

(Transcribed faithfully as written by the author. There are links and posters presented at the end of the diary that represent things, places and some of the shows Darrell saw while in Australia.)

Darrell E. Smith – Diary – 1942 & 1943

2/10/1942 – Tues. Last day in Camp Edwards. We packed all day. Put on new cloths from cleaner. We leave camp in trucks at 8:30 for station & train. Leave about 11:00. Off for west.

2/11/1942 – Wed. Car full. Scott, Gless??? & I in same compartment. We are on N.Y. Western & Ontario R.R. All day in N.Y. state. Snow covered ground. Got on N.Y.C. RR in eve. Buffalo at night.

2/12/1942 – Thurs. Sat in St. Louis at noon. This N.Y.C. is sure fast. Take R.I. RR through Missouri, Kansas City in eve. Through Ark & Oklahoma into Texas t?? Sleep will.

2/13/1942 – In El Paso at 12 midnight. In New Mexico and into Arizona today. Plenty of Cactus & Desert. Scottie, Mayno porter is swell. Play black Jack. Loose two bucks.

2/14/1942 – Sat. Still in Arizona. Pass through Tucson. Nice city. On So. Pacific now. Good road. Lots of Indians here. Beautiful weather. Big argument? about cattle.

2/15/1942 – Sunday. Passed thru San Fernando Valley. Las Angeles is nice town. Beautiful country. Followed ocean for some distance. Stop at San Loui Obispo in eve.

2/16/1942 – Mon. Pulled in San Francisco about 7:00 A.M. Sgt. Wugal at train. Went up to Dog track. Stay at all night. Called home could hear good. Wrote to Ju??t? All well.

2/17/1942 – Tues. Slept good. Got issued new helmet. Sat on boat in afternoon. “Matsoian” was ship. We are on B deck starboard side. Slept at deck all night.

2/18/1942 – Wed. Boat pulled in formation in Bay in morning. Pulled out in afternoon. Last we saw states was 9:00 p.m. Golden Gate sure looked good. Ocean Blue.

2/19/1942 – Thurs. Had alert at 2. A.m. Had to put on cloths. On gun at 3.a.m. Foggy morning & cool. Had life boat drill in morning. Keep life preserver near at all times.

2/20/1942 – Fri. Sea getting rough some boys sick, not me. Life boat drill. Always alert in morning & due. Sea getting dark blue. Cruiser in good boat. Im sure.

2/21/1942 – Sat. Sea calmer. Life boat drill in morning. Pretty crowded in boat. There is the 20th 12 station hospital, 68th pursuit sqd. & the 102nd all on boat. 4000 men

2/22/1942 – Canteen open on boat. We man gun on A deck Port side. Saw flying fish. Getting warmer. Sea blue & calm. Sunsets pretty. The old moon is full. Think of home.

2/23/1942 – Mon. Hot last night, change to bombays. Boy's mood not bad. I sleep above Petes ??? Spitler. This ocean sure is big. We are all fairly calm. Don't worry.

2/24/1942 – Tues. Getting warmer and hotter. We all know we're headed for Australia. We know nothing about the place. Don't know where we will put in. Darwin maybe.

2/25/1942 – Wed. Hot as hell. Cross Equator today. Big initiation. Got cert. if in it. Sleep on deck: Black out strict. The other boats are ???bal at night. Sea calm.

2/26/1942 – Thurs. These boats & the cruisers are ploughing on. The Cruiser is like a mother. She takes good care of us. "Thank God for the Navy" They're dam good Boys.

2/27/1942 – Fri. Salt water showers, not so good. Food good. Getting my sea legs. No one knows what lies ahead. We're at war now. Do doubt. Will be get back.

2/28/1942 – Sat. Show is in dining hall. I don't go, to hot. Rain today. We lay on deck & "shoot the bull". Some play cards. Some shoot craps. I like to watch the sea.

Memoranda – The last five days at Camp Edwards were swell. Coon messet & everything. The trip across the states was nice. California was sure swell. I'll never forget it. Getting on the boat was strange. What we're in for we don't know but we'll do our best. This will undoubtedly be an important must be for me.

Memoranda – The Japs sure are sweeping south fast. Singapore fell. Where will we meet them. Soon, no doubt. But we didn't realize it fell everyk? We will

3/1/1942 – Sun. Sailing on & on. Farther & farther from home. We have gained a ??? hours as we cross time zones. The Pacific is sure romantic. Beautiful.

3/2/1942 – Mon. Crossed international date line today. Picked up a day. Still hot. Sleep in deck at nights. So does lots of others. Scott & I are happy.

3/3/1942 – Tues. Cooler today. Picked up two British Cruisers. American boat goes back. Nice job pal. We left her at dusk. She headed back north.

3/4/1942 – Wed. We write a first letters today. Still ploughing on. Getting cooler. No drill today. Hear rumors of landing soon. Where?

3/5/1942 – Much cooler now. Sea getting rough. Sun guards not bad. Salt air cool. We don't think to much about future, don't pay. This sea is beautiful.

3/6/1942 – Fri. Sea wild & wooly. Waves high as mts. Some storm, wind, rain & high seas. The ol boat rocks & rolls. Freighter's ass comes clear out. ????!

3/7/1942. Sea still rough & wind & rain. Not sick, lucky. The cruisen boys going around us. Those British sure know their boats, no doubt.

3/8/1942. Sea very calm today after storm. To arrive today. Sight land about 3:30 in evening. Sure looks good. Pull in bay and spend the night. Lights pretty.

3/9/1942. Harbor officials come aboard in morning. Pull into dock at 11:00. We are at Brisbane Australia. Leave boat at 1:00 p.m. go to Ascot Race Track strange sights

3/10/1942 Tues. Off settled at Ascot Race Track in tents. Money strange to us. Shillings & all. We unload boat. Work all night & Day. Eat fairly good.

3/11/1942.- Wed. Hot all day. We work on boat & fool around. We get in town occasionally. We don't know where we're going. Darwin, roomer it is.

3/12/1942 – Thurs. Shot in arm. Went to town. Milk shakes galore. People nice to us. Kids want p??s. Trains open air. Country beautiful.

3/13/1942 – Fri. Men leaving for north all the time. When I'll go no one knows. Not much to do. They don't work me much. Australia quite O.K.

3/14/1942 – Sat. Went to town in eve. To Tr???uo to dance. Big crowd. They dance funny over here. Around in a circle. The people talk funny.

3/15/1942 – Sun. Saw Chaplain Barthrey here. Sure looks good. We're going to Darwin soon. The Army's not bad at doing things. It's got to be done. We all know.

3/16/1942 – To go to Darwin tomorrow. Packing today. Whitey Stikis & I go to town in afternoon made date with women. Cant get out to fill them. Bed at 10:00

3/17/1942 Got up at 4:30 went to airport to catch plane for Darwin. Took off at 6:00. Some trip. Cloncurry at 12:00 had lunch. Arrived at Batchelor 6:00 p.m. Some place.

3/18/1942 Went around field to look things over. Several wrecked planes around. This sure is the bush country. Want to go on up soon. Springer came ???

3/19/1942 Went out to Dick Sheeshy green?. Stayed out there all day & night. Slept with Styku. Eats fair, far from good. This sure is the end of earth?????

3/20/1942 Wagul came after us in afternoon. Leave for Darwin in the eve. Drive 60 in dark. Cant tell much about things. Slept at Qieg? field tonight.

3/21/1942 Up at dawn to R.A.A.F. to eat St. Fleshmar.? Gets things set up. Alert today no raid. We're on Ro?? Guns. Rothfus is Corporal. Some shit.

3/22/1942 We're digging gun pit. Solid rock. Eating with Ausies.? Dirty as hell. What tea they have. Darwin sure is a hell hole. We have guts tho.

3/23/1942 – no entry

3/28/1942 - Sat. Air raid today. Dropped 500 lb. bombs. Some noise. Not scared then the ack ack. Looked good. Big black bombers sure are mean Japs no slouch

3/30/1942 – Another raid today. Not much damage. They have things their own way tho. They can blow hell out of us. Not much to stop them.

3/31/1942 – Another raid today. Seven bombers? & 7 fighters. The old sky hums with planes. Guns bark & bullets whine. This is no picnic not on your life.

Memoranda – The stay at Brisbane & Flight to Darwin will always be remembered. The air raids will never be forgotten either. Will the Japs invade?

4/1/1942 - No raid today. The Hudsons are giving them some hell also. There's not many fighters here. We are afraid of night raids now.

4/2/1942 - Another raid today. The boys are holding up swell. Working on telephone now. Not bad. Not many casualties? tho. A few men killed.

4/3/1942 – Weather hot. Flies worse than Japs. Two alerts today no raid tho. We're on the edge of this continent facing the Japs. We'll give em hell.

4/4/1942 – Sat. Big day today. Raid was 14 planes. 7 "0"s, 7 Bomer?. Ack got two. How the did scream coming down. Our boys got two zeros. Some day.

4/5/1942 – Easter Sunday. Raid today again. Eggs from 20,000 ft. Boy you should hear their bombs whistle when they come down, you'd shit.

4/6/1942 – Mon. Getting cooler now. No rain today. No raid either. The Ausies are patrolling the beaches now. If the invasion comes, we'll be ready.

4/7/1942 – Tues. Dry season settling in. Glad of it. This damp stuffy air is hard to take. The tropics are not like I saw in the movies. NO Sir.

4/8/1942 – Wed. The heat is becoming dry. The sand flies are coming. There a pest, worse than mosquitos. Lots of boys have had infections due to heat.

4/9/1942 – Thur. Very hot today. Telephone wires are being burnt out by brush fires. Scottie & Willard are good boys. The sun sets are awful pretty.

4/10/1942 – Fri. No raid. Tojo must be full of Darwin lead. I hope so. Fanney (Fannie) Bay is not a bad place. Errol Flynn was in their jail. We eat there now.

4/11/1942 – Sat. Alert this afternoon, no raid. We were ready tho. Darwin's in a hell of a shape. Blown to hell. Not a house that isn't hit. What a place.

4/12/1942 – Sun. They have Catholic men now. Father Carrell is a fine man. Our services are held by the "Church of ?Oneland?" I never go. Should.

4/13/1942 – Mon. Alert in P.M., no raid. They should be around soon. The Japs will probably be over in force the next time. No doubt.

4/14/1942 – Tues. Some of the cattle have been killed by bombs, some houses hit bad. Bombs are not choicely. I haven't seen our Col. lately. Some at ???

4/15/1942 – Wed. Alert in the afternoon. No raid. Why don't they come. The Hudsons are going out stedy now. What do the Japs have on Timor?

4/16/1942 – Thurs. Springer & I go in town. The place is shattered. The Navy ??? is well sand bagged. The hospital is in bad shape. Some boats in.

4/17/1942 – Fri. Still no raid, what's wrong? There are graves of American saylors from the cruiser "Perry" near by. The boats are on the ??thern

4/18/1942 – Sat. Lots of Americans lost in firs raid. 147th 148th field artillery was blown up a bit. The Saylors got the worst of it tho. Some casualties.

4/19/1942 – Sun. Got word of our boys raid on Tokio today. Give em hell boys. I hope they're as scared as I. But we do all right.

4/20/1942 – Mon. The food's no so good but we eat it. Some boys play poker. Riding horses some. Fishing in the ????. Never catch anything.

4/21/1942 - Tues. No raid. we meet George Fallon sue nice chap. We are beginning to like tea. Rice & sardines are our main diet.

4/22/1942 – Wed. We det the Darwin news now. Printed by the army. Some good stuff in it. We pick up Java, Singapor, Philepines on radio.

4/23/1942 – Thurs. Tojo tells us to get out of Darwin in 65 hours, he's coming in. Let him come, we'll kick hell out of him. Weather fine.

4/24/1942 – Fri. We pick up good msic from Jap station up north. French Indo China stations. They say Darwin's wiped off the map. They'er Right.

4/25/1942 – Sat. Wow! Big raid today 24 bombers 7 zero's (I counted them) Dropped demolitions & daisy cutters. We knocked down 11 bombers and 3 zero's. Not Bad.

4/26/1942 – Sun. no raid today. They must have had enough yesterday. Lots of boys in church today. No wonder. their silver Jap planes are sure pretty.

4/27/1942 – Mon. Big raid. 17 bombers & lots of zero's. Did lot's of damage. Killed 6 Aussies on the R.A.A.F. Those Jap's are sure mean bombers. The ??? ??? is comfort.

4/28/1942 – Tues. The Boy's at R.A.A.F. are getting shakey. Cant blame em. The Jap's seem to be trying to scare us. Bull shit. Writing home some now.

4/29/1942 – Wed. No raid today. There are plenty of spies in this area. We have to be on the look out at all times. The Timor Sea has all kinds of fish.

4/30/1942 -Thurs. No raid, maybe they got enough the last time. I hope. We see big ships in the bay. This ???? is dangerous place.

Memoranda – I'll never forget the month of April in 1942. These raids are no "pink tea party." I've learned a lot tho. The boys are tough and can take it. Easter Saturday and it's whine of the fallen bombers will always live in my memory. The bomb by the C.P. was too darn close. That s??? that whine.

5/1/1942 - Fri. No raid. This country is bad for infection. I'm not bothered. Lots of boy's are. The weather's too hot for them to heal.

5/2/1942 – Sat. No raid. See several big lizard's, some tree ft. long. The night are not too hot. The days faily good. We like that.

5/3/1942 – Sun. Alert in the P.M. but they didn't come. The fellows have found a swimming hole. The bush is a bad place for snakes & etc.

5/4/1942 – Mon. No raid. This Dengue fever is getting the boy's bad. They are weak & sick as hell. I've been lucky so far. I hope I continue

5/5/1942 – Tues. No raid today. Some of the fellows are still having infection. I don't understand why. Our diet is none to good. The food's lousy.

5/6/1942 – Wed. No raid. The aussie Bofor guns are on the field. They are very friendly boy's. We get along swell. The sub net is invisible ????

5/7/1942 – Thurs. No raid. Can't understand why they don't come back. The shit trench is a handy thing in a raid. Let me tell you bro. we know.

5/8/1942 – Fri. No raid The phone's is working o.k. we can't get on very clear tho. 22 mi is 011' now. The Navy guy is a swell egg.

5/9/1942 – Sat. We heard about a Naval Battle going on off the coast. The Hudsons are busy now for some reason.

5/10/1942 – Sun. Rain today for first time in day's. Things got pretty wet. I hope the Navel battle ??? in our favor.

5/11/1942 – Mon. Hear we may move soon. South of here. B.Bay may relieve us. They're down at rest camp. We need a little rest tho.

5/12/1942 – Tues. The mosquitos are pretty bad. Sand flies worse. The mosquito net is ????? good piece of equipment. We are all ????

5/13/1942 – Wed. Expect to move to 34 mi tomorrow or next day. We have 48 hours to leave field. No emergency. Just abandon the field.

5/14/1942 – Moved to 34 mi today. Relieved by B Btry. We set up in woods. Lots of work to do now. I guess.

5/15/1942 – Set up at 34 mi The convoy is in from the south . The trucks are pretty well loaded. I don't do much work.

5/16/1942 – Sat. Getting set up now. Eat much better fod. We will build new kitchen. Have to se up C.P. & ect. Scott & I are in bush.

5/17/1942 – Sun. We are to do o.p. duty now. 2nd Plat. To go on field manuv. We will go out eventually. We don't know when.

5/18/1942 – Mon. This O.P. duty is not so hot. Sgt Roe is in charge. This is the damdest bunch of shit I've ever seen.

5/19/1942 – Tues. The P. 40 are thick now. The boy's now have to fly them too. The 49th pursuit sqdn group are in the air now.

5/20/1942 – Wed. The 9th pursuit sqd. Is on 34 mi where we are. Not so many things going on now. They are starting a canteen. ?????

5/21/1942 – We eat good on O.P. duty ????? cook ??? ???. We have nice plant farm & Shelter now. I'm Chief look out. ????? good.

5/22/1942 – Fri. The P. 40's do a lot of formation flying over. The 361 ????? is in the ???. We are to get 30 cal. Machine guns.

5/23/1942 – Sat. A btry is on Batshlor field. D at R.A.A.F. E at 34. & O at ??? the bomer base or 28 miles. This place is getting stranger

5/24/1942 – Sun. Rowland Scott, Springer & I are in the same tent. We have lots of fun. Jack's a darn good boy. But so am I.

5/25/1942 The kangroos are sure thick around here. We saw 5 the other day around the C.P. We may move to strip soon. I hope

5/26/1942 – Tues. The food's not bad now. We get some canteen stuff now. Sgt Bonushi is running things.

5/27/1942 – Wed. Formation of moving now. We have to march to Chouri. ? What a bunch of silly fools. Let us go with the ???

5/28/1942 – Thurs. They's non comps (mostly Sergeants) are damn fools The corp??? ...???

5/29/1942 – Fri. The road's dam rough to the O.P. We have to ride out there every day. We do get off occasionally tho.

5/30/1942 – Sat. WE will be going out on the stepp soon I hope. The O.P.'s just no dam good. They just hide us that's all. ?

5/31/1942 – Sun. Last day of May. Not much doing around the area. Same old shit tho. Food's not to good now.

6/1/1942 – Mon. We are getting ready to go to the strip. Tearing down ten's and packing up. I'm dam glad to get away from the brass and ????? shit.

6/2/1942 – Tues. Moved to strip today we are taking position at the South end of the strip. Gun no. 7891011 I'm on no. 8 with Scott, Spri?? & Vande?????

6/3/1942 – Wed. I'm gunner on the gun no. 1 man. The gun's in fair shape. We don't have much to do. Sgt. Wirgal is not doing bad. We like it fine.

6/4/1942 – Thurs. We have to ride in to the C.P. for chow twice daily. The truck comes out at noon. The road is dusty & rough. The boys bitch.

6/5/1942 – Fri. We like to watch the P.40 take off and land. They are like great war birds. The 9th sure is a swell outfit. Lots of nice fellows in it.

6/6/1942 – Sat. Got shot I arm today. The rifel range is built now. We will be going out soon. I've never fired the Garand in recon

6/7/1942 – Sun. We have to go to Hd qtr for church. A chaplin from the 148th F A. holds prodistant services. We'er not too good church goers now.

6/8/1942 – Mon. The Hudson's are using Hughes field now. Its sure a big place. We stick pretty close the guns now. To close the C.P. for polish.

6/9/1942 – Tues. Had an alert today, no raid. A reconnaissance plane was sure "Photo Joe." They will be over soon now. You can bet your ass on that.

6/10/1942 – Wed. To go on range soon. I don't know how I will do. The boys are just doing fine. The dry season is in full swing now. Hot to.

6/11/1942 - Thurs. Go to range for sighting practice. Cpt. Rathfirs instructed the sling. The lesson was a good one. Some of the fellows don't think so.

6/12/1942 – Fri. Went to range to fire in rifel. Fire rounds. My rifel in 7 clicks from the bottom for 200 yds. Some rifels are hard to adjust.

6/13/1942 – Sat. 3 hr. alert. 27 bombers raided Darwin. First in seven weeks. Using dive bombers for high level work. Tojo must be short of big ones. Ha Ha

6/14/1942 – Sun. Brush fires bad, burning all around. Nearly burned out whole outfit. 3 Alerts today. "Photo Joe" must have been around. I think.

6/15/1942 – Mon. More brush fires in area. 25 Zero's raided Darwin. Shot hell out of things. Our boys got some. We lost two or three. Nips getting tough.

6/16/1942 – Tues. Big raid today on Darwin. 27 bombers over. 1 bomber 1 zero down. Not much good. Bombed hell out of meat warehouse. Eating Sardines again.

6/17/1942 – Wed. No raid today. Jap's pounded Darwin heavy the last few days. They are not so weak as we thought. No easy war this time.

6/18/1942 – Thurs. Went on range today. Shot 58 out of 70. Not too bad. The boys think the high score fellows will be put in a commando unit for Timor.

6/19/1942 – Fri. Got paid today. Sent some money home. Money is cheap up here. The boys throw it away practically. Crap games go into the hundred's.

6/20/1942 – Sat. You should see the crap games. Roku games & Black Jack. The Air Corps 30 & 40 dollars on a Black Jack game. What the hell.

6/21/1942 – Sun. We built an out door chapel from log's. Sure is nice. The Chaplin holds both Catholic and Protestant services in it. ??? nice.

6/22/1942 – Mon. Went to rifle range today we fired rapid fire. My total score was 193 two under expert. I hope I can do that good always.

6/23/1942 – Tues. Some one killed a 11 ft python around the Air Corp. It's the biggest snake I've ever seen. Sure glad there's not many here.

6/24/1942 - Wed. We have changed to no 11 gun under Almond. He sure is a nice fellow. We bull shit all the time. He's strong as an ox.

6/25/1942 – Thurs. Day's are sure hot. But the nights are rather cool. We have a nice swimming hole behind west O.P. regular tropical pool. We like it.

6/26/1942 – Fri. Pay day on the B & O.(*). I wonder what they are doing now. Mail has been coming thru fairly good. Mail sure is a moral builder. (* Darrell's father was an engineer on the B & O Railroad back in West Virginia. For a period, Darrell was a B & O employee also, a Railroad Fireman- shoveled coal into the furnace and tended the boiler on a steam locomotive)

6/27/1942 – Sat. Jap's haven't been over for some time. We had an alert today but no raid we have been lucky so far. The N.I.T. Bad.

6/28/1942 – Sun. Church in the morning. The Chaplin preached a good sermon. Lots of boys to church now. "C" btry has the best church attendance.

6/29/1942 – Mon. Not much going on now the regular routine. We stand lots of guard now. We make tea & eat cookies on our shift. It's real good.

6/30/1942 – Tues. I forget to mention we had an alert yesterday. No raid tho. The boy's are still firing on the range. The 30 cal. practice is good for us.

Memoranda – The first month on the strips was spent rather dry. No close raids. We're lucky. The firing range was of great benefit. I sure am proud of my 30. The stay on no. 1 position was sure swell.

43? Met three fellows from W.Va. Petersburg, Richwood, and Lumberport. The air corp board wasn't so bad. Ticked to have passed it. Maybe I'll get in the Air Corp's after all. Making corporal was quite O.K. We're moving up north? or somewhere. I only hope for the last.

Memoranda – The ants and mosquitos are both worse than the Jap's. We shot at lots of hawks around the gun. Never hit any. They are scavenger birds.

7/1/1942 – Wed. The days are warm the nights are cold. The new tent floor's are really nice. We did quite a bit of work on them tho.

7/2/1942 – Thurs. The boys are playing ball now. Int??? Battery boys furnished lots of fun & compition. Recreation is very difficult up here. Nothing to do.

7/3/1942 – Fri. The food has not been so good lately. The capt. Kills a buffalo occasionally and a few cows at Humpty Do(Doo) Station.

7/4/1942 – Sat. Ball game today. The Army had no celebration today of any description. Very peaceful. Even the Japs stayed away.

7/5/1942 – Sun. Food is getting scarcer now. To Jo Says we're cut off from the south. By God. I believe him. Sardines are the main dish.

7/6/1942 – Mon. Went swimming at Berry Springs this afternoon. It sure is a beautiful swimming hole. It's full of Aussies & Yanks.

7/7/1942 – Tues. The canteen is fairly well run now. We get some beer, pop, cookies & candy. The prices are fairly high tho. I can't understand.

7/8/1942 – Wed. General Brett gave out medals today. Nice shows Lt Hubbard & Woodie Ravenscraft received Solders award. Lt. Rennals & several of the 49th boys also.

7/9/1942 – Thurs. Had an alert today, false alarm tho. I wonder when they will come. Something must be wrong with them. May be we are too tough.

7/10/1942 – Fri. Ball game today. The boys are sure ????? up over it. Nice going boy's. Poe & Glasser are over big Bertha's now. Some boy's.

7/11/1942 – Sat. Second Battalion beat the first. I'm not too much intrested. The air corps boys play lots of volleyball. We have a court but don't play much.

7/12/1942 – Headquarters beat our 3rd today. They had a tough break The boy's sure gave the chow truck personell palenty of hell. Ha Ha.

7/13/1942- Lt. Trumain is not a bad sort. Some of the fellows don't think much of him. Sgt Wugal sure puts the ???? on him palenty.

7/14/1942 – Tues. I wonder what they are doing back home now. Hay time I expect. This would be a good country if the ant's were not here.

7/15/1942 – Wed. Alert today. False alarm. The alerts give you a funny feeling tho. We don't mind them so much we feel that Darwin is it.

7/16/1942 – Thurs. Ball game today. I don't know who won, don't care much. Playing ball with you eyes on the trench don't jive.

7/17/1942 – Fri. No meat, the situation is getting tough in the ration department. Maybe the Jap's do have us cut off. Dam if I don't think so.

7/18/1942 – Sat. Jap recon plane over today. They will be here with all "hell" pretty soon now. You can bet your ass on that.

7/19/1942 – Sun. 3rd Plat. Beat 1st today. Sgt. Byrl sure has the boys in the pink. They're tougher than Boarding house steak.

7/20/1942 – Mon. Alert today in the P.M. false alarm. The 49th swarmed off after the nips but to no avail. Their P-40's are sure tough.

7/21/1942 – Tues. The bush country is thick as hell. I sure don't want to get lost in there. We stick pretty close the road now.

7/22/1942 – Wed. The ordinance is checking rifles in Br. Today. This outfit is in bad need of repairs on the 30's. Im a fairly good shot you know.

7/23/1942 – Thurs. The Ausies are changing gun crews today. They are sure a swell bunch of fellows tho. We like there two ???????

7/24/1942 – Fri. The boy's play plenty of poker now. Every night theres lots of money changes hands in that old C.P every night some st??

7/25/1942 – Sat. The Jap's pulled an air raid on Darwin last eve. 3 planes dropped nine bombs. Not much damage done. Jap's not too good.

7/26/1942 – Sun. Night raid on Darwin. The Jap's must not like this place in the day light. The 49th boy's don't get off in the night.

7/27/1942 – Mon. The full moon sure does bring out the Japs these day's. Two more raids on Darwin in the night. We can hear the bombs.

7/28/1942 – Tues. The Darn Japs got us up again raided Darwin. We can hear the bomb's and see the Ack Ack plain. The Search lights to.

7/29/1942 – Wed. The Jap's got us up at 4:30 this morning. Raided Darwin. The darn pests they are. It cool in the morning & we don't feel to good.

7/30/1942 – Thurs. Jap's over Darwin today with 27 bombers 23 zero's. The 49th got 10 zero's & 8 bombers. Shot hell out of em. We lost some to.

7/31/1942 – Fri. The end of the month. Got a rest today from the Jap's. The moon's petering out. They will lay off for a while now. we hope

Memoranda – July was not to eventful. The last few day's with the Jap raids were not to ??? but on the whole we didn't lose much.

8/1/1942 – The Btry. Boys played ball against the officers. They won 11-0. We are beginning to hear rummers of movement not to interested tho.

8/2/1942 – Sun. The papers say we got 20 of the 50 japs that were over thurs. The papers are always well read by everyone here.

8/3/1942 – Mon. The hunting party is to go out soon. I want to go. The buffalo in horns are good souvenirs. The ducks are plentiful and nice.

8/4/1942 – Tues. Went to show in eve. The aussie mobile unit is dam nice. Every one goes. The Aussies and Yank's sure cooperate swell.

8/5/1942 – Wed. There is lots of equipment up here now. Field artillery units by the dozen. They are maneuvering all the time. we can hear the guns.

8/6/1942 - Thurs. Another show tonight. I think I'll go. The Aussie infantry is maneuvering all the time. They march on missions continually.

8/7/1942 – Fri. Third beat Headquarters today. The boys are on top now. The volley ball court is busy now. We sure have lots of fun there.

8/8/1942 – Sat. The allied workers are sure putting out the labor up here. Poor devils. They are nice to we fellow's. Bombs and all.

8/9/1942 – Sun. The chaplin was in full form today. To much praise cannot be given him. The Btry attend's church very well now.

8/10/1942 – Mon. The weather is getting warmer now. The storm clouds gather in the eve. The nights are much stuffier. Sleep comes hard.

8/11/1942 – Wed. The canteen service is not so good prices are high as hell. I suspect foul play in that department tho. Can't trust them.

8/12/1942 – Wed. The food's still lousy. We bitch like hell tho. it doesn't do any good tho. The cooks are just lousy. The men say to.

8/13/1942 – Thurs. The 49th boy's are sure working hard now days. They have a good record now. Ground crew as well as pilots.

8/14/1942 – Fri. We don't like our outfit. To dam G.I. for us. The Buffalo gang dominates everything. The dam fools are not worth shit.

8/15/1942 - Sat. If ever I get out I'll get revenge for my suppression. I'll kick hell out of a certain Sgt. Pivy. Waymun sp? & a few others.

8/16/1942 – Sun. Guy's like Scott should at least get a break. These dam fools don't know that tho. The 121st Cavalry runs this outfit.

8/17/1942 – Mon. Alert today. Sure wish the Jap's would blow hell out of them 121st guys. The National Guard sure stink's to hell.

8/18/1942 – Tues. Buffalo Bresters (*Brewster F2A Buffalo*) came in today. Eight of them. To go over Timor for recon. Work. They're fast & maneuverable. Nice ship.

8/19/1942 – Wed. Hugh's field is all aussie. The Bresters are manned by aussie's. There is a squadron of aussie P40's up here now. The 17th I believe.

8/20/1942 – Thur's.

BREAK in ENTRIES

1/9/1943 – Went Tracking with 40's at Garbutt Field . Did good. ??? in afternoon. Went to town in eve. Saw A Gentleman at Heart & Rings on Her Fingers. Bed at 12:30.

1/10/1943 – In charge of A.M. Detail. Didn't do much work. Lots of supplies in ware house. Negro didn't come after us in afternoon. Saw Argentine Nights in eve.

1/11/1943 – Was shower orderly. Easy job. Got Camera & Harmonica from Mom. Had Argument with Tall & Mullins friendly. Cant figure out next move.

1/12/1943 Went to Garbutt Field to track with 40's. Did dam good. Wrote Mother Jane in afternoon. Weather hot. Sun burnt. Rosenbank sp? Poe working puzzle.

1/13/1943 Got up at 6:15. Went for a hike. St. Tremain was in charge. Got gun ready for firing in morning. Some drill in afternoon. Went to bed early. Band Concert

1/14/1943 Went tracking at Garbutt. Did dam good. Captain held inspection. Lots of Changes in afternoon. Palenty burned up. Went so see The Great Waltz in eve with Moose.

1/15/1943 Went on O.M. detail in morning. Got ready for inspection in afternoon. Boys were examined for i???se insurance. Went to bed quite early. Slept good. Rain

1/16/1943 Got up at 6:15. Got hell for no pants on. Inspection quite tough. Rifels, Tents, 50 & 40 were looked at. Tobacco ration in afternoon. Fight in eve (Berry & Wittfield, Drunk) Bad.

1/17/1943 Sunday. Went to church in town. Springer, Mullins run around in afternoon. Colnel of Air Force gave us hell for not saluting. Saw D.Darwin at Wintergarden. Bed 12:00

1/18/1943 – Mon. Got up at 4:30 had breakfast. Took 40's & 50's to beach for firing. Fired five rounds. Worked Good. Cleaned guns in afternoon. Going to bed early.

1/19/1943 – Tues: Went tracking at Garbutt. Gun went on blink. Returned at noon and cleaned and adjusted gun in afternoon. Going to bed early. Poe on A.M. Detail.

1/20/1943 – Wed. Went on guard; Got hell from Sgt. For a mixup in exchange of guard. Fixed 40 guns. Consulted Mike about transfer to Bn. Hdq. best shift at 11 to 10

1/21/1943 – Went tracking at Garbutt field. Took Roe's gun. Cleaned our gun the afternoon. Saw Capt. In we ??? transfer to Bn. Hdq.

1/22/1943 – Worked K.P. all day. Good bit of work to be done. Will go on furlough about first of the Cleaned up for inspection in laundry.

1/23/1943 Big inspection in the morning by Col. Waty?? Sure was tough. Raised hell about everything. Town in afternoon and swimming. Show in eve.

1/24/1943 Sun. Slept late. Egg's for breakfast. Reading in morning. | Tiny's Row is becoming quite interesting. Laid around in afternoon and read. Slept – confab with Spring

1/25/1943 – Mon. Went tracking in morning. Rain in morn & afternoon. Cleaned 40 in afternoon. Read in eve and went to bed quite early.

1/26/1943 Tues. Took 40's to beach and fixed 20 rounds in morning. Guns worked good. To see M?? store in afternoon. Saw Major. Some good.

1/27/1943 Wed. Cleaned gun. Haven't gone on hike or march for two weeks. Not doing much no wr. The boy's are feeling pretty dour.

1/28/1943 Thurs. Went tracking at Garbutt. Am detale in eve. Final?? At 1:00 a.m. Not much to do in warehouse. Were ham? Full.

1/29/1943 – Fri. Went to sick call in morning. Capt. Balbough gave talk in morning. Cleaned 40 in afternoon. Fooled around in eve.

1/30/1943 Sat. Inspection in morning. Sure did catch hell. Confined for a week. Fellows just don't seem to give a dam. Bad shape . I call it.

1/31/1943 Sun. Was on guard. First shift at supply was paid in morning. Poe, Rupp. Mac. & Whitey lift on furlough. Stood last shift from 11: to 1:00

Memorandum: Started keeping diary this month. Learned lot about 40's. Fireing was interesting. But moral has been pretty low to date.

2/1/1943 Mon. Starting conditioning hikes. Capt. Dale. Sure gave us the work's this morning. Shots and vaccinations this afternoon. Feel kind of tough.

2/2/1943 Rowland came back from furlough, what a relief. Went swimming with Bly (sp?) at the beach. Studied with Lt. Fleshman for O.C.S. hard. Shown in ???

2/3/1943 Rained in the morning until 10:45 Couldn't go on hike. Was inoculated again at Bn. Medics. Lt. Fleshman lectured at 4:00 on O.C.S. board. Going to bed early.

2/4/1943 Thurs. Took hike in morning. Rifels & Belts, heavy! Tough as hell. Whent swimming in of treasure ??? Sgts party in eve. Didn't sleep too well.

2/5/1943 Fri. Rained in morning. Couldn't go on hike. Slept a little. Cleaned ammo. & gun. Getting ready for Sat. inspection. Going to bed early.

2/6/1943 Sat. Inspection in morning. Went to town in afternoon. Climbed to top of hill ? burial Townswith ? Went ot bed at 12:00. Slept good.

2/7/1943 – Sun. Got up at 7:00 ate breakfast. Went after wood for floor. Didn't get any. Didn't do anything in afternoon. Went to bed early. Slept good.

2/8/1943 – Mon. Got up at 5:00 in the morning. Went to beach and find befor legal rounds fired?? Cleaned gun in afternoon. To bed early.

2/9/1943 . Tues. Worked K.P. with Springer, Kelly & Sevars ? Got afternoon off. went to bed early.

2/10/1943. Wed. on Guard. Had hell of a time. Supposed to go on furlough. Couldn't have performance with Mayor. Stayed back.

2/11/1943 Thur. Went on march in morning; rather easy. 25 men on sick call. To town in afternoon. Bought map's. Saw show in eve. Bed at 12:00.

2/12/1943 Fri. Started off raining hard. Jim abound heavy let milk from kitchen. ???

2/14/1943 Sun. Didn't do much all day. Stayed around all afternoon. Reading alwent Saturday in U.S. Poker game's in tent. Won lot. Shot crap.

2/13/1943 Sat. Had inspection in morning. Passed all right Layed around in afternoon. To bed early in eve.

2/15/1943 Mon. Had interview with Major Stonefare O.C.S. Didn't do much good. Scott & I were last one's Byre accepted.

2/16/1943 Tues. Rain in morning. Res. In afternoon. Wrote to Esm? For ????. Made mistake in doing.

2/17/1943 Wed. Went on hike in morning: pretty hard going. Cleaned 40 in morning. Didn't do much in afternoon. Fooled around in town in eve. Saw show.

2/18/1943 Thurs.- Got sick about 3:30 in morning. Vomit all over place. Went to medics in morning. Didn't do anything for me. Played volley ball in afternoon.

2/19/1943 Fri. - Went on march in morn. Lt. Fleshman led Btry. Cleaned Before until noon went into town after laundry. Picked ??? Slisee??? Poker game in tents.

2/20/1943 – Sat. on guard. Inspection in morn. ? Sergaent furlough in morn. Free haven't sandwiches in the eve. Rain is neverending. Bed at 1:00 A.M. Slept good. Halted ?????

2/21/1943 – Sun. Got up at 7:30 had breakfast no good. ??? Rain in morning. Pitched horse shoes with Jim A. Wrote to Mom in eve. Turning in early.

2/22/1943 – Mon. Rain in morning. To leave for furlough at 7:30 P.M. aft ??? at 1:00 A.M. Raining like hell. B Btry Boy drunk. Car crawled to last hill.

2/23/1943 Tues. Arrived at Dyre. About 3:30 P.M. Bertican ??? over R.R. bridge. Checked in Queens Hotel. Left at 11:00 A.M. loaded to home will caught Bus to Darwin around 5:47.

2/24/1943 Wed. Stayed in Bauen until 5:45A.M. left jfr McKay. Train slow as hell. Arrived at 4:00 P.M. Checked in a Alme Hotel ???

2/25/1943 Thurs. Saw about Jack & Shesley's pictures. Medouis watahi ?? Saw Deneat ?? Took Burtons Candy to Joyce. Went roller skating in eve. Did fairly good. Bed about 11:30

2/26/1943 – Fri. Went to Hiney's farm. Had good time. To denist in afternoon. Took Thel to the show in eve. Had very good time. OH Boy. Revive lunch.????

2/27/1943 Sat. Rented bicycles in morn. Went to headliner ? Drank in afternoon. To the dance at Majestic in eve. Had good time. Made date with Margie ???

2/28/1943 Sun. Slept till nine. Went bicycling to Lillian's house in rain. Slept in afterwards. Met Joe's Mana. Date stood me up.

February 1943 Memoranda – Not very eventful month. We have gotten a lot of good from marching although the boys bitch. Lots of roomers floated around. Wasn't balance to any of them. The boy's in 4th Seshin sp??? Are swell fellows, no doubt. Reading has done me an immense amount of good. Thinking more clearly. War news. Sounded good all month. Furlough started was very successful. Everyone had good time. Hope way they goes ????? next month . May God speed go well.

3/1/1943 Mon. Slept late in morn. Went to the denist at 3:30 two teeth filled. Dance at Parrish Hall. Dam good time. Pat sure is a swell dancer. Best in Australia. Bed at 1:00 A.M.

3/2/1943 Tues. Denist at 3:30. Two teeth filled. Dance at Majestic in eve. Pat didn't show up. Fair time. Saltie at show with Del. ???

3/3/1943 Wed. Denist at 9:30 finished up. Drank in afternoon.?? Go to St. Mary's in eve for dance. Didn't have very good time. Bed early.

3/4/1943 Thurs. Went to farm with Hiney at 9:30. Went riding and milked cows. To the Buffalo Hall in the eve. Half drunk on wine? Got sick? at hall. Bed about 12:00 midnight.

3/5/1943 Fri. Getting ready to leave in morning. Checked out of Hotel. Went to train at 2:00 p.m. No accommodations. Went to show at Arial Theater. Dance afterward.

3/6/1943 Sat. Reported to train at 1:00 p.m. No reservation, couldn't go. Returned to Palace at 3:00 a.m. Missed plane by 30 seconds. Spent day in Darwin ??

3/7/1943 Sun. Reported to train at 1:15 a.m. Pulled out at 2:30 a.m. Ten hour on train got in Townwilke ?? at 12 noon. Got settled in camp once more. Bed early.

3/8/1943 Mon. Got up at 6:30. Exercise early morning. Schirmish on hill. Marched on in morn afternoon. To bed early.

3/9/1943 Tues. Worked K.P. all day. Had class on gunnery at 10:00 a.m. To bed early. Have been in Australia one year today.

3/10/1943 Wed. Walk in morning & work on gun. Am reading Disputed Passage, Dam good reading. To bed at 9:30. Will's on guard.

3/11/1943 Thurs. March in morning and work on gun. ??otion in afternoon. Didn't do much all day. Roomer we're going to Garbutt.

3/12/1943 Fri. March in morning work on before gun in morn. & afternoon. Made ready for inspection tomorrow. Still reading. Want to catch up.

3/13/1943 Sat. up at 6:30: make ready for inspection at 8:30 everything goes off well. Willis, Millings & I go to horse races. Picked two winners. Show in eve.

3/14/1943 Sun. Slept late not much doing. Wrote home. Show in eve on guard tho. Stood down extra for Farmington. Mosquitos bad. Bed at 10:00

3/15/1943 Mon. March in morning and work on gun. Boy's are pretty bitter, gripe a lot. Good fellows tho. Jack, Art, Poe, Gip, Mullins, Chache, Pat, Kelly, Roop, Jimmy & Harry.

3/16/1943 Tues. March in morning, work on gun. Buxton is dam swell fellow. Got along good. Heyte & Jasso to dam dumb to pore piss from a boot. Camp life dull.

3/17/1943 Wed. March in morning. Test on gunnery in morn. Balleye don't know his stuff. Flishman & Boris two good guys. Hermanis & Sondanac?? full of shit.

3/18/1943 Thur. March. To to town in afternoon; get laundry. Presents for Kenneth. Bought camera. Ate with Spetler?? Show with Mack, Moose & Lelwiske. Oniplyca???

3/19/1943 Fri. Marched in morning & also gas class by St. Bandwear. Cleaned rifel. St. Tremaine inspected there. Nothing near. Go to bed early.

3/20/1943 Sat. Took walk. No inspection. Order to be packed by evening. Springer & I go to 13th station hospital to see Ned Hawkins. Grand fellow. Took pictures.

3/21/1943 Sun. Got up at 7:00. Making ready to move. Struck tent's at 8:30 a.m. Goofed around until 3:30. Moved to Garbutt at 4:00.

3/22/1943 Mon. Fooled around camp area all day. Poe, Jep, Moose & I went to town in eve. Saw show at W. Garden. Had letter from Bill in eve.

3/23/1943 Read Bill's letter. Loaded equipment on 2 ½. 1 hill hell to climb. Repp really put it up. Tractor failed on Gen. Prime mower pulled it up. What a joke.

3/24/1943 Wed. First day of work on pit. Doing all eight. Beautiful news all arrived. Hut in day time to cold at night. Sleep well.

3/25/1943 Thurs. Work on 40 pit in morning loafed in afternoon. This hill is sure trouble. Beautiful sunset. Everyone doing O.K. still bitching like hell.

3/26/1943 Fri. Work on 40 pit. Read Dr. Mayo's good reading. Beautiful Sun set in eve. Guard from 10 to be talked to Baldy on phone. Same stuff.

3/27/1943 Sat. Worked on 40 pit. Finished it. Hayte & Jasco came up a noon to go back down Monday. Read "Old McDonald had a farm." To bed early. The boy's shaved of my moostash.

3/28/1943 Sun. Up at 8:00. Work on 50 pit in morning. Same stuff. Read in afternoon. Started letter to Mother. Fighter Squadron in barracks. To bed went 8:00.

3/29/1943 Mon. Worked K.P. for breck fast. Came off hill at; 9:30. Took good shower. Hundred filled out new app. For Air Cadet. Same shit. Lots of air activity over Garbutt. Pretty busy.

3/30/1943 Tues. Worked on ??? detail wild Shultz, Charlie, Willis & Mullins, Shrimp are not so bad around here. Couldn't go to show. To bed rather early. Shot shit with art.

3/31/1943 Wed. Pow, Kelly, Jimmy & myself worked on water line detail. Pay in afternoon and then to town. Saw show at W. Garden. Back to area at 12:00. Slept good.

March 1943 Memoranda February in first few day's swell. The boy's are pretty bitter always's bitching. Move to Garbutt and position on hill was interesting. Section 4 is becoming frustrating.

4/1/1943 Thurs. Started to bomb demolation school at Garbutt. Rothfus, Chadie & Part. Decided it was no place for us so we quit. Fuck that noise. To bed quite early.

4/2/1943 Fri. Went to Bat. To denist for check up. Scott, Bright Rodg very. Slept in afternoon. Started "One Foot in Heaven". Kelly & Dave going for a walk.

4/3/1943 Sat. Rifel inspection in morn by Sgt. Jasco. "One Foot in Heaven" is sure a good book. We like this headquarters sargeant fairly well. Comments on Sgt. ????

4/4/1943 Sun. Broke camp in the morning & loaded truck to go on hill. We are to stay on the hill all the time. Helped Joe in kitchen & stood guard in eve. Not bad.

4/5/1943 Mon. Worked on gun in morning. Fellows are sure bitter & bitch all the time, nothing suites them. Reading a good bit more. Poe is sure a swell guy.

4/6/1943 Tues. Tracking in morning & gun drill. Beautiful view from here. Sunset's are astounding. Going to kill a goat. Rowland has missed it twice.

4/7/1943 Wed. Fellows still bitch & are sure bitter. Roop sure is turning for the bitter side. Well's & n Moose are still the same. Always's delivering the goods.

4/8/1943 Thurs. Sleeping good now. Got up around 7:30; not bad. Rothfus & Jeeter are doing good. Puonti is quite steady. Gerbrick is quite all right.

4/9/1943 Moose & I go out & get toe goat. Shot & Skin & all. What a time. Building floor for tent at kitchen. Boy's sure bitch more & more. What Next?

4/10/1943 Sat. Pert & I doing garbage pit. Moved from hill to kitchen today. Nice day. Boy's still bitching & raising hell; Non-comp's meeting in area. Some shit.

4/11/1943 Sunday Went to canteen & got drunk Sat. night. Had to be carried up the hill. Don't feel so bad today but not too good. Stood guard from 10:00 to 1:00. Poe relieved.

4/12/1943 Mon. Worked around gun this morning. Starting to guard for 24 hours. Bitter argument this morning. Kelly pretty bitter.

4/13/1943 Tues. Worked K.P. for Joe. Poultry pretty tough today. Capt. & Fleshman inspected, got hell as usual. Had to clean up the entire area. Boy's bitch. Put & Buckarque ???

4/14/1943 Went to town in afternoon. Mac & Stykis got drunk as hell. Drank beer in Grant hotel. Mac had a gight. Reapell & I came home.

4/15/1943 Poe & I was on guard. I stood all day. Poe all night. Frequently confined on gun pit. Fellows worked hard. Saw tow parashoot jumpes today.

4/16/1943 Taking it easy today. Kelly & Rathfur had argument. Wrote to ?? & came today. Hope to hear from them soon. Fire Chps? ??? ??

4/17/1943 Sat. The Aussies are becoming bitter toward us. Bad. We went to the canteen from here. Roop became drunk & had to be carried up in truck.

4/18/1943 Sun. The news carries ???of by Jap concentrations up north. We often wonder just what will happen in the year to come. I only wish we knew.

4/19/1943 Mon. Things not so bad. Could be worse. We are really lucky tho. Sitting here doing nothing. Some day we may wish we were back. Who knows?

4/20/1943 Tues. Things are rather quiet some say. Buck has gone on furlough. The Ausies think so. We worked the gun not too much to do but we fool around.

4/21/1943 Wed. Went to first class that Capt. Ballogh is giving on gunnery. Some good stuff in it. McLaughtan brought us back up the hill. On guard tonight.

4/22/1943 Thurs. Worked K.P. ????. Building new kitchen. We really need one. Rathfus & Rouwland are tow wsell guy's. Boy's don't appreciate them.

4/23/1943 Friday. Went to class at area. Washed clothe's in afternoon came up on return truck. Rained like hell the weather is much calmed tonight.

4/24/1943 Sat. Sattie & I go to town in afternoon. Went to Dog Roar. Lost 1 ½ lb. Drank beer in eve. Styke, Poe, ??? Felt fairly good.

4/25/1943 Sun. Cotar Sunday. Rather calm. Alert today. 8:00 p.m. no raid. Remember last Easter at Darwin, homelike. Slept in afterward. Started "Out of the Night" Boys fairly well satisfied today. Cool.

4/26/1943 Mon. Went to class in morning. Lt. Keytee?? Came up & we cleaned the gun in afternoon. Weather's cool. Catching up on my cleaning for last year. Shit

4/27/1943 Tues. On guard today. I stood the day guard & Poe the night. Read most of the time. Weather cool as hell now. Sleep good.

4/28/1943 Wed. To class in morning. Lt. Beri gave talk on "tracking off". Read & slept in afternoon. Genbrick, Poe & Moose went to canteen & got drunk. A bad time.

4/29/1943 Thurs. Went to town in afternoon. Sent cablegram's for Peet, Rathfus & Roop. Sent Mother's Day greetings to mom. Saw "Pride of the Yankees." Bought apples.

4/30/1943 Fri. Went to class in morning. Paid today. Read "Out of the Knight". Good writing to Hiney this eve. Poe, Ropp, Peet, Jim, Henry & Jack go to show.

4/1943 Memoranda The hill is not to bad. We all bitch a lot. Sgt. Buck went on and returned from Furlough. The Gunnery classes are good stuff. The boy's don't seem interested tho. The weather is much cooler the sleeping was good. Hail May.

5/1/1943 Sat. Feel trouble today. Had to lay off K.P. Poe & Repp helped me out. Good chaps. Bless em. Boy's still bitching and raising hell.

5/2/1943 Sun. Still sick. Go ? to medics for C.C. pill's. I feel a little better in afternoon. Sleep fairly good in afternoon.

5/3/1943 Mon. Feel better today. Sgt Buck is back. Go to class in morn. Clean gun too. Flashman gave lecture on ?ulvestor?. Good.

5/4/1943 Tues. Gun drill in morn. & discussion of F.A.S. Read in afternoon & night. Scott & Mac Ginnis came up in afternoon. Slept good.

5/5/1943 Wed. We had class in morn. at gun. Cpl Rathfus did the battery. Finished "Out of the Night". Received word of Grand Mother's death.

5/6/1943 Thurs. We are having's classes on gunnery ? on the gun. Rothfus is doing quite all right. The boy's seem interested. I can't understand it.\

5/7/1943 Fri. Poe, Peet ? & I go swimming at blue water. Eat at Btry area in eve. Got negative's from Stosser. Late when we got on the hill.

5/8/1943 Sat. Inspection today. Caught hell. Moved from lower tent to upper tent. Damn glad to get moved. Feel better now.

5/9/1943 Sun. On guard today. Reading "Berlin Diary." Pretty good. Lots of shooting on the hill. The boy's still bitch plenty.

5/10/1943 Mon. Help in the kitchen today. Tunisia is about finished. The boy's are happy.

5/11/1943 Tues. Col. Welty was up this morning. We messed up as usual. Put out the gun out. Kaytl? Rained hell in years.

5/12/1943 Wed. Go before O.C.S. board this morning. Major Burt at 41st Brg. Hdq. was in charge. I don't know how I came out. I hope for the best.

5/13/1943 Thurs. Jack & I go after ward at no. 1 gun. Lot's of mail came in. The boy's are playing ball now. Poe, Jim, Charlie & Peet. Everything's O.K.

5/14/1943 Fri. Hayte was up this morning. Things have improved soe what. Read in afternoon. Finished "Berlin Diary". Sleep good in eve.

5/15/1943 Sat. Go on guard at 8:30 a.m. To have inspection this morning. On guard 24 hrs. Poe was playing ball at the 208th game. Mosquitoes are pretty bad.

5/16/1943 Sun. Layed around all day. Not much to do. Kelly & Gip are riding horses. Jack & I go down to canteen & in town with Garrington & Tugs??

5/17/1943 Mon. Up at 6:30 for the first time the boys bitch like hell. The nights are cold as hell, we sleep good. The hill is getting old now. Same shit.

5/18/1943 Tues. Jack & I go to town. What a show. The Saylor's are in, big convoy. They are fighting all over town. Drunk & still drinking. We went to the Roxie.

5/19/1943 Wed. Weather's cold. Manual of Arms & gun frill in morning. Worked on gun in P.M. Reading "**Assignment to Berlin**" by H. Flannery. Good book.

5/20/1943 Thurs. Work K.P. today. Real good meals. Joe is dam good cook. Jim, Almond, Scanerido, Lellabertie, Greenberry, Landriver & Freemaine transferred.

5/21/1943 Fri. On guard today. Day shift for me. Director went lunch? Wagner fixed it. The weather is cooler now. Went to bed early. Slept very well.

5/22/1943 Sat. Expected inspection; no soap. Finished "**Assignment to Berlin**". So move off hill Mon. I'm not to crazy about it. The others are.

5/23/1943 Sun. Went to town. Saw Lt. Freemaine about transfer to 155 Btry. Went to two shows. "**Strange Cargo**" & "**Beyond the Blue Horizon**". Good shows.

5/24/1943 Mon. Left hill today. Traded guns with Sgt. Maden on No. 1 gun. We like it so far. Everything's handy, canteen, show, town ect..

5/25/1943 Tues. Looks as if my transfer may materialize. Good rumors to that effect. Went to Army show in morning to Roxy Theater. "The Next of Kin".

5/26/1943 Looks as if I headed out of **the 102nd**. Jim, Kelly & I. I try not to be too optimistic tho. Just have my fingers crossed. But hope to hell I make it.

5/27/1943 Thurs. Poe & I were on guard. Six his apice & for 24. The weather is cold at night. We hate this shit. Late nothing can be done about it.

5/28/1943 Fri. Tracked planes in the morning. Cleaned 40 in afternoon. Still looking forward to transfer into 155 Arty. ? The nights are cold on hill now.

5/29/1943 Sat. Inspection by Lt. Whitcover ?? today. Caught hell for laying on the bunk when he was here. Went to see show at 12 th. "**The Hard Way**"

5/30/1943 Sun. Zip & I going to church. The minster was in fine form. We went to a show in the afternoon at the Roxy. "**The Man With the Iron Mask**". Good

5/31/1943 Mon. Pay day. Scott to go on furlough. I lent him 10 pounds. I was to go but had to stay back. Still haven't heard about our transfer.

5/1943 Memoranda The hill wasn't to bad. I like it. This no 1. Position is nice tho. The attempt to transfer has had me wrought up some. I'm bitter.

6/1/1943 Tues. Played ball with Poe & team today. We lost 7-5. On guard today. I have to go on at 1:00 a.m. We don't feel to bad about it.

6/2/1943 Wed. Moose & I went to town. Saw "Mrs. Miniver" at the WinterGarden. Saw Henry Martian. he's in 13. Station hospital. Came home early. Bed Early.

6/3/1943 Thurs. Jim Peronts & I washed in morning. Gun drill in afternoon. Look's as if our transfer has been nipped in the bud. We feel bad.

6/4/1943 Fri. Gun drill in morning. It is raining. Rain at 12:00 noon. Rained most of day. Weather's cold now. Go to canteen in eve. To bed early.

6/5/1943 Sat. What a miserable day. Rain & cold. Slept most of afternoon. Saw "Lucky" B24 all shot to hell. Same A.A. the jap's have. We know that.

6/6/1943 Sun. On guard today. I was on first in morn & eve. Weather still cold. Harry bought me ice cream from canteen. Bless him.

6/7/1943 Mon. Sgt. Perry said my transfer may go thru. Still in doubt. Not much doing now. Tracking & gun drill; we didn't like it. Who does?

6/8/1943 Tues. On detail today. Cpl. Magruder, Bright, Days?? & myself. Put camflage on C.P. pit at no. two gun. To bed early in eve.

6/9/1943 Wed. Poe & I went to town bought two rolls of 620 film's. Traded cigaretts. Saw "To the Shores of Tripoli" & show at Roxy. Home on Aus corps bus ??

6/10/1943 Thurs. Before black out did on the blink. Suopa is trying to fix it. He can't. Air Corp's hot water ??? working.

6/11/1943 Fri. Poe & I on guard. Had to get up at 1:00 a.m. Poe ? slept until 2. We don't mind guard tho. Rained in eve. Had talk with Ridgeway.

6/12/1943 Sat. Inspection in morning. Jim Bright & I plan on going up to Mt. Speck tomorrow. Passes cancelled also furloughs for time being.

6/13/1943 Sun. Not much doing today. Lay around & slept most of day. Met two fellows from W. Va. Lumberpast & Rickwood. Two mountain boy's.

6/14/1943 Pretty sad today. But was cheered up in eve. Have to go before air corp's hour in morning. Hope to do good.

6/15/1943 Tues. Went in front of Air Corps head. They gave me hell. Passed O.K. Called me back for physical. Everything O.K. but shnider? . Tomorrow.

6/16/1943 Wed. Went to Air Corp's medics for "snider test"? Passed O.K. Went to 12th Station hosp. in aft. For khan test & Photo. Met. ?????

6/17/1943 Thurs. Expecting big inspection today. Inspection officer was around to a field gun. Not ours.

6/18/1943 Fri. Capt. From Gen.Kreger 6th Army headquarters inspected. ? fellows. Knows his stuff. Poe & I got all the questions. Capt. Croft.

6/19/1943 Sat. Inspection today by Lt. Hayte. Ammo has to be cleaned. The nights are sure cold now. We pile on all the blankets we have.

6/20/1943 Sun. Jim Bright & myself to up to Mt. Speck. Beautiful trip. Large forest's. Two fe? ? on bus. We walk thru trails in forest very nice.

6/21/1943 Mon. Show drawn inspection by Lt. Kayte. We are getting ready to move to the north. All old things are thrown out to go by plane.

6/22/1943 Tues. Went to town. Took negatives to Kodak. Bought four rolls of 620 behind to sceans
Went to show in eve. Wintergarden

6/23/1943 Wed. Gas lecture & demonstration by chemical warfare's officer. Very good. Finished
reading "Munir Playground" ??? fair; started "Day's of Our Years" Discusting ??

6/24/1943 Thurs. Rowland came home today sure a long furlough he's had. Scott is in Brisbane in front
of the air corp's board. Lucky.

6/25/1943 Fri. I guess we're going to move; up north & behind. The air corps deal is down. I'm still
hoping. Against hope tho.

6/26/1943 Sat. Poe & I on guard. We pull 40 out of pit. Moulin's crew is coming down. We moved into
C.P. Stand C.Q. at headquarters. Officers party.

6/27/1943 Sunday Crating equipment today. Box generator, director, cosmoline & grease gun well.
Shot crap in eve lost. Go bed early. Dam near froze. Shit.

6/28/1943 Mon. Packed bag's for morning. A.B. & Muset bag. Will's Moose & I go to Garbutt field to
see C-54 transport plane. Some Job. – Hell –

6/29/1943 Fooled around most of day. Was made Cpl. today. About time. I think. Rathfus, Bednack
are sergeants. I & Rauehschrift cpls. Not too bad tho.

6/30/1943 Wed. Pay day today. Not doing much more. Between tow sections. Rouland & I go to town
in eve. Wear my stripes for first time. Go to show.

6/1943 Memoranda - The stay on no. 1 position was sure swell. Met three fellows from W. VA.
Petersburg, Benwood & Lumberport. The air corp board wasn't so bad. Tickled to have passed it.
Maybe I'll get in the air corp's after all. Making corporal was quite O.K. We're moving up north? or
somewhere. I only hope for the last.

7/1/1943 Thurs. Didn't do much today. Physical inspection in afternoon. Have loned out Scott 25, ?5,
Wells 1 ½, Gelwick 2, McGinnes 2, Sent Scott 5 today.

7/2/1943 Fri. Went in town this morning & got the pictures. Turned the negatives back in. Dam "good
looking" girl in censor's officer – wow –

7/3/1943 Moved to Bosworth's section this morning. Washed cloths in afternoon. We get jungle issue
today. Got moving orders at 9:30 P.M. Tomorrow at 4PM

7/4/1943 Sun. Up at 4:30. Eat & struck tents by 8:30. Load up and go to boat at 12:00 noon. Board
ship at 1 p.m. Pull out at 2:P.M. I don't like boats.

7/5/1943 We are packed in no 2. Hole. C & D btry's. Lots of boys are sick as hell. Springer is one of
them. We eat like boy's – Shit.

7/6/1943 Tues. Sea is rough as hell today. There are 15 boats in convoy. I'm cpl. of the guard tonight.
We are manning the Navy's 20 mm airodons?. The weather's warmer.

7/7/1943 Wed. Navy relieved us of the guns at 2:00 We sight land at 1:15P.M., my first glipts of New
Guinea. Put in at Port Moresby. Slept on ground. Not to good.

7/8/1943 Thurs. We are camped about 10 miles from Port Moresby. The U.S. has big air base here.
The 24: 17's 25's 39's & 38's left about 9 a.m. and returned at 12 noon.

7/9/1943 Fri. We are expecting to leave soon for Duna ? or there about's. We are to fly over in the transport plane's. We don't mind that so much.

7/10/1943 Sat. We went to show near the point. Very large crowd, about 10,000 men in all. Springer, Moose & I went down. Catch ride back.

7/11/1943 Sun. We are taking it fairly easy now. We see lots of natives ??? They sell grass skirts & coconut's. This isn't too bad a place. We eat good.

7/12/1943 Mon. We arrange tent's & start digging shit trenches. We take strabene tablet's after chow. Most of the boys got sick. I vomited about 9:00 P.M.

7/13/1943 Tues. Got up at 6:00 Made ready for leaving. Drove toward town. Loaded up planes taxied to the runway. Flight cancelled, low clouds over pass. Shit.

7/14/1943 Wed. Got up at 6:00 Strike tents & make read for plane trip. Leave for air port at noon. Took off at 1:45 P.M. : took 55 min. over the ? Standip to Dubodora.???

7/15/1943 Thurs. Set up about 3 mi. from stug??? About in morning. Recon plane lit out a balloon. We've sure burning up here. This sun sure beats down.

7/16/1943 Fri. We fixed tent's in the morning. Joe Drobiski & I took a walk around the area. We're planning on going to Buna tomorrow.

7/17/1943 Sat. Rained all day. Joe & I hich hiked to Buna. What a place, all blowed to shit. Jap "Zero's" are all over the place. Landing barges too.

7/18/1943 Sun. Up at 5:45 pack up to go to "Aro Bay" Wait all day until 6:00 then leave. Buxton's crew came over today. We had to pitch tent's in the dark.

7/19/1943 Mon. Located on beach at Aro Bay. Lined with palm trees. Palenty of natives. Saw native cause today. Sgt Perry came over today. The works will fly???

7/20/1943 Tues. We are still on the beach. The natives are quite thick. I met Kenneth, an eight year old native palenty smart. Had alert in eve. No action.

7/21/1943 Wed. We pack up and move to Btry area on hill above the bay. This is a hell of a place. We all go to show in eve. Poe & I came back.

7/22/1943 Thurs. We move to the gun position. Directly above the bay. The Aussie's left a hell of a mess. The gun pit is quite all right. Oh well.

7/23/1943 Fri. We are cleaning up this area. Palenty of room for improvement. We cleaned up the tire cans. What a job. I don't understand how they stood it.

7/24/1943 Sat. Still cleaning up the area. Put a floor in the mess tent. The boys are swell fellows. Every dam one of them. I'm not to good a Cpl.

7/25/1943 Sun. Out of a clear blue sky came the air cadet approval. I'm knocked off my feet. Maybe we'll see home yet, May God bless us all.

7/26/1943 Mon. Moved to Bn. Hq. this morning. Ack & I we washed clothes in the creek. We are to leave tomorrow at 1:00. I'm kind of restless. Why not.

7/27/1943 We leave Gubadoca at 7:45. Col. Wulte saw us off. Arrive at Port Moseby 8:30 Leave Moesby at 12:40 arrive at Townsville at 4:00 p.m. Stay at Bn. P?????

7/28/1943 Pretty hard to say "Good bye" to Scott. It's a dam shame he couldn't have come along. Left Townsville at 12:40. Stopped at McKay and Nockhaptan. Arrived at Baeslaird?? At 5:30. Checked in 11 replacement.

7/29/1943 Layed around most of the day. There are 45 men leaving tomorrow for the states. We're not among them. Ack & I go to town in eve. Met the Spicer.

7/30/1943 Ack, Duskansen, Cockeran & I work 11 P. in officer mess. We leave at 4:00 P.M. for the air transport office. T come back at 12 midnight. Weighed in and went to show.

7/31/1943 Sat. Leave A.T.C. office at 12:30. Left Amburly(Amberely) Field at 2:15 A.M. Arrived at Plaine De Gainces on New Caledonia. Left at 8:30 arrived at Nandi,(Nadi) Fiji at 1:25. Stay over nite.

7/1943 – Memoranda – Left Nandi 6:00 A.M. August 1. Arrived in Lefuna, Samoa at 1: p.m. July 31. Some shit hey. We crossed the date line. Flew on to Christmas Island arrived 9: PM

8/1/1943 Sun. up at 5:30 ate & left at 7:30 for Hawaii.

(This ends the Darrell E. Smith diary.)

[Camp Edwards - Wikipedia](#) < - <- Darrell trained at this military base.
His diary begins here.

[New York, Ontario and Western Railway](#) – Train Darrell boarded to travel west

[New York Central Railroad](#) – Darrell through Missouri

[Southern Pacific Railroad](#) - Darrell rode into San Francisco

[USS Matsonia \(ID-1589\)](#) – Darrell's transport ship to Australia

[Hughes Airfield - Wikipedia](#) - This is where Darrell was stationed in Australia
[WWII Hughes Airfield – Heritage Register](#)

[49th Fighter Group - WWII - World War II - Army Air Forces \(armyaircorpsmuseum.org\)](#)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/49th_Fighter_Group

[P-40 Fighter Pilot: Fighting for His Life - Warfare History Network](#)

[Curtiss P-40 Warhawk - Wikipedia](#)

[Brewster F2A Buffalo - Wikipedia](#)

[A Gentleman at Heart - Wikipedia](#) 1942 movie

[Rings on Her Fingers - Wikipedia](#) 1942 movie

[Argentine Nights - Wikipedia](#) 1940 movie

[The Great Waltz \(1938 film\) - Wikipedia](#) 1938 film

[Pacific Wrecks - Garbutt Field \(RAAF Townsville\), Queensland, Australia](#)

[Douglas C-54 Skymaster](#) – transport plane

[Douglas C-54 Skymaster \(historyofwar.org\)](#)

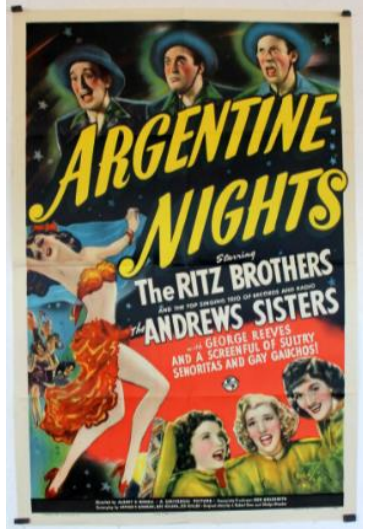
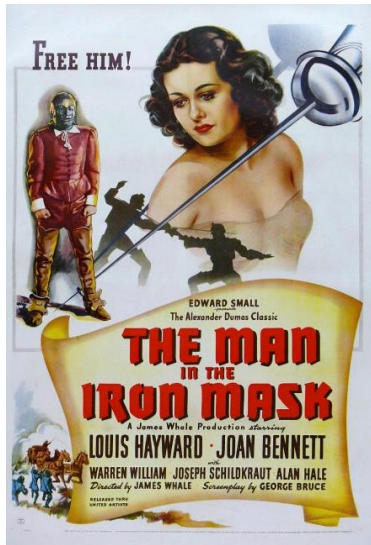
[New Guinea - Wikipedia](#)

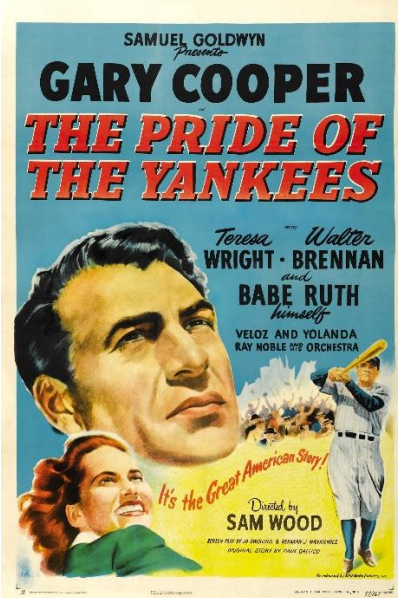
Port Moresby, New Guinea - 7/7/1943 - [\(1\) port moresby new guinea ww2 - Bing](#)

Buna, Papua New Guinea - [\(1\) Buna, Papua New Guinea ww2 - Bing](#)

Following are some of the movies Darrell saw while in Australia







[Bofors 40 mm gun - Wikipedia](#) Machine gun used by Darrell

[Read about the 40 cal. gun used in Australia.](#)



 alamy stock photo

DXTYYE
www.alamy.com

102ND COASTAL ARTILLERY (AA SEPARATE) BATTALION IN AUSTRALIA DURING WW2

102nd Coastal Artillery Battalion (AA Separate) left San Francisco, USA on the Troop Transport "Matsonia" (former luxury liner) on 18 February 1942. The [208th Coastal Artillery \(AA\) Regiment](#) was also on board the "Matsonia".

The 102nd arrived in Brisbane on 9 March 1942 and anchored overnight, possibly part of the same convoy as the [197th Coastal Artillery \(AA\) Regiment](#) which was on the SS Monterey. The "Matsonia" pulled into docks on 10 March 1942. They moved to [Camp Ascot](#). On 11 March 1942, orders were received from Brigadier General Clark, the Commanding Officer of 41st Coastal Artillery Brigade that the battalion would move to Darwin.

The 102nd CA Bn comprised:-

HQ Battery
Battery "A" 3 platoons, each with 4 guns
Battery "B" 3 platoons, each with 4 guns
Battery "C" 3 platoons, each with 4 guns
Battery "D" 3 platoons, each with 4 guns

The 102nd CA Bn was issued with 48 only .50" calibre machine guns when they arrived in San Francisco on their way to Australia.

On 13 March 1942, the 102nd commenced a major air movement to Darwin and by 8 April 1942, 31 officers, and 560 enlisted men and 49 only .50" calibre machine guns, four units of fire and required field kitchen and necessary equipment had been flown to Darwin. This was the first large scale American airborne operation of the war and the first time an anti-aircraft unit had flown into combat. The planes were piloted by American, Australian and Dutch pilot using every available transport aircraft. Two enlisted men of the 102nd CA Bn were [killed in a Qantas Short Empire flying boat on 22 March 1942 while landing in Darwin Harbour](#). The trucks of the 102nd were driven by road to the Northern Territory via Mount Isa.

A six man detail lead by Lt. Julian from Battery "A" was selected to greet [General Douglas MacArthur](#) when he arrived at Batchelor Airfield on 17 March 1942 after his escape from the Philippines. [General MacArthur](#) came directly from the plane to the small group of American soldiers, before turning to the other waiting groups. Apparently the welcome went like this:-

Julian - *"Glad to have you here Sir."*

MacArthur - *"Glad to be here Lieutenant. So these are the new helmets."*

Three minutes later the 102nd honour guard were back in the gun pits or unloading the battalions incoming planes.

50 calibre machine guns of the 102nd were also based at [Livingstone airfield](#) in the Northern Territory. When they left their positions were taken over by the 40mm Bofors guns of the Australian 161st Light Anti-aircraft Battery (LAA Bty).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I'd like to thank Russell Miller and Dave Spethman for their assistance with this home page.

[Dedicated to the Men of the 102nd Separate Battalion Coast Artillery Anti-Aircraft, a War Memorial \(hmdb.org\)](#)

Buffalo in Erie County, New York — *The American Northeast (Mid-Atlantic)*

**Dedicated to the Men of the 102nd
Separate Battalion Coast Artillery Anti-
Aircraft**



By Anton Schwarzmuller, June 3, 2015

1. Dedicated to the Men of the 102nd Separate Battalion Coast Artillery Anti-Aircraft Memorial

Inscription. 

This unit was formed from 2nd Squadron 121st Cavalry NYRG serving Feb. 1928 to October 1940 at Buffalo, N.Y.

The unit was converted and redesignated 102nd Separate Battalion Coast Artillery (AA) Oct. 1940

Unit inducted into Federal Service Jan. 6, 1941 and stationed at Camp Edwards, Mass. Additional 200 men from Ft. Niagara assigned to unit.

On Jan. 1, 1942 the 102nd furnished 280 men to man the guns on troop ships, freighters and tankers sailing to ports in all theatres of war.

Jan. 20, 1942 400 men from Ft. Eustis, VA assigned to unit. Feb. 10, 1942 unit left for southwest Pacific theatre. Battle honors World War II - Darwin Australia East Indies Papua - New Guinea - Leyte - Mindoro - Luzon and southern Philippines

At the conclusion of World War II unit deactivated at Luzon, Philippine Islands in December 1945.

Topics. This memorial is listed in this topic list: [War, World II.](#)

Location. 42° 52.645' N, 78° 52.787' W. Marker is in Buffalo, New York, in Erie County. Memorial can be reached from the intersection of



By Anton Schwarzmuller, June 3, 2015

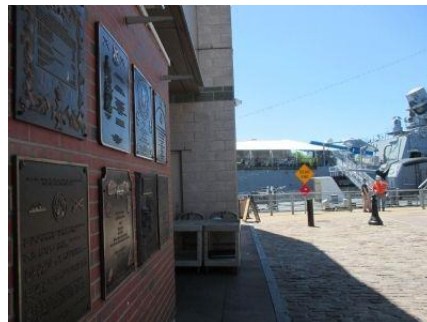
2. Northeast View

Farthest left in 2nd row.

Marine Drive and Commercial Street. Memorial is the fifth on the north exterior wall of the Buffalo Naval & Military Park Museum. [Touch for map](#). Marker is at or near this postal address: 1 Naval Park Cove, Buffalo NY 14202, United States of America. [Touch for directions](#).

Other nearby markers. At least 8 other markers are within walking distance of this marker. [106th Field Artillery Regiment](#) (here, next to this marker); [Buffalo Cavalry Association](#) (here, next to this marker); [God Honor and Country](#) (here, next to this marker); [In Recognition of Long and Faithful Service](#) (here, next to this marker); [Wedding of the Waters](#) (within shouting distance of this marker); [William Wells Brown](#) (within shouting distance of this marker); [PTF-17](#) (within shouting distance of this marker); [USS Boston SSN703](#) (within shouting distance of this marker). [Touch for a list and map](#) of all markers in Buffalo.

Also see . . . [Buffalo Naval & Military Park / Family Museum](#). (Submitted on June 22, 2015, by Anton Schwarzmuller of Wilson, New York.)



By Anton Schwarzmuller, June 3, 2015


3. Southwest View

Towards the Buffalo River.

Credits. This page was last revised on June 16, 2016. It was originally submitted on June 22, 2015, by Anton Schwarzmüller of Wilson, New York. This page has been viewed 351 times since then and 21 times this year. **Photos: 1, 2, 3.** submitted on June 22, 2015, by Anton Schwarzmüller of Wilson, New York.

[US Army 13th Station Hospital, Major Creek \(ozatwar.com\)](http://ozatwar.com)

13TH STATION HOSPITAL BASE SECTION TWO, TOWNSVILLE DURING WWII



The US Army 13th Station Hospital was based at the large 1,000 bed American hospital at Major Creek on the other side of Mt. Elliot between Giru and [Woodstock](#) (closer to Woodstock). The main hospital building were made of iron and the wards were built from fibro and timber. The Medical Corps lived in square tents in the paddocks. The hospital had its own electric generators and water was pumped from the local creek.



State Library of Queensland - [Image number: 153176](#)

Lt. Colonel George Rohrbacher next to the 13th U.S. Army Station hospital

The 13th Station Hospital then moved to the corner of Hatchett Street and Ross River Road, Aitkenvale, Townsville where a 450 bed hospital was established. Hut type buildings were placed 45 cms off the ground and they were connected by ramps. In July 1945 the site was taken over by the Headquarters Company.



Plan of the 13th Station Hospital at Aitkenvale

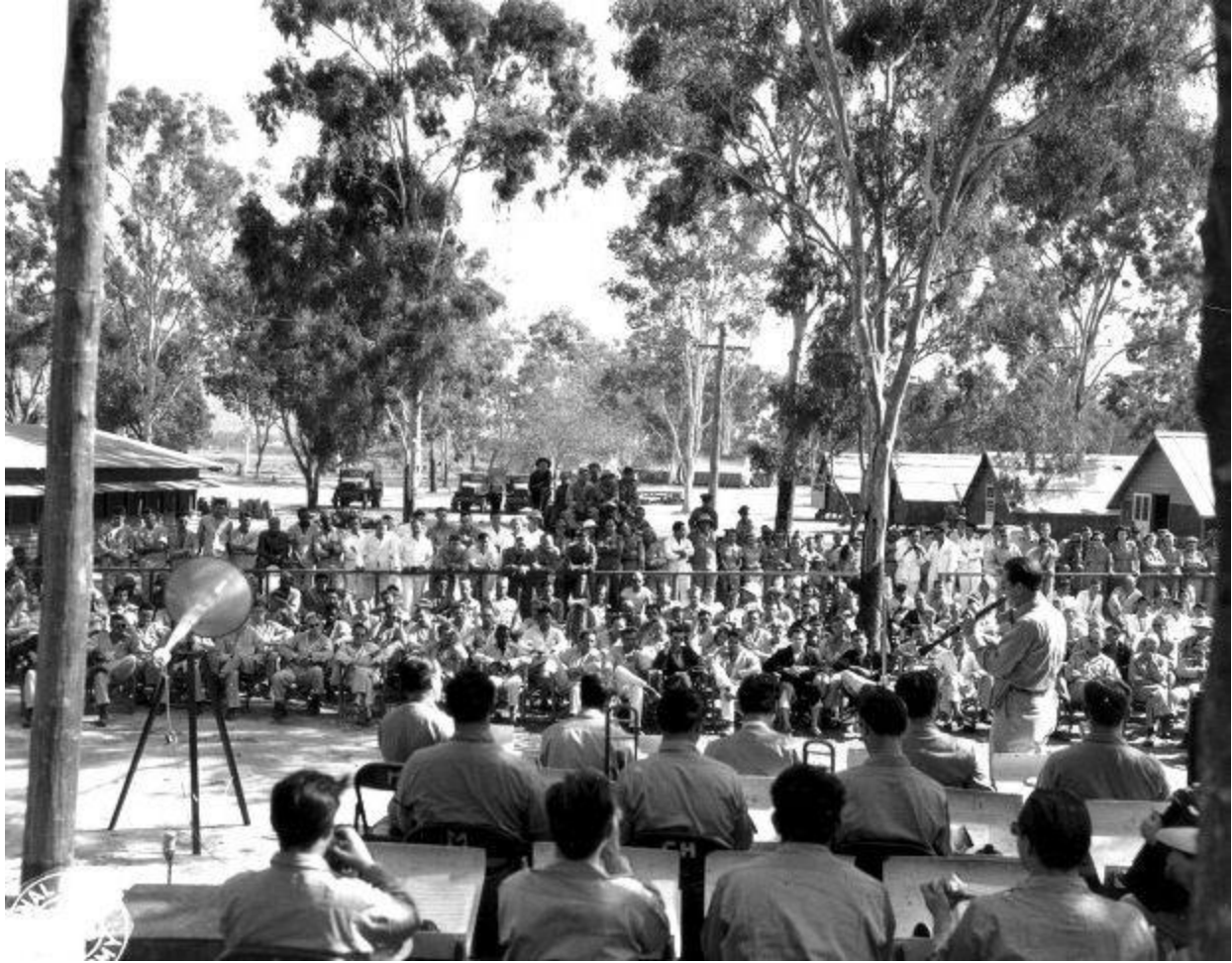
In May 1944, the Commanding Officer of the 13th Station Hospital was Major P.H. Milton.

I seem to remember that the St Thomas More Church in Palmerston Street, Pimlico Townsville was one of the buildings from this hospital at Hatchett Street. I remember it was a very hot and stuffy building with push out and tilt type windows. The building has long since disappeared.



State Library of Queensland - [Image number: 153183](#)

1st Lieut. John Radlinski of the 13th (Black Cat) in 1942. The Chaplain was a Roman Catholic but conducted services for all religious denominations.



Photos:- via Monica and Trevor Cowling

Artie Shaw, Chief Specialist U.S.N., and his band play for patients of the 13th Station Hospital, Aitkenvale, Townsville, on 24 September 1943.



Photos:- via Monica and Trevor Cowling

Senators Albert B. Chandler, Ralph O. Brewster and James M. Meade, touring the 13th Station Hospital at Aitkenvale, Townsville, stop to chat to patients Cpl. Norman Lessard and Sgt. Frank H. North on 9 September 1943

The site of the 13th Station Hospital is now partly occupied by the Holy Spirit Primary School, on the corner of Ross River Road and Hatchett Street, Cranbrook.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I'd like to thank Monica and Trevor Cowling for their assistance with this web page.

Can anyone help me with more information?

"Australia @ War" WWII Research Products



[Mount Spec Road and Little Crystal Creek Bridge - Wikipedia](#)

[Mount Spec, Paluma Range National Park | Parks and forests | Department of Environment and Science, Queensland \(des.qld.gov.au\)](#)

1943-1944: New Guinea

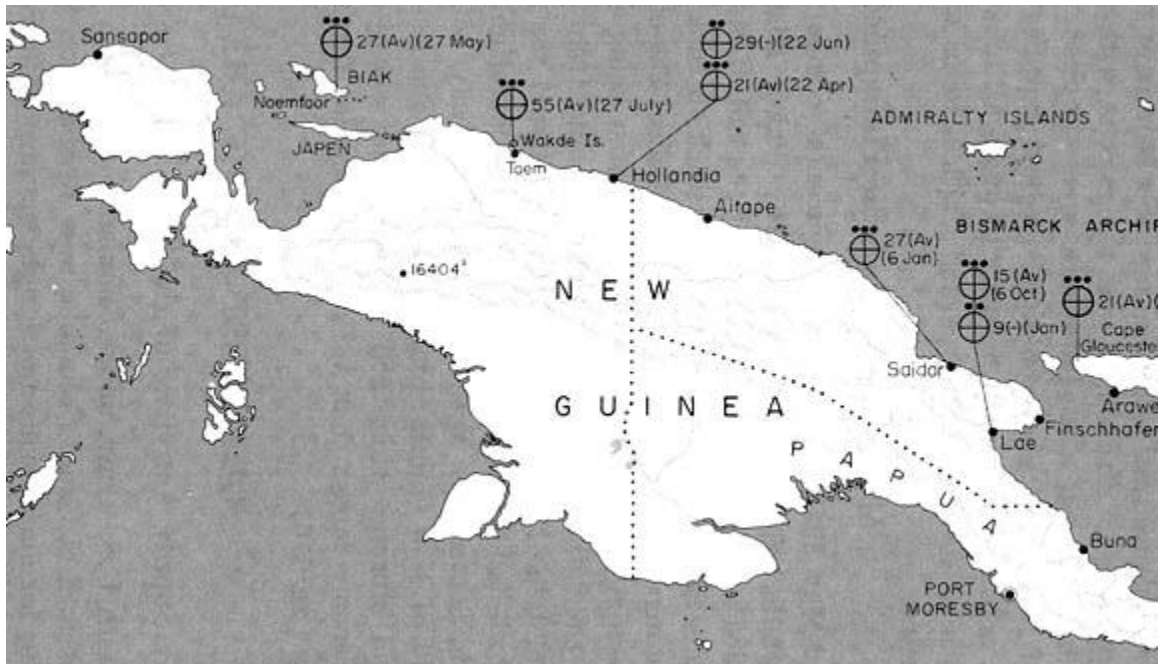
By January 1943, the Americans and Australians had ejected the Japanese from [Papua, New Guinea](#). General Douglas MacArthur, the Southwest Pacific Area (SWPA) commander, had secured an airstrip and staging base at [Buna](#) on the New Guinea north coast. But heavy U.S. casualties left the unprepared American divisions too dissipated for battle, requiring about six months to recuperate. The Australians, despite their own losses, took on the next phase against the Japanese.



Unloading supplies on the beach at Hollandia, New Guinea, April 1944.

Today in WW II: 19 Jun 1944 First day of the [Battle of the Philippine Sea](#), the last major carrier aircraft battle [19-20 June].

The New Guinea Campaign After Papua



New Guinea Campaign Map.

Despite the Japanese defeat at [Buna](#) and the heavy losses in the continuing struggle for [Guadalcanal](#), in January 1943 Japan still held the preponderant air, naval, and ground strength in the Southwest Pacific and retained the strategic initiative in New Guinea. With these advantages, they planned to strike again for Port Moresby, their target on the south coast of Papua.

Expanding from a major air base and anchorage on the Huon Gulf at Lae (NE New Guinea) the next Japanese objective was to secure a forward air base at Wau, weakly held by the Australians, located about 150 miles west-northwest of Buna. The ability of U.S. Navy cryptanalysts to provide MacArthur with solid intelligence made it impossible for the Japanese to evade Allied countermoves to their plans. Japanese reinforcements were sent to Lae for the Wau operation, but Allied air attacks sank most the troop ships. Without reinforcements, the under strength attack on Wau was repulsed by the Australians, who were reinforced themselves using American air transports. A second Japanese attempt to reinforce Lae was again attacked and destroyed during the Battle of the Bismarck Sea (2-5 March 1943), when the U.S. Fifth Air Force and Royal Australian Air Force together with U.S. Navy small craft sank eight transports and four destroyers.

From February to June 1943 the eastern New Guinea battle zone lapsed into a stalemate as the Allies and the Japanese reinforced and replaced earlier losses. Shipping shortages created logistics and transportation bottlenecks for both sides. Neither side had the resources in early 1943 to force a decisive victory, and both expected a war of attrition to continue.

Amphibious Operations Accelerate the Pace in New Guinea

In June 1943, SWPA conducted an amphibious operation, landing at Nassau Bay, about forty miles from Lae, to threaten Japanese defenders at Salamaua, north of Nassau Bay on the approaches to Lae. As a pincer movement, while the Americans pushed along the coast, Australian troops advanced on a western axis from Wau through the Markham Valley. Although the Japanese defenders were few in number, the jungle terrain made progress extremely slow and costly. The Allies were helped by strikes on 17-18 August 1943 against the Japanese airfield at Wewak that damaged or destroyed 128 planes, 75% of the Japanese aircraft. American losses from the end of June until 12 September, when Salamaua fell, were 81 killed and 396 wounded while the Australians suffered 112 killed, 346 wounded, and 12 missing. Many others were sick or psychologically damaged from the appalling conditions. The Japanese lost more than 1,000 men.

Amphibious landings 4-6 September put Australian troops on a beachhead eighteen miles east of Lae. On 5 September American airborne troops established a new position at Nadzab, about twenty miles west of Lae. The dual operations forced the Japanese to withdraw to Finschhafen fifty miles east of Lae, which was occupied on 16 September. The Japanese evaded the Australians by a detour into the mountains, but at a terrible cost in Japanese lives.

Finschhafen was the strong point that guarded the western side of the sixty-mile-wide straits separating New Guinea and New Britain. From fortified Sattelberg Ridge, high ground overlooking the entire coastline, about 3,000 Japanese waited for the Allies, ready to block any further push toward Sio.

Strategic Changes in the New Guinea Campaign

At the Quebec Conference in August 1943, the decision was made to bypass Rabaul and concentrate MacArthur's forces on the neutralization of the Japanese on New Guinea as far west as Wewak. In the same period, the Japanese loss of the Central Solomons and the Aleutians convinced Tokyo to convert New Guinea into a delaying action to keep as many of MacArthur's troops tied down as possible. Under these new strategic guidelines, the campaign continued.

Australian troops arrived at Finschhafen on 22 September, quickly cleared the port, then started up the Sattelberg ridge line where they took heavy casualties against the entrenched defenders. Two weeks later the Japanese retaliated with a ground attack, easily repulsed by the Australians, and an amphibious landing that was much harder to repel. The Japanese counterattack was eventually broken, and Finschhafen was occupied on 2 October, but the Japanese fought on until late November 1943, with a loss of at least 5,500 soldiers.

MacArthur's next New Guinea objective was Madang, about halfway between Finschhafen and Wewak. To strike Madang, Allied amphibious forces were protected on the flank from Japanese based on New Britain by the seizure of bases there. On 15 December, three Army landings were made in the Arawe area followed on 26 December by a larger landing of U.S. Marines which captured the important air base at Cape Gloucester.

During December 1943, Australian troops moved both from Finschhafen along the coast on the north side of Finisterre Range as well as through the Ramu Valley on the south side of the range. Saidor, 175 miles west of Finschhafen, was taken with an unopposed landing of U.S. Sixth Army troops on 2 January 1944 to cut off the Japanese retreat, trapping a division at Sio. The Japanese sidestepped inland around Saidor, abandoning equipment and valuable cryptographic intelligence materials retrieved by the Allies. Continuing air attacks against Japanese supply lines and airfields by Army and Naval forces contributed materially to the success of ground operations.

Allied Forces Gain the Advantage in New Guinea

By 31 January 1944, MacArthur's SWPA forces had three regimental combat teams, three engineer special brigades, and five Australian infantry divisions, with three more U.S. infantry divisions on the way. Combat effectiveness was much higher as the lessons of jungle fighting were applied in training and support disciplines. As important, the Allies had achieved overwhelming numerical superiority in air and naval strength. The Japanese, in contