and no liberty. It looks like a real nice little town and of course the girls look extra good, woe is me. We need a Navy yard overhaul plenty bad and I would feel much better if we had at least four groups of Pom-Poms rather than the 3". Seems too quiet and peaceful in here for us to be in war. We are getting a little more news now.
- Thurs. 18. The laps. really are putting out a lot of bum dope. I feel that Admiral Kimmel had to be sacrificed [sic] in order to make things look right, but the truth of it is, the whole fault is in D.C.<sup>17</sup> Pearl Harbor never was and never will be impregnable. Kimmel has proved himself quiet [sic] a few times and militarily I believe it is a big mistake removing him, but we have to have some scapegoat [sic] for war propaganda purposes. Lord help Nimitz if he makes a blunder - he is not liked nearly as much as Kimmel. Why are we staying here in Makassar, we are not taking on stores, maybe we are waiting for the lap fleet to find us.
- Fri. 19. Nimetz [sic] may be OK after all, hope so. We will only be paid \$10 per pay day until we get back to the States. The war situation is changing [sic], it looks like Germany is giving away like she did in the last war. Maybe she is planning on something else though. We fueled from the Trinity yesterday did take on but about 40,000 gals. Haven't been anywhere since the last time we fueled. Still no liberty or swimming parties.

*Branton is getting along swell, he went on top side this A.M*

- Sat. 20. Received our \$10 pay today. I would like to send the money I have on the books home. We moved out of the harbor today so I guess we are about ready to get underway. I wonder if the German army is collapsing or if they are running out of fuel. Five days till Xmas and it seems funny to be way out here, no Xmas spirit and would not know what to

---

<sup>16</sup> Makassar Strait - the body of water between Borneo and the Sulawesi; Makassar (the old name for Ujungpandang) is a port on the southwest coast of Sulawesi.

<sup>17</sup> Admiral Husband E. Kimmel - commander-in-chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet at the time of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, he was removed from command and reduced in rank from a four-star admiral to a two-star rear admiral. He was replaced by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz.

do with it. This seems more like a lull before the storm. I wonder if John is still working, has joined, or volunteered. is One in a family is enough to volunteer in my estimation. We are still growling because they will not cut in the antenna to our radio. Maybe we will get some action on it in a few days. I hope so, but we are just enlisted coolies.

- Sun. 21. At last we are underway again, we left Makassar about 13:00 and I believe we are going back to Balik Papan to pick up another convoy. Before war broke out everyone liked Kimmel & Nimitz was disliked because of his decisions [sic] in money matters for the Navy, now Nimitz is the best of people. He still hasn't done anything but throw mud at Kimmel. Looks like [the] U.S.A. is pressing Russia to declare war on Japs.<sup>19</sup> Hong Kong is holding out swell, but for what. She can't get reinforcements. I have the 00:00 to 06:00 in A.M. so soon as we secure from precautionary GQ I am going to take a bath and hit the hay.<sup>20</sup>

*We are not supposed to be keeping a diary so hope I do not get caught. Guess it would be lights out for me. Hope the war doesn't last over two years.*

- Mon. 22. Relieved the watch at 00:00 and No. #1 shaft revolution indicator went haywire. Pulled it out and just as I was working on it GQ sounded. Finished working it over and put it back in about 07:00. Eat breakfast and slept till 12:00. We anchored in Balik Papan going to convoy commercial ships. We have two destroyers with us. It has been raining most all day, sure cooled things off.

- Tues. 23. 06:00 Underway for Soerabaja, Java.<sup>21</sup> One of the ships is Free French commercial. It pulled into Manila and gave themselves over to U.S. They were out of funds, fuel, and supplies. A group of naval aviators that had their planes bombed while on the ground took her over and headed for Java with one days fuel supply and navigating by an atlas. Its a wonder they did not land up on a reef or an island some nite. That was the ship we sighted or rather picked up Monday nite at GQ. She refueled at Balik Papan and is now with us. We should be in Soerabaja about 16:00 <sup>24<sup>th</sup></sup>. Worked for 2~finding two shorted telephones on JL sound powered circuit.<sup>22</sup>

*"Marshal Joffre",<sup>23</sup>*

---

<sup>18</sup> John is Dr. Moneymaker's older brother.

<sup>19</sup> The Soviet Union did not declare war on Japan until August 8, 1945. It had been agreed at the Tehran Conference of November 1943 and the Yalta Conference of February 1945 that the Soviet Union would enter the war in the Pacific theater within three months of the end of the war in Europe, which it did. The Soviet Union's entry into the war in the Pacific is still considered to be opportunistic, coming as it did two days after the bombing of Hiroshima.

<sup>20</sup> Precautionary general quarters (PGQ) - operationally the same as general quarters, it is called in anticipation of a possible attack and not an actual or perceived threat. Precautionary general quarters is often ordered at sunrise and sunset when approaching planes are hard to detect and identify and the ship's silhouette looms large on the horizon.

<sup>21</sup> Soerabaja - the old spelling of Surabaya, a port on the eastern side of Java.

<sup>22</sup> JL sound powered circuit - in the classification of sound powered circuits aboard ship, J stands for a primary circuit and L means it connects to the lookout watch.

<sup>23</sup> The Free French merchant ship Marechal Joffre was requisitioned and recommissioned as the troop and casualty evacuation ship USS Rochambeau.

Wed. 24. Nothing going on. Christmas Eve and you would never know it, no hustle or bustle, sorta leaves an empty feeling when you think about it. We will be able to write letters. I wrote home, & to Blanche?<sup>24</sup> Hope they get it. ["P.M." in the left margin of the original text at this point.] We are heading to Soerabaja now. There is supposed to be a mine field- about 36 mines in area here so we are really just creeping along.

*I am half way through Mein Kampf it [is] more like studying prejudiced history than reading.*

Thurs. 25. Christmas. Mr. Bell played Xmas Carols over the loud speakers for 1~ this A.M. but it sounds out of place. Like Xmas in summer. Sounds depressing. We will get liberty from 16:00 to 21:30 but I don't rate until 4<sup>th</sup> day and I don't think we will be here that long. Had a good dinner. Can't see much of the town -looks real nice. There are about 50 ships here all sizes & shapes.

Fri. 26. Liberty from 16:30 to 20:30 - I rate liberty tomorrow so I'll go over and see what the town looks like. The Dutch seem to think that we have a big fleet out here and can't understand why we do not protect Manila. This fleet is a laugh. Looks like Manila is going to fall.

They changed our liberty section and I went over today. This is a clean place, but there are very few people that can speak English. Had the devil of a time getting chow. Finally got roast chicken & Pilsner Beer. Both were very good. Bread costs extra. Kip is chicken. The Javanese people are small and men & women wear skirts. I bought a Javanese carved head. If I can get Crews to get me another one they will make good book ends.

Sat. 27. Held field day today.<sup>25</sup> After we finished played four hand crib. until chow. Saw Mr. Clark and borrowed one of his Calculus books. Maybe I can teach myself - looks plenty hard though. Getting tired of reading so guess I'll start in on math again.

Sun. 28. Sunday. Didn't go to church. I am going to take it easy, lay down & read Mein Kampf some more. Some of his ideas are OK especially physical training.

Mon. 29. Nothing going on today, looks like Manila is just about ready to give up and there doesn't seem to be any help from any direction for them. Uncle Sam sure is taking his time. I don't think he has much of a Pacific fleet left.

Tues. 30. Bowen and I worked on the electric whistle this A.M. We got underway at 15:00. Anchored outside the harbor. Guess we are going to do some more convoying. I hope

---

<sup>24</sup> Gladys and Blanche Clarke, 35-year-old unmarried sisters who worked as secretaries at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard, lived, along with their mother, in the nearby town of Vallejo, California. Dr. Moneymaker met them through a prewar shipmate who rented a room in their house. He remained friends with them for many years after the war.

<sup>25</sup> Field day - time set aside to clean up the ship.

mail went off OK. It is hard to tell when we will receive any - doesn't look like we will any time soon. I have 00:00 to 06:00 in A.M.

- Wed. 31. We got underway about 06:00 gave me an 8 hour watch but I will sleep all morning. We are doing more convoying. There is a scuttlebutt going around that all of the battleships in Pearl Harbor were damaged. New Years Eve. How time does fly.
- Jan. 1942 No New Years dinner. I would much rather see some action from Uncle, rather than all  
Thurs. 1. this mush making speeches and conferences. He sure is making a lot of empty promises to the Philippines. I am beginning to believe that we are running and just using convoy duty to cover up. The crew would feel much better if we saw a little bit of action.
- Fri. 2. Made a \$5,000 insurance policy to mother. It is only good for 5 years unless I convert it to some other type within the 5 years. Had a rendezvous with the Trinity (Tanker) and Edward (Destroyer). Looks like we will go to Darwin - may make some other stop off before we get there.<sup>26</sup> Bumbed [sic] some jelly and bread from Fleer about 2100. Bush and I had a feast on top side. We are not having morning GQ any more, we are in safe water. We are near the Island of Soembawa.<sup>27</sup> Bali is a very picturesque [sic] island, it has a tall mountain peak almost in the center with clouds crawling around it.
- Sat. 3. It has been pretty cool all day today. The whole sky is overcast, of course that is not very good for us in the case that dive bombers come over but I don't think there is much chance of that.
- Sun. 4. Web and I had the 0000 to 0730 watch this A.M. I was relieved [sic] at 0730 took my towel washed; left my towel in the shop so I could eat in time to go to quarters. After quarters came to get my towel and Davis had torn it up. Was I mad and still am. I cussed him out good and proper and I am going to put him on the spot if possible. The division officer is asleep but I will catch him tomorrow. Davis does not have enough common sense to know what to do and what not to do. Got paid today at 0100 - I drew \$20, also bought [sic] money order for my first months premium on insurance. Guess that we are going to head right in to Darwin. We are only about 500 miles from there now.
- Mon. 5. I checked up in U.S. Naval Regulations about destroying other peoples effects. Punishment; fine & imprisonment, subject to a general court martial. I saw Mr. Dochnahl about it and he gave Davis the orders. I told him I had looked up the dope in U.S.N.R. He said go ahead and put Davis on report but I would not get any where, just hang myself. He offered to buy me a new towel but I told him that if anyone should it would be Davis. He called Nix up about his clothes, he shipped over. To Hell with the whole bunch of them. They can put me down on the top of the list all they want to, but I am going to get even with Davis if its the last thing I do. We are supposed to get to Darwin tomorrow about 16:00.

---

<sup>26</sup> Darwin - a port in the center of the north coast of Australia.

<sup>27</sup> One of the Lesser Sunda Islands that stretch off the eastern tip of Java, in order: Bali, Lombok, Sumbawa (Dutch spelling: Soembawa), Flores, Alor, and Timor.

*I was beginning to think a little about shipping over, but not after this episode. They can take their \$550 shipping over money and \_?x. I'll be afree man if I have to live off of grass. Hope mother saved \$50 out of my allotmentfor [unreadable].*

- Tues. 6. We anchored in Darwin at 15:30. It is a large port with a small entrance. Not very modern. There is only one dock. The town is not very big from all reports. There are about 50 ships in the harbor including three Army, U.S., transports.
- Wed. 7. I went ashore this P.M. liberty from 16:00 to 22:00. Gilkey, Henning and myself. The town looks like one of the smaller old western towns. Red clay makes a few good sidewalk, although it is paved in some places. The original population must have been about 3,000 but all women & children have been taken inland. <sup>8</sup> Any kind of clothes is OK. Shorts, longs, have [sic] way between, dungarees, white linen, white shirts, no shirts, colored shirts, and uniforms all chinchinning and getting along swell together. We bought [sic] some canned fruit to eat at nite on watch. Quite a slew of American soldiers here about 8,000. They were seven days out from Hawaii headed for Manila when war was declared. They turned south, through the Fiji Islands, Brisbane & then Darwin.<sup>29</sup> They do not know where or when they are going. The Australian soldiers wear kaki [sic] shorts and wide brimmed hats with a cockeyed crown. They carry their raincoats fastened from their shoulders like a cape. Large clod knockers for shoes. I should have taken a raincoat with me. No warning, the bottom just falls out and it rains like the devil for 12 hour and it is all over. Enjoyed talking to the Australians.
- Thurs. 8. Underway at 06:30. We are taking a transport with about 3,000 aboard somewhere, probably Soerabaja. We are making 15 knots; better than the 8 & 9 we made coming down. Saw a cyclone or water spout this P.M. about 4 miles to our stem. When it stopped you could see the column of water drop, glad it did not catch up with us. We have five tin cans & the Marblehead with us. We took aboard about 150 men yesterday about 50 of them are for further transfer.
- Fri. 9. It stays overcast and rains a lot but it is a lot better than all this heat we had for a while. Still haven't received any mail; sure would like to. Looks like Uncle is getting straightened out. Anyway we have the laps worried. They don't know where we are.
- Sat. 10. Had the 00:00 to 04:00 watch. I helped Gilkey to remove a time relay switch this morning. I hope there are some in the spare parts box. We are supposed to enter Soerabaja in the morning. We may stay out side the Harbor. The channel is plenty shallow and we really pick up the silt in our strainers and the condensers.

*I may be a jackass for not shipping over but I have gone this far so I will go the rest. It is hard to tell if I will be able to get a job or not when I do get out but I sure will try. Maybe go back to school. There are always plenty of little things coming up to make me*

---

<sup>28</sup> This precaution was justified as Darwin was bombed on February 19.

<sup>29</sup> Brisbane - a large city, north of Sydney, halfway up the east coast of Australia.

*dislike the Navy. Maybe the kind of life I am looking for is an ideal but this is too far from it. War is hell but I am willing to do my part.*

*Ensign Clark is trying to talk me into shipping over. He won't succeed I am sure. He is a good spud. I am still borrowing school books from him. He is going to teach me physics.*

- Sun. 11. We anchored outside Soerabaja harbor picked up the Admiral and got underway again. We have been heading North all day so it looks like we are going to look for trouble up around Davao. It is going around that we are to be the spear head to contact the enemy. I have not been on top side all day but I hope that we have a couple of cans with us.

15:00 I pulled No #1 shaft revolution transmitter and it is really torn apart. It will take at least 10 hours to get it back together. I have the 20:00 to 24:00 so maybe I can get a good start on it. We have two destroyers with us, that is a little consolation.

- Mon. 12. We are heading in the general direction of Timor but we may not go that far. There is not a whole lot of difference since we acquired our Admiral. We are supposed to stay in complete uniform when we go on top side, but it is not being enforced [sic] too much. We are still having GQ every morning and every evening. It is a good idea to stay on the alert and be prepared for most any thing. I do not have any watches tonite. Went on top side after GQ.

- Tues. 13. 04:00 GQ this is not a drill. After we were at our stations found out we had sighted a sail boat about 80 ft long. It really breaks up sleep but best to stay on safe side. Precautionary GQ at 05:00 P.M. We are anchored in a cove of a small bay on the island of Soembawa. Don't know why or how long we will be here. Maybe for a rendezvous.

- Wed. 14. This morning one of our destroyers picked up a submarine but we never did see it. We got underway in 28 minutes and started out. But the tin cans dropped ash cans so they must have located her.<sup>30</sup> We came back in about noon and anchored. Took Browen & Bowen with me to work on a circuit in the Fwd. Eng. Room. Changing a QA buzzer.

*Talked some more to Ensign Clark. He took tap lessons from Bill Robinson. <sup>31</sup> He gets on top side and plays a potato and taps. He's crazy but one of our best officers.*

- Thurs. 15. Nothing happened all day today. We are going to get underway in the morning at 04:00. We fueled the Marblehead and two tin cans this eve finished about 21:00. Bowen and I finished the circuit in FER. It works OK.

- Fri. 16. Fueled a tin can this morning. I had three hours sleep last nite. The Wagon backed up on Mazur and I we had to rig fueling phones. Then both of us got in Dutch with Griggs but who gives a damm [sic] I don't. I do not know where we are going.

---

<sup>30</sup> Ash can - naval slang for a depth charge.

<sup>31</sup> Bill "Bojangles" Robinson - a well-known African-American tap dancer.

- Sat. 17. We anchored in a bay on Alor. We are nearly 15 miles inland. Fueling from the Trinity. The Houston joined us again. She is fueling also. Most of the coves like this are very deep on account of the volcanic origination of the islands. 15:00 we are underway. We are gradually building up to something, we are not convoying now just scouting around. We will probably contact the *laps* before long. There is a large permanent whirlpool in here.
- Sun. 18. Seems funny not being able to tell the difference in one day from the next. Was there ever a difference between Sunday and any other day in the week, that is as far as physical characteristics are concerned. There is no more blue Mondays. All of that is a lot of imagination. Little Byers gave Mr. Baker a lot of guff while on watch so he is on report again. If he gets busted again that will make him a seaman, so guess he will get transferred to a deck div. Some of the rest of us want to get paid off as bad as he does but why stick your neck out. We are anchored in a bay in Timor. (1800). Marblehead, Houston, eight cans and ourselves have been patrolling between Timor and the Flores. We can see the hot jets of steam from one of the volcanoes on Flores.
- Mon. 19. It is hotter than the hinges of Hell. We get very little breeze in here. I have not been able to see any town around here anywhere. Must not be any thing here except an Army station. Fler is teaching me how to play Chess. I am getting along pretty good with Shorthand. And I have covered quite a bit in Algebra.
- Tues. 20. Fler borrowed a chess set last nite so today we are carving a set. Might as well do that as anything. The Kings and Queens are the hardest things to carve. It only takes 15 min to carve a pawn. We are getting underway but don't [know] where we are going again. Pay Day today - I drew \$13 just to make an even amount on the books.
- Wed. 21. We are preparing for battle. We are going through the Makassar straits and will probably be in battle about 16:00. We have the Marblehead and 6 destroyers with us. We will join the Houston. While making a short cut we ran over a coral reef and did a lot of damage to our bottom.<sup>32</sup> They seem to think we ripped quite a bit of it out. The ship really did some tall jumping around, our speed was 22 knots. We know the pit log is broken off or bent at right angles.<sup>33</sup> No battle. We are going in some cove, transfer fuel to the other ships and send over a diver in the A.M. to see how much damage is done.
- Thurs. 22. Divers were over the side practically all day. Both screws are OK. Under #2 Fire Room there are two big holes and in two different places rivets are sheared off for a distance of 6 ft. Under #3 & #4 Fire rooms there are quite a few large holes and in one place rivets have been sheared off for 15 ft. The Port side just has several big dents in it and

---

<sup>32</sup> The battle to which the USS Boise was heading when she ran over an uncharted shoal in waters between Sumbawa and Flores is known as the First Battle of Balikpapan. In addition to the loss of the Boise and her escort, the destroyer USS Barker, the light cruiser USS Marblehead burned out a turbine and was forced to drop out of the mission, along with her escort, another destroyer, leaving only a force of four destroyers. The USS Houston never joined up with the task force. The small remaining force eluded a larger Japanese fleet and in the predawn hours of January 24 managed to sink several transports anchored in the harbor. Japanese troops, however, successfully landed later that day and Balikpapan was captured on January 25.

<sup>33</sup> Pit log - short for pitometer log, a device for measuring the ship's speed through the water.



the pit log is bent up against the hull. Both bilge keels are mashed quite a bit. We are apparently going to Java and see where we are to go. I surely hope it is a dry dock in the States. I finished the chess board and I hope it dries OK.

- Fri. 23. The damn green border around the board will not dry. We get paint like that once in a while. We are still going West so we should be in Java sometime tomorrow. The Captain or the Navigator is liable to get relieved. We had to transfer the Admiral and he was making some good changes. The Boise certainly is always messing up.
- Sat. 24. We stand a pretty fair chance of going back to the States to get our bottom [fixed]. We will get in tomorrow so I am hoping [sic] for the best. The green paint is nearly dry so Fleer and I played a game of Chess. He won. Hope we do not hit any rough weather cause if we do we are liable to break in the middle.
- Sun. 25. I can't seem to find the name of this place that we are anchored in now. We got here about 08:50. We put in a new pit log shaft. Just knocked the other one clear through the bottom. We had GQ about 02:15 this morning and secured at day break. Several of our destroyers attacked a Jap convoy in the Makassar Straits and did quite a bit of damage but they did not get but little damage themselves.
- Mon. 26. Mazur and I checked all four shaft revolution transmitters and reset them. Every chance we get (at anchor) we go over all the IC circuits. We are getting liberty here but it is a whole lot like Darwin from the way people are talking. I rate liberty tomorrow. I have the 20:00 to 2400 security watch tonight. There still is not any dope out as to where and when we are going. Guess we will be here for a few days though.
- Tues. 27. Went ashore. It sure is a small filthy place. About all the natives can speak is "money". It is hard to try to find a halfway clean place to eat. Finally ended up by going in the back of one of the joints and cooking my own ham and eggs. If you order a fish or chicken they catch them and it takes quite a time to kill, clean and cook them. I bought [sic] some chocolate. The name of this place is TJILATJAP.<sup>34</sup>
- Wed. 28. Nothing going on today. I have the 20:00 to 2400 security watch. Eating all the time from liberty parties coming back.
- Thurs. 29. I have shore patrol today. But then I will not get it again for quite a while. Did not have much trouble. Had to drag one drunk back to the ship and take him to the brig. Boy taking a drunk down four decks by yourself is really a good job. I had a good chow on the beach.
- Fri. 30. We loaded the bilges of the #4 Fire room with rock. To hold the deck plates down. We have a new skipper. Commander Moran made Captain so he relieved Robinson.<sup>35</sup>

---

<sup>34</sup> Tjilatjap - the old spelling of Cilacap, a port on the south coast of Java.

<sup>35</sup> Captain Stephen B. Robinson.

- Sat. 31. I rated liberty today but did not go over. This is a hole. I would like to make a civilized port.
- Feb. We transferred OFF 1200 rounds of 5" Ammunition and 600 of 3". Also most of our
- Sun. 1. GSK [general storekeeper] stores. We have enough supplies for 6 weeks. Sounds like states for us, I hope.
- Guess John really feels like a man now.*<sup>36</sup>
- Mon. 2. We left TJILATJAP this morning. The new skipper passed the word that we are going to Colombo.<sup>37</sup> Guess we will go in dry dock there. We at least know where we are going. Chow is really getting bad. We are getting beans, spuds, rice and stew. The stew is awful and I do mean awful.
- Tues. 3. The commander gave us the word that the ships force would do all the work on the ship. So that means lots of turn to.<sup>38</sup> We will be there approximately a month. Hope we take on supplies. We will go right into battle as soon as we get out. Not even any stew today. Guess we can last out until we get to Colombo. Hope there are some white people there.
- Wed. 4. The Japs bombed Soerabaja yesterday and Batavia this A.M. about 10:30.<sup>39</sup> The Marblehead was bombed off the coast of Soembawa but so far do not know how much damage was done to it. Looks like we will be right in the thick of it when and if we get back from Colombo. Sure tell the difference in the Boise with new skipper and commander.
- Thurs. 5. Held field day today. We are supposed to have the lower deck inspection in the A.M. Looks like war or anything will [not] keep the Navy from having their \*7-\$- inspections and useless regulations. 13:40 sighted a submarine - we catapulted a plane and the sub submerged. We make contact with her and she is British. Wish we could find out how much damage was done to Houston.<sup>40</sup> Seems that their #3 6" gun mount was completely destroyed by a 500 lb bomb. Doesn't sound so good. I will be able to send mail in Colombo. It is so little that we are allowed to say it is useless to write except to let mother know that I am still alive. I sure would like to get some of this liberty and pursuit of happiness that I have not had for the past four years. Uncle Sam better hurry up and send plenty of air aid to Dutch East Indies or it will be "Jap East Indies" before long.
- Fri. 6. The Normandie is supposed to be in Sydney with 300 war planes on her. By the time she made a couple of shuttle trips between states and here they would have a pretty good

---

<sup>36</sup> This remark was presumably added after receiving (on March 31) John's letter of February 1. John had enlisted in the Navy.

<sup>37</sup> Colombo - a port on the west side of the then British colony of Ceylon, now the independent country of Sri Lanka.

<sup>38</sup> Turn to - naval slang for a regular work period (as opposed to, for example, general quarters) or the command to begin work.

<sup>39</sup> Batavia - the Dutch name for the city on the island of Java now known as Jakarta.

<sup>40</sup> In an engagement which took place on the morning of February 4 (Battle of Makassar Strait) both the USS Marblehead and USS Houston were damaged when attacked by Japanese planes.

chance of holding the laps until further aid. I think that we have been officially relieved from Asiatic duty, their [sic] is some dope that the Phoenix & Honolulu is in N.E.J. [Netherlands (Dutch) East Indies] now. That once more brings our chances way up for going back to the states. The laps carried out a fairly successful air raid on Soerabaja and vicinity [sic]. McArthur is still doing an excellent job on Manila but I think he is due to be overwhelmed before long.<sup>41</sup> Maybe Uncle Sam is finally going to start moving in on the laps. Defensive battles out here have been proved several times to [be] very ineffective [sic]. We are supposed to cross the equator about 18:00 today. It is really plenty hot since the rains have ceased.

*You try to get along with 1000 men seeing, working, talking, eating, infact doing every thing with the same old groups. It is just damn near impossible, democracy or no democracy. /fit wasn 'tfor the punishment (since [we] are[at] war) there would be fights galore. You get so you know everyones characteristics and before anything is said or done you just about know how and what he will do or say. (NUTS).*

*Give me a home where the buffalo roam or rather doesn't anything roam. Sure would like to get to [be] myselffor a change. Sailors! Sailors! Would like to talk to a civilian [sic]for a change or even see some one I know. I have never seen such narrow minded, egotistic, callow, vulgar men in all my life. Some of them are OK but others turn your stomach. Nix is about the lowest human I have ever seen, mentally & morally.*

Sat. 7. Well, we are on the last leg of this trip. I wonder how long we will be here and where we will head to next. We are still going through old routine, sunset and sunrise GQ. We had one fireman to pass away after being operated on for appendicitis. He just did [not] have enough vitality to keep going. This A.M. the pharmscits [sic] mate worked all morning to save a coxswain. Seems they have succeeded. The crew as a whole sure does not have any resistance left. The heat and chow is sure telling on everyone. I was vaccinated for small pox this A.M. We get it every 4 years.

Sun. 8. Looks like my small pox vac is going to take. We were paid today I drew \$12. We will get paid again in rupees when we get in port, tomorrow. I have to draw off \$150 check form. That will only leave me \$90 but guess that will run me for awhile I hope. I have about \$50 with me in case I ever abandon ship. Might as well be optomistic [sic]. 18:35 we are in precautionary GQ sighted a destroyer. All our guns are ready to fire. We are getting ready to challenge said ship. Hope she answers friendly. If no answer we are supposed to open fire. "Stand by to make full speed". "What ship" we have challenged. She answered "Enterprise". We are still standing by. There is no knowledge that the "Enterprise" is out here. It has been verified as "HMS Enterprise", a cruiser and not our air craft carrier. Everything is OK. So we will secure in a few minutes and get a little sleep after condition II has been set.<sup>42</sup>

---

<sup>41</sup> With the American position viewed as hopeless, President Roosevelt ordered General MacArthur to leave Corregidor for Melbourne on February 20. He eventually complied on March 11, leaving Lieutenant General Wainwright in charge.

<sup>42</sup> Watch conditions I to V specify the readiness level the crew is to maintain. Level I means complete readiness for action and is synonymous with general quarters; level V indicates peacetime conditions

- Mon. 9. We anchored in Colombo 9<sup>th</sup>. There are two entrances to the harbor. Just as soon as a ship comes in or out they close the sub nets. It would be a calamity if this harbor were  
thru  
bombed. The merchant ships tie up two alongside and then in rows. There are at least 75  
Fri. 13. ships in here, including 6 British warships and several (5) large troop ships.<sup>43</sup> The USS West Point was here and on her way to Singapore. Looks like the Japs are going to take that island.<sup>44</sup> This is not a very good city for liberty. But any place where they are having blackouts is not very good, everything closes up at sunset and the streets are dark as pitch. The place is overrun with Rickshaws but they are reasonable and most of the pullers can talk a little bit of English. They have pretty good movies here, American, and there are quite a few of them that I have not seen. Practically all labor is by the natives and every fourth one is asking for alms. War is hitting this place hard and the people are practically living from shipments from Australia and America. India never did have very much food and now they are not exporting anything. The town has quite a few evacuees from it and there have been three of the Empress ships in here loaded with them.<sup>45</sup> We can still get pretty good chow but prices are jumping from day to day. I bought mother a star sapphire for Rs.30 being it is her birthstone. You can get most any kind of jewels there are, but there is not any way of telling if you have been taken or not. We are still waiting to enter dry dock and [it] looks like we will be here for at least a month to come. It would be a calamity if this place were bombed.
- Sat. 14. We had personnell. [sic] inspection Sat A.M. and I rated 1300 liberty. Just went over and  
thru  
fooled around. ®Mr. Smith would not let Daniels, Fler, & Clark go to Kandy Sunday  
Tues. 17. because they had stained spots on their jumpers.<sup>46</sup> Boy that takes the cake. Here we are at war, very little liberty and they treat us like that. There are no more whites in small stores. We have to wash our own white uniforms, laundry tears or dirties them up. The wash room is only open at 3 two hour intervals per day for 1,000 men. You just try to get clothes scrubbed. Then most of the time we have to press our own whites. Boy there is plenty of growling going on and if it keeps up, well you can expect most anything. To the devil with such regulations and the people that enforce them at such times as these. We are getting underway Wed. mom. We have not had any repairs made on the ship. This is a private owned dock and it does not give warships preferance [sic] over merchant ships. In other words we have wasted a good 11 days while Singapore has fallen.
- Wed. 18. Underway at 08:00 for Bombay. We met the USS Mount Vernon about 11:00 full of U.S. Troops going to Colombo.

---

prevail. Related are material conditions, which define the status of the ship itself. Material condition "affirm" corresponds to watch condition 1.

<sup>43</sup> In the original text the "(5)" is written above the word "several" and was probably added slightly later.

<sup>44</sup> The Japanese invaded the then British territory of Malaya on December 8, 1941 and gained full control of the peninsula on January 31, 1942. By the time Dr. Moneymaker wrote this entry the Japanese had begun their assault on the British outpost of Singapore, an island just off the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula. Singapore surrendered on February 15 and about 80,000 British, Australian and Indian troops were taken prisoner.

<sup>45</sup> Ships of the Canadian Pacific Steamships Ocean Services Ltd., which had names "Empress of ...," carried troops and supplies throughout the region.

<sup>46</sup> Kandy - the ancient capital of the kings of Sri Lanka, a historic city in the interior of the country.

- Thurs. 19. We have not run into anything and I do not think we will. There has been a lot of speech making about the fall of Singapore from England but she isn't & can't do much about it. U.S. aid is just beginning to show itself out here, but Japan has also got her situation well in hand, we will just have to wait and see.
- Fri. 20. Dochnahl and I had a pretty good run in this AM. We had a general mix up on emergency steering, he called me a liar over the telephone so I handed it back to him. After GQ I went up to his room and he was nice as pie about it slapped me on the back smiled and said to forget about it that it was all over. About ten o'clock (AM. still) Griggs came down and told me I was on the spot. Was I surprised I told him that I wasn't, and what Dochnahl had said. He said that I was being transferred to the shop and would wait further developments. If Dochnahl thinks I am going to ask him to leave me in the IC gang he has got me down wrong, to hell with him and his stabbing in the back policy. How does the old saying go "My head is bloody but unbowed". He busted little Byers and kept him on the "Pan" so he will probably do the same to me. Soon as someone shows a little sense, initiative [sic] and a willingness to leave [sic] his own life, and make his own decisions, there is Dochnahl with his thumbs down, but a smirk on his puss.

*Sometimes I think I am going batty. But I will be myself if it kills me. We will anchor in Bombay tomorrow A.M*

- Sat. 21. So far I have made three liberties in Bombay and it is fair. There is not much I can tell as to far as writing is concerned. I am getting transferred to the shop, so guess Dochnahl is
- Thurs. 26. satisfied. I had patrol Monday. Henning and I went swimming Tuesday.
- Mar. Entered dry dock this AM. There is quite a bit of damage to the ships bottom that will
- Tues. 3. take about a month to fix.
- Apr. Left dry dock this AM. A month really slips by fast. I went ashore practically every day
- Thurs. 2. I rated liberty. Get a good chow and go to a movie. It was a relief to take life easy for a change. I received a letter from John dated Feb. 1st on March 31st. First letter I have received since I left Pearl Harbor Nov 19, 1941. I sent \$200 check to mother March 28<sup>th</sup> & wrote John, mother & Clarks a letter April 2.

*I gained 15pounds in Bombay. All I did was eat. At the rate I am going I will lose it in short order.*

- Fri. 3. Underway from Bombay to Fremantle, Australia it will take us about 2 weeks.<sup>47</sup> We are going at 18 knots quite a good speed. I am in the shop now. I have the 0000 to 08:00 watch in shop tonight.
- Sat. 4. We had precautionary GQ this A.M. Now I have the 08:00 to 12:00 watch in steering gear this AM. Not much sleep for me today.

---

<sup>47</sup> Fremantle - a port near the southwestern tip of Australia.

- Sun. 5. We have increased our speed to 25 knots. Seems like we are in a big hurry to get to Australia. We are keeping one plane up from A.M. to P.M. Not much like Easter.
- Sun. I haven't been to church for so long I feel like a heathen. I have started back to studying again. Just read and played bridge in Bombay. Colombo was bombed this A.M. by 60 Jap planes. The British shot down 27 of them. We are on the lookout for a Jap carrier.<sup>48</sup>
- Mon. 6. Received word to stay in the vicinity off the Malavis [Maldives] Islands to wait on a convoy from Bombay. Saw a lot of debris, bales of cotton & 50 gallon tanks floating by all afternoon. We are not waiting for convoy any longer.
- Mon. 13. It seemed from the time we left Bombay that we would not run into any trouble on our trip to Fremantle. Except for precautionary GQ it would be hard to believe that we are at war. This must be the lull before the storm. I may make first class after all, since the notice has come out about unlimited rates even for first class.<sup>49</sup> I am glad that I have already passed exams, hope they do not give us another one. We are due to be in Fremantle Thursday. Cool weather makes me feel good. We are wearing blues now and a lot of the men are sleeping with blankets. What a relief to be able to sleep in my bunk again. You don't realize how hard top side is until you get in your bunk again. The past four months of sweating and GQ has really gone fast. I do not think I will ever want to go to the tropics again as long as I live, especially hugging the equator like we have been doing. I wish I could be sure of finding something permanent to do when I get out of here. I don't like the idea of looking forward to a big depression when the war is over, but that seems to me is what I will be greeted with and I do not think it will take any 8 or 10 years either. I would like to be able and settle down for a little while though before I will have to scratch for a living. Sure I can stay in the Navy and be secure but what a price to pay for security. I want freedom for a change.<sup>50</sup>

---

<sup>48</sup> Early on the morning of April 5, the Japanese attacked Colombo sinking the armed merchant cruiser HMS Hector and the aging destroyer HMS Tenedos. Later in the day a second wave of planes located and sunk the cruisers HMS Cornwall and HMS Dorsetshire. While initial reports claimed about 25 Japanese planes were shot down, the actual number was closer to five. An attack four days later on Trincomalee on the eastern side of the island sank several more Royal Navy ships. The Japanese, however, failed in their objective of crippling the British Eastern Fleet as it had been withdrawn to the Maldives, islands 700 miles southwest of Sri Lanka.

<sup>49</sup> Rate - the term used in the Navy for what in the Army is called rank.

<sup>50</sup> Upon departing Fremantle the USS Boise proceeded to the Mare Island Naval Shipyard for further repairs. During this time the Japanese consolidated their hold on the western Pacific, with the Allies already having surrendered control of the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia) in March. The tide began to turn when the Japanese Navy sustained significant losses at the Battle of Midway (June 4-7, 1942) near islands 1,300 miles west-northwest of Hawaii and 2,500 miles east-southeast of Japan. This was followed in August by the assault on Guadalcanal, the first of many battles in a three year campaign to retake the islands in the Pacific and force the Japanese back to their homeland.

BOOK II  
June - November 1942

1942

June<sup>1</sup>

19. Almost under the Oakland Bay bridge at anchor. Waiting for?
22. Officers had liberty while at anchor "coolies" did not. Underway for Auckland with 9 ship convoy.<sup>2</sup> 14 kts.
23. 75 men at captains mast today for taking extra leave and liberty. Should have taken mine while I could. About 20 men missing.
27. Cracked up one of our planes recovering it. No casualties. Like fishing wet butt & hungry gutt.
30. Sighted sub; GQ. Sub "Subbed". Maybe catch him next time. I am a top side sailor now. I am SOPA of allighting<sup>3</sup> - have five men under me one 2/c two 3/c & two "strikers". Fox & I have top side lighting. I have searchlights for GQ condition 2 & 3. Oh, boy, much better than aft diesel.

July

1. Crossed equator 10:15 L. 155°30' W.
4. Two of convoy left to go to Suva.<sup>4</sup> Cooling off again.
8. Destination has changed from Auckland to Wellington.<sup>5</sup> Doesn't make any diff. to me-wish we could get off of convoy duty. "Monotonious" [sic]
9. Crossed 180° meridian at 0100. Getting colder. Gained one day.
10. Sighted RAAF [Royal Australian Air Force] bomber. Enter port tomorrow. Scuttlebut [sic] that we will not go to port.

*Von Tirpitz torpedoed by Russia in Baltic.*<sup>6</sup>

11. Going through Cook's Straights [sic] cold, windy, rainy, rough sea, foggy and other y's you can think of - this one extreme to the other is going to change me to a new kind of animal or kill me. Wouldn't it be good if you could adapt yourself to the weather like

---

<sup>1</sup> In the second volume of his diaries, Dr. Moneymaker did not indicate the day of the week beside each entry.

<sup>2</sup> Auckland - a major city on the north island of New Zealand.

<sup>3</sup> SOPA - senior officer present afloat, here used facetiously by Dr. Moneymaker to refer to himself.

<sup>4</sup> Suva - a port on the main island of Fiji.

<sup>5</sup> Wellington - a port at the southern tip of the north island of New Zealand.

<sup>6</sup> On July 5, the Russian submarine K-21 attempted to torpedo the German battleship Tirpitz, but the torpedoes missed. Stationed primarily in northern Norwegian waters, where she disrupted arctic convoys, she tied up a portion of the British and U.S. Navies more by her presence than by any offensive action. She was sunk on November 12, 1944 by British Lancaster bombers.

<sup>7</sup> Cook Strait - the body of water, near Wellington, separating the north and south islands of New Zealand.



some animals do their surroundings. Just imagine in a few minutes time sprouting a fur lined rain coat with boots and rain hat to match. "NUTS" not me. Not going to Wellington. Fooey.

*Left 4 ships to go to Wellington.*

12. Met USS Tucker & HMS Macacombe off coast of North Island - they took rest of convoys. Guess we will go to Auckland after all- good place as any. Weather & sea is getting more "Y".
13. Catapulted "Punchey" Wallenberg in this pea soup with rain for scouting. Had one devil of a time recovering him. We fumed around for two hours before he finally landed. We did not think he was going to make it - waves were 10 ft high and a high wind along with it. He is one good flyer. "Red" Fletcher was with him.
14. Anchored Auckland 15:10. The USS Walker, USS Rigel & HMS Achilles here. I rate liberty. It is OK but is cold. None of the stores, restaurants or anything here have heat. Just freeze - it is warmer outside that it is inside. Met & her mother at the movies.<sup>8</sup> Crews would not stay and talk. I am going to her home 16<sup>th</sup>.

*Most of the women here are rugged more so than in Australia.*

15. Duty today.
16. Crews and I wandered around until time to go to see . Met Nan at the door [s] grandmother. Had a good chow. and I went to a dance - had a real good time. Not even any fire in the homes just enough to cook on. Makes you realize what real war is at home. and I are going sight seeing Saturday.

*USS Perkins came in.*

17. Duty.
18. Underway 0630. No sight seeing trip today. Wonder what will think. Such is the life of a sailor. Isn't it awful. I have a picture of anyway. Secret orders.
19. Six men went over the hill in Auckland.<sup>9</sup> Something must be wrong with this ship. Maybe it is the men and the ship. USS Barker joined us yesterday.
21. Entered Tongotabu, Friendly group.<sup>10</sup> Picked up mail & men being transferred back to the states. There is a large task force here. Wasp, Quincy, San Juan, destroyers & supply

---

<sup>8</sup> Dr. Moneymaker did not include the young lady's name in his diary; instead he left a %" blank space in seven different places.

<sup>9</sup> Over the hill- naval slang for AWOL (absent without official leave).

<sup>10</sup> Tongotabu - one of several older spellings of Tongatapu, Tonga (previously known as the Friendly Islands), an island 1,250 miles north-northeast of Auckland and 500 miles east-southeast of Fiji.

ships. Not any battle ships. Would like to see one of the new battle ships. 20 ships here in all. This trip is not bad at all- much better than the last one. 1400 underway for Pearl Harbor. Making 24 kts. Something must be up???

21. Again Crossed 180° meridian - today is yesterday, you figure it out. Don't even know what day of the week it is. Sighted convoy this A.M. going opposite direction. Evidently to join the task force at Tongotabu.
23. Crossed equator. Haven't stayed in one climate long enough to decide which I like best. Cold, hot, warm or some of each. Wouldn't do me much good which I decided. So I will just be stubborn and won't make up my mind. Everyone is all keyed up. I will have to find the connection between speed and one's nervous system after the war is over. Maybe it will come in handy.

11



25. Entered Pearl Harbor. Moored stb. to USS Medusa. 1430. Very few ships here. California, West Va., Hornet, North Hampton & Pensacola. One or two destroyers. Seems like closing the bam door after the horse is out. Liberty starts at 15:00 and is up at 1900 for Ilc. Received a new plane for the one we cracked up off of Auckland. We circled the Island coming in. Saw the bottom of the UTAH. The Arizona's main deck is under warter [sic] but she is on an even keel most of her superstructure is still intact. The Oklahoma is over on her side - can't see any of her superstructure. Salvage crews are working on her. Some of the men that were taken out of her water tight compartments had worn or chewed their fingers down till there was nothing left but stumps. For Democracy? There was a lot of propaganda put out about this place and also quite a bit was not put out. The California is tied up next to the dock - they raised her and she is floating but that is about all. None of her turrets are any good. The W. Va. is in dry dock and she is really a mess. Torpedoes & bombs tore away quite a bit of her armour on the Port side. The japs are not so dumb. Casualties were around 6,000.<sup>12</sup>
26. Liberty is not much good.
27. Underway 0830 fired all guns. Heading for Midway. Guess the Boise is going out and retake Wake or something just as foolish.
29. Anchored at Midway. 1530. USS Fulton & two subs here. 4 PT boats. 13 Torpedo bombers, PBY's & P40'S.<sup>14</sup> This place is the whitest sand I have ever seen and it is \_ \_ \_ \_ all sand

---

<sup>11</sup> Dr. Moneymaker placed this diagram at the top of the page containing the entry for July 25. It shows the location of the battleships Utah, Arizona and Oklahoma that were sunk during the attack on Pearl Harbor.

<sup>12</sup> While different sources list slightly different casualty counts, Dr. Moneymaker's estimate is too high. There were approximately 2,400 killed and an additional 1,250 wounded, many seriously.

<sup>13</sup> PT boat - the patrol torpedo boat was a small, fast boat used by the U.S. Navy to attack large surface ships.

except for scrub brush. The Japs did quite a bit of damage here - tore up the hanger and several buildings. But guess they loot [perhaps: lost] more than we did. The Yorktown was sunk by a sub while being towed by a destroyer. Destroyer was sunk also.

30. Liberty today from 1600 to 1800. Had two bottles of beer. That beer tasted better than any I have ever had. Was ice cold. Two bottles per man per day. Saw wreckage of Jap planes - picked up a few pieces. Looks like good old U.S. Aluminum.

*I am crazy listen*

!

31. Underway 0950. Some one better do some tall praying. This really takes the cake, pie, candy & mud. Tokyo here we come.<sup>15</sup> Just the Boise is to do all of this - Ahem ?! † The Boise is to go within 400 miles off the coast of Yohohama [sic] & Tokayo [sic], stay there about twenty hours, shoot down, up or under everything we see, hear or feel? and then proceed back to Midway. Just like that. Some one is overly optimistic [sic]. But if we can do what we are supposed to guess old Neptune will be proud to have the Boise down there with him. We are supposed to be the scouting force for a task force that will raid the Jap coast the following nite after we get there. All this has been elusively put over the air so that Tokyo will get the idea that there really is going to be a raid; as such she will send some of her fleet out of the southern islands mainly carriers to protect her coast. Just think what a few 100 planes flown [from] land could do to us with only a round trip of 1000 miles to go, especially if they are looking for a task force and only find the Boise. I gotta go. If all of this happens our task forces will not have such a bad time of it taking over some of the southern islands. I hope. We are to pick up all prisoners we can. There are 30 fairly good swimmers going to be picked out to dive overboard and capture some Japs off of their sampans. Hope I am not one of the lucky ones. This crew has gone mad they cheered like we were going to a football game when the word was passed over the loud speakers.

August

1.&2.<sup>16</sup>

Crossed 180 meridian. That old line is getting to be quite friendly. Everyone is still very excited and are trying not to show how uneasy they are. Some of the married men really

---

<sup>14</sup> PBV - PBV Catalina, a long-range, twin-engine, catapult-launched flying boat; PB stands for "patrol bomber," and the Y refers to the manufacturer, Consolidated Aircraft.

P-40 - Curtiss-Wright P-40 Warhawk, a single-seat, single-engine fighter.

<sup>15</sup> Dr. Moneymaker is about to describe an action involving the USS Boise where she was sent as a decoy toward the Japanese mainland in an attempt to draw off some of her naval forces from the southern Solomon Islands, islands 900 miles east of New Guinea and 1,100 miles northeast of the east coast of Australia. The goal was to lessen the Japanese naval presence in the area prior to the landings at Guadalcanal (which had been occupied by the Japanese in May 1942) planned for August 7. Despite sometimes fierce resistance and Japanese naval counterattacks, U.S. Marines and other Allied troops quickly secured much of Guadalcanal and the nearby islands of Tulagi and Florida. In the following days and months, the Japanese made repeated attempts to reinforce their troops remaining on Guadalcanal, to put the American controlled airfield (Henderson Field) out of commission, and ultimately recapture the island. The Japanese eventually conceded control of the island and the Battle of Guadalcanal ended on February 9, 1943.

<sup>16</sup> By labeling this entry with two dates, Dr. Moneymaker is noting that the ship has crossed the international date line and the date has suddenly changed from August 1 to August 2.

look bad poor soles [sic] & then some of the single men are crazy. Maybe it's me but the closer we get the nearer this looks like Hiri Kiri.

- 4.<sup>17</sup> GQ at 1615 launched 2 aircraft to scout ahead. We are about 450 miles from the coast. You know in naval warfare by yourself in enemy territory not so good. Wallenberg & Fletcher, Bowles & his radioman are the planes crews. They are about 100 miles ahead. It is getting dark if they do not soon return it will be too late to pick them up. Radar contact 10,000 yard (surface) to port and one to stbd about 18,000 yds. Not any better. We are still going in. The two planes are lost - we have opened up with our radio and are talking to them, but pilots are excited or else figure on missing the boat on purpose. Our radio is opened up loud enough to hear have [sic] way around the world and Tokyo has radio silence. She just went off the air ~ hour ago. (I am getting all of this dope over the phones.) We have have [sic] the shutter on one of our searchlights & shining it on our forward stack. Why? don't ask me. We are heading out now at 28 kts. The planes landed in the water & are OK. Guess the laps will pick them up in the A.M. unless our subs beat them to it. We are supposed to [have] communicated with one of our subs and gave them the planes' positions. There is a green flare off our stern so maybe it is one of our subs. We are underway for Midway. Sure hope planes do not catch up with us tomorrow. We have picked up 5 radar contacts two up ahead.

2400 and we seem to be out of danger. Four planes went over head but guess they figured we were laps sighhhhhhhhh!

5. Secured from GQ at 10:00 hope we get good chow. Have had two sandwiches & cup of coffee. Don't guess we will be found. Some relief. Looks like we are going on into P.H. [Pearl Harbor].
7. Guess the Boise has pulled another one and got away with it. We are going to stick our neck out once too often.
10. Entered P.H. Moored Port side to. Liberty.

*HMS Eagle & HMS Manchester sunk in Mediterranean [sic] Sea. (sub & planes).*

14. Task force pulled in today. Seven battle wagons, two heavy cruisers and about 15 tin cans. Must be from the states. Quite a bit of fighting going on around the Solomons. Maybe they are going out there. Us too? Via the grapevine & what not got word that the Quincey, Vincennes, Astoria, and HMAS Canberra sunk in Solomons.<sup>18</sup> The laps seem to be doing alright for themselves. Those little \_\_\_\_ don't seem to have anything wrong with their eyesight.<sup>19</sup>

---

<sup>17</sup> After carefully noting the beginning of August in the left margin before the preceding entry, the following pages of his diary all have "July" at the top. Dr. Moneymaker corrects himself at the start of September.

<sup>18</sup> The USS Quincy, USS Vincennes, USS Astoria, and HMAS Canberra were sunk on August 9 in the Battle of Savo Island, off the north shore of Guadalcanal.

<sup>19</sup> Dr. Moneymaker is apparently commenting on war propaganda that depicted the Japanese as having poor eyesight and buckteeth.

15. Underway at 1145 fired all batteries. This top side duty is alright. I would rather be on searchlights looking for planes than in Aft Diesel "LISTENING" for torpedoes. Going to Suva, Fiji Islands convoying Vestal, Kittyhawk, Seminole & a transport, also US Hines. There is quite a bit of fight on still in Solomons.

19. The Marines are going to town in the Solomons. A marine was killed on Vestal (initiation).

20. Crossed equator 1015. Sighted two of our PBY.

23. We have been doing 12 & 13 kts - a big let down after the traveling we have been doing in the past couple of weeks. Time is dragging. Not going to Suva. Meredith is taking Vestal & Seminole to Suva. We are going to the New Hebrides.<sup>20</sup> Now what? Better break out a map. That's only about 500 miles from the Solomons. Here we go again.

*Heard the Honolulu has been damaged in the Aleutians.*

25. Crossed 180°

27. Sighted torpedo bomber & scout planes. They look friendly. Anyway they are coming in our direction. (Can't talk so I will just write). I am on searchlights. There goes GQ. Planes are friendly. What a relief. Sighted Enterprise, Indianapolis & 4 tin cans. One plane missed the hangar deck and nosed over in the water. Wonder if the pilot was surprised. Tin can is picking him up. Another plane is scouting low over the water and in she goes. I can't figure it out unless they are practicing [sic] making subs out of them.

28. Entered port in Efate 1045.<sup>1</sup> The Long Island is here, Helena, two transports & two cans. We have an air base here. One of the transports that we brought in is tied up along side the Long Island and is transferring planes to her. They are taking off her flight deck and going to the field on the island.

29. They are giving three hours liberty here but there are no stores of any description so I am going on swimming parties.

30. Swimming is good - the water is not very salty and we go back up in the hills and gather cocoanuts [sic] & bananas. Hope I don't grow hair like a coconut. Hot as blue blazes here.

31. Lost one of our planes at sea on submarine patrol. The air currents are tricky [sic], he just flopped in the water from a downdraft. No casualties. Quincey, Vincennes, Astoria & Canaberra were lost in the Solomons. This has not been put out to the papers yet. Enterprise believed to have been hit.

*Enterprise hit by three bombs. Saratoga took a torpedo.*

---

<sup>20</sup> New Hebrides - the colonial name for what is today the island nation of Vanuatu. It is southeast of Guadalcanal.

<sup>21</sup> Efate - one of the islands comprising Vanuatu.

Sept.

1. Helena, Long Island & Solace underway.
3. USS Grayson 435 & USS Monssen 436 stood in. We did repair work on Grayson. Lost another plane.
4. We are acting as repair ship for destroyers & mine sweeps. We have one mine sweep beached [sic] and then propped up on her stbd side so we can do work on her bottom. Tch. Tch.
5. Still working on mine sweep.
6. Underway 0800. Left mine sweep propped up. Guess the~ are mad - don't know who will finish working on her. Entered Esperitu Santos 1700. 2 Ships already here are Sabine, Curtis, McFarland & 6 commercial ships. We are tied up stbd side Sabine taking on fuel & gas. We are getting closer to Solomons. The President Polk is here - we brought her out of Manila and the last time we saw her was in Bombay.
7. Fighter planes shot down a 4-motored Japanese plane outside the harbor. One plane escaped. Three unidentified [sic] planes went over early this A.M.
8. K-22 & four merchant ships came in this afternoon also the USAT [United States Army Transport] Hines. PBY's sighted sub outside harbor & sank her. There are about 25 PBY's based here and there is also a large airfield big enough to handle B17's & B24's<sup>23</sup> there are a few here. Jack Rider a shipmate I went through training with, he used to be on Boise, was paid off early part of 41, came aboard. He is on the K22 - was recalled. He has been in the Solomons, to Tulagi and Guadalcanal [sic] several times. They carry supplies up there every other week end. He said several times they have hid in coves at nite while jap destroyers shelled the beach at Guadalcanal.
9. USS Sabine underway this eve.
10. There is good swimming here. We go up a small fresh water stream and dive off a bridge - is good.
11. HMS Leander came in 1130 with can 399 & supply ship. Lost one Grumman fighter. Caught fire. Pilot hit the silk.<sup>24</sup> Six DD in with merchant man.<sup>25</sup>

*Our trip to Tokyo must have served its purpose. We only lost the four heavy cruisers I mentioned. (Fooey).*

---

<sup>22</sup> Espiritu Santo - the largest of the islands comprising Vanuatu; during World War II it was often misspelled "Espiritu Santos" in military documents.

<sup>23</sup> B-17 - Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress, a four-engine heavy bomber.

B-24 - Consolidated Aircraft B-24 Liberator, a four-engine heavy bomber.

<sup>24</sup> Hit the silk - military slang for parachuting out.

<sup>25</sup> DD - the U.S. Navy's designation for a destroyer.

12. Large convoy came in. USS Minnapolis, 8 tin cans and 9 liberty ships.<sup>26</sup> They are sure loaded down with marines and equipment. Three thousand marines on each ship. One PBY shot down by zeros.<sup>27</sup> Carrier (*lap*) reported about 300 miles from here. 19:30 Liberty ships underway clear the island.
13. All clear - carrier & escort left. 1430 convoy back in. Convoy underway 20:00.
14. Underway 11:15 with USS Minnapolis & HMS Leander, 6 tin cans. We are heading north to meet the "BOYS" (Loud cheers from AA Batttery). 24 kts. Minnapolis is keeping air patrol she is SOPAS.  
  
*USS Blue & Calhoon rUSS Colhoun] sunk in Solomons.*
15. Met transports - 6 of the ones that left Esperitu before us with 4 tin cans. Those ships shure [sic] do show up big on the horizon. We joined formation at 13:30. Wed. morning is supposed to be the zero hour. We have 22 ships in all so guess we will land reinforcements on Guadalcanal.
16. There is ajap task force in the Solomons around Tulagi - we are heading South until they clear out or are cleared out by our planes. We have the air field on Guadalcanal. The *laps* come down from the Northern islands and land small reinforcements most every nite?<sup>8</sup> Some of them are stopped some are not. Sent our planes back to Espiritu Santos. They will be no help to us with the PBY scouting for us.
17. Heading back for the Solomons. We are to land the marines at the air field at 0600 tomorrow morning. We will go in ahead of the transports to clear out the *laps* if there are any.
18. 0000 GQ. We are going into the Solomons. 0400 we are passing through the channel, it is called Indispensible Straights.<sup>29</sup> We have passed the air field 0500 and are going on north. Turned around 0600 returned to the air field about 0630 and the ships had landed practically all of their troops by the time we got back - about 18,000 marines with supplies. Those amphibian tanks look like the devil going through the water but they are good. The landing boats carry jeeps, trucks and small tanks one at a time with no trouble. Each ship had about 15 landing barges. 1000 one of our planes, dive bomber, tried to fly over one of the troop ships at low altitude - he did not identify himself so the troop ship opened up with her 1.1 and we opened up with our 20 MM & 1.1 one?O We shot the plane down. It prooved [sic] to be one of our own - the pilot was just looking around

---

<sup>26</sup> Liberty ships - a fleet of rapidly assembled cargo ships, manufactured from prefabricated parts, used to convoy supplies and, occasionally, as troop transports, repair ships, and hospital ships.

<sup>27</sup> Zero - Mitsubishi A6M Zero, a long-range, single-seat, single-engine fighter.

<sup>28</sup> At this time the Japanese were still in control of the North Solomon Islands and their Navy had a significant presence in the waters north of Guadalcanal. This left the airfield, on the northern side of the island, susceptible to naval bombardment. Allied forces called their nightly resupply runs the "Tokyo Express."

<sup>29</sup> Indispensable Strait - the body of water separating Guadalcanal from Malaita, the island to its east.

<sup>30</sup> 1.1, 20 MM, and 40 MM - types of anti-aircraft guns used by the Navy during the war.

and flew in too close without answering the challenge. The enlisted man with him was killed. The pilot was not hurt. Some people are really dumb and the "coolies" have to suffer for it. Anyday the Boise shot down a plane (no sound effects).

*We are just making big circles about a mile from the beach. Marines are exploding {sic} land mines. Destroyers shelled small ammunition dump (Jap).*

We have been at GQ all day. 2000 underway. Transports have unloaded.

19. 0700 secured from GQ. The Japs shelled the beach where we were last nite. They were slow on the draw this time but they may not be next time. Right in that vicinity is where the Vincennes, Astoria, Quincey & Canberra were sunk when the marines made their first landing. At the first landing the Japs had concrete trenches on Tulagi and we lost 80% of the first detachment of marines landed there the first of August. After that the cruisers shelled the beach & then the marines went in without too much trouble.<sup>31</sup>
  20. Sighted one of our task forces at 9:30. North Carolina, Wasp, three heavy cruisers, San Juan, Juneau about 10 cans. The North Carolina in one of her contacts in the Solomons took a fish and it didn't even bother her. She opened up on some torpedo bombers that were coming in on her with her 16" and there were no more planes. Pfft!!<sup>32</sup> One transport with one can left last nite heading east. We left the convoy they went east - we went south. Fish just missed one of our cans. She dropped depth charges.
  21. 0130 submarine contact. Destroyers with us in Solomons were Grayson, Monsoon, Zane, Farragut, Ramsay, Gwin, McDonough, Plunkett, McFarland, 407 & mine sweep 10. Anchored Espiritu Santos 0920. Ships here are Curtiss, O'Brien N. 32 K 28 DD 19. The O'Brien has large hole in bow from torpedo.
- USS Wasp sunk in Solomon area. Casualties {sic} high. One can also sunk.*
23. Navy transport Warton came in 1100 with 4,000 marines. James Roosevelt on it.<sup>33</sup> This is the group that raided the Jap islands not long ago.
  24. PBY came in all shot up but she shot down two zeros. Warton underway. Salt Lake City, Frisco, Helena, 485 & 486 came in 1700. Swimming is still good. Byers made Ensign, also Schneller [Schueler]. Hood made warrant.

---

<sup>31</sup> The source of this inaccurate secondhand report was most likely rumor. The original plan called for a landing on August 1, but the actual assault did not take place until August 7. There were initial reports of 50-60% casualties among the parachute battalion that landed on Gavutu, a small island off Tulagi, but this was later discounted as a communications error.

<sup>32</sup> Fish - naval slang for a torpedo. The USS North Carolina shot down numerous aircraft in the Battle of the Eastern Solomons (August 24), managed to dodge a torpedo on September 6, but was struck by a torpedo on September 15. While not seriously damaged, she did return to Pearl Harbor for repairs.

<sup>33</sup> James Roosevelt - eldest son of President Roosevelt, he served in the Marine Corps.



25. Underway with Frisco, Salt Lake, Helena & 3 cans firing off set battle practice. Seems like we do any thing right under the Japs nose. There are lights all over this port at nite. Back in port 1730.
28. Minnapolis underway.
29. Underway at 1710 with Frisco, Salt Lake, Helena & 5 cans making runs for night battle practice. Submarine contact GQ until 0220. We are doing an awfullot of battle practice.
30. Anchored Espiritu Santos 0845. Underway 1750 to fire night battle practice with Frisco, Leander. No target practice - the tug lost the target she was towing - we almost ran over the target before we saw it. The USS Breese breesed across our bow and more than breesed into the Frisco. She just pushed her bow back about 15 ft did not hurt the Frisco. So ends a Breezy story. Boise is underway at 26 kts to pick up, rather refuel, a PBY that ran out of gas in trying to over take a Jap destroyer. Have a tin can with us.

#### October

1. Launched two planes to scout for PBY. Sighted at 0900. There are about 5 sharks swimming around the plane and I'll bet they play for keeps. They should try Jap meat. Maybe they have. Refueled PBY. She took off and we headed for Santos.
2. Entered Espiritu Santos at 06:40.
3. Admiral Nimitz was aboard the Curtiss - he came in by Glenn Martin flying boat - something must be cooking.
5. Fueled today. Helena & Frisco underway to fire night battle practice.
6. Frisco & Helena back in at 0630. Chester, Minneapolis and 2 tin cans in at 1530. Air raid alarm at 1600 - 12 planes coming in they are ours P<sub>39</sub>'s.<sup>34</sup>
7. Navy transport came in the AM. with hole through her stem. 1540 Helena underway. Underway with Frisco, Salt Lake & 4 cans for night battle practice. Firing OK.
8. Announced this AM. that we are "Going Hunting". Quite a little excitement - we are heading North toward the Solomons. GQ tonight and we are supposed to be prepared for battle at any time. We are going to operate around Guadacanal until a Jap task or landing force comes in and we are going to tangle with them. Nothing in tonight - it is 11 AM?<sup>35</sup> and we are turning and going South at 22 kts. Our PBY's patrol at nite and let us know when a force is coming in. We are going to steam South far enough so that Japs cannot spot us. When they do come in we are supposed to take them by surprise. Set condition two at 03:30 this AM. Oct 9. Get a little sleep. No pain no strain.

---

<sup>34</sup> P-39 - Bell P-39 Airacobra, a single-seat, single-engine fighter.

<sup>35</sup> The original text clearly says A.M., but the context suggests that this should be P.M.

9. Nothing going on today. 1700 we are heading North again. At 22:00 we are supposed to be ready to pass through the channel between San Cristobal & Guadalcanal.<sup>36</sup> 21:30 turning around. Nothing in. I hope we do not keep this up so much longer - this getting ready for battle and then not having it is hard on the nerves. Sorta builds you up to a big let down.
10. Guess we will keep doing this until something does come in.
11. Same this eve. I guess. 2000 well here we go.<sup>37</sup> "We are going in". There is a task force with troops heading for Guadalcanal. We have the Helena, Frisco, Salt Lake and 5 tin cans with us. Up here on Searchlights guess I will get a good view of the whole thing if! last long enough. 20:30 we are launching our planes. The Frisco is ahead we are next then Salt Lake & Helena all in line. There is one can ahead one aft one port & two stbd. One of the planes on the Salt Lake caught fire just as it was being catapulted. Looks like they shot off a big ball of fire; that aviation gas goes up in a hurry. The plane burned on the water for about 5 min hope the pilot & radioman got out OK. We are still going in. 2200 set condition Affirm. Our planes report one large ship & two smaller ones 16 miles North of Savo island heading South. We thought [sic] we were going to engage them. Our radars have picked up six ships North of us heading South. We are closing in. Stand by! Evidently the Japs do not know that we are here. We are in at 4,000 yds (2 miles). Pick out the largest target; the Salt Lake fires her main battery. We are illuminating with our stbd. lites. She sure is a pretty ship and large. We open fire the noise is terrific. This old platform is really vibrating. We are firing rapid fire. Our AA battery is on one ship & main on another. The red tracers on the shells make them look like they are floating through the air. The Salt Lake hits the large ships fwd. superstructure. We are hitting her amid ships. You can see large explosion she breaks in two and goes down flaming. We have put out about 200 shells in the same time that the other ships put out three salvos. They are firing by salvo and we are rapid firing. We are going to do all the illumination. This next one is a four stacker looks a little like the Marblehead. She has our range. Hope we get her first. Can't say just how I feel but I am definately [sic] scared, but I can still do all that I am supposed to do. Just feel sorta small. There is a hit in the captains cabin #1 AA. Gun is out of commission. There is a hit in Fwd mess hall. The cruiser we are firing on is doing OK. We have sunk a tin can with our AA battery. There is a large explosion (very red) on the four stacker she heels over and goes down. The Japs are wearing white uniform. We have sunk two more tin cans. The Boise is supposed to do the illuminating but we are also doing most of the firing. The other ships are not doing much firing. Swisher on lite three has been hit in the leg about two inches above the ankle [sic]. A very small piece hit me in the corner of

---

<sup>36</sup> San Cristobal - an island to the southeast of Guadalcanal.

<sup>37</sup> Dr. Moneymaker is about to describe his and the USS Boise's actions as part of the Battle of Cape Esperance. The Japanese planned a major assault on Allied positions on Guadalcanal for mid-October. As part of this plan, on the night of October 12, a task force commanded by Rear Admiral Takasugu Jojima was to land reinforcements and supplies to troops dug in west of the Allied defensive perimeter. Meanwhile a second battle group led by Rear Admiral Aritomo Goto, and equipped with special explosive shells, was sent to bombard Henderson Field. Shortly before midnight a force of four cruisers and five destroyers, under command of Rear Admiral Norman Scott, caught Admiral Goto by surprise in the waters separating Savo Island from the north coast of Guadalcanal. A short, but intense, battle erupted.

the right eye just below the brow. Glad it did not hit in my eye. Everyone up here is still OK. There is a ship off of our stbd quarter that has our range we are returning her fire. We have a big hit up forward. Never felt as much water in all my life. Got wet from that hit clear up here on searchlights. One big geyser. #2 Turret blows up inside. You can see the flames shoot out her gun mussel [sic] & her eyes. The ship is going down by the bow. Hope the damage control parties can stop up the holes. We are leaving the battle. As we turn around the Salt Lake sinks the ship that has been hitting us. What a relief. Something opens up on our port side. There are a few splashes in the water and we can hear the shells going overhead. This is a funny feeling. Watching the ship firing and then just wondering if they are going to hit. During that last engagement both of my lites went out. Opened them up and put in new carbons. That is the fastest that I ever moved. The Helena, Salt Lake & Frisco are still in the battle. We are listing to the stbd and are down by the bow about 10 feet. But we are still afloat and making 26 kts SOUTH.

*Well the Boise finally did her duty for democracy and for a wonder we are still afloat. Thats enough for me.*

12. We lost one tin can in the battle. The Duncan. We damaged the 491 - she went across our line of fire and we put 8 shells into her before we ceased fire. We fired by Radar so that proves [sic] them. That makes even for the heavy cruisers we lost. 0500 feel like hell this A.M. We are still at GQ in AA Battery. The repair parties are bringing the bodies out of the turrets. They were burned instantly thank goodness for that. Very few of them ever knew what hit them. We lost 107 men. There are very few injuries, about 15. And not two [sic] bad. Mr. Clark is batty. One kid is paralyzed from shock. He can talk but can't feel, move or eat. No one got out of Turret 2. 9 got out of Turret 1. Turret three had two hits one on her face plate and one just where the deck joints [sic] the turret. No one killed. All three of our forward turrets out of commission. We lost three men in the division. Daniels, Van Hooser & Craig. P.M. what a mess to even start to clean up. We received 11 hits in all its a wonder that we are afloat. Two shells went through the library across the marine compartment and out through the marines clothes locker, tearing out the fwd end of the Gunnery office. The shell that did the most damage went into No 2 handling room. The shell went in 18 ft below the water line went through three bulkheads and exploded [sic] in the magazine. Just cooked everything in turret two in about two seconds. All fwd magazines were flooded and a few men were drowned [sic]. We have started to clean up and it is terrible.
13. Buried 65 men at sea. More work than I know what to do with. Tom Hyler was killed. He was in Turret 1. Hope mother does not get excited when Mrs. Hyler is notified.<sup>38</sup> No ambition, No thoughts [sic], just feel like a robot. We are working 14 hours a day. Have to keep sub pumps going all the time. Captains cabin was completely demolished. Aluminum bulkheads bum faster than paper. Can't sleep may as well work.

0830 anchored Espiritu Santos. We are getting ahead of the water & oil- are welding up all the holes we can get to. After seeing the damage below water it is a wonder that we are

---

<sup>38</sup> Charles T. Hyler was a shipmate who also came from the Clifton Forge, Virginia area. Dr. Moneymaker did not know him until they met aboard ship, but their parents were acquaintances.

afloat. I have been working in handling room & No.2 magazine. We just broke into it. The odor is awful, got six men out. Just couldn't be helped had to flood the magazines to save the ship.

The battle lasted 51 minutes we were in it for 36 minutes. We actually fired for 18 minutes and put out 906 rounds of 6" and 611 rounds of 5" some firing. The Boise sank five ships and helped sink one other one. The task force damaged three more & bombers got them the next morning.<sup>39</sup> One of our cans picked up survivors from the Duncan they lost 35 men. I am just beginning to find myself and get back together again. Reality surpasses all after you begin to wake up. Two more men went Batty, and no wonder. Transferred 10 men to the Solace.

14. Slept fairly well last nite feel much better this A.M. We have six ships & six flags painted up on battery one.<sup>40</sup> They are 10,000 ton 8" cruiser Nachi & Atago class, 8,500 ton 7W' cruiser Mogame class, 7,500 ton 7" cruiser Sendai class. Three destroyers. The first one did not even get to fire a shot. The Japs lost 9 ships all together. We lost the Duncan. GQ tonite we are expecting an attack. Submarine shelling the beach. PBY takes off. We hear explosion no more shells ???

*The officers and men of San Francisco admire your spirit & fighting ability.*

15. We are not patched up like we should be but we are getting underway. The Japs may strike here. Still cleaning up the mess below. Can't get much sleep odor is awful. Underway 1700. The Washington & Atlanta are in. That Washington is certainly a beautiful ship. Espiritu Santos was raided - we got out just in time not much damage done.
16. We are working shifts on the pumps up fwd, but we are loosing [sic] ground a little bit not enough to bother yet.
17. Anchored 1100 Noumea, New Caladinea [SiC].<sup>41</sup> Tied up alongside Argonne.  
Oil, grease, waste, work.  
Work Pumps. Spare Parts.  
Work. Work. Work. Work.

---

<sup>39</sup> There is considerable confusion about the extent of Japanese losses: eyewitness accounts, along with official Navy assessments made at the time, reported Japanese losses in line with Dr. Moneymaker's observations. Subsequent scholarly research, however, strongly suggests that these initial reports greatly overestimated the damage inflicted. American losses were one destroyer sunk, along with considerable damage to the USS Boise and a second destroyer. Despite this victory, Admiral Jojima's mission to reinforce Japanese troops on Guadalcanal was successful and two nights later Japanese battleships returned and inflicted significant damage to Henderson Field, damage that was quickly repaired.

Dr. Moneymaker's claim that three more Japanese ships were sunk was most likely based on rumor and wishful thinking, as well as confusion with a related event. On the following morning planes from Henderson Field did attack three Japanese ships that survived the battle, but did little damage. However, two Japanese destroyers sent to recover survivors from Admiral Goto's task force were detected and sunk by dive bombers.

<sup>40</sup> Ship crews kept a record of their successes by painting depictions of ships and enemy flags on their bulkheads, with each representing a ship sunk or plane shot down.

<sup>41</sup> Noumea - capital of the French territory of New Caledonia, it lies 1,000 miles south-southeast of Guadalcanal and 900 miles northeast of Brisbane, Australia.

24. Ship is looking much better and we have most of our electrical gear back in commission. The turrets will have to be renewed. Looks like we are going to the East Coast for repairs probably Philadelphia. That cold weather will kill us.
25. Presentation of medals today by Halsey.<sup>42</sup> The ceremony stank. Four enlisted men & 14 officers were decorated, most unfair thing I ever saw in my life. I am thoroughly disgusted with Navy. Damn the Officers. The two officers in Turret 1 & 2 that were killed were post humorously [sic] awarded the Navy Cross. Not a word was said about the enlisted men that were killed along with them. If they can give it to one give it to all of them. Oh no they are not officers they were just men!! There are always some fools like these officers over here, I will recommend you for a medal if you recommend me.
26. Underway at 1800 for Pago Pago.<sup>43</sup>  
*Crossed 180° 26<sup>th</sup>.*
27. Refueled from dock tied up alongside F-15 at 0745. Underway 1615 for Bora Bora.<sup>44</sup> East Coast here we come.
30. Anchored Bora Bora 0845. The destroyer USS Clarke is here. We refueled from her. We cannot get to the fuel dock. The Navy has about 700 seebees here.<sup>45</sup> They have made a destroyer & sub refueling base here. Wonders will never cease. I have realized one of my minor ambitions. I dived off the fan tail of the Boise. We had swimming call today and over the side went about % of the crew. Went to movies on beach tonight saw "Hold that Ghost", Abbott & Costello.<sup>46</sup> This is my idea of a tropical island. Bananas and coconuts grow wild. There is a tall mountain peak that rises abruptly [sic] twin jetty about 6,000 ft.<sup>47</sup> Very nice. Have to come back here after war is over.  
*US. corifirmes [sic] sinking of O'Brien & Meridith.*
31. The Clarke underway this P.M. Taking life easy getting a good sun tan.

---

<sup>42</sup> Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. - on October 18, then Vice Admiral Halsey took command of the South Pacific area. He was promoted to full Admiral shortly thereafter.

<sup>43</sup> Pago Pago - capital of American Samoa, it lies 2,000 miles east of Guadalcanal, far outside the combat zone.

<sup>44</sup> Bora Bora - one of the Society Islands of French Polynesia, not far from Tahiti, and a further 1,300 miles to the east.

<sup>45</sup> Seabee - a member of a Navy Construction Battalion (CB), whose duties including building airstrips, roads, bridges, buildings, and the like.

<sup>46</sup> *Hold That Ghost* - a 1941 Abbott and Costello movie about two service station attendants who are the sole beneficiaries in a gangster's will. On the trip to claim their fortune they are stranded in a haunted house.

<sup>47</sup> We do not know what Dr. Moneymaker is referring to with the phrase "twin jetty about 6,000 ft." The highest point on Bora Bora is Mt. Otemanu (2,385 ft).

Nov.

1. Destroyer 383 came in 0600. Underway 1200 with 383 headed for Panama.
- Aircraft carrier has been damaged heavily or sunk possibly Hornet.*
3. All division is turning to chipping paint except those actually working on circuits. Needless to say I am not chipping paint and this work I am doing is killing me. Krogh & Webster made CEM [chief electrician's mate]. That leaves me senior first class. Even though we did lose the Hornet looks like the Japs are losing [sic] quite a bit more. The opinion seems to be that the Boise is going to be a publicity ship. Hope I can get enough leave to go to Vallejo for a few days.
7. Forgot to say that I extended for 2 years in Bora Bora. Will get about \$350. Not bad. I figure the war will last about two more years if not longer.
10. Crossed the equator 1730 about 95°L. The weather has been cool for the past week. First time I ever crossed the equator and slept with a blanket.
11. Sighted two B-17 today.
12. Sighted sub today ours. We should get into Panama about 0930 tomorrow. Auctioned off Daniels, Craig & Van Hoosers clothes in shop this eve. Another can joined us today.
13. Arrived in Balboa 0815.<sup>48</sup> Going right on through the canal. More barrage balloons [sic] around here on the locks must be about 150. Lots of smudge pots to lay smoke screen. I can't see any difference in the canal than the last time I went through. Quite a few planes flying around. Anchored Colon 16:50.<sup>49</sup> Liberty for stbd watch. While we were leaving the last lock one of the mules did not get her cable off and we almost pulled her in the dock ["dock" in the diary, but presumably "lock"], the cable snapped just in time.
14. Gilkey, Clark, Storm, Poston, McKee, Decker, Osborne, Meader, Guttormsen, Moran & Myself went ashore together yesterday. All of us came back in groups of three or something. Underway 1310 for Philadelphia Navy Yard.
16. Passed through Windward Straits last nite.<sup>50</sup> No sub contacts. Large convoy sight on horizon [sic] headed S.E. about 25 ships. PBY's have been flying over all day. Most of this area is patrolled pretty good nite and day.
17. Atlantic is plenty ruff after being so long in Pacific. No dope yet on leave. Another convoy sighted on horizon 38 ships heading S.E. Just two more nites at sea. There is still a big battle going on in the Solomons. Last nite we caught the Japs again. Sunk one battle ship, 3 heavy cruisers, 2 light cruisers, 5 tin cans, 6 transports, 4 auxiliary ships.

---

<sup>48</sup> Balboa - a city in the then U.S. controlled Panama Canal Zone where the southern/Pacific entrance to the canal is located; now a district of Panama City.

<sup>49</sup> Colon - a port at the northern Atlantic entrance to the Panama Canal; it was not included within the Canal Zone boundaries.

<sup>50</sup> Windward Passage - the body of water separating Cuba and Haiti.

Damaged one battleship, 6 destroyers, 8 transports. We lost the Helena, San Juan, and 6 tin cans.<sup>51</sup> I can't see how the Japs can have much of a fleet left. Unless they had a much larger Navy than any of our military men thought.

19. Arrived in Philadelphia 13:28. Big reception band and all the trimmings. Big gooey spill in papers.<sup>52</sup>

---

<sup>51</sup> As part of their ongoing attempt to retake Guadalcanal, the Japanese planned a mid-November resupply and reinforcement operation, which was to include the landing of 7,000 fully equipped troops. The U.S. Navy, responding to Allied intelligence, sent a task force to intercept the Japanese. The resulting two-part engagement, known as the Naval Battle of Guadalcanal, took place on November 12-15. Dr. Moneymaker's tally of the losses is essentially correct, though those of the Japanese are slightly exaggerated. Despite the roughly equal losses suffered by the two sides, the outcome was a strategic victory for the United States as the resupply mission failed. The remaining Japanese on Guadalcanal fought on until February 9, but with this defeat their fate was sealed. The two cruisers lost were the USS Atlanta and USS Juneau, not the USS Helena and USS San Juan.

<sup>52</sup> During the nearly seven months that the USS Boise was being refurbished, when Dr. Moneymaker was not enjoying some well-earned liberty, he stayed aboard ship to monitor repairs to the electrical systems. At the end of the seven month period the ship had a shakedown cruise in the Chesapeake Bay.

BOOK III  
June - November 1943



*I live and know not how long  
I travel and know not whither  
I die and know [not] when  
Strange that I am so cheerful.*<sup>1</sup>

*Left port about 1200*

June [1943]

- Tues. 8. Here we go again. This time though I am a glorified coolie and have much better living conditions. Inner spring mattress about 6" thick, ~~a~~ boy. Even sleep between sheets. Have a pretty blue bed spread. What next? I am getting much less sleep now than I was as 1<sup>st</sup> class. This ole business of running a division is quite a job and there is more paper work to it than I thought. But so far I haven't had any trouble. X?2 This is much better than running around the Chesapeake. Fleeer is a little bit happier - in fact I believe the whole ship is except some of the new men. We are part of the second front and are help taking a convoy to Europe or maybe Mediterranean area. There are three cruisers. Birmingham (SOPA) Philadelphia, & Us with about 18 cans. There are 23 merchant ships including advance radio base, troop ships, supply & tankers. There has been convoys going over every other day for the past week. There is one about 2 days ahead of us and one about 2 days behind us. Skipper made a speeck [sic] at 1700. Our general course is plotted - we are taking the Southern arc between Norfolk [sic] and Gibraltar [sic]. Our progress will be posted on charts and location of all known subs?
- Wed. 9. Gosh there are quite a few subs out here. Seems to be about three packs of 15 or 20 each just about a straddle [sic] of our course at about 40°W & 30°N. It isn't bad though - in fact it don't bother me at all.
- Thurs. 10. Position 0800 this A.M. 34N & 66W. Looks like we will go near Burma [Bermuda] but probably will not see it. Quite a few PBM and blimps patrolling.<sup>4</sup> I am the official school teacher for the Division. Sure keeps me busy especially after working hours but I am learning quite a bit myself.
- Fri. 11. Destroyers contacted sub this A.M. Position 32N & 59W. We are doing about 6 degrees per day which isn't bad. Think they sank sub. Convoy up ahead is having trouble with subs.

---

<sup>1</sup> This entry is on its own page, before the main body of the diary:

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Moneymaker had been promoted to the rank of chief electrician's mate, a specialist rank equivalent to chief petty officer. The X was meant to indicate "keeping my fingers crossed."

<sup>3</sup> By the time repairs to the USS Boise were completed, Allied forces, spearheaded by the British, had expelled the Axis powers from North Africa. Meanwhile, the Allied Navies had gained the upper hand in the western and central Mediterranean, but it was still a dangerous place for ships, with the Italian Navy, German V-boats, and land based air attacks a constant threat. At this point, the overall military strategy for the European theater was to open up a second front on the continent, one benefit of which would be to relieve pressure on the Soviets fighting in the east. A cross-channel invasion of France was deemed impractical at this time and the decision was made at the Casablanca Conference of January 1943 to first capture Sicily and use it as a springboard to invade Italy. Book III of Dr. Moneymaker's diaries records his personal observations of the Sicilian campaign and early action against the Italian mainland.

<sup>4</sup> PBM - Martin PBM Mariner twin-engine patrol bomber.

Don't think any ships have been sume The Sky Pilot<sup>5</sup> is making talks every noon about the Mediterranean Sea & Islands. From all indications that is where we are going. Pantelleria has surrendered.<sup>6</sup> Must have blown the place up with planes from all indications.

- Sat. 12. Nothing much going on today. Flee and I are make a set of flights so that they can be dimmed to look like the sun & moon. Especially moon and sun rise. Reason -. There are contour maps in the admirals cabin which show where we are going to attack and land troops. I believe it is Italy. When we actually install the lights I am going to take plenty of time and look over these maps. It could be the lower part of France or even Greece. The chaplain is still talking about Cleopatria [sic] in his moral [sic] building talk at noon. Phooey! He is still a civilian polition [perhaps: politician]. He isn't doing the crew any good just making things better for the Officers. Tells us we should do more for the war. Let him tell that to the miners [apparently meant: marines].~

31N & 53W.

*Baker is getting to be a big pain. Since he has made Lt. he is carrying the war on his shoulders. The other end of him is more suited for the job.*

- Sun. 13. The convoy is fueling today from the tankers. We are fueling from the tanker Hueming-same one that ran into the USS Ingram's stern and set off her depth charges. Lost 50% of the can's crew.<sup>7</sup> Harry cheif [sic] - used to be on here, in fact he was here when I mess cooked in CPO [chief petty officer] quarters - was killed. Lampedusa surrendered today.<sup>8</sup> Lost one of our planes this evening. Other planes and cans have been out looking for it. Just seems to have disappeared. Hope one of the other convoys or patrol planes pick up the pilot & radioman. OK. We are back to two planes. Just as long as we keep two planes we are OK. But soon as we get over 2 we always manage to lose enough to bring us back to 2.

More about Cleopatria

29N & 47W.

- Mon. 14. 27~N & 41 W. Seems like the Boise is having more of her luck. So far no subs. There are a few near by but tomorrow and the next day should tell the tale. Been teaching school all afternoon mathematics. Some people are crazy. Should be a muscle man from all these exercises. Getting in condition for ping pong and eating some victory garden. Guess by now most everyone should guess that the Boise has left town for awhile. I sure wasn't sorry to leave Norfolk. Quite a few reserves caught smoking on top side after lights outs. SCM [summary court martial]. Other ships in the convoy sent messages showing their concern over our losing a plane.

---

<sup>5</sup> Dr. Moneymaker's rude name for the chaplain.

<sup>6</sup> Pantelleria - a small island 70 miles southwest of the western tip of Sicily.

<sup>7</sup> The tanker USS Chemung struck the USS Ingram in heavy fog off Nova Scotia on August 22, 1942. Only 11 sailors survived the ensuing explosion.

<sup>8</sup> Lampedusa - a small island 150 miles south of the western tip of Sicily.

*Miles can't see any sense in math or why he should learn to work AC [alternating current] problems. He is just too lazy to learn it and admits so. Still can't see why he isn't 2<sup>nd</sup>/C. He doesn't want to take any more responsibility. Just work. But that is all. There is more to Electricity than just being able to work with it. Huh?*

Tues. 15. Chaplain is doing a lot of talking about liberty at Gibraltar. I think he is talking through his hat. He evidently doesn't get around. He may be trying to boost the moral [sic] of the reserves but bet he has to change his mind about liberty. I don't believe we are going to stay with the convoy much longer. For some reason I can't do much sleeping. Maybe it is my new bunk but it seems to be something different than that. Maybe I am making a big change or maybe? Any way I am doing quite a bit of reading. Drew \$296. Sent \$200 home by check. From all I can gather we are going to have a pretty good show unless they bomb the place real good before we get there. Fler and I installed a rheostat over the maps & charts. We are going to shell the beach just south of a small town and north of a lake. I think it is going to be Sicily or maybe Greece. Anyway we will be facing the sun as it rises.

15 - 24N 37W

*Was paid today \$296. Not bad huh?*

Wed. 16. Looked at over the maps - I have to see if I can locate the place but my maps are not large enough. The Chaplain admitted today that he was putting out bum dope. We are going to leave the convoy tomorrow and proceed at 24 kts with two tin cans to Oran. Refuel there and go to Algiers [sic]. We may get liberty at Algiers but I doubt it. The American & British fleet is stationed there.

23N 32W

Thurs. 17. Efficiency of Our Navy. Philadelphia N. Y. [Navy Yard] took off the dimmers for the running lights and now Fler and I will be up practically all nite making a variable rheostat so the running lights can be dimmed. This will be the first time that we have dimmed them. From the way Sicily is being bombed we will probably make our attack there. Wrote home. (\$200 check and a letter to Mrs. White yesterday.)

17 - 25N 26W

---

<sup>9</sup> Following their defeat at the Second Battle of El Alamein, Egypt (Oct. 23-Nov. 5, 1942), Axis forces retreated westward to Tunisia. At the same time (Nov. 8-11) American and British forces landed at various points in Vichy France-controlled western North Africa. Much to the Allies surprise, fierce opposition was encountered in Morocco and Oran (a port city on the coast of Algeria, 225 miles west of Algiers, close to the Moroccan border), but a partly successful coup d'etat by French Resistance forces in Algiers aided the Allied offensive there. After several days of fighting the leaders of the Vichy African command responded to American offers to switch sides, which resulted in a quick end to the hostilities and left Axis forces in Tunisia caught in the middle. Despite receiving reinforcements during the winter months, the Axis forces eventually surrendered on May 13, ending the Axis presence in North Africa.

- Fri. 18. Field day today. Just wandering around the ship. We should get into Gibraltar tomorrow evening about 1800. Installed [sic] the dimmer and it work OK. Fleer & Rhinehardt<sup>10</sup> gave Bondi two hours extra watch yesterday.
- 29N 19W.
- Sat. 19. Passed Gibraltar at about 1900. Looks just like picture of it on Insurance advertisements. 11 Can see quite a few gun emplacements. There are quite a few ships in the harbor but we are steaming on by. Quite windy and choppy in the neck here. Went below and played Fleer a game of chess.
- Sun. 20. We made good time last nite. Arrived Oran about 0815. Sure is a nice looking place. The town is located on practically a cliff and is built on terraces one level above the other. Looks very modern and clean but never can tell until you get ashore. Most of the buildings are white or cream colored - looks like they are built of chalk blocks or celite.<sup>12</sup> We are going on past the city I would say 250,000 population. Anchor behind breakwater and refuel. Can see a little evidence where we bombed the place or rather shelled it when the Army landed. Several large forts around look a lot like medieval [sic] castles. Lots of nice homes on the hillside - all designs, Moro, Spanish, French, Dutch even ultra Modern American. No liberty didn't expect any. Probably leave about 1900. Refueled both our can 431-423. The French sailors say for a bar of toilet soap or pack of gum. Amour!?! Army nurse cruised around the ship in a landing boat. Nice looking too. Wonder if Mother will send the card to Mrs. McMullen for me.<sup>13</sup> 1830 Underway for Algiers. Should get there tomorrow A.M.
- Mon. 21. Anchored outside breakwater at Algiers. Looks like a large city 350,000. It is built a lot like Oran. There are quite a few mosques scattered throughout the city. Liberty by sections 2<sup>nd</sup> rates commencing 1400 up [at] 2030. Moved to dock alongside Savannah. Harbor is chucked full of troop ship, supply, LST, LCI and what not.<sup>14</sup> Quite a few of the men that were transferred from the Boise are on LST. From the way they live and what little water they get guess the Boise isn't so bad. Sure am glad that I am in the Navy rather than the Army. Have been talking to a few soldiers that have been over here since first landings and they had one devil of a time. The First division lost 3,000.<sup>15</sup> Fleer and I have been playing chess outside of battery locker. Watching men come back off of liberty. Most of them must have taken baths in wine from the way they act. Couple of Fleer's friends from his home town came over from the Savannah. Lots of fights below decks.

---

<sup>10</sup> Reinhardt - a fellow crewman; Dr. Money maker spells his name various ways.

<sup>11</sup> The Rock of Gibraltar has been the corporate logo of the Prudential Insurance Company of America since the 1890s. One of their advertising slogans was "get a piece of the rock."

<sup>12</sup> Celite - a constituent of portland cement.

<sup>13</sup> Mrs. McMullen was a neighbor of the Money makers in Clifton Forge, Virginia.

<sup>14</sup> LST, LCT and LCI - Landing Ship Tank, Landing Craft Tank and Landing Craft Infantry. The LST was the largest of three types of amphibious assault ships developed during World War II; it was 325 feet in length and capable of carrying over 2,000 tons. The smaller LCT was capable of carrying three 50-ton tanks, while the LCI was designed to land about 200 troops directly onto the shore. Dr. Money maker does not appear to distinguish between LSTs and LCTs and uses LST to refer to both types of craft.

<sup>15</sup> Actual losses were actually much lower, with the 1<sup>st</sup> Division suffering only about 300 killed.

*Chiefs are supposed to act like they have a little bit of sense but most of them are worse than the men. Ugh?*

Tues. 22. Nothing doing much this A.M. Fairly cool in the harbor. Algiers is worse than Tjilatjap for liberty. There isn't anything to buy ashore. Just wandered around looking the place over. Sure does look a lot different than it does from the bay. Most of the women are well built. Haven't seen a flat chested woman yet oo-la-Ia. Picked up a rock for Billie.<sup>16</sup> Most of the ships stay here at least a month before they get ~~li@~rtymail~~ so guess we have quite a long wait. I have never seen such a mix up & different kinds of uniforms yet. Looks like the perfect setting for spies. The majority of women were [sic] wooden soled shoes. They do not look at all comfortable. Their wine is no good. Sure wish I could speak French.

*One of the LST were torpedoed (23).<sup>17</sup> The survivors were landed alongside our pier. Lot of the new men saw them and they were in an awful fix. It is a wonder that some of them are alive. Made quite a few of our men stop and think. One of them "I didn't know it was like that". Sure got better work out of them.*

Wed. 23. Four men in our gang were caught in their burJks at 0820 so up to commanders mast they go. Reinhardt was caught bringing a cup from the mess hall. So up he goes also. Underway at 10:00 with the Savannah, 10 destroyers 15 or 20 LCI and 12 LST Hope this is the beginning but looks more like a dummy run. Not enough ships to do much goOd.<sup>18</sup> Supposed to be GQ tonite so better get some sleep.

Thurs. 24. 01:15 GQ. We are practicing covering landings for the Army. It is foggy as the devil. Quite a few of the landing barges lost direction and wound up along side of us. We gave them directions to the beach. We will be at GQ rest of the nite. This is foolish. We are not doing anything but running around in circles. We may need training but you surely can't train a man to do without sleep. Secured from GQ 0730. Nuts. We are going back to port. Liberty for the 1<sup>st</sup> section upon anchoring. Docked at 18:45 liberty up at 21:30. Lot of smoke stacking tonight.<sup>19</sup> Peddie is going to be trimmed down.

Fri. 25. Field Day today. I have patrol today leave the ship at 1300. Patrol is much better than liberty. The Army furnishes us with transportation and my job was to check up on patrols on their beat. Had a jeep with a sargent [sic] as driver. Went all over Algiers. Good thing the Arab section is restricted. Called the CasParr [probably: casbah]. Found a sailor that managed to get by the patrol. Don't know what he was doing and he can't tell us. He is in one devil of a fix. His lips were sewn up and you can imagine what was inside his mouth. What a way to die and embarrassing too. Ugh! A few came back all cut up but some people just can't be told. We picked up one sailor that was having a good time. He had about 6 or 7

---

<sup>16</sup> Billie/Billy Sutton was a distant younger male relative on Dr. Moneymaker's mother's side.

<sup>17</sup> Naval records indicate that the vessel torpedoed off the coast of Algeria was LST-333, and not LST-23.

<sup>18</sup> Dr. Moneymaker is becoming increasingly aware that a major action is being planned. Though apparently not officially informed of any details, remarks he makes over the next two weeks show his increasing understanding of the size and exact nature of the operation.

<sup>19</sup> Smoke stacking - slang (possibly a personal usage) for drunken behavior.

pairs of girls panties in his pockets and when he would see a girl he wanted to talk to he would stop her give her her choice of panties. Talk awhile and shove off. He & the girls seemed to be having a good time of it. Guess the SP [shore patrol] break up a lot of fun. Went to the Sphinks for patrol and saw a French exhibition. Its awful. Isn't any wonder the French get such a name?O No police restrictions either. Will turn your stomach! Two sailors threw an Arab over a cliff. We never did find the sailors. Back to the ship at 11:30. Sure am tired - these jeeps will kill you especially in this hilly town. Duty cook stayed up and fed all of us - twelve of us were over. Had a better time and saw more on patrol than I did on liberty.

- Sat. 26. Slept all morning - can do that legally after SP. Stood by for Flee today so he could go over. He hasn't been ashore yet. He is going to try & find some souvenirs but the Germans seem to have cleaned this town out of everything worth buying. Can't even get chow. Have to go to the Red Cross to get something to eat. Had GQ at 13:17 - planes contacted. Three were shot down. Shrapnal [sic] fell on top side - one gunner was hit with a piece. From the number of ships that are in here its a wonder this place isn't bombed wide open. Had to run McKee out of the shop at 2230. He was trying to flood the place with the fire hose. Wants to fight and is going to get the MAA [master-at-arms] in trouble so he thinks. I know he is trouble and he asked for it. Finally will get to bed about 2400.
- Sun. 27. 0425 had to man special sea detail. No rest for the wicked I guess. We are pulling out into the harbor. 0930 back to bed finish my sleep. This is a lot different from Sunday back in Philly. 1400 six large troop ships coming in three American and three English. One of them is the Queen Elizabeth. All of them full of troops. Quite a few LST & LCI pulled out. Don't know where they are going. Probably practice. Went to the shop tonight and cleared it out at 2200 no trouble. Should have gone to the IC room. "Dolly" Corbett is in the Brig for tonight.
- Mon. 28. McKee, Corbett went to commanders and captains mast today. They are just restricted the rest of the time we are in Algiers. Must gona' stay here for awhile. McKee thinks he still got a dirty deal.
- Tues. 29. Nothing going on much today - just the same old routine. Sure do wish we would pull out of here and go do something. Guess we will just have to wait until everything is ready I suppose. This second front could fail unless we do strike at the right time and the right place. I hate to think of how long it would take us to get ready for another one. Or would we. Just wait and see the results I suppose. The bombers 'are doing their part.
- Wed. 30. Wrote home and to Gladys. Lot of the V6'S21 are worrying about why we do not get mail. I would like to receive some but I would rather be sure that mine are going across. Thought that maybe I would run across some one I know here but no luck yet. The Chaplains Quiz programs have sorta died out. Guess he has too much political work to do.

---

<sup>20</sup> The Sphinx was a nightclub that put on graphic sex shows. France was the colonial power in Algeria.

<sup>21</sup> V6 - one of twelve U.S. Navy job classifications for enlistees. V6 was "general service and specialists," which included the electricians.

July  
Thurs. I. I have shore patrol again today. No trouble. Wing and I just wandered around trying to find some kaki [sic] but finally gave it up. Had supper at a fairly good place spaghetti & omelette. Never had that combination before. Stopped a couple of W AAC<sup>22</sup> on the street and talked to them - back to the ship at 2330.

*Thurs. Movies on top side tonite. Admiral Hewett came aboard 23 Put a seaman on report for smoking a cigarette on top side but they show movies up until 2400. Iforgot with all the gold braid around the enemy's cannot see the light from the cameras.*

Fri. 2. Slept most all morning on account of SP. Field day today. Nice way to spend my birthday- anyway not much going on. Still trying to teach the new men something. They are the most non curious group of men. Cornered 6 of them in the shop that have been in the division for 4 or 5 months and they didn't even know how many generators we have wheather [sic] they were AC or DC. 4 of them have never even been to the IC Room or central station. They do not seem to realize the more they know about the ship the better chance we have of coming out of a battle, especially if we get hit. No inspection today. Probably have personnell [sic] tomorrow. Good ole peace time Navy. Grrrr!!

Sat. 3. Personnell inspection at 9:30. Stood up in the hot sun & I mean hot until 10:30 before he even started inspection. Had to wear coats. He finished at 11:30 and then had inspection of living spaces. He seemed to be well pleased with the workshop but we did not get chow until late. Stayed up on battery platform until 1300 talking to Rubick & Radtke. Hitler has predicted July 3 & 4 but he is wrong - maybe he is getting hot pants. Wouldn't be surprised if he doesn't use gas.

*Forgot the date. Don't make no difference anywal<sup>4</sup>*

Sun. 4. The British ships in port gave the American ships a 48 gun salute in commemoration of our independence. This is the first time that I ever heard of England giving us official recognition of our independence. War is wonderful isn't it?!!!! Brings out brotherly love. One politician for another. Still think this is a politicians war and I do not think it is a war to end wars. Happy hour this evening on the fan tail was pretty good. I thought [sic] the average person knew more math than he evidently does. I must be dumb. Get so darned mad at some of these chiefs they have no foresight [sic] ambition or anything else. I rated liberty today. Maybe I should have gone ashore. Couldn't think of anything to do though. Didn't go to church this eve - Sky pilot makes me too mad to listen to. Maybe I am becoming an atheist. Sure hope not. Refreshments were served after the happy hour; pineapple juice & cake.

Mon. 5. Corbett is back on report again. He has an inferiority complex - thinks people is trying to put him on report. He failed to muster three times in succession. Hood is getting disgusted with him. Fleer, Lipp, Gelinas and I went ashore together. Took a tour of the city. Didn't

---

<sup>22</sup> WAAC - Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, established May 15, 1942, soon changed to Women's Army Corps (WAC).

<sup>23</sup> Admiral Henry K. Hewitt - at the time he was the Commander, US Naval Force, Northwest Africa Waters.

<sup>24</sup> June 28 through July 3 were initially mislabeled and subsequently corrected, and this remark added.

see much more than I have already seen on patrol. It turns your stomach to see some of this stuff the Arabs eat & the way they live. Visited one of the larger Mosques, an old Roman Catholic church, a harem - it was empty - several old Turkish homes and the CasBah. Came back to the ship at 2000. Couldn't even get any thing fit to eat.

- Tues. 6. Quite a few British ships came in today. 4 battle wagons, one carrier, and destroyer escorts. Quite a few transports supplies etc in also. Underway at 16:30. Well this is it for sure. We are going to scout ahead of the troop ships for a couple of days to see if we can find any trouble (Italian fleet). The Savannah is with us. The Phila, Birmingham, and two other cruisers will be in on it. There are over 2500 ships taking part in this. We are to land troops on Sicily somewhere in the vicinity of Gela (I believe). The Americans are going to land on the Southern coast. English on East. From all the ships taking part there must be quite a few landings going to take place.<sup>25</sup> Probably one on the continent somewhere. PGQ tonite.
- Wed. 7. Sighted a couple of planes today. Ours. The air force is doing quite a bit of softening up on Sicily. We will probably land our troops near Gela. Before we go in [with] troop transports, planes, about 500 of them are going to go in with about 1500 fighter planes & quite a few flying fortresses. There is going to be a fake thrust made towards Greece. GQ tonite at 2000. Planes coming in out of the sun. We are between Sardinian [Sardinia] & Tunis. Probably be at GQ all nite. More radar contacts than you can shake a stick at. Am not sleepy. Chow at 2400 ham sandwich. Zips & Hank came down & talked awhile. One of my kids from fire rooms is feeling a little blue - guess I can cheer him up though (continued).

*Just feel like we are going out to do a job. There doesn't seem to be any tension on the crew yet. Everyone, very optimistic {sic}.*

- Thurs. 8. 0530 so far no sleep. I am not very sleepy guess I will be before long. By me staying awake all nite and letting the rest sleep they can do the work today while I sleep. Finished reading "Mark's Own" - fair.<sup>26</sup> Quite a few planes flying around - fortresses, fighters and what not. Sure am glad they are ours. Slept till noon ate stayed up till 1330 then back to bed for 2 more hours. Up at 1530 bath supper feel like a million. Started working on Calculus some more. This surely is different than the Pacific. So far no strain & no pain. Baker is not worth a --. He is the only officer that wants an overhead light on so he can read in his bunk. PGQ set condition II.

---

<sup>25</sup> The overall plan for the invasion of Sicily was for Lt. General George S. Patton's U.S. 7<sup>th</sup> Army to land along the southeastern coast in the vicinity Gela, while Lt. General Bernard L. Montgomery's combined British and Canadian 8<sup>th</sup> Army were to come ashore on the east coast, south of Syracuse. The invasion began on the night of July 9. A major objective was the early capture of Messina, a port on the northern tip of the island, less than five miles from the toe of the Italian boot, as this would cut off Axis escape routes. Montgomery initially met with little opposition, but his advance northward became bogged down by fierce German resistance around Catania. Meanwhile, the Americans had greater success, capturing large parts of the western half of the island and taking Palermo on July 22. The campaign ended on August 17 when Messina finally fell, but by failing to capture Messina quickly the Germans and Italians managed to evacuate over 100,000 troops and 10,000 vehicles to the mainland.

<sup>26</sup> *Mark's Own* - a 1941 novel by Sarah H. Atherton set in the Pennsylvania coal country.



- Fri. 9. We joined our convoy this A.M. about 0800. Sure is a lot of ships out here. There are ships all around us, in all directions. Planes have been flying around all day. Quarters at 1330. The zero hour is supposed to be at 0245 Sat. About 2250 tonite 226 plane transports are supposed to go over and drop about 3,000 paratroops. They are to take the air field and work their way to the beach. Think I will get some sleep this evening while I can. Up at 1630. Ate chow went up to top side. Malta is off our Port side.<sup>27</sup> It rises straight up out of the water no sloping beaches on this side at all. PGQ Set condition II will have GQ about 2400.
- Sat. 10. 0300 GQ. There are about 8 large fires on the beach. The city is on fire & the airport is on fire. Sure wish I were still up on the searchlights 'stead of Elect. Workshop. A few bombs are dropping around but don't think there are many enemy planes around. Guess our main job after it gets lighter will be to open up on pill boxes & gun emplacements. 0530 [perhaps: 0830] still in GQ there hasn't been too much opposition so far. Very easy as to what I expected it would be. This is a very slow landing as compared to the one we made in Quadocanal [sic] but then this is the beach head here. Not much to speak of. Gela surrendered at 1300. The men sure are on edge. Every time Spitfires<sup>28</sup> try to go over practically every ship in the harbor opens fire on them. We haven't Oeened up yet. Neither has the Phila or Savannah. Had our first target this evening 0430.<sup>29</sup> Firing on 6" guns around the air field. 0530 Fired on enemy tanks about 20 - the army sent back excellent firing. Secured from GQ set condition 2. From the gunfire mortars shells and what not there seems to be a pretty good fight on the beach. One LST was bombed by Me 109. Lost 39 men but she was already on the beach - only lost very small amount of her equipment.<sup>30</sup> No precautionary GQ tonight. Glad to say that our air superiority is keeping large groups of planes away. Me's & dive bombers jump around singly but so far they are staying around the beach where our troops are. Air raid tonite. No damage done.
- Sun. 11. Guess you could call today or tonight our nine months anniversary. More of a strain waiting for something to happen than actual activity. We are shelling the beach continually but not very rapid fire. NL Officers [NGLO - naval gunfire liaison officer] send us a target and we put one minute of rapid fire with one or two turrets. We have quite a few good reports from the Army. We are doing as much damage with one turret as the Savannah is with all five of hers. In fact the NLO have assigned us a couple of her targets. Don't know why but our gunners seem to be on the ball. 1545 can see 25 bombers coming in our direction. Some one reports them as B-17 but they are only two motor jobs. Guess they know what they are now. Can see their bombs falling and they are almost overhead. Can see the black cross on their wings. "No hiding place down here". They missed us, but hit one of our ships, ammunition. We got wet on the searchlights from the bombs and a few men below deck were knocked down from the concussion. Some of the bombs came plenty close. Our AA battery proved exactly useless. Planes against planes unless they are within range of 20 &

---

<sup>27</sup> Malta - an island 60 miles south of Sicily. Despite a siege that lasted from June 1940 through November 1942, this British colony and important military installation was never occupied by Axis forces.

<sup>28</sup> Spitfire - Supermarine Spitfire, a British single-seat, single-engine fighter.

<sup>29</sup> From the context 0430 and 0530 were probably meant to be 4:30 and 5:30 P.M.

<sup>30</sup> Me 109 - Messerschmitt Bf 109, a single-seat, single-engine fighter.

The ship that was hit was the LST-313.

40 MM. The planes were Ju 88's. The ammunition ship blew up, and I mean she went sky high, about 1630. Every one was taken off as soon as she was hit. Only lost 3 men and 8 wounded. Guess she will bum practically all nite - fuel oil and what is left of her stem.<sup>31</sup> Gun on the beach has our range. Guess we will put her out of commission tomorrow. 2030 Dive and horizontal bombers attacking. Lots of AA & MM fire. Quite a few bombs dropping around but none of them seem to be hitting anything. 2130 Some more of our para troops going over to land.

Mon. 12. Eisenhower came over from Syracuse today. He is here on a destroyer just looking around. There are more fighters today than you can shake a stick at. Strange huh? Quite a few of our P38 are flying around this evening.<sup>32</sup> Not shelling the beach much today. Guess they have moved back out of our reach.

Tues. 13. I suppose we will be shoving off before long. Not much we can do in here - maybe if we do not go back to Algiers we will move on up the coast. So far the Army has captured 5400 prisoners. Most of them are Italians. They are bringing wounded back to the ships now. We are taking 9 from the LCT 325.<sup>33</sup> Two of them are Germans. The LCT was having trouble with her anchor windlass so Fleer, Miles & I went over and fixed her up. Right now we have about 50 wounded aboard. We are just going to give them medical treatment and put them on transports going back. We will only keep 2 or 3 of the worst that cannot be moved.

Wed. 14. We are almost like an advanced hospital base now. Fix & transfer the wounded. We are transferring all of the wounded today to the Savannah. Looks like the Savannah & Brooklyn are going back. The Brooklyn some way or other got in our own mine field and made contact with one. Don't know how much damage but she has water in aft Diesel aft Gyro & shaft [unmeasurable]. Underway 1600 guess we are going back also.

Thurs. 15. Field Day sure do need it. Passed Tunis this A.M. Should get to Algiers about 0800 tomorrow. Miles & McKee, Gilkey and I played bridge this even. Won \$4.85.

Fri. 16. Anchored outside the breakwater 0930 in Algiers. Taking on ammunition & fuel at same time. 15:17. On the fan tail saw and felt one hell of an explosion over the docks. An ammunition ship blew up - she was loading German land mines. Gasoline tanker blew up alongside her & ammunition dump on the beach started put out also. Don't know how much damage was done or what caused it. 1800 were killed. About 5 blocks were

---

<sup>31</sup> Ju 88 - Junker 88, a twin-engine multirole German aircraft.

The ship that was hit was the liberty ship USA T Robert Rowan. She was struck by three 1,000 lb bombs, two of which exploded in her hold.

<sup>32</sup> P-38 - Lockheed P-38 Lightning, a long-range, twin-engine fighter.

<sup>33</sup> Naval records indicate that the vessel Dr. Moneymaker is referring to is actually the LST-325. The LCT-325 was in the Pacific at this time.

leveled and windows were broken 10 miles away. Shure [sic] was a gory mess. English destroyer pulled the tanker into the bay and let it burn.<sup>34</sup>

- Sat. 17. S'posed to have captains inspection today but it was called off. Underway at 1200 with Savannah and couple destroyers. Think we are going back to Sicily so the Phila can come back and restock.
- Sun. 18. Passed Tunis about 1000 picked up convoy of 14 LST. Passed Cape Bon about 1300- saw a few wrecked destroyers.<sup>35</sup> Met a convoy of about 30 ships going back. Saw 10 BITs returning. From the general direction and speed we should be in Gela by tomorrow morning.
- Mon. 19. Anchored in Gela. Some one must be pretty sure of things around here. We are going back more and more to peace time regulations. Quite a few ships unloading supplies and equipment on the beach. About 10 LST's are unloading large tanks and tank busters. One air alert. Underway tonight just running around in circles about 15 miles off the coast.

*Suppose since we have bombed Rome finally that there will be a change in what the Italian people think of this war. Guess The Vatican will really put up a squak [sic]. It is funny that Britain and **Us**. is denying that either one of them did the bombing. No noise from Vatican, 'Fishy' <sup>36</sup>*

- Tues. 20. Anchored Gela at 0730. Same thing as yesterday. Only difference in this and piece [sic] time is that we have PGQ at 4:45 every morning. 14 LST came in loaded to the gills. They surely are putting plenty of equipment on the beach. We are using [sic] these air ports here. A lot of C-47 - P-51 and spitfires based here and there may be some medium bombers.<sup>37</sup> We seem to be as safe here as we are in Algiers. One of the landing barges came along side and I managed to get a rock for Billy. Underway again.
- Wed. 21. 0445 PGQ anchored Gela. This must be our home port. There is quite a bit of talk going around as to what we are here for. Does look crazy to me we can't do any more good. Field day today. Fleer and I played chess for about 4 hours this evening. Making a little bit of progress with Calculus. Underway. This is getting to be quite the routine.

---

<sup>34</sup> The initial explosion occurred aboard the Norwegian merchant ship *D/S Bjmkhaug* while it was loading supposedly inactivated land mines. The resulting fire spread to the nearby Fort Confidence, a ship loaded with fuel oil. It was towed out of the harbor by the Dutch rescue tug Hudson with assistance from the British destroyer HMS Paladin. Of the 300-1,000 people estimated to have been killed, most were Algerian dock workers.

<sup>35</sup> Cape Bon - the northeast tip of Tunisia.

<sup>36</sup> There was a major bombing raid on Rome on July 19.

<sup>37</sup> C-47 - Douglas C-47 Skytrain or Dakota, a military transport based on the DC-3 airliner.

P-51 - North American Aviation P-51 Mustang, a long-range, single-seat, single-engine fighter.

- Thurs. 22. 0445 PGQ. Field Day - we are going to have captains inspection tomorrow. 1630 Underway for Bizerte.<sup>38</sup> Should get there tomorrow morning about 0730. Suppose will just get further orders.
- Fri. 23. Anchored 0845 Bizerte. No liberty in fact the place doesn't look big enough to have liberty in. 5 or 6 ships are on the bottom don't know which side they belong to. From radio reports something is brewing in Italy. Had cox. of captains gig to bring me back a small rock from the beach for Billie. Underway 05:15 for Algiers. We had captains inspection everything OK.
- Sat. 24. 1630 anchored Algiers. Liberty. Five of us bob tails are in here.<sup>39</sup> Phil a, Savannah, Brooklyn, Birmingham & Boise. There are two of the latest English battle ships here also. King George class. I rate liberty today but don't think I will go over. I still do not like Algiers. Played bridge until 2300 won \$6.37. I think my bridge is getting worse if possible.
- Sun. 25. Slept in until 0700 for a change. Hood is beginning to slide more and more of the paper work and inspections over to me. Sure be glad when the war is over. E-Div went over to play softball today. Galbraith had shore patrol so I had to stay aboard. We lost 13 to 12. We are showing movies on the fan tail again. Mussolini has resigned. Most of us seem to think that his venereal disease finally got the best of him along with a lot of other things.<sup>40</sup>
- Maybe this will make Italy a little bit easier or maybe they will fight better for him. Sorta think he will look for peace terms.*
- Mon. 26. Charlie Root was out to the air port yesterday and said there were quite a few C47 out there. I have been thinking that maybe Stanley Snidow is out here.<sup>41</sup> Guess I will go over this P.M. and see. Boy there sure are plenty of planes out here at the air field. Stan's plane last three numbers are 021. He is out on a trip. Waited until 1900 but he didn't show up. Will go back tomorrow and maybe I can catch him.
- Tues. 27. Baker gave us a lot of guff at quarters and wants the chiefs to come to quarters in Kaiki [sic] with ties. Wish he would fall overboard - his big jug butt would wait [sic] him down for good riddance. I knew we would soon get back to peace time routine. This is surely turning out to be a politicians war. Believe I would rather be in the Pacific than here. I got to the air port about 1545 and Stan had just come in. Sure was good to see him again. He hasn't changed very much. Forgot to ask him a lot of questions I wanted to. He was only in for about 45 minutes on his way to Bizerte. Maybe I can catch him again tomorrow or the next day and I may be able to go to Oran some evening provided I can get back to Algiers on time. I went in the C-47 but I wanted to talk to him rather than about the plane. Guess I will have to be more considerate next time. Made arrangements for Stan to write home and

---

<sup>38</sup> Bizerte - a port on the north coast of Tunisia.

<sup>39</sup> Bobtail- Navy slang for a type of light cruiser with a square stem.

<sup>40</sup> While it was widely believed that Mussolini suffered from syphilis, scholarly research indicates that this was most likely not true.

<sup>41</sup> Stanley Snidow was a college friend from before the war.

I get back aboard and find out that the censorship has been lifted but we still can't say that we are in Algiers.

- Wed. 28. Nothing ~oing on this A.M. Rate liberty today. Bowen, Peddie & I went to Maison Blanche. 2 Stanley was in at 1400 but I didn't get there until 1545. Looked around some more. Got several pieces from a Me109. The Spitfires & Hurricanes sure are good planes.<sup>43</sup> They have one here (Spit) stripped of everything except camera. Used for reconnicance [sic] does over 500. Back in Algiers at 1845. Bowen & I went up to a place - had one glass of wine. He walked out with a broad and left his liberty card. I brought it back aboard and he came back 1 hour over leave. Guess he made out OK. He is on report. At this rate soon all the rated men in the gang will be restricted.
- Thurs. 29. Bowen went up to mast today. He was restricted for two liberties. Glad to see him get fair play rather than Naval Reg. He will be able to make 1st Class the first of the month now. Everything seems to be going along OK. I have patrol today. Stationed on the dock. Miller got me two suits of Kaiki. The Boise moved into the dock today. No trouble. Helped a merchant seaman to find his ship SS Francis L. Lee. Secured at 22:30. Back aboard and Wick burnt up #1 36" searchlight. Guess I will be up most of the night. Drove the captains jeep for him when he went back to the Vulcan. Finally to bed 1400.<sup>44</sup>
- Fri. 30. 0700 breakfast. Field Day today made out the watch list went back to bed. Guess I will not go to quarters since I rate sleeping in today. Root has shore patrol today. Sent a note to Stanley by him. No captains inspection. Played Bridge until 2100 just about even again.
- Sat. 31. Captains inspection 0930. Division very good. Going to make a few changes. Fler is going to IC for awhile and Bush is coming up above. Sure hate to loose Fler but he needs the IC experience. Root is going to Maison Blanche so told him to check up on Stanley. Miles and Zips came back without any hats. While standing on the Quarter Deck Miles hung a haymaker on Zips left eye for no reason. Took three of us to hold Zips. Guess he really would have worked Miles over. Miles has tried it once too often - hope they hang it to him. Sure hope it does not mess Zips up so he cannot make 1st. He has had several raw deals but not since he has been out here. Root just missed seeing Stanley.
- Aug.  
Sun. 1. Nothing to do today it is fairly cool. Wrote a few letters. Went out to Maison Blanche. Just stayed out there and shot the breeze to Sgt. Moore & Wheeler. They are telling me how everything is going on in the air force - guess I am getting to be a permanent fixture out there. They want to come aboard Sat evening so I will go back Thursday and let them know if we will be here or not.
- Mon. 2. Zips & Miles went up to captains mast from commanders mast and the skipper gave them a Deck Court. Don't know what they will get out of it now. Nothing going on tonight no trouble at all.

---

<sup>42</sup> Maison Blanche - the name of the airport (and surrounding area) in Algiers.

<sup>43</sup> Hurricane - Hawker Hurricane, a British single-seat, single-engine fighter.

<sup>44</sup> 1400 - very clear in the text, but based on context it must be 0400.

- Tues. 3. Out of the clear blue sky the majority of the chiefs want to invite 25 WACCS [sic] aboard for the evening. Yet when we are back in the states you cannot even bring your mother aboard. Needless to say I am against it. They can't see why but this is no place to bring a group of women even in peace time much less war time. Going to be an awful lot of trouble for the whole crew in this end of the ship. Well after chipping my teeth they are still going to bring them aboard tomorrow evening about 1930 and we will have to wait until then to eat chow. Bought flowers, ribbons and what not. Not me but three other chiefs. I was expecting to see colored toilet paper in our head. Guess it will be closed tomorrow evening. Still think it is a lot of bull. The married men are more up for it than the single ones.
- Wed. 4. The Quarters back here look like a bunch of pimps have taken over. I tried to get early chow but they will not feed until 1930 so I will eat and leave. Will give them that much the chow was real good. Nice tender steaks. The Captain & Commander came back for supper. I ate and left. Such as this is just against my grain I guess. Quite a bit of brandy is circulating also.
- Thurs. 5. Thank goodness that is over with. Maybe I can sit down and read tonight. Went out to Maison Blanche. Before going out went up to Algiers with Henning & Mealy. Got out to M.B. about 1700. Moore & Wheeler will be aboard Sat evening. Stanley is in Bleida but I can't get over there today it is too late.<sup>45</sup> Back aboard at 2030 set down to write letters but the CPhM [chief pharmacist's mate], Hutcheson & Summerlin came back looped to the gills. I can't see why since they have made chief they do not have a little more responsibility. Seems like the higher rate you are the more you get away with. Balis put a seaman down for being 10 min over leave and let these three chiefs come aboard drunk 1h hour over leave without booking them for anything. Now they are raising all kinds of hell here in the quarters. Such is life bah!!!!
- Fri. 6. Field Day today. Probably have captains inspection Sat unless we refuel. Got a motor from the radio gang to rewire. Stanley came aboard about 1600 with a friend. Showed them all around the ship. That is until 1730. Wanted them to eat chow but they would rather see the ship so guess they saw most everything that they wanted to. Took them from top to bottom. Still will have to see if I can get early liberty and take a hop with him. So far as I can see he has not changed very much. Think he has sorta lost contact with everything. Maybe he should do more reading. Huh?
- Sat. 7. Get ready for inspection at 0930. Gosh but this gets tiresome, monotonous, and doesn't make sense. E-Div plays softball today. Wheeler came aboard about 1430. Moore couldn't make it. Guess he will the next time. Wheeler sure was pleased to see the ship. He ate chow in the CPO mess with me and sure did enjoy it. Don't guess the Army even based here gets the chow that we do. Wheeler stayed aboard until 1900 just shooting the breeze. If I can get to the airport about 1000 Tuesday I will be able to take a hop with Stan, probably to Oran. Wheeler says he can get me a ride in a B-26 Wed.<sup>46</sup> I probably will not get there. Dope going around that we will probably get underway tomorrow.

---

<sup>45</sup> Blida - a town and airport 20 miles southwest of Algiers.

<sup>46</sup> B-26 - Martin B-26 Marauder, a twin-engine medium bomber.

- Sun. 8. Just my luck underway at 1030. We are going to Palermo to relieve the Savannah for a change. Guess we will do some shelling of the coast toward Barcellona.<sup>47</sup>
- Mon. 9. We have been making about 20 kts all nite so we should get to Palermo about 1700. Sure is a lot cooler underway than at anchor. 1730 Anchored Palermo. Nice looking place. Enclosed on three sides by high mountains. Natural harbor. Can see where the docks and waterfront has been bombed quite a bit. Played bridge didn't do so good lost \$7.36.
- Tues. 10. This is good. PGQ at 0345 secure at 0615 every morning that we are out here. Early to bed may be good for you but believe this is too early. Ate breakfast at 0700 then slept until 0930. Which makes it pretty good. All hands will be allowed to sleep so guess it is not too bad. It is hotter than blue blazes in this harbor. Philadelphia is here with us. Nothing going on. I am quite a ways from Maison Blanche - guess I won't go out for a hop.
- Wed. 11. PGQ at 0345. Same routine as yesterday. The Phila went out this morning. Reckon she is going up the coast to do some shelling. We are still having physical drill in the A.M. & one hour of school in the P.M. Which is pretty good. Went swimming over side at 1600- water is nice but so salty makes your eyes bum. 2230 Phila is back in. Skipper is over there - guess we will go out tomorrow. Phila brought down 4 planes.
- Thurs. 12. Underway 040030 kts. Up the coast for some bombarding. We are supposed to be in the target area about 0700. Ate breakfast at 0530. We are in the vicinity of Patti. Quite a number of little villages around the coast. Army is not going to give us any targets - just fire at anything we want to. Foolish, I calls it. 'Scuse the writing we are firing and I have a little trouble writing. From what little damage that we can do by just hap-hazard shelling I would say this is just to keep the Navy in the headline, so that Naval Command can convince the people back in the states that aerial offensive is not too good. (We are being fired at from the beach not so close but the shells are coming closer). Five or six bombers can do more damage to targets like this in two minutes than we can do in two hours. Fooey, to hell with these old Navy die hards. Up top side but can't see much. Just where our shells explode on the beach. One of our turrets short fused and sprayed the water with shrapnel about 50 ft from the ship. Not so good. Just came down below and a shell from the beach hit about 120 ft from the ship. Sprayed the fwd and aft super structure. 5 men are hurt. One in the head. He will probably lose an eye. We finally knocked out the battery that was firing on us. 1130 secure from GQ. Anchored Paleramo [sic] 1630. Transferred the five men to the hospital ship. 2230 few bombers overhead. Get used to that anymore.
- Fri. 13. Unlucky, well don't think so. Some one got mixed up on their orders today. We were supposed to be off of Cape Orlando at 0700 shelling the beach but here we are in Palermo. Had PGQ at 04:00. Getting to be regular routine. School today 1300 to 1400. Field day. More fun huh? Probably have inspection tomorrow unless we get underway.

---

<sup>47</sup> On and off during the next ten days the USS Boise will shell villages along the north coast of Sicily. Of those mentioned in Dr. Moneymaker's diary, the closest to Palermo is Capo d'Orlando, 75 miles to the east. The others, separated by 10 to 15 miles, from west to east, are Patti, Barcellona Pozzo di Gotto, and Milazzo.

- Sat. 14. 0400 PGQ underway. Seems to be that we are going up the coast to do some shelling. Past Noro [location unidentifiable], past Patti, past Barcellona - say seems like we are going right on around the corner. Yep here we are off of Melezzo (or something like that). Shelling the beach 1500 with 15 gun salvos. We have quite a few targets gun emplacements, ammunition dumps, oil stowage. Seems like the Nazis have left or getting ready to leave. A few guns are firing at us but the 'closest' they get is 500 ft. We just wait until they fire then let them have a 15 salvo. No more firing. We have 12 spitfires with us. They have had a few dog fights but not enough to bother us. We are only 10 miles from Messina. I still can't understand why the Germans do not have any more planes here than they do. Maybe they are saving them, huh?? Secure from GQ 1900. Back to Paleramo.
- Sun. 15. Boy it is plenty hot in this place. No sleep for the weary. PGQ 0400. Hope I can break myself of the habit of getting up that early when we go back to the states. We are getting underway at 1630 don't know yet just where we are going. Hood wants me to go up for Warrant but I haven't made up my mind yet.<sup>48</sup> Don't think I will. Up in that end oftown I don't believe I would get along so good. Their living conditions are worse, chow is worse, and then I will not be allowed to hang around and shoot the breeze like I have been doing. Only thing it will help me to get a job on the outside. Especially since I have to qualify in engine room watches. Flier & I had a pretty good talk last nite.
- Mon. 16. 0345 underway & PGQ. Not a lot going on today. We are getting ready to transfer all except 15 days supplies to the Philly also going to transfer some of our ammunition. Guess we will be going back to Algiers pretty soon. The Boise has been praised a couple of times from the Army. Last one from General Patton to USS Boise. "Due to you our army will be the first in Messina, well done".<sup>49</sup> Guess we are doing more than the Savannah & Philly. Seems like they were fired at by the beach so they just turned around and left. Can't win a war that way, huh? Ioli & a yeoman is getting transferred to shore duty in Paleramo. Sure wish it was me. I believe being attached to the Government of Occupation would be good business for D.O.W. [duration of the war]. Not going to transfer supplies until tomorrow. The Army put a smoke screen over one half of Palermo, good job too.
- Tues. 17. 0400 underway same ole routine. Transfer Ammunition. Belay the Transfer, Restore Ammunition, Transfer Ammunition & Supplies. The captain is mad and is going over to the Philly to find out just what the Admiral wants. Guess he is not half as mad as the working parties are. The skipper is back and we will make the transfer. Sure did take the Admiral long enough to make up our mind. Finish handling [sic] stores & ammunition at 1230. Now the dope is we are going to get underway tonite. Underway at 1930. We

---

<sup>48</sup> Warrant officer - in the Navy, a rank above the senior enlisted rank (chief petty officer) and below the lowest commissioned officer rank (ensign) and usually reserved for people with specialized skills.

<sup>49</sup> The race between Patton and Montgomery to capture the city was fueled by both generals personal ambitions, their antipathy for one another, the commanding British generals low regard for the relatively untested U.S. troops, and Patton's desire to recoup American honor after the debacle at Kasserine Pass, Tunisia, in February. While advanced units of American troops were the first to enter Messina, so technically Patton won the race, British troops arrived from the south a mere twelve hours later.



are going to shell Palmi tonite.<sup>50</sup> Philly Boise & six cans. Get some shut eye while I can I guess. 2230 turned in.

- Wed. 18. 0115 General quarters. We are going to fire 20; 15 gun salvos into the town. We are suppose to have several targets. 0130 set Condition Affirm. This is going to be hotter & hell down here but it is better than firing 15 gun salvos with the ship open. Sure does play the devil with electrical equipment when we do that. 0209 Our first salvo. The Philly is about five miles to the north of us and the cans are scattered in between. Everyone firing on the beach. Eight or ten flares around and there are a few shells from the beach not enough to amount to anything. Boy the sweat is just running off of all [of] us. I am using a handkerchief under my hand so the pages will stay dry. 0234 There goes our last salvo so we are pulling out to see if we can tell how much damage was done. One large explosion - guess we hit a dump of some kind. 0330 unset condition affirm. Regular sea detail. We are heading back for Palermo and all of us are wet with sweat. Just wring it out of our clothes. Sure hate to think how the people in those towns felt when they woke up, such is war! Anchored Palermo 0820. Brown Chief Yeoman was transferred to the Philly today, Admirals staff. 1315 underway for Algiers. Had to get mad at the whole division today - too much passing the buck and what not. Next week or so I will give them the works and see how they like it. Making about 20 kts should be in Algiers about 1600 [the next day].
- Thurs. 19. 1203 [from context: 12:03 A.M.] Air attack. GQ 1207 set Condition Affirm. Here I was expecting to get a nites sleep. We are not far from Bizerte and they are certainly throwing up an AA Barrage. A few planes have been zooming over us but so far all of there [sic] bombs have missed. One was fairly close but no damage. Something is burning about two miles from our port side, could be a ship or LST that has been hit. We are making 30 kts and zig zagging like the devil. Sure is plenty hot down here. I am wringing wet now and only been at GQ for 20 min. Looks like Bizerte is the main target. Secured from GQ at 0215. Can't get any wetter. Take a bath and go to bed. Up again at 0630. Field day. Anchored in Algiers 1730 Liberty for 1st.
- Fri. 20. Taking on ammunition & fuel. Also working on the compass. Probably no inspection tomorrow. Had a stand by ready to go ashore. But I have to take shore patrol for Galbraiths place. Had a jeep to ride around in with me driving for about 2 1/2 hours so I saw the rest of Algiers. Saw an English soldier fall off a truck doing about 35 mph. Bashed his skull in. Had to practically drive the people away like flies. Ambulance got there in about 5 min but he was dead. Made reports to SP Headquarters. Left the docks at 2230. Back aboard ship. Sleep will be good tonite.
- Sat. 21. Sure was burned up for awhile this morning. About half the ship handling supplies and the brains on here pass the word to get ready for captains inspection. Was finally called off after a big mix up. Took a thermos jug of cherry coke to Maison Blanche. Moore & Wheeler sure were glad to see me again especially since I had the drinks. Had chow at their mess and it wasn't bad at all. Had plenty to eat and it was cooked good as ours. Met an AP [Associated Press] photographer attached to the army (Max Montgomery)

---

<sup>50</sup> Palmi - a town on the west coast of Italy about 25 miles from the northeast tip of Sicily.

and I am going up to his place tomorrow to get some pictures. About 5 chiefs came aboard tonite looped to the gills. Dem fools. "Nuff said"

- Sun. 22. Wrote some letters this A.M. Got a stand by so Fleeer and I are going over. Went up to Max's place shot the breeze for awhile he gave me about 20 pictures that are pretty good. He is going to Sicily to take some pictures so he will save some of those for me so he says. Fleeer and I went on out to M.B. Wheeler is going to try and get me a German Lugar [sic]. Fleeer & I went all through one of the new B-24D and they sure are honeys. They have it all over the B-17. They will carry 9 tons of bombs. There are a lot of new troops coming in so guess we will make another invasion before long. Left a note for Stanley. Hitch Hiked back to town. It is faster than riding the bus.
- Mon. 23. Nothing going on today. E-Div played R-Div softball today. I went along. We lost but had a swell time. Fleeer & I dunked Reinhardt bottom first in a big puddle of water just to top things off. Back aboard at 1645. Ate chow took a bath and wrote 3 letters.
- Tues. 24. Wonder how much longer this will last. We are underway for Gran at 0630. Boy this is getting monotonous. Sure will be glad when I wake up and there is no more war. That is too far off to think about. Better start studying again. Anchored in Gran 1902. Don't know yet why we are here. Probably no one else does huh?
- Wed. 25. Nothing this A.M. Underway at 1000. We are going out with landing barges & troop ships for maneuvers. Guess we will have GQ tonite.
- Thurs. 26. 0200 up all hands. GQ in 15 min. 0230 still no GQ some one is fouled up. Sure as I go to bed they will have GQ. 0400 still no GQ. 0430 GQ will be sounded 0615. Might as well catch a little nap. 0615 PGQ two hours sleep isn't so good. Field Day today. Just had the gang to check over their circuits instead. Anchored Mers-el-Kebir about 1425.<sup>51</sup> Liberty for 4<sup>th</sup>.

*Shucks I am getting awful tired of seeing the same ole faces & doing the same ole thing with no deviations. Hope the laziness of the rest of chiefs does not effect [sic] me. Still doing most anything to keep busy. Make progress with Spanish. Hope everyone doesn't get disgusted at times as I do. Not only Washington but the Naval and Army heads sure are messed up. Think after this is over I will hibernate. Don't have much faith left in people. Why do such a large majority have the "rex" for me attitude. Same thing on here. This new crew would steal used toilet paper, just 'cause they never had any before. Have to keep everything locked. Sure do miss the old cooperation & what not.*

- Fri. 27. Field Day all day today. Working parties & what not. Fleeer says this is pretty good liberty - better than Algiers anyway. Wrote 3 letters. I must be doing pretty good to be writing that many letters.

---

<sup>51</sup> Mer-el-Kebir - a port on the coast of Algeria a few miles west of Oran.

- Sat. 28. Transferred all of our aviation gas. Thank goodness the V-Div has left taking both planes. Good riddance. They are not any good on these ships. Nothing going on sorta miss the Army and Aviators coming aboard. We are too hard to get to out here.
- Sun. 29. Went ashore today. Gran is much cleaner than Algiers. All of the stores were closed. No souvenirs or pitchers for mother. Just wandered around. There is a tunnel on the way between Mers-el-Kebir & Gran guess it is about 2~ miles long. No forced ventilation seems to have been dug by hand. Is plenty good. Started out to the air port but couldn't catch a ride in time to get back to the ship. Talked to Brants & Moran on patrol. Bondi, Bowen, Hines, English soldier & myself caught a taxi back, unusual!
- Mon. 30. Got a stand by today. Fleeer, Root, Gelinas, Corbett & I climbed Mt. Atlas only about 3100 ft high. Just a hill here on the coast - is separated from the main Atlas range by about 150 miles. Tried to rescue a cat that fell in a hole about 30 ft deep but the cat wouldn't or couldn't sit on the board we lowered. Couldn't climb down after him. Tried to drop a large rock on him but missed. The top of the mountain tapers off in a big plateau that stretches [sic] back to a desert about 40 miles inland. There are gun emplacements, Radars & 60" searchlights up here. Protection for the harbor. Came back down about 1800. Had a couple cold bottles of beer. Coming back to the ship in MWB picked up two sailors that were trying to swim out to their ship.<sup>52</sup> Crazy huh? Was awful hot though.
- Tues. 31. 0630 underway. Bombardment practice up the coast with the army giving us coordinates. Back in Mers-el-Kebir at 1830. No liberty movies on fantail. Play Fleeer some chess. Played bridge until 2230. Lost \$9.18 [perhaps: \$9.98] guess I will make it up later on. Don't make no difference.
- Sept.  
Wed. 1. Nothing going on today. From indications, another invasion is brewing. I would say by the 15 of Sept. Got a \$100 money order to send to Vallejo. Told Hood he could go ahead and recommend me for warrant. May regret it. Took me two months to decide. There is very little advantage to it for me. Chief is the best Billet in the Navy. Bush is going to V<sub>12</sub>.<sup>53</sup> Got his clearance card today. Sure wish I was under 23. Gh well maybe this war will end some time.
- Thurs. 2. No dope & nothing doing. Wrote four letters sent \$100 money order to Vallejo.
- Fri. 3. Still here. Surely can't win a war here. Shouldn't be long before we get underway. Lots of indications.
- Field Day Naturally.
- Sat. 4. Gosh, now I know we are in for it. We missed captains inspection and topped off our fuel supply. Wonders will never cease. Air raid alert twice this evening. Looks like

---

<sup>52</sup> MWB - motor whaleboat, a small transport boat holding around twenty men.

<sup>53</sup> V12 - another of the twelve U.S. Navy job classifications. It indicated an enlistee enrolled in a special college training program started in 1943 to meet the need for commissioned officers.

every time we have guard duty we pick up something with the radars or dome. Anyway we have GQ.

- Sun. 5. 0745 E & A div. left the ship to play softball. We beat 16 to 12. I wonder if my being the umpire had anything to do with it. huh? Underway at 1500. We have about 17 transports with us. Good dope. Skipper told us we were going to Gulf of Salerno [sic] to land troops. Boise will cover right flank, Phila & Sav left flank. To the north of us just south of Salerno city the English will land. The forces are supposed to be north and take Naples. Seems to me that some one is awful sure of himself. Hope we land troops faster there than at Gela. (Time Friday 0230)<sup>54</sup>
- Mon. 6. 1030 Phila & Boise left the convoy put on speed but just flanked around and came back in formation. The time has been set up 24 hours - we are to land Thursday morning instead of Friday. Here we go again. Upped speed. Just messing around I guess.
- Tues. 7. Troops have landed on the toe of Italy. From reports very little opposition.<sup>55</sup> Anchored Bizerte took on planes and Gasoline. 1600 underway to join our convoy that just passed by. 1645. We are turning around - just the Boise pulling back into Bizerte. 1730 anchored. The Phila sent the skipper a message. "You should be Admiral when you get back. Good luck. Sending the planes off again in the morning. Dope is going around that the Italian fleet is going to surrender to us (Allies). 1030. In the morning we are going to take on 650 troops with about 60 jeeps and equipment. They will be aboard for five meals. So that sounds like we are going to land them somewhere Thurs evening. Probably Taranto. Part of the Italian fleet is supposed to meet us there.
- Wed. 8. Aviation detail left again. We still have Gas aboard though. 1130. Just started bringing the troops and jeeps aboard. They are English Airborne troops. We will fly in huh? Don't like the looks of this - we will have to pull up 'longside' a dock to unload these jeeps. We have 718 men aboard with equipment. 1630 underway. Part of the men are Polesics Private Army. (Guess that is the way you spell it).<sup>56</sup> Anyway he pays about 1500 men from his own pocket. And does all his own recruiting. Zips worked on one of the jeeps voltage regulator. We charged the battery. Zips is plenty good at working on stuff like that. This army surely went over big for our showers & cold drinking water. They had been aboard English ships and never found anything like this. All of them remarked on how clean the ship was.

---

<sup>54</sup> Plans for the invasion of Italy called for landing small forces on the toe of the Italian boot and at Taranto, a port on the instep. The main force consisting of Lt. General Mark W. Clark's U.S. 5<sup>th</sup> Army and Montgomery's 8<sup>th</sup> Army were to land near Salerno, a city on the west coast of Italy 25 miles south of Naples. While these landings were essentially carried out as planned, the situation became more complicated when the Italians surrendered on September 3, something known to the top commanders, but not made public until September 8. Knowing that the German Army would take control of the country and continue to fight on, but Italian units operating independently were likely to capitulate, allowed military planners to reallocate resources. In particular, the USS Boise's role in the invasion was changed.

<sup>55</sup> The landing of British and Canadian troops took place on September 3.

<sup>56</sup> Popski's Private Army was a unit of the British Special Forces founded in Cairo in 1942 by then Major Vladimir Peniakoff. Operating as a commando unit, it performed raids and gathered intelligence behind enemy lines. At its largest it numbered around 120 men.

Thurs. 9. Worked on a couple of jeeps today - made three funnels for P.P.A. so they wouldn't waste so much gas. Zips reinstalled the battery in the jeep & we put a check card on it. Italy has unconditionally surrendered her territories, Army, Navy and all equipment. She surrendered 3<sup>rd</sup> of September but Eisenhower kept it a secret until he could get everything lined up to send troops in. There are 4 English cruisers with us and they are carrying troops also. We are to join the HMS Howe and King George VI in case the Italians are not ready to give in. Well here we go in. PGQ secured at 1600. I directed the soldier mess line while we were at GQ. Tied up to the dock about 1900. Handled ammunition on the fan tail until about 1030 [from context: 10:30 P.M.]. In between times running one of the catapults. Just training it in & out & what not. Sure are a lot of people on here afraid they are going to do a little work. These soldiers will not have much of a chance to rest for a while so why not give them all the help we can.

*Admiral bull was back putting his two bits in - all he does is blow off gas saying how this should or shouldn't be done but he will never do anything. I told him to let those that were working do it. He didn't like it 'cause I hit him with the catapult. He stays out of the way now.*

Fri. 10. 0045. English mine layer exploded. She was carrying troops & ammunition. Don't know how many troops were still aboard. GQ looks foolish to me. There is no gun fire & not any flares have been picked up. 0130 secured from GQ. Still don't know why she blew up.s 0300 finished handling troops & equipment. Go to bed just as soon as I get a shower. Sorta tired.

Sat. 11. PGQ 0525. Underway for Bizerte. Making about 25 kts. Should be in Bizerte about 0800 tomorrow. Passed 15 LST going same direction. Seems like landings have been made on whole instep of Italy.

Sun. 12. PGQ 0536. Anchored Bizerte 0735. Dutch tanker alongside at 0845. From all indications of Hitlers speaches [sic] he is all riled up. Troops alongside at 1420. British soldiers again with jeeps & 55 mm guns. 1500 transferred all equipment and soldiers off the ship. 1540 underway for Salerano. Savannah has been hit guess we will relieve her. Making 25 kts should be there in A.M. Played Bridge.

Mon. 13. 0755 Arrived Salerano. Can hear gun fire from the beach. Guess the Nazies [sic] are putting up a good fight. 1100 destroyer at our stern was dive bombed, missed! 1235 GQ. Planes. Ships shot down one. 1735 quite a few explosions very near. GQ we were dive bombed by 4 planes. Missed. Jarred us up a little. Savannah was hit on #111- don't know how many casualties. One of the 3 hospital ships was hit to-nite. She burned for about 6 hours.

*The straight dope about the Savannah. A large bomb went at an angle through the top of Turret III -left a hole 28" Diameter. Went forward underneath barbet [sic] of*

---

<sup>57</sup> With no German troops present at Taranto, the landing was unopposed. However, the minelayer HMS Abdiel struck a mine and exploded, killing around 175 and wounding another 120.

<sup>58</sup> Barbette - an armored structure protecting a gun turret on a warship.

*Turret II & through handling rooms olNo I turret. It explodedjust as it hit or went through the keel. Sure raised hell. Everyone was killedfrom bow back to {unreadable, best guess: bramte 70]. about 206. Boy when they take pot shots like that it is time to do something. It was supposed to have been a 2000 lb radio controlled rocket bomb ugh! Made a bet with White that we would be in the states by Nov 15.<sup>59</sup>*

- Tues. 14. 0557 PGQ. SO far all we are doing is dodging planes. These 20 mm sights still aren't worth a damn. Don't see why they won't let the men fire by tracer. Get used to anything within reason. But all of these bombing attacks aren't too good. Sure am glad that it doesn't bother me like some of the men. 1600 GQ for shore bombardment. More planes. The Phila was just missed by a 2000 lb bomb. Could see it falling. The splash where it exploded was as high as the Philas mast. Sure hope they don't hit us with one of those. It is supposed to be a radio controlled rocket bomb. Good huh! Had 10 attacks by plane today. Bombarded beach practically all nite. No sleep. Liberty ship was hit and she is burning. Lots of ammunition aboard her going up - beautiful but \_\_ 7!60
- Wed. 15. 0551 PGQ. Had breakfast slept all A.M. even two plane attacks didn't bother me. Anymore just condition I in AA & damage control for planes. Seems to be a little bit better for our side. There sure was an awful lot of firing on the beach last nite. Bombers have been going over all day. Paratroops landed last nite. Saw two planes shot down P.M. Boise didn't hit anything. Shelled beach again at 2330 - only air attacks today.
- Thurs. 16. 0547 PGQ shelled the beach this A.M. Planes dropped bombs missed us again. Hit an LCI and another liberty ship. Still have my fingers crossed. Shelled beach this P.M. 1830 underway for Bizerte for more ammunition. We have used about 1800 rounds of 6". Full nite sleep tonite.
- Fri. 17. 1045 Anchored Bizerte. Field day. There are 5 converted carriers here. Taking on fuel & ammunition. Gasket blew on main steam line. Underway for Salerano. Warspite was bombed quite a bit of damage.
- Sat. 18. Fixed up the Admirals cabin. 1430 back in Salerano. Took Admiral aboard. Air attack. Everything laying smoke screens. Seems a good idea for us to lay smoke screens & let the fighters take care of the planes.
- Sun. 19. Admiral came aboard late yesterday eve. Seems that we have everything under control here now. Guess we will leave unless they find some more targets pretty soon. They finally posted lookouts on the searchlight platform. 1640 underway for Paleramo. Imagine there will be liberty.

---

<sup>59</sup> It is unclear when this top-of-page remark was written. The agreement on the exact number of casualties suggests that it was composed at the same time or shortly after the October 6 entry. However, the reference to the bet with White and the timeline suggested by the November 3 entry suggests that the date of composition matches its physical placement at this point in the diary.

<sup>60</sup> The ship that was hit was the liberty ship USA T Bushrod Washington.

- Mon. 20. 0745 Anchored Paleramo. What a relief. No PGQ. Liberty for 1st section. Since we are here will get a chance to do quite a bit of work on electrical equipment. Went over to NOB [naval operations base] here and it is awful. They are trying to make repairs and it would be the same thing as trying to make a garage for American cars in Germany. Have more steel here than they know what to do with. They sure bombed the devil out of the water front.
- Tues. 21. Phila should come in today and bring some mail for us. #4 screw is badly bent up so we should go somewhere to get a new one and a lot of more work. States? Liberty is so good here. Will go over tomorrow. 1745 Phila came in. 1920 received 6 letters. Crews says that chiefs are going to IC school so I am going to see what I can do about going.
- Wed. 22. We are going along side a repair ship. Probably the Vulcan in Algiers. Don't see where she can do us much good. Maybe just make inspection of our screws. We are out of light bulbs. Bowen, McKee, Henning, Bondi, Anderson & I went ashore. Bondi was the interpreter. Picked a stone up for Billie. Got a vase for mother. No pitchers. Very little over here worth buying. Back aboard. Got my hands on Aug. 16 Time magazine so will write letters tomorrow.
- Thurs. 23. Field Day today & tomorrow. We may get our new skipper Sat. so have to be ready. Price & Hines failed exams after I practically told them what they would get. Guess I should take them for them.
- Fri. 24. More field day. The Boise inspected the Phila for material inspection. Her #2 shaft is bent. Brooklyn came in this A.M. I have patrol. Whagpou & I walked all over Paleramo. Bought a hat for Allen & Johnny. Saw Ioli, wish I had his motorcycle for awhile.
- Sat. 25. Captains inspection of all personnell [sic]. Standing by to get underway. 'li hours notice, on account of the weather. No liberty today. Wrote three letters & read awhile.
- Sun. 26. Went over today. Saw the Catycombs [sic] Cathedral & went to the airport to see Johnny Carson.<sup>61</sup> He is stationed out here now. Stanley has the run from Algiers to Paleramo now. Since we should be going to the states by 1944 maybe he wants me to take some junk back for him.
- Mon. 27. We are getting ready for material inspection. Our new skipper, 'Roberts', took over. The band made a good farewell talk. Not much going on except work. The war is going pretty good now for our side.
- Tues. 28. Flee & I went on liberty today. Covered Paleramo looking for stuff. Got a brooch, and a bandanna for Polly & June Bug.<sup>62</sup> Never have seen it rain until this evening. Just about time we cleared the breakwater, the bottom dropped out of the clouds - rain & hail. Lost the ship. Raining so hard couldn't even see the beach. After about 'li hour finally found the Boise. Really got soaking wet but sure did feel good to get rained on for a change. More fun.

---

<sup>61</sup> Dr. Moneymaker has no recollection of Johnny Carson, but it is not the famous late-night TV personality.

<sup>62</sup> June Bug is Dr. Moneymaker's sister.

- Wed. 29. Nothing going on here today. Regular routine.
- Thurs. 30. Fler & went went [sic] ashore. We bought a few more brooches. I have three pretty good ones now. I didn't like the large ones. Went out to the airport talked to Carson.
- Oct. Field day today. Guess we will have inspection tomorrow. Naples is just about ready to  
 Fri. 1. fall. Wouldn't be surprised if we didn't make a landing in Yougoslavia [sic] before long.<sup>63</sup>
- Sat. 2. Personnell inspection by the new skipper. He seems to be a pretty good old bird.<sup>64</sup> Quite a bit of talk going around about our going back to the States. I think we will be back by Nov. 15 if not sooner. Skipper made a quick inspection - didn't act as if he liked it very much.
- Sun. 3. I have duty today. Green & McKinney came back all fouled up. McKinney is now first class. Maybe some people just cannot be taught. Huh. Gelinas is fouled up. "Busted", SCM just because he didn't take a pro!
- Mon. 4. Gilkey, Miles & I went ashore today - were going to Mona Reale but could not get a jeep.<sup>65</sup> Gilkey & Miles came back to the ship. Wandered around - finally went out to see Carson. Took him some cigars. Back aboard at 1830.
- Tues. 5. Fler and I were going ashore today. Underway 1245 for Malta. We went through Messina straits about 1730. The toe of the boot is much more mountainous than I thought it was. It was dusk. Couldn't see very much of Messina.
- Wed. 6. 0530 PGQ. 0930 Anchored at Malta in the harbor. The town doesn't look too badly damaged. Savannah is here. She had 206 killed. Think she will be here about two months before she gets under way. Got a rock for Billie. Underway 1600. Carson was supposed to come aboard today. Wonder if he came to the docks.
- Thurs. 7. 0520 PGQ. Feel like the devil. Woke up at 0300. Couldn't go back to sleep. Run myself out going to the head. 1845. Anchored in Algiers. Looks the same. Were in a storm practically all day. Feel better this evening.
- Fri. 8. 0400 had to make engineering inspection. 0500 will catch a nap before chow.
- Field day
- Sat. 9. No inspection today. Pretty good skipper.

---

<sup>63</sup> Advance British units entered Naples on October 1. By October 6 the Allied forces had established a strong line of defense at the Volturno river north of Naples. No invasion of Yugoslavia occurred at this time; Belgrade was liberated by Soviet and Yugoslav Partisan troops in October 1944.

<sup>64</sup> Dr. Moneymaker will change his opinion as time goes by. Compare what he says here with what he says in Book IV.

<sup>65</sup> Monreale - a Norman cathedral a few miles outside of Palermo renowned for its mosaics.



- Sun.10. This week has gone by fast. Nothing going on. Just about like peacetime regulations.  
to We are not wearing blues ashore. Sat. went out to the airport. Got there about 1520
- Sun. 17. and Stanley just pulled in as I walked on the field. Just talked awhile. He was supposed to come out Sun 17 but didn't show up. I wrote a couple of letters.
- Mon. 18. Had a dance tonight for the third section. Turned out pretty good. About 6 men took more wine than they could hold so sent them back to the ship. We had to unrig all of our lights and flags right after the dance was over.
- Tues. 19. Same routine. We are getting ready to get underway soon. We should be back in the States by the 1st of December if everything works out OK.
- Wed. 20. 15 chiefs went on a trip up to Medea including me.<sup>66</sup> It was a pretty good trip up and we went over a small part of the Atlas mountains. All except about 6 of us were looped to the gills on anything they could find. Fowler, Miller, Deanger, Summerlin, McCoy & I were the only sober ones. I still can't see what makes some people tick. Arrington & Litherland fell off the truck & cracked their skulls. Both of them lived though. I wonder why? Hereafter will continue to go ashore by myself as usual. Miller and I called an ambulance & took Arrington & Litherland to the hospital. While the rest faught [sic]. The whole affair Nuts!!!
- Thurs. 21. Nothing going on today. Pretty sure that we will get underway in a few days. Field day today. Lower deck inspection tomorrow. Had McKee & Decker go up for 1st Class. Peddie, Price & Rheinhardt for 2<sup>nd</sup> & Rubick & Schramm for 3<sup>rd</sup>. Miles, Zips, Ruckdeschel, Bondi & Guttormsen are being transferred. Will leave me sorta short handed for 2<sup>nd</sup> Class.
- Fri. 22. Inspection. They did not inspect the electric workshop haven't for the last three months. Culver is getting transferred. Wolverton is our Commander & Exec. now.
- Sat. 23. Underway 1700 for? possibly Gran don't know yet for sure. Anyway it should be the first leg to the States.
- Quite a few men (12) were awarded?! Purple Hearts this A.M and 5 were given DFC [distinguished flying cross]. For flying over Gela. Still believe I could make money by selling medals dime a dozen somewhere. It is getting so in the Navy it is a disgrace to [not) wear a medal. I would be ashamed to wear one. The Pharmacists mates received Purple Hearts cause they were gassed. Baloney. Probably from there [sic) own Flatus.*
- Sun. 24. 0830 anchored in Oran. Don't think I will even go ashore in here again. It is pretty sure that we are going back to the states soon. Should be back by the 15 of Nov. or just about. Nothing in particular going on.
- Wed. 27. 1140 Underway for Casablanca. First leg of our journey.

---

<sup>66</sup> Medea - a town 40 miles inland from Algiers.

- Thurs. 28. 0545 PGQ. 0930 Anchored in Casablanca. Fleer, McKee, Wilson & I went ashore. Nothing worth buying. Not even any souvenirs. Got a rock for Billie. Rode around for about 2 1/2 hours. Shortage of rubber in the States. The French have rubber car tires on their buggies & horse drawn carts! More tanks, jeeps & trucks with quite a few heavy guns. Should be using them on the front! politics!!!
- Fri. 29. Baker has been raising all kinds of stink about haircuts, jumpers & pea coats. He gets worse instead of better. Boy from all indications they are going to be stricter than the devil on liberty back in the states. Lot of bull if you ask me. Bet if I would make or be warrant on here that on account of Baker I would be back to 1st Class before long.
- Sat. 30.
- Sun. 31.
- Mon. 1. Received a letter from Arlie today.<sup>67</sup> It was V-mail & more is coming so will wait a few days before I answer. <sup>68</sup>
- Tues. 2.
- Wed. 3. Nothing doing. We are still expecting to get underway most any time now. The sooner the better suits me. If we are not back by the 15<sup>th</sup> I will lose \$50 but I made the bets more than two months ago. Were supposed to get underway today but something came up. No liberty so guess tomorrow is the day.
- Thurs. 4.
- Fri. 5.
- Sat. 6.
- Sun. 7. 1145 Underway for New York. If we make any time at all guess I will win also two chicken dinners.
- Mon. 8. So far we will be granted 6 days leave and I have the second leave party. Guess that will give me enough time to figure out where to go and what to do.
- Tues. 9. This is turning out to be one of the roughest trips that I have ever been on. None of us slept last nite. Just impossible. No let up in sight from the looks of things either.
- Thurs. 11. Just my luck. 0530 while going to GQ was thrown against a bulkhead and cracked my left ankle. Don't know how bad. Will have to get it x-rayed when we get in.
- Fri. 12. Sure am tired but it is just about impossible to sleep. Get so tired and finally just pass out for a few hours. The crew sure looks like the devil.
- Sat. 13. Been playing Bridge all nite - have to keep my foot propped up. It is about three times as large as it should be.
- Sun. 14. Didn't even have church today.
- Mon. 15. Anchored in the river today just off of Coney Island at 0734. Won \$50 for getting here on the 15 & also won \$75 on an anchor pool. Not bad for today. Have the duty for today but will be my last one I suppose until I rate leave - will get 8 days.

---

<sup>67</sup> Arlie is Dr. Moneymaker's first cousin on his mother's side.

<sup>68</sup> V-mail- for victory mail, was a system used to send mail to and from service personnel stationed overseas or aboard ships. Themail was microfilmed and only the film was sent. It was then printed at the other end and distributed. This reduced the volume and weight by a factor of about 50, saving space for military supplies.

BOOK IV  
December 1943 - April 1944

*Living is like licking honey off of a thorn.*<sup>1</sup>

- Dec. 1943 Left New York a lot sooner than I thought. The ship is painted South West Pacific Blue
- Sun. 5. but don't know if that means anything or not. Skipper has not said where we are going so it must be just for operations, probably come back in a week or so.
- Mon. 6. The new Langly and two cans are with us - 688, 674, Going south.
- Tue. 7. Still going south maneuvering with the carrier & cans. Maybe we are going to operate in the Caribbean. Guantanamo Bay ??2
- Wed. 8. Still south. Skipper still hasn't said anything. He is not trying to get along. Commander Tom Wolverton made a talk to the chiefs today and now we have to wear Kaiki [sic] & ties at meals and all other times except on watch.<sup>3</sup> Dem fool. There just isn't any war as far as he is concerned [sic]. Can't get killed unless you are in Kaiki. Tom Wolverton says he doesn't want to be a S\_ofB\_ but can be. I just smiled back, along with some of the rest.
- Thurs. 9. This is beginning to look like more than operations - we are heading for the canal if we keep this up. Guess Jack White is really mad at me but I was sure we would be back for a few more days any way.<sup>4</sup>
- Fri. 10. Started through the Canal at 1345. All of the barage [sic] ballons [sic] are down and most of the smudge pots are missing. Always did say they would show you exactly where the Canal is. The nite traffic lights are on also - moored at Panama City (Balboa) 2130. Saw where the Pan American highway crosses the Miraflores [sic] Lock.
- Sat. 11. 1300 Liberty. I rate but it is raining cats & dogs. Didn't want to go ashore anyway. Stopped raining about 1700 so I went over and picked up a rock for Billy.
- Sun. 12. Underway at 0710. Fired all of our guns. They worked pretty good except turrets. Sky Pilot announced that our next stop was Boro-Boro [sic]. Seems to me I've been there before?? Sure hope we give these new men some training before we do any battling.

---

<sup>1</sup> This entry is on its own page, before the main body of the diary.

<sup>2</sup> Guantanamo Bay Naval Base - on the southeast end of Cuba, it is the oldest overseas U.S. Navy base.

<sup>3</sup> For the remainder of Dr. Moneymaker's time aboard the USS Boise, the ship was under the command of Captain John S. Roberts. The Executive Officer, whose primary duty is the day-to-day running of the ship, was Commander Thomas M. Wolverton.

<sup>4</sup> Jack White was the manager of a factory that manufactured a wide range of batteries needed in the war effort. He asked Dr. Moneymaker and Mel Howard, a shipmate, to tell the workers, who were threatening to strike, that a strike would hamper the war effort. They obliged.

Strikes did occur even though the AFL and CIO had made a no-strike pledge in exchange for an agreement to arbitrate labor disputes. The unaffiliated United Mine Workers, whose members' wages suffered from wartime inflation, struck several times in the spring of 1943. This resulted in passage of the War Labor Disputes Act, giving the federal government the authority to seize and operate essential industries threatened by strikes. The coal mine strikes were settled by June, but in December railroad workers were threatening to strike.

Reinhardt has Rheumatic Fever (just got it) and has to be in bed for 6 weeks. He should have gotten it about a week sooner' cause he could have stayed in the states.

- Sun. 19. One full week gone by and we still have three more days to go. By the press news I see we are not going to be allowed to vote.<sup>5</sup> Hell no, just send us out to get blasted to pieces for democracy but no vote. The war government certainly does stink but what can we do about it way out here. They will be sure and let every damn striker vote (for what) - we don't need silver, coal, oil, railroads, taxi's, busses or what not so let 110,000 men tell about 3,000,000 to walk out when they get ready. Just what would happen if we took the Boise and refused to fight any more until we got 3¢ more per day or some other fool thing. Bet the whole states would yell hang the traitors. We are not supposed to do things like that. Just get killed 'cause we don't have enough of this & that but don't say anything about it. If that [is] a Democracy that I'm fighting for I'll quit!!!#
- Mon. 20. Same old routine. It is getting hotter than blue blazes. Maybe we should demand complete air conditioning with mint julips [sic] served at General Quarters. Baker is worse than ever.
- Tue. 21. Sure does feel good to be back out here and I hope when we get to where we are going (probably New Guinea)<sup>6</sup> there won't be too much politics. Have been having PGQ every mom at 5:45.
- Thurs. 23. Anchored in Bora Boro 1530. The natives here want \$1.00 for shell necklaces & last [time] we were here 25[¢] would have baught [sic] all you wanted (Americans are very good people) - But for whose good. Got a rock for Billy. Underway 1915. Next stop Suva [Fiji]. 1800 miles. We have already chalked off 6,500 from N.Y. 26 kts so we will probably have no Christmas. Will probably end up in Milne Bay, New Guinea.?

---

<sup>5</sup> It was difficult for military personnel to vote in the 1944 general election. Servicemen were entitled to vote by absentee ballot, but procedures which varied from state to state and the difficulty of delivering mail during the war, made this a practical impossibility. A bill (the Green-Lucas bill) was introduced in December 1943 to provide for a federal ballot, covering only the presidential and congressional races. The bill was so thoroughly amended that it did not make voting by overseas military personnel any easier - of the more than 10,000,000 men serving in the armed forces at the time only 85,000 received federal ballots.

<sup>6</sup> New Guinea is a large island 120 miles due north of Australia. The central spine of the island is extremely mountainous and, due to lush tropical vegetation, virtually impenetrable. The Japanese invaded New Guinea on March 8, 1942, landing near Lae, located on the north shore at the start of the long, but narrow, eastern peninsula. In an attempt to capture the capital, Port Moresby, the Japanese made a second landing on July 21 halfway down the north coast at Buna, 100 difficult miles across a mountain range from the capital. The Japanese advance stalled in mid-November when they were within 30 miles of Port Moresby. The Japanese land forces also suffered their first decisive defeat when they were repulsed by the Australians at Milne Bay at the southeastern tip of the island. Throughout 1943 Allied forces relentlessly pushed the Japanese west along the northern coast - by the time the USS Boise arrived in the area the front line was 50 miles northwest of Lae. Because the Japanese staged attacks throughout the region from the airfield at Rabaul, located on the far northeast corner of New Britain, a primary Allied objective became the recapture of this narrow 300 mile long island off the east coast of New Guinea.

<sup>7</sup> In his narrative Dr. Moneymaker refers to various locations stretching for 700 miles along the north shore of eastern New Guinea:

Milne Bay - an Allied air and naval facility at the far southeastern tip.

Buna - a town 200 miles up the coast from Milne Bay.

(continued on next page ...)

- Fri. 24. "I'm dreaming of an old Christmas". We will probably cross the 180° this evening so will skip Christmas. Crossed the equator about 1600. Merry Christmas. The Chaplain gave out packages that the Red Cross sent aboard in the States. Sure, do everything you can for the boys in service 'cause they are fighting for their Country. But what about before and after the war? Bull-ony. Some Christmas huh.
- Sun. 26. We are having our Christmas dinner today. See where the president made a speech to us. Also the Admiral sent the fleet greetings. They can save mine until after the war. No one seems to give a darn about the ship anymore. That is in the way of training the crew. In the gang we are trying to teach the men damage control but think it is hopeless. By golly if we get hit this time it sure is going to be a different story and we may tie up along side the Helena. Sure would end a lot of trouble!<sup>9</sup> Tie up long side dock in Suva at 16:48. Liberty for my section expiring at 2300. Root & I wandered all around the place - there is nothing here at all except bushy headed Natives. Few bracelets & necklaces (shells) but way too high priced. Rained off and on here all day. Picked up a rock for Billy.
- Mon. 27. 0830 Underway for Milne Bay - 26 kts. Should be in there about Thursday eve. Had my first banana today in eight months - they surely are good. Flee is getting quite disgusted with the new men but they can't learn this in one month. Limeys sank the "Scheinhurst" in the North Sea.<sup>10</sup>
- Tue. 28. Still on our way. We must have things pretty well in hand down in this end. Don't even have a destroyer with us. Sure are plenty of islands around here. Half of the 6" battery won't eject shells, have to knock them out by hand. No electrical supplies. If we are sent into battle any time soon will be suicide.
- Wed. 29. Marines made another landing on New Britain, Cape Gloucester. <sup>11</sup> Reinhardt is still in sick bay - go down to talk to him every once in a while, take him a few gedunks with me.<sup>12</sup>
- Thurs. 30. There are rumors of a battle in the Bismark Sea but have not heard of any official dope yet.<sup>13</sup> I see for once the Pres. made the first move to stop the railroad strikes. <sup>14</sup> Bet he

---

Porlock Bay - a bay just to the southeast of Buia.

Vitiaz Strait - the body of water separating New Guinea and New Britain, 200 miles north of Buia.

Madang - a town 300 miles northwest of Buia, still under Japanese control.

Wewak - a town 200 miles northwest of Madang, also under Japanese control.

<sup>8</sup> When the ship crosses the 180° meridian the date will advance by one, so December 25 will consist of only a few evening hours.

<sup>9</sup> Dr. Moneymaker is alluding to the sinking of the USS Boise's sister ship, the USS Helena, by Japanese forces on July 6, 1943 at the Battle of Kula Gulf.

<sup>10</sup> Limey is slang for a British sailor. The Royal Navy sank the German battleship Scharnhorst off the northern tip of Norway on December 26.

<sup>11</sup> Cape Gloucester - the marines landed on the westernmost tip of New Britain on December 26 and captured the airfield on the 29<sup>th</sup>, making Allied passage through the Vitiaz Strait more secure.

<sup>12</sup> Gedunk - naval slang for snack food that can be purchased at the ship's canteen.

<sup>13</sup> Bismarck Sea - the portion of the Pacific Ocean that lies north of New Britain and east of New Guinea. This was either a false rumor or a minor action. There was a battle in the Bismarck Sea in March 1944, when U.S. and Australian air attacks destroyed a large Japanese convoy.

succeeds this time. Anchored in Milne Bay 1730. This sure is a honey of a harbor to get into but it is nice & large after you get here. Haven't had but two raids in the last 6 mos. Place is lit up like a Christmas tree. Movies tonight on the fan tail. Fuel ship tomorrow.

Fri. 31. Fuel ship - I have to furnish seven men. Looks foolish to me, especially when we have quite a bit of electrical work to catch up on, since we are at anchor. Flier is working on Degaussing and Kalb & I on steering gear.<sup>15</sup> Haven't felt like writing let's last couple of days. New years eve. Stayed up - 0130 rewinding a motor. Whoopee?

Jan. 1944 Underway 0630 for Buna. We are going to join the Phoenix & Nashville. We are still  
Sat. 1. cruising along by ourselves so ??! !---. So far they have been using destroyers to shell the beaches. Happy New Year. Field Day. Making a little head way with my teaching. Stopped on our way up to Buna sent the Exec over to an Australian cruiser. Looks crazy to me - perfect target for subs. Have really been turning to this afternoon but I am glad to do some work. Surely relieves the monotony of reading & writing. Anchored Porlock Bay 1910 with the Phoenix & Nashville. Movies! QQ side except Boise. We are only 350 miles from New Britain 550 from Rabul <sup>16</sup> From all dope we will be used to intercept any Jap ships that might head South. Tum in early tonight 2230.

Mon. 3. This routine is going to get plenty monotonous. Anchor off of Buna every mom & back down to Porlock Bay every afternoon. Looks like the 476 (Cunningham) rammed something and folded her bow back about 15 feet.<sup>17</sup> We certainly have everything going our way pretty good now. Have a few radar & radio stations in enemy territory and they send in all information on enemy planes. 18 1530 got word that a squadron of enemy planes were heading south towards us but they never did show up even though we did go to GQ. When we anchored in Porlock Bay a native canoe came alongside with two men & three young children. One girl that seemed to be about 15 - certainly had breasts on her. All of the natives here are well developed even if they are small in statue [sic]. Still get so durned mad at Baker & Smith could blow what few brains they have out.

Tue.4. Underway for Buna 0700. There are about 14 of the old converted cans here that carry about 200 troops with landing barges. They are probably the ones that made the landing north of Cape Gloucester. Got the word today that there will probably be Captains inspection Sat. And I thought out here in the pacific we would do away with such bull. Politics are out here now. I hope I get transferred to something that is doing something- PT boats or destroyers.

---

<sup>14</sup> In the face of a railroad strike planned for December 30, President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9412, turning over control and management of the nation's railways to Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson.

<sup>15</sup> Degaussing - a technique used to neutralize the effect that the steel in a large ship has on the earth's magnetic field, an effect exploited by magnetic-fused mines. Named after German mathematician and physicist Karl Friedrich Gauss, the gauss is a unit of measurement for magnetic flux density.

<sup>16</sup> The actual distances are somewhat less.

<sup>17</sup> DD-476 is the USS Hutchins, which did collide with another destroyer.

<sup>18</sup> The Coastwatchers, a group of around 600 mostly Australian servicemen assigned to the Allied Intelligence Bureau, operated as spotters behind enemy lines throughout New Guinea and the South West Pacific Theater. On their memorial in Madang are the words "Watched and Warned and Died that We Might Live."

- Wed. 5. This is getting under my skin already. Buna every morning & Maggot bay every evening. Have been wondering what the dead smell was & where it came from. There were about 3,000 lads killed here when they tried to make a landing and do they smell now. The majority of them decayed on the bottom & there is patches of white scum & particles floating around. No wonder we can't go swimming here. So hot you can fry eggs on the bulkhead. The yard changed our ventilation around and it is worse than ever.
- Thurs. 6. Day in day out, the same old thing. Sometimes I wonder what it will feel like to get up without hearing PGQ with all the accompanying [sic] noises. Wake up in the A.M. and wonder why you keep on living. After all if you were dead just think how peaceful it would be. No more worrying about the war & what to do after it is over. This duty is harder on you than combat duty. At least know you are doing something.
- Fri. 7. Field day today. Lower deck inspection. Hope Tom Wolverton passes out in the fire room and can't get out. He certainly is one hateful B\_\_\_. The crew feels bad enough in this weather & he is making matters worse.
- Sat. 8. This old man we have is crazy, dern fool. We had captains personnel inspection today. They have been drilling it into the crew not to wear any white clothes on top side. Nothing but dungarees & blue hats. Then he has the crew about 900 men stand on top side in complete whites for 3 1/2 hours officers & CPO Kaiki with ties on. It must be about 115° on this deck. Sweat just pours off and it takes him 3 1/2 hours to hold the inspection. We are close enough to the front [not] to be at anchor much less all hands at quarters. This old man & Tom Wolverton should be in a nut ward. And they wonder why the crew is so dissatisfied. Damn both of them. No wonder we do not have any religion with people like that bringing out our worst. Some people say there is a war going on but you couldn't tell it by being aboard the Boise. None of the other ships in the harbor are holding inspection. Saw 24 B-24 go over to New Britain and only 22 came back. Damn this political war. Baker finally has his papers so that will help some. 1600 PGQ - as if it isn't hot enough they think of something like that.
- Sun. 9. Have cooled off a little bit today but not much. I mean me not the weather. This skipper is a peace time politician. Nice way to be on Sunday. But out here and the duty we are doing one day just seems to run into another you can't and don't try to make any distinction one from the other.
- Tue. 11. Skipped a day. So what. Could skip a week or a month with this duty and would make no difference. Doesn't even make any sense. Made all possible speed to get out here, then we just stay at anchor in Maggot Bay waiting for a lap sub to come along. Hot, sweaty, monotonous duty. No rain, No change, No Mail, No swimming, No liberty, No rhyme, No reason. Wan't [sic] to do any thing to help get this war over with. Revillee [sic], breakfast, turn to, underway, anchor, muster, physical drill, dinner, turn to, school, underway, anchor, supper, bridge, study, sleep. Over, over & over, Day, Week, Month. For Gods sake lets do something. Hot and hotter, condition affirm, No Ventilation and the skipper can't sleep 'cause his Air Conditioner makes too much noise. Damn so & so. Nice huh. He won't even tell us what we are here for. Hope one of these days this Gold Braid will



realize that the enlisted coolies are doing more fighting than they would be brains but never tell us a damn [sic] thing about what is going on. They censor too much of the press news.

- Sun. 16. Just about the time the ship gets cooled down from one personell [sic] inspection we have another one. Yesterday we had Capt's in whites again - the Phoenix also. The first time she has had an inspection since being in this district. We are still having movies every nite so I am getting plenty of reading and studying. 1420 on top side reading and all of a sudden all I could see was black spots. Fuel oil from a line on the tanker just sprayed us good. Go below and take a shower I've had enough sun shine anyway. Anchored in Milne Bay this morning don't know how long we will be here. I will have to take time out and find out why the mail situation does not bother me. Practically everyone is beginning to wonder about mail, but I have no trouble in finding something to read study or do. Getting in quite a bit of bridge. Does get monotonous once in awhile.
- Tue. 18. E-Div played N & H Div. soft ball this P.M. I umpired so we won again?! There are six soft ball fields here. Feels good to get on the beach again and eat coconuts. Had a Negro band of soldiers on the fan tail tonight and they were good.
- Wed. 19. This heat is really playing heck with some of our motors. One in the evaps burned up.<sup>19</sup> Stayed up until 0300 with Fleer & Corbett taking out the old windings and putting in new. Got two letters today dated Oct. 13, 1943\*<sup>20</sup>
- Thurs. 20. Hotter than devil today. Storm went over to the repair ship to get some more wire for the motor. Fleer & Storm went ashore so Avery & I finished the winding this P.M. More mail so guess I will start answering some. Good show on the fan tail but Fleer, Storm & I missed it.
- Fri. 21. Field day. 0700 underway. 1000 PGQ. Shore bombardment practice. 1500 Anchored in Milne Bay again. Will write a few letters.
- Sat. 22. Underway and no inspection, something must be up. Bombardment & AA practice. We are getting ready to do something. Back in Milne Bay 1600. Reinhardt is out of the sick bay now. Have a kid in the gang that calls me pop. Huh? Lindbohm is full of helishness [sic].
- Sun. 23. This is the hottest day we have had yet. Sure would like to go swimming. Chiefs quarters is like an oven. Transferred Root & Reed to the Fulton for two weeks - coil winding experience. Went to a movie this P.M. for a change, "Let's Face It" Bob Hope, fair.<sup>21</sup> Something is brewing - we will probably go up and bombard the coast this week. Madang? Rabul??

---

<sup>19</sup> Essential equipment, evaporators produced fresh water for drinking and running the steam turbines.

<sup>20</sup> These letters could only contain old news, as Dr. Moneymaker was back in the United States from November 15 - December 4.

<sup>21</sup> *Let's Face It!* - a 1943 Bob Hope and Betty Hutton movie based on a musical by Cole Porter, it revolves around philandering husbands, suspicious wives, and the Army inductees they hire to act as escorts to make their husbands jealous.


- Mon. 24. Underway 0700 AA practice. Tomorrow nite we should see some of the real thing again. Anchored off Buna - wrote a few letters. We will probably bombard the coast near Madang early Wed. morning. Will be glad to do something again for a change.
- Tue. 25. Takeing [sic] it easy today. Underway at 1300. Will probably be up all nite. Finished reading "The Forest & the Fort", by Hervy Allen.<sup>22</sup> The Boise and one tin can are going to bombard the coast about six miles north of Madang. The Phoenix & two tin cans will be bombarding about 3 miles south of us. Expect to fire about 1000 rounds of 5" & 6". So far no tension just leisurely preparations. Checking water, candy, books & gear. Wondering how everything is going on back home. 1930 GQ will be here all nite, while the vents are running it isn't too bad, but it will get worse later on. Expect to fire about 0100. Passed through Vitiaz Straights [sic] about 2130. May run into a few Jap cans & subs. Big thing to look for is planes from Rabul & Wewak. 2330 cheese sandwiches & coffee.
- Wed. 26. 0020 All hands on the alert. 0120 Phoenix commenced firing. 0130 our can started firing star shells.<sup>23</sup> 0143 Phoenix started firing her AA Battery. We are making another run so far have not fired. 0153 Commenced firing all 5" & 6" salvo fire. 0205 Phoenix finished firing. 0210 we ceased firing. Picking up speed. Tin cans are still firing. 25 kts 0213. High tailing it south now 27 kts 0224. 29 kts 0227 and all is well except we are wringing wet. Think we were off our target about 5 miles. 0300 unset condition affirm in ventilation. 0715 secure from GQ. Well no trouble. Most of the ship is asleep now. Turned in at 0915 didn't get up until 1420. Anchored below Buna 1545. Whole trip for nothing.
- Thurs. 27. 0700 underway for Milne Bay. We missed our target by 4lh miles. It was either the Navigator's or gunnery officers fault. If it had been an enlisted man, guess he would have been strung up, but since it was an officer, he will probably get a medal for knocking down the greatest number of coconuts in the shortest time. There was only one can on her target. Anchored Milne Bay 1630. Letters from home with several pictures.
- Fri. 28. Field Day. Will probably have an inspection tomorrow. Did quite a bit of running around holding quarterly inventory & fire main instructions. The beach party that went ashore today opened the beer before they got ashore so there will probably be no more recreation parties - would rather play soft ball any way.
- Feb. Marines made a landing on Marshall islands supported by a pretty big Naval force.<sup>24</sup>
- Wed. 2. John should be about 27 now. Has been fairly cool this week to what it has been. Nothing going on just staying in Milne Bay.

---

<sup>22</sup> *The Forest and the Fort* - a *New York Times* bestseller in 1943, the book is a historical novel by Hervey Allen set in colonial western Pennsylvania and based upon the two-month long siege of Fort Pitt by Native Americans who tried to drive the British out of the Ohio Valley.

<sup>23</sup> Star shell- an artillery shell designed to illuminate an area when it explodes. It often contains a parachute to prolong the descent, which increases its effectiveness.

<sup>24</sup> Marshall Islands - these atolls in the central Pacific, 1825 miles northeast of New Guinea, 2525 miles southeast of Tokyo, and 2450 miles west-southwest of Hawaii, were part of the outer ring of Japanese defenses. In November 1943 U.S. forces began a major campaign to retake these islands. The landing referred to here took place on January 31 on Kwajalein Atoll.

- Thurs. 3. Hood will get transferred this month and is promoted to Lt. Jg. [junior grade]. Byers is going to take the Gang over and I can see where he and I will not get along very good. He is too dern stubborn & he knows it all ????
- Sat. 5. Had captains inspection. Dern Nuts. Nothing going on. Surely hate this laying around in port. Maybe I will get transferred sometime.??
- Sun. 6. It is fairly cool today. Root came over from the Fulton to get a weeks extension for coil winding experience.
- Mon. 7. I am making pretty good progress with my math now. Just wonder if! will ever have any use for it. This war surely could drag out into the years. Am all caught up with my letter wnting ?
- Wed. 9. Rumors running around that Russia may declare war on Japan pretty soon but I hardly think so. Not until after the second front which will probably start about the Ides of March [March 15]. John is in the Navy. Finally received two of my National Geographies.
- Thurs. 10. At last we are beginning to have General Drills so maybe this new crew will start to work up into some kind of shape that can take care of itself. I hope.
- Fri. 11. Well looks like far as the Boise is concerned the war is over. Field Day. Will have Captains inspection tomorrow. The Boise is now classified as a second line ship so we will probably get stuck with this kind of duty for D.O.W. \*!!A?
- Sat. 12. Hotter than old billy hell and we have to stand up and simmer in the sun for three hours while the damned ole skipper looks at us. The whole gang was soaking wet when he got to E-Div and it wasn't from rain.
- Sun. 13. Went up top side today got a little sunshine in fact almost too much. Received a nice letter from Roanoke College.<sup>25</sup> Phoenix went to Australia and we have the admiral aboard now. Guess we will go to Australia about March 7.
- Mon. 14. Think I will put in a transfer slip this business of laying around in a harbor does not suit me very much. Wrote a few letters.
- Tue. 15. Had a happy hour on the fan tail this evening and it was pretty good for a change. Douvall the Troubador from K.F.I. was on the program. The  fleet band is plenty good.
- Thurs. 17. Large task force struck Truk - mostly carriers and we must have a few battle wagons in on it toO.<sup>26</sup> Nothing going on down this way at all.

---

<sup>25</sup> Roanoke College was the school Dr. Moneymaker attended for one semester before enlisting in the Navy and where, after the war, he returned to earn his undergraduate degree.

<sup>26</sup> Truk - an island 950 miles northeast of New Guinea. On February 17 the U.S. launched a massive air and naval bombardment of this important Japanese base.

- Fri. 18. Field Day!!! Captains inspection of lower decks & holds - they have started painting compartments now so they will look good for inspection. Nuff said -- !!
- Sat. 19. Captains inspection of personnell [sic]. I wonder if he knows just what the crew thinks of him. Tom Wolverton since he made commander is a pain in the neck. He reminds me of Elsa Maxwell built just about like her and walks the same. To appreciate him you have to see him in shorts.<sup>27</sup>
- Sun. 20. A.Q.B. switch burned up on aft board. I wanted to let it go until tomorrow but Byers insisted on having it fixed today. So Corbett & I worked for about 6 hours. Had to work on the board with 440 volts on it and we got a few jolts. Sure does knock the devil out of you. Still can't see why we didn't wait until tomorrow and kill the board.
- Mon. 21. Can still taste copper from yesterday. Wrote four letters. From all the dope we were supposed to have knocked out 201 airplanes and 26 ships at Truck. Maybe we will make a landing there in a few days or just by pass it for bigger island.<sup>28</sup> We may head for Australia about the 25<sup>th</sup> of Feb.
- Tue. 22. Damn I am going crazy sure enough. The water is contaminated here (Milne Bay) and you cannot go swimming but Tom Wolverton is holding abandon ship drill and making the men jump and swim in this FILTHY water. I had to stay in the shop and listen to him for 1 1/2 hours over the loud speakers. He talked just like he was teaching some dogs new tricks and as if he liked to hear himself. After about one hr got so derved mad put cotton in my ears. Maybe its a good thing condition affirm was set - I could have gladly cut his throat. You would have to see and hear him to realize just how mad he can make a person.
- Wed. 23. Underway for maneuvers. The Sharpshire is going to tow us for practice. She did a pretty good job. Tom Wolverton had to take over. Put Elsa Maxwell in Kaiki shorts, pith helmet and a megaphone. Looks just like her. Fueled from 046 this afternoon anchored back in Milne Bay. I believe these peace time regulations and officers are going to drive me crazy.
- Thurs. 24. Well I seem to be doing quite a bit of growling but if you could just realize the inefficiency [sic] of staying in a harbor not doing anything at all. After all you only have about 60 years to live and this surely is back tracking instead of going ahead. Will get underway tomorrow for maneuvers & then Australia. I have read so much my eyes are beginning to bother me a little. Received the Roanoke Collegian yesterday and for some reason felt a little closer to home.<sup>29</sup> Must be getting sentimental in my old age.
- Sat. 26. 0630 Underway for Sydney and no inspection - wonder what next. Surely will be good to get in a cool climate but don't think that I will like Sydney.

---

<sup>27</sup> Elsa Maxwell was a gossip columnist and hostess. A polite description would call her short and stout, with a chubby face.

<sup>28</sup> Historical references list the Japanese losses at 270 airplanes, 15 warships and 32 merchant vessels loaded with equipment and supplies. No attempt was made to capture the island, but Truk was effectively neutralized and played no significant part in the remainder of the war.

<sup>29</sup> The Roanoke Collegian was an alumni newsletter published by Roanoke College.

- Tue.29. 0830 Moored port side to in Woolloomooloo Bay.<sup>30</sup> I have duty today but caught shore patrol. I will be able to get the lay of the town - anyway left the ship at 1500 finally found the SP office after an hour of looking around. Never walked as much in such a short time. Don't think there is going to be much to do here. Five fellows sent back to the ship with cracked skulls shoulders and legs. More fun. Quite a few of the fellows are getting rolled. Had patrol at the Trocadero from 2000 to 2400. Large dance hall no drinks of any kind allowed. They sell coke, orange, milk and coffee. Made a date with a blond for 1600 tomorrow.<sup>31</sup>
- Wed. 1.<sup>32</sup> Too tired to go over today. Guess I'll have to see the blond later on. Wrote two letters and slept most of the day. Worked on a jeep for about an hour this evening.
- Thurs. 2.<sup>33</sup> Doan & I went ashore today. Just walking and looking. Found a pitcher for mother. Went to the Trocadero. Met a nice looking girl named Marguret [sic]. Danced quite a bit with her. Came back to the ship about 0030.
- Fri. 3. Duty today. Not much work going on.
- Sat. 4. Fler, Root, McBroom, Price & I went to the Symphony at Town Hall this evening it was pretty good.
- Sun. 5. Fler, Root & I went out to Effing - watched a few games of lawn bowling, take quite a bit of practice for that game.<sup>34</sup> Just wandered around ~~elmH-town~~ all day went to church this evening. Technological [sic] Institute & Anzac Memorial is very good.<sup>35</sup>
- Mon. 6. Duty today; sent a telegram home. Caught up on my letter writing this morning. Worked on an exhaust motor all afternoon. Surely isn't too much to do here in Sydney. Missing out on quite a bit of studying and reading.
- Tue.7. Most people say the ships dance turned out to be a brawl for all hands present. Didn't want to go - never seen a ships dance that has been any good anyway. Don't think I will go tonight either. Root, McBroom, & I went ashore - we know the town pretty good now. Have looked all over the place for something to get but nothing worth while. Opals have gone unreasonably high. May get a few rough ones and finish them myself.
- Wed. 8. Root and I went over. Just browsing around. The dance last nite was worse than the other one. Been all over this once before. Still can't see why the[y] ca[ll] man intelligent.

---

<sup>30</sup> Woolloomooloo Bay - a harbor just east of downtown Sydney, it is even to this day, an important naval base.

<sup>31</sup> The Trocadero was a high-class music hall which opened on April 3, 1936 and featured big-band jazz orchestras.

<sup>32</sup> Throughout the month of March the diary has "Feb" at the top of each page.

<sup>33</sup> The diary entry is labeled "Tue."

<sup>34</sup> Epping - a region of Sydney ten miles northwest of the downtown.

<sup>35</sup> ANZAC Memorial- the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps Memorial, completed in 1934, commemorates the contribution of Australian forces to the Allied victory in World War 1.

They certainly don't act it when they get a few beers under their belt. Didn't go to either dance. Have gained a little weight here. Milk and fresh vegetables sure are good.

- Sat. 11. 1030 Underway for Milne Bay. Had liberty yesterday. Just wandered around Sydney bought [sic] couple opals.
- Tue. 14. Back in hot country again. We are having maneuvers tonight. While we were in Sydney the Phoenix & Nashville went to the Admiralty Islands to help cover the landing. Sure would liked to have been aboard.<sup>36</sup>
- Wed. 15. 1245. Anchored Milne Bay. Fueled same old routine.
- Fri. 17. Field Day. Hood is going to get transferred this Sunday, he hopes. Guess Byers and I will really go 'round & 'round. Baker will leave soon. His relief is aboard. Sometimes I wonder if the people are trying to win this war as soon as possible - doesn't seem like it to me. Why should we put up with all of this while the people have the attitude Hurray for me & to hell with you. Washington is worse. Birmingham got two torpedoes - no one killed, lucky 7!
- Sun. 19. Had inspection yesterday. Damn this ole man and Tom Wolverton. I was supposed to have gone ashore at 0900 and come back at 1500 but Byers said he couldn't let one man stay off of the ship that long unless I has [sic] orders and he couldn't let me do it. Was going over to see two chiefs I know. Hood was transferred at 1500 today. We had two men awarded Purple Hearts yesterday. They were "Wounded" while we were up the coast knocking down coconuts. One had a scratch on his cheek about 12 inch long and the other one 'bout the same on his hand. Would be ashamed to own one.
- Wed. 22. Guess this should go down in the annals of History. Fleeer, Deamer & I are Ensign as of Feb 15 we were notified at 0930. Soon as we get packed we leave the ship for transfer back to the States. Would rather have warrant but anything to get off of the Boise. We left the ship at 1645. Got on the beach and the mud was up to your knees. A truck took us to our barracks and Hood is here. He was plenty surprised. Guess we will go back on the same ship. The Chaplain & Baker are going back also.
- Sun. 26. Well we have been here four days and we should leave tomorrow sure hope so. Have been getting good chow and I am eating like a horse. Must be the walking around & fresh air. Have written a few letters telling them not to write but didn't say anything about Ensign.

---

<sup>36</sup> Admiralty Islands - a group of islands 200 northeast of New Guinea and 400 west-northwest of Rabaul. Intelligence reports indicated that these islands might have been evacuated by the Japanese, so General MacArthur advanced his timetable for capturing them, as this would effectively surround Rabaul, the ultimate target. Under cover of naval fire, the first landing took place on February 29, with additional landings on March 5-9. Actually defended by about 4000 Japanese troops, the battle for control of the islands lasted until mid-May.

Mon. 27. 0430 Woke us up and we are going aboard today the ship will sail at 0800. The "Brastagi" is a small dutch ship that is used for a transport. Our quarters are not bad at all and the chow is excellent. Nothing to do except take it easy. Take us about 21 days to get back.

April We should probably get in Frisco about the 20. This so far has been a pleasant monotony.  
Sat. 1. Reading, playing bridge, cribbage, shooting the breeze. Met quite a few nice fellows to talk to off of PT's that have been out here for a year.<sup>37</sup>

---

<sup>37</sup> During the last year and a half of the war Dr. Moneymaker had several stateside postings. The last was with the Scouts and Raiders, forerunners of the Navy SEALs, where he learned guerrilla warfare tactics and rudimentary Mandarin Chinese in preparation for a planned overseas posting with the Nationalists waging an underground campaign against the Japanese. While in the States Dr. Moneymaker did not keep a diary. At a later date he wrote a short account of this training.

## SCOUTS AND RAIDERS TRAINING

This is a little history about some of the special forces of WWII.

There were Scouts and Raiders and Underwater Destruction Teams which is sorta self explanatory.

As the war progressed and got more involved in the South Pacific and China the War Department and the Navy started a training program in Fort Pierce, Florida to help in that particular situation.

It was called Amphibious Roger and only 5 units were trained as the war ended. I was in Amphibious Roger #4 and it consisted of 4 months training, as I have outlined below.

I have not included the rigorous training which began with Hell Week and if you passed this then we had specific training as noted but also kept up the physical activities.

We trained with 30 and 50 caliber machine guns, Thompson machine guns, bazookas, rifle grenades, hand grenades, booby traps, underwater instructions in hand to hand combat also on land judo, boxing, wrestling, rubber boats, kayaks and surf boards. During long day and night sessions we had to swim in the ocean wearing green fatigues and paddle rubber boats up to 3 miles. Other times one hour calisthenics, run a mile, 2 hours wrestling and judo, swim again in green for an hour. Radio instruction, signaling and stealth infiltration at night.

After courses in knife fighting and knife throwing, bayonet fighting, photo interpretation, tumbling, rope climbing, obstacle courses, blinker signaling and more swimming. 300 yds free style, 50 yds on our back, tow a man 50 yds, swim underwater 45 feet, float for 15 minutes and swim another 300 yds in greens.

We learned to handle 72 lb TNT charges. (Nitro gave us awful headaches.) Primacord, explosive hose, 15-20 ft long, 4" in diameter and filled with granulated TNT. Got our first supply of Composition C2 & C3 plastic. Wonderful stuff. Used Bangalore torpedoes, MX20 TNT packs (in canvas bags), phosphorus grenades and 55 lb TNT cratering charges. Between "these fire in the hole" sessions we had instruction in semaphore, night scouting, amphibious reconnaissance, map reading, along with classes in Chinese language, history and culture and information on the Nationalist Chinese and Communist Armies.

We infiltrated Army, Navy and Coastal Guard stations leaving calling cards on bunks and tables saying you are dead!!

Near the end of our training we left Fort Pierce and for a week with all our necessary supplies we avoided being detected and wading around and through swamps day and night (don't forget alligators and coral and rattle snakes). We captured the little town of Okeechobee and scared hell out of them. Had a hard time convincing them we were friendly.

Found out the War had ended 4 days ago.

Class 4 last one.

" 5 stayed & cleared up training area.



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
WASHINGTON

December 13, 1945

My dear Mr. Moneymaker:

I have addressed this letter to reach you after all the formalities of your separation from active service are completed. I have done so because, without formality but as clearly as I know how to say it, I want the Navy's pride in you, which it is my privilege to express, to reach into your civil life and to remain with you always,

You have served in the greatest Navy in the world.

It crushed two enemy fleets at once, receiving their surrenders only four months apart.

It brought our land-based airpower within bombing range of the enemy, and set our ground armies on the beachheads of final victory.

It performed the multitude of tasks necessary to support these military operations.

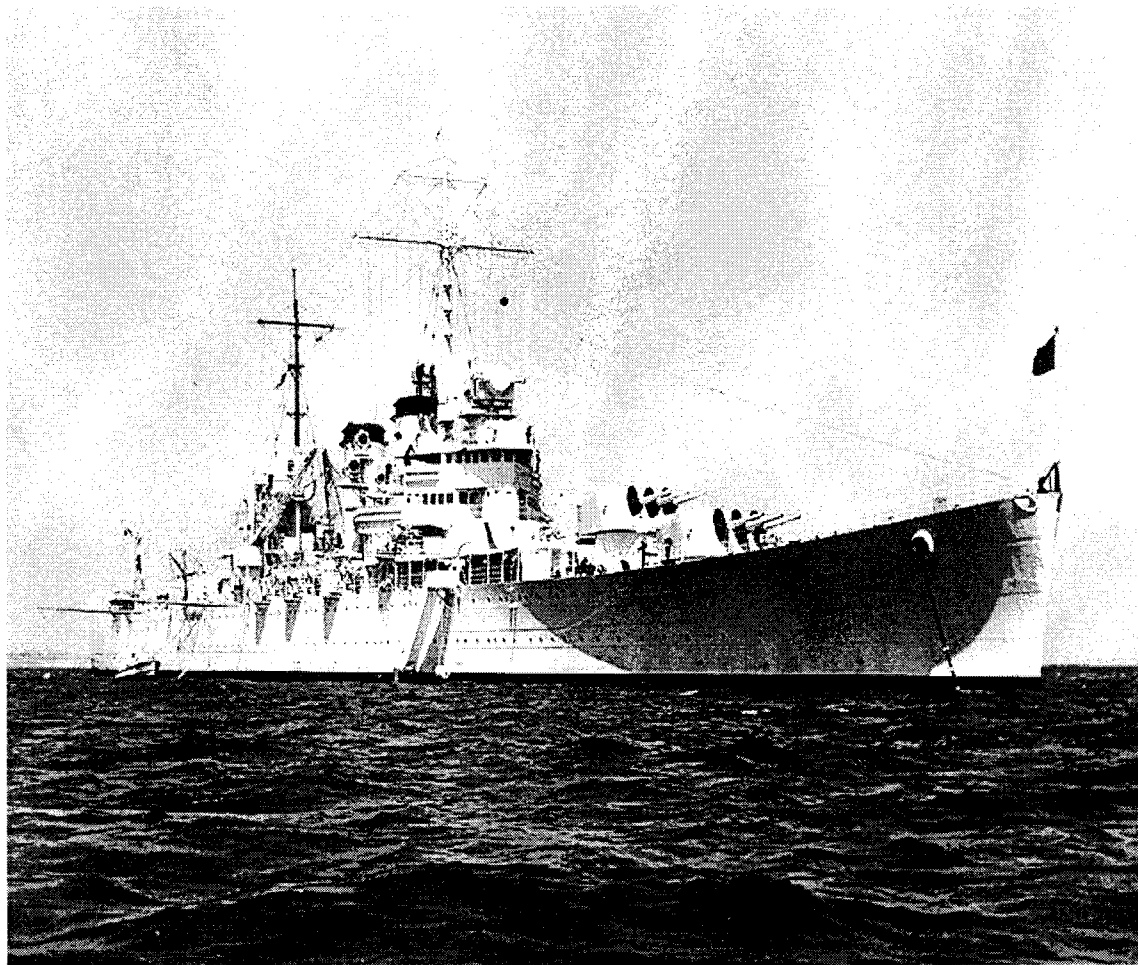
No other Navy at any time has done so much. For your part in these achievements you deserve to be proud as long as you live. The Nation which you served at a time of crisis will remember you with gratitude.

The best wishes of the Navy go with you into civilian life. Good luck!

Sincerely yours,

  
James Forrestal

Mr. Garnett Bailey Moneymaker  
Clifton Forge  
Virginia



The USS Boise

Official U.S. Navy Photograph H97779  
taken before the start of the war.

## GLOSSARY OF SHIP NAMES

### Notes and Symbols

Some vessels, identified only by number and for which we have been unable to obtain additional information, are not listed.

\* - The identification of this ship is uncertain.

t - There is a discrepancy between Dr. Moneymaker's observations and the location reported in the *Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships* or other sources.

t - No information was located to confirm the identity of this ship.

o - The ship is referred to only in a footnote.

### U.S. Navy and Other American Military Vessels

#### Ship Classification

AG	- Miscellaneous Auxiliary	CA	- Heavy Cruiser
AH	- Hospital Ship	CL	- Light Cruiser
AO	-Oiler	CV	- Fleet Aircraft Carrier
AP	- Transport	CVE	- Escort Carrier
APO	- High Speed Transport	CVL	- Light Aircraft Carrier
APV	- Aircraft Ferry	00	- Oestroyer
AR	- Repair Ship	OM	- Light Minelayer
AS	- Submarine Tender	OMS	- Fast Minesweeper
ATF	- Fleet Ocean Tug	LCI	- Landing Craft Infantry
AV	- Seaplane Tender	LCT	- Landing Craft Tank
AVO	- Seaplane Tender (Oestroyer)	LST	- Landing Ship Tank
BB	- Battleship	USAT	- U.S. Army Transport

#### Ship Names

USS Argonne (AG-31)	USS Gleaves (00-423)
USS Arizona (BB-39)	USS Gold Star (AG-12)
USS Astoria (CA-34)	USS Grayson (00-435)
USS Atlanta (CL-51)	USS Gwin (00-433)
USS Barker (00-213)	USS Helena (CL-50)
USS Birmingham (CL-62)	USS Holland (AS-3)
USS Blue (00-387)	USS Honolulu (CL-48)
USS Boise (CL-47)	USS Hornet (CV-8)
USS Breese (OM-18)	USS Houston (CA-30)
USS Brooklyn (CL-40)	USS Hunt (00-674)
USS California (BB-44)	USS Hutchins (00-476) <sup>t</sup>
USS Chemung (AO-30)	USS Indianapolis (CA-35) <sup>t</sup>
USS Chester (CA-27)	USS Ingraham (00-444)
USS Clark (00-361)	USS Juneau (CL-52)
USS Colhoun (APO-2)	USS Kitty Hawk (APV-1)
USS Curtiss (AV-4)	USS Lang (00-399)
USS Ouncan (00-485)	USS Langley (AV-3/formerly CV-1)
USS Edwards, John O. (00-216)*	USS Langley (CVL-27)
USS Enterprise (CV-6)	USS Lansdowne (00-486)
USS Farenholt (00-491)	
USS Farragut (00-348)	
USS Fulton (AS-1 J)	

---

<sup>t</sup> Incorrectly identified as the USS Cunningham in Book IV.

USS Long Island (CVE-1)  
 USS Macdonough (00-351)  
 USS Marblehead (CL-12)  
 USS McFarland (AVO-14)  
 USS Medusa (AR-1)  
 USS Meredith (00-434)  
 USS Minneapolis (CA-36)  
 USS Monssen (00-436)  
 USS Mount Vernon (AP-22)  
 USS Nashville (CL-43)  
 USS North Carolina (BB-55)  
 USS Northampton (CA-26)  
 USS O'Brien (00-415)  
 USS Oklahoma (BB-37)  
 USS Otus (AS-20)  
 USS Pensacola (CA-24)  
 USS Perkins (00-377)  
 USS Philadelphia (CL-41)  
 USS Phoenix (CL-46)  
 USS Plunkett (00-431)<sup>2</sup>  
 USS Rochambeau (AP-63)O  
 USS Quincy (CA-39)  
 USS Ramsay (OM-16/formerly  
 00-124)t  
 USS Remey (00-688)  
 USS Rigel (AR-II)  
 USS Sabine (AO-25)  
 USS Salt Lake City (CA-25)  
 USS San Francisco (CA-38)  
 USS San Juan (CL-54)  
 USS Saratoga (CV-3)

USS Savannah (CL-42)  
 USS Seminole (ATF-65)  
 USS Solace (AH-5)  
 USS Southard (OMS-1 0)\*  
 USS Sterett (00-407)  
 USS Trinity (AO-13)  
 USS Tucker (00-374)  
 USS Utah (AG-16/formerly BB-31)  
 USS Vestal (AR-4)  
 USS Victoria (AO-46)  
 USS Vincennes (CA-44)  
 USS Vulcan (AR-5)  
 USS Walke (00-416)\*  
 USS Warrington (00-383)  
 USS Washington (BB-56)  
 USS Wasp (CV-7)  
 USS West Point (AP-23)  
 USS West Virginia (BB-48)  
 USS Wharton (AP-7)  
 USS Yorktown (CV-5)  
 USS Zane (OMS-14/formerly 00-337)  
 LCT-325t  
 LST-23t  
 LST-313°  
 LST-325°  
 LST-333°  
 USA T Bushrod WashingtonO  
 USA T Francis L. Lee  
 USAT Hineat  
 USAT Robert Rowano

---

<sup>2</sup> References to the USS Plunkett in the Pacific in Book II disagree with the location reported in the *Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*; references to it in the Mediterranean in Book III agree.

#### British and Commonwealth Royal Navy Vessels

HMS Abdiel- minelayerO  
HMS Cornwall - heavy cruiserO  
HMS Dorsetshire - heavy cruiserO  
HMS Eagle - aircraft carrier  
HMS Enterprise -light cruiser  
HMS Hector - armed merchant cruiserO  
HMS Howe - battleship  
HMS King George V - battleship  
HMS Macacombe~3  
HMS Manchester -light cruiser  
HMS Paladin - destroyerO  
HMS Prince of Wales - battleship  
HMS Tenedos - destroyerO  
HMS Warspite - battleship  
HMAS Canberra - heavy cruiser  
HMAS Shropshire - heavy cruiser  
HMNZS Achilles - light cruiser  
HMNZS Leander - light cruiser

#### Other Military Vessels

K-21 - Russian submarineO  
Scharnhorst - German battleship  
Tirpitz - German battleship

#### Merchant and Privately Owned Ships and Miscellaneous Vessels

SS Admiral Cole  
DIS Bj0rkhaugO (Norwegian Merchant Ship)  
Brastagi (War Shipping Administration; formerly Dutch owned)  
Fort Confidenceo (British Ministry of War Transport)  
Hudsono (Dutch Tug)  
Marechal Joffre  
Normandie~4  
President Polk (APL Line)  
RMS Queen Elizabeth (Cunard Line)

---

<sup>3</sup> We have not been able to find a ship with this or any similar name in the British, Australian, Canadian, or New Zealand Navies.

<sup>4</sup> The ship delivering planes to Sydney is not the ocean liner SS Normandie, which was in New York harbor at the time being refurbished as a troopship. On February 9, 1942 a spark from a welding torch ignited a fire which spread throughout the ship. She capsized the next day.

## GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS

AA	- anti-aircraft
AC	- alternating current
AQB	- meaning unknown (AQB switch)
AWOL	- absent without official leave
CEM	- chief electrician's mate
CPhM	- chief pharmacist's mate
CPO	- chief petty officer
DC	- direct current
DD	- destroyer
DFC	- distinguished flying cross
D.O.W.	- duration of the war
FER	- forward engineering room
GQ	- general quarters
GSK	- general storekeeper
HMS	- his majesty's ship
HMAS	- his majesty's Australian ship
HMNZS	- his majesty's New Zealand ship
IC	- interior communications
K.F.I.	- meaning unknown
JL	- J (primary); L (lookout watch) sound powered circuit
LCI	- landing craft infantry
LCT	- landing craft tank
LST	- landing ship tank
MAA	- master-at-arms
M.B.	- Maison Blanche (Algiers airport)
MWB	- motor whaleboat
MM	- millimeter (anti-aircraft gun size)
N.E.I.	- Netherlands East Indies
NL	- naval gunfire liaison officer (properly: NGLO)
NOB	- naval operations base
PBM	- PB (patrol bomber); M (Glenn L. Martin Company)
PBY	- PB (patrol bomber); Y (Consolidated Aircraft)
PGQ	- precautionary general quarters
P.P.A.	- Popski's private army
PT	- patrol torpedo (boat)
QA	- meaning unknown (QA buzzer)
RAAF	- Royal Australian Air Force
RMS	- royal mail ship
SCM	- summary court martial
SOPA	- senior officer present afloat
SP	- shore patrol
stbd	- starboard
USAT	- U.S. Army Transport (ship)
U.S.N.R.	- U.S. Naval Regulations
V6	- U.S. Navy job classification: general service and specialists
V12	- U.S. Navy job classification: college training program
WAAC	- Women's Army Auxiliary Corps
1/c, 2/c, 3/c	- 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , and 3 <sup>rd</sup> class