

May 19, 1942

Left Norfolk, Va. aboard the USS Wakefield, formerly the Manhattan.

May 21

One of the destroyers in the convoy sunk a submarine.

May 25

Entered the Panama Canal. Stayed here over night and the next day.

May 27

Passed through the Canal. It took about 8 hours.

May 28

We started the long voyage across the Pacific. We were told that we were

going to New Zealand.

June 7

Ran into storm and heavy seas. It lasted about 4 days.

June 14 (Sunday)

Landed at Wellington New Zealand about eleven in the morning. We were met at the dock by the R.N.Z.A.F. Band. They played the Stars and Stripes Forever while we were tying up at the dock.

June 18

I had my first liberty from the ship. Wellington had blackout so didn't see very much.

Francis Murphy
June 20

Moved off the Wakefield into 4 man huts at in Wellington City limit.

June 22

Spent the next 2 ~~xxx~~ weeks unloading ships on the docks in Wellington.

June 26

Did M P duty in Wellington City for week

July 2

Broke camp again and went aboard the USS Neville.

July 5 (Sunday)

I served Mass aboard the USS American Legion.

July 8

Put on full marching

order and took a five mile hike around the city of Wellington.

July 9

Several ships arrived from the States with the 1st Marines and the rest of our division.

July 10

The Neville moved out and anchored in the harbor. This stopped most of our liberty.

July 11 (Sunday)

Started unloading the ships that arrived. We went on at midnight and it rained all night. I stopped the works by letting a rope slip through a pulley on one of the booms. We got soaked.

small island. They brought oranges and coconuts back.

July 30

Landing party under naval gun fire and bombing by planes.

Aug 1

Started on last leg of our journey.

Aug 5

Wrote letters home, taken to Hawaii by destroyer.

Aug 6

Still standing 3" gun watch. Stood at battle station all afternoon because of air raid warning.

Aug 7

This was the day of

July 12

It has rained 48 hours continuously. We worked all night again in the rain unloading ships.

July 24

This was a big day. We got our first mail from the States.

July 16

Got my warrant for Private First Class. Almost got run up by a sergeant.

July 18

Had 12 hours liberty in Wellington from the ship.

July 19

Went to Mass in Wellington with Capt. Folley. Received Communion. 10

battle ships anchored in the harbor.

July 20

Pulled away from the docks and anchored in the harbor again.

July 22

Left Wellington and put out to sea. Started standing watches on 3" gun aft.

July 24

Storm and heavy seas, most of fellows sick.

July 26

Storm is over. Rest of the fleet joined us today. About 60 ships in all.

July 28

5th Marines made a practice landing on a

the big attack on Solomon Island. Planes started bombing at dawn. 18 Jap bombers and 9 Zero fighters knocked out on the ground. 1 Amphibion Tractor sank while unloading. 2 Jap planes came down burning-naval pilot knocked down was picked up and brought aboard the Neville. Casualties started coming aboard late in the afternoon. Most of them Parachute troops.

Aug 8 50

Helped make sandwiches for the wounded at noon. Big air raid-40 torpedo bombers on the way, 25 reached the ships-23 knocked down in flames, 2 got away but were picked up by interceptor

planes. San Wan was doing most of the fighting. Helped carry the wounded down in the holes. Parachute troops had heavy casualties. Elliot was hit and burned.

Aug 9
Ships moved around all day because of air raid. Broke out working party at midnight to unload supplies. 40 men E Btry landed at Chinese wharf at 3 in the morning. Rained like Hell. Jackson and I unloaded ammunition boats. Big naval battle-score 9-2 for U.S.

Aug 10
Stayed all day at govt. wharf. G Co. had 15 Japs trapped in a cave. They tried to smoke them out. It took 2 days to get

Was going to Mass but submarine was sighted. I had to go on OP. Had rice and meat for noon chow. Army is expected to-night or tomorrow.

Aug 16
Big Naval battle. Japs headed off by our Navy. On one meal a day. Water low.

Aug 17
Ships on the horizon. Believed to be enemy.

Aug 18
Jap cruiser shelled Guadalcanal. Chow very low.

Aug 19
Jap cruiser came in close to Tulagi and shelled Govt. wharf.

Aug 28
OP line out. Had to lay new line.

Aug 29
4 cars and 1 supply ship arrived, supply ship ran aground on reef. 5 enemy cruisers reported headed this way but never did arrive. Believe our planes got them.

Aug 31
Moved the guns to a new position.

Sept. 1
P 39 crashed-fuel line plugged. Pilot bailed out and landed safe.

Sept 2
Air raid alert. Another sleepless night, afraid on invasion.

them all out.

Aug 11
Layed wire to Embosses house. Nill and I got lost. Moved around to the other side of the island. Worked till dark unloading boats-had to wade through water up to our belts carrying gear. Slept on top of mountain that night. Raiders still getting a few snipers. Found out that Mason and Stuart were o.k.

Aug 12
Carried our wire and telephones up the mountain in the morning. About noon we had to carry it all the way down and move to the other side of the island again. Submarines

Battle stations all night

Aug 20
Woke up with Jap cruiser shelling us again. Our planes sunk one of them in the afternoon.

Aug 21
3 destroyers arrived with food, a very good sight. The 5th were moved to Guadalcanal.

Aug 22
Big supply ship arrived with more food. Working party on Govt. wharf got 11 gal. peaches.

Aug 23
700 Japs landed on Guadalcanal. One battalion on Infantry and the tanks trapped and wiped out 670 of them.

Sept 3
Air raid. No planes sighted over Tulagi.

Sept 7
3 enemy ships came in the harbor at night and shelled. Set a YP boat on fire. Our 5" fired and they took off. I slept on the hill behind the guns.

Sept 8
I gave an account of what I saw last night to the General. Kirkland and I worked on OP line all morning. Had air raid alert.

Sept 9
Enemy came over on the harbor and really shelled us again. Shrapnel was flying every where.

sighted in the evening. Pack Howitzer went into action. Pease and I ran the O.P. Helped bury 2 Marines. Went to Confession the battlefield.

Aug 13
Started rationing food to one meal a day. Bill and I made a shelter out of sheet metal. Laid wire most of the day.

Aju 14
Submarines off shore. 75 went into action again. I was on OP at least 2 hits on it. Food situation getting acute. 1 can of biscuit monnings, few beans and chocolate at night.

Aug 15.
Holy Day of Obligation.

Aug 24
Had 2 air raid alarms. No planes sighted. Japs landing expected. Big searchlights appeared in harbor. I was operating phone a guns. I hit the deck.

Aug 25
Air raid - dog fights in the clouds. Shot down 16 out of 18 Jap bombers. second did damage on Guadalcanal, our planes were out of ammunition.

Aug 26
Wrote home and said we were on Tulagi. More planes arriving every day.

Aug ~~26~~ 27
Air raid alert. Sea battle on again.

No one was hurt. I was on switchboard. Had air raid alert about 9 o'clock last night. The fellows found several peices of shrapnel to-day. It was another sleepless night. Merle and I were on working party when air raid was sounded. We went up by the Jap anti-aircraft gun and 26 Jap bombers flew over our head. We jumped in a hole. They went to Guadalcanal and bombed it. Our AA guns cut loose but planes were out of range. 3 were shot down over the Canal.

Sept 11
All night alert. We were waiting for them last night but they did not show up. Pease and I

had to lay a new line about 9 o'clock to Jap 3" guns. Line to board from guns went out. Louie and I put in a new piece of wire. Got more mail but it was older than that we got last week, dated June 22 and 25 12 o'clock noon battle stations, submarine sighted, turned out to be native launch. ~~XXX~~ Air raid shouded. 25 Jap bombers bomber Guadacanal

Sept 12
They wew in here last night and they shelled hell out of Guadacanal. Then there were searchlights all over the harbor but they were too far away for us to fire at.

troops but were finally stopped by the artillery. On the 26th we had our first air raid in over a week. Today was another air raid. I saw 8 dog fights over the water. We were all set to go to Guadacanal today but then it was called off. I am still staying out at 208 by the guns. I have to carry my gear back out now.

Sept 30
We had air raid about noon. I sat and baked pancakes while watching the dog fights overhead.

Oct 2
Got up at 0600 and went to Mass, also Confession and Communion. Got word we are going to Guadacanal.

the bay and shelled hell out of us for 3 hours. Damaged a few planes. Couple landed near our position. At daybreak we went up the pole and saw 14 Jap ships in the harbor. 4 were transports unloading supplies. About noon our dive bombers started to work on them and all 4 ships were on fire. They beached 2 above us. Bombers came over again and dumped their load. One landed near No.1 gun-a very close call.

Oct 14
Japs came in and shell ed us again. Ar night Louie the Louse was flying around and drropped about 6 bombs and Milometer Mike started near us. 18

Sept 13
We had 3 air raid alerts today but no bombs were dropped. The Japs were in and shelled the Canal again last night. We couldn't hear the explosion but we could see the lights and the firing.

Sept 14
We had 3 air raids again today. The Fuller and Billeautrix came in to unload at Tulagi. They took off at the sound of every alarm. The Japs were over at Guadacanal again last night. It was reported an attempted landing was made. I have slept up at the guns for the past four nights.

Sept 15
We were moving the guns

Oct 4
Slept on the dock at Tulagi last night. Went aboard the YP boat about 0700 and sailed for Guadacanal, about 2 hour ride. Our position was on the airfield. We are the nearest Artillery to the front lines.

Oct 5
Last night we fired about 50 rounds with the Pack's. Airplanes taking off all night. Not very much sleep. We got mail from home yesterday.

Oct 6
Yesterday we fired 175 rounds.

Oct 7-10
We continued to fire night and day. Bill and I took turns at

Jap bombers came over and dropped their lead in the palm trees not far from us.

Oct 15
We got word our task force was just outside Our flying Fortress dropped a load of bombs on Jap supplies on the beach. Our Battery has been firing for 2 days now.

Oct 16
A peaceful night except for Louie the Louse and Milometer Mike. Today we had 5 air raids. Counterbattery and the Zeros straffed us.

Oct 17
Started the morning with a bang. Condition

down the big hill to take them to 208 for the night when the air raid alarm sounded. I never saw so much anti-aircraft fire. It was just about dusk and you could see the tracers very plain. Saw 2 planes go down. After this we moved the guns to 208 and stayed all night. I had 2 phones out there. I got pretty cold before morning. I left in such a hurry I forgot my blankets. We were waiting for them but they did not show up.

Sept 28 '41
Things have been quiet for the last 2 weeks. On 13 and 14, 4000 Japs landed on Canal. They got through the ~~xxxxxxx~~ raiders and Parachute

staying up all night to give fire commands.

Oct 11
Went to Mass for the fi first on Guadacanal. Moved the guns from the airport out near the lines We has air raid alert but no bombers got over. Dug holes until my hands were blistered.

Oct 12
Moved the guns again down by the new airport. We had air raid and 22 bombers came over. They dropped their load I was scared - this was the first bombs I ever heard fall.

Oct 13 '41
Last night the Japs pulled a battle wagon in t

red went. at 6:30. 5 Jap bombers came over in formation. A Can laying off shore hit the middle one with 1st shot and finally got 3 more. Our air force got 43 Jap planes today.

Oct 18
Japs came over with 14 bombers and fighters They dropped their load near the front. The fighters forced them to drop them. 5 men killed, 14 injured. The battery has been firing day and night.

Oct 19
Jap ships came in, shelled us for about 20 minutes and then our Can got after him. I went up

the pole about midnight and watched the naval battle planes come over but our fighters didn't let them get in.

Oct 20

Milometer Mike fired a lot last night. A piece of shrapnel hit Martin in the back but didn't hurt him. Japs started a big fire on the beach last night. Milometer Mike gave us a close call at reveille this morning. Some of his shots landed near us.

Oct 21

Jap bombers came over about 9 o'clock last night and let about 14 bombs go. Later more Jap planes came over. They put spot lights on them but did

not shoot them down. We fired all night at intervals of about 20 minutes. Bill and I split the night. About noon today Jap bombers came over and dropped their load. None came near us. We got an Army tent and put it up today -- at last a dry spot to sleep.

Oct 21

Jap bombers came over twice last night between 8 and 9. We got word that T.H. arrived and some of the fellows saw him. Some mail arrived and Martin got 2 V-Mail. We fired quite a few last night and things are quiet today, so far.

Oct 23

We fired off and on

most of the day. Milo meter Mike was hitting around us. I went up the pole and directed Artillery fire for the Battalion. Martin went up in the afternoon and directed Artillery fire.

Oct 24

Last night we got emergency fire. The Japs tried to come across the river with tanks. The battery fired at will and in 5 hours and 45 minutes we fired over 1700 with 2 guns out for over an hour. The tubes were so hot that when water was poured down them nothing but steam came back out. We stopped 10 tanks and killed several hundred Japs. We had a lull and started in again at

daylight. Jap bombers came over and dropped most of their load in the water.

Oct 25 (Sunday)

Last night Milometer Mike shelled hell out of us. Hass got hit with shrapnel. It started raining about 7 and rained most of the night. Milometer raised hell with comm. I went during the shelling and found the trouble. I had to get in a hole six times before I got the splice made. I got back safely and used the line once and he knocked it out again. Pease and I worked from 12 to 4 in the morning getting lines in. About six I was awakened with 11 Jap planes fly-

ing around. One 2 motor job came over low to take pictures of our position. Antiaircraft knocked him down. There has been Zeros flying around all day. There have been several dog fights..I saw at least 10 Zeros and 2 bombers go down. The total box score for the day was 17 Zeros and 6 bombers. We have been fighting now for 48 hours with no sleep. We would get a lull now and then in firing. 3 Jap Cruisers pulled in the Channel yesterday morning but our dive bombers made it too hot to stay. They sunk one. Maj. Folley took Martin's and my name and address because of the work we did on the pole observing Artillery fire. I got 4

letters from home.

Oct 26 (Monday)

There was heavy fighting going on all night. Milometer Mike knocked out the line again I worked about an hour getting it back. No air raid today.

Oct 27

Japs were firing at our OP. We opened up with a continuous fire and soon shut them up. The Army held off heavy fighting all night. Martin Hennessey, Brookshire and I were recommended for Navy Cross for our observation on the pole.

Oct 28

The Army had heavy

fighting again last night but with

Nov 1 (Sunday)

Things have been quiet for the last few days. Jap patrols would hit the lines but were held off. About 2 nights ago a 100 man patrol started through. They captured one and the next day had funeral service for the other 99. We have had no air raids in the last three days. Today the big drive began to secure the island. It started early in the morning with planes bombing and Artillery fire. I went up to see Art this afternoon. He went out on a volunteer patrol in Jap territory yesterday. He had quite a time. I have been

receiving mail about every day.

Nov 2

A couple of cargo ships came in and brought 7 155 rifles. They had them ready for fire shortly after they landed.

Nov 3

I went to see Art and get my dog tags. The Kid was hitting in our front lines.

Nov 4

Capt. Miller had me up the pole twice last night to observe fire for 155. We did a little harassing fire last night. We woke up this morning with 21 ships in the Harbor. Navy is shelling the Japs.

Nov 5

I went to see Father Doucher this morning. I went to Confession and got a new medal from him. 24 Jap bombers came over. I saw 4 come down--didn't hear any bombs fall.

Nov 11

Things have been quiet for the last week. We haven't fired hardly at all. I made a mistake and fired the battery at a concentration instead of an elevation. Yesterday we scored 24 out of 25 Jap planes. A got most of them. This morning 9 dive bombers came over to bomb ships in the harbor. They got 5 Japs and one of ours. The pilot was picked up in the water. About noon 26 2

motor jobs came over-- they didn't drop any. Don't know how many we got yet but I saw 4 go down.

Nov 12
Four transports with Army came in. 15 Jap torpedo planes came over and the ships got all of them. They had a sea battle on the edge of the harbor. The new interception came in. Reported we got 66 planes in the last few days.

Nov 13
Army getting settled. We had a couple of air raids but nothing got in.

Nov
Two Jap ships got in last night and shelled

moon and quiet. Got up this morning and boiled clothes. Rumors still around that we will leave soon. Yesterday Capt. Aldrich took over as battery commander. A good move.

Nov 25
We were all fast asleep about 3 in the morning and one Jap plane came over I was still in bed when I heard the 1st one hit. I got tangled in my misqueto net but I made the hole before the third one hit. About 5 men were killed and about 20 injured.

Nov 26
That darn Jap came over again last night x about 3 o'clock.

Not much to worry about. Our Navy planes will take care of them. Our planes had some of the fire before 10 PM. Reported out planes got 24 ducks.

Dec 3
That lone Jap came in again but I guess he was just trying to annoy us. He didn't drop any bombs. He may have dropped some food to some of his buddies.

Dec 4
Today was the day set to leave this place. The mess men were supposed to go aboard but then there were no ships here

Dec 7
We expected on air raid because it was the first

for about half an hour. Only 3 planes were put out of order. Reported they got both of the ships

Nov 14
4 Jap ships were unloading up the beach. They didn't get much off because the dive bombers and the 155 started to work on them and soon had all 4 burning.

Nov 15
Things very quiet. Getting a lot of chow from the Army. Got me an Army hat.

Nov 19
Moved the guns up the front late this afternoon. It rained all night long. A river run right under me and my

We had plenty of time to get in the hole, he dropped 12 bombs near the fighter strip. No damage, no one hurt.

Nov 27
The lone Jap came again 3 nights in a row. He dropped 16 small bombs. They could not get him in the lights. 5th Marines are aboard ships--hope we go soon.

Nov 28
We had 2 alerts - one at 2 and the other at 4:15. Both were our own planes coming in. No Jap planes but at 6 o'clock this morning a sub torpedoed a supply ship unloading in the harbor. We were supposed to leave today but no signs of it yet.

anniversary of the war. Nothing happened.

Dec 8
Reported last night 8 Jap Cans were headed this way, be on the alert. They didn't get in a P38 crashed landing about dark last night. A fighter crashed and burned attempting to take off this morning. 3 transports and an AK arrived this morning. We think one is the one we are supposed to leave on. Hope so

Dec 9
At last we are aboard a ship and on our way ~~to~~ from Guadaucanal. It is rumored that we are going to Brisbane Australia instead of Wellington. The chow is very good on

blankets soon wet through

Nov 20
A quiet day but it started raining about 4 and flooded everything we had a tent up.

Nov 22
Moved the guns back to new fighter strip. Glad to get back with the fellows.

Nov 23
One continuous move this morning. We moved to the other side of the island. Now we are between the main fighters and bomber strip. In the middle of an open field with no shade.

Nov 24
Beautiful night. A full

Nov 29
About 3 this morning that Jap was flying around again. He dropped about 8 bombs about 400 yds from us. Night before last Acker had a fight with a Jap but he got away. Last night Male took a shot at something supposedly a Jap

Nov 30
Things were rather exciting about 8 PM. There was a big naval battle in the mouth of the Channel. Reported that the Japs lost 9 ships--we lost 2

Dec 1
Things quiet a good night's sleep. No alerts

Dec 2
Reported more Jap ships headed this way.

this ships.

Dec 10
We had to sleep on deck last night. The compartment was too hot. They are feeding us 3 Quinine pills a meal.

Dec 11
Had ice cream, candy and coco cola for the first time in 4 months. Also saw a movie.

Dec 13 (Sunday)
We came in sight of land about 9 o'clock but we had to go a long way up the Brisbane River. We tied up at the dock about 3 in the afternoon. There was a lot of high priced help there to meet us. They took the sick men off and gave the sailors liberty

We stayed aboard all night
Went to the movies.

Dec 14 (Monday)

Ate breakfast on ship
and then Army trucks
brought us out to camp
About 35 miles from Bris-
bane. Strong and Jones
went and got a keg of beer
and a case of coke. We
had a little party.

Dec 15

Dodge and I took a
little trip about 8 miles
from camp and got some
beer and ice cream. Went
to the show and saw
Moutiney on the Bounty.

Dec 16

Layed around new camp
most of the day. I went
to the movies again.

morning. Stayed in camp
all day.

Dec 28

Left camp this morning
on a 72 hour leave. Had
a fair first day.

Dec 31

Got back from 72. Made
good connections 2nd day.
Bill Grew and I met Peg
and June Howarth. Went to
the movies in the after-
noon. Saw Beyond the Blue
Horizon with Dorothy
LaMur also Henry Aldrich
Took them to the National
Hotel for dinner, went
to a stage show at night
Rained hard on way back to
camp. Was 3 hrs 25 min.
over leave.

Jan 1st (Friday)

Left camp again today

Jan 8

Went aboard the West
Point to leave for
Melbourne.

Jan 10

Left Brisbane for Mel-
bourne.

Jan 11

Had to march in mess
hall aboard ship. This
was good because there
were 10,000 men so they
only fed 2 meals a day.
I got all I wanted.

Jan 13

Tied up at the dock in
Melbourne. 5th Marines
got off

Jan 14

Left ship this morning
and went to camp Victor-
is about 60 miles from
Melbourne.

Dec 17

They restricted us from
leaving the area. Nobody
can go to the PX or show
because we haven't any
clothes.

Dec 18

We drew Army clothes
today. Those Army shoes
look like canal boats.

Dec 19

Got our first liberty
I had 18 hours. I went to
Brisbane. Had a pretty
good time. Army kakai
awful hot.

Dec 20

Slept all day. Exhaust-
ed after that liberty.

Dec 21

Took another 18 hour
liberty. Jackson and I

for 72 hours. We were
late getting in town and
couldn't get a date with
June. Fooled around
and went to the show. Saw
Private Buckaroo with the
Andrew Sisters.

Jan 2 (Saturday)

Had a date with June.
Went to the movies in the
afternoon. Saw the "Spoil-
ers" and Melody Lane.
Took them out to dinner
It rained most of the day.

Jan 3 (Sunday)

Bill Grew and I fooled
around in the park after
Mass. I picked up Peg O'
Sullivan. Met June on the
street with another guy
but she didn't see me.

Jan 4

Got back to camp on
time this morning. Rain-

went together. Had a
swell time.

Dec 24

Left camp early this
morning on a 48 hour
leave. Went to Brisbane.
Had supper at Mrs. Masler.
She had a nice daughter.
Took her to a dance. Left
early because of the
tram connections and went
to the Troccadaro. Met
another babe and got a date
for next day.

Dec 25

Slept at the Red Cross
all night. Got up and
went to Mass at St. Steph-
ens Cathedral. Met dame
at 2 and went to the zoo.
Took her out to dinner.
Not so hot a date.

Dec 27

Got back to camp Sunday

ed hard, all 72 hours leave
stopped. We are breaking
camp. Rumored we are
going to Sidney or Mel-
bourne. Left camp
on 18 hr leave. No women
to be found. Had a fair
time.

Jan 5

Left camp for a good
this morning to work on doc
loading ships to leave.

Jan 7

They have been work-
ing us 24 hour a day at the
docks. Bill Grew and I
went to a pub outside the
dock. M.P. came in
to get us but 2 Australian
showed us a back
way out and over the fence.

Where the Hell is Our Army

Where in the Hell is our Army
We're expecting them each day
They must be having a USO dance
Or else aren't getting their pay.

We're watching, waiting, hoping
As the days come and go
And we shout and sing of the U S Marines
And to Hell with the U S O

We know it is a great Army
Because of the things they've done

My Pal on Guadalcanal

Say a prayer for your pal on Guadalcanal
He needs God's help that's sure
To let him carry on out here
In this South Sea Island sewer.

Where flies are thick and hungry
And ants are always round
In everything you eat or drink
We down them live or drowned.

The jungle thick and leafy
To move you have to hack

But we think they'd turn and scatter
At the sight of the Rising Sun

But we're the boys on Tulagi
Will wait for the boy's in brown
Till either we get slaughtered
Or the Rising Sun Goes Down.

And it requires ten minutes work
For a place to lay your pack.

The sun sends down it's fiery rays
And makes it awful hot
And you have to kick out crocodiles
To find a cooling spot.

At night's all calm and quiet
Except for rat-ta-tat
Which happens every minute
When some machine gun spats

And sentry's out on duty
Ar'n't off times very slow

To blurt out "What's the pass word"
Then let a couple go.

The Artillery boys aren't bashful
'Bout shooting a Seventy-five
And with the dawn proclaiming
"There aint a Jap alive!"

When another day comes round
Marines will wake and wonder
What the hell is coming off
In this Island hole down under.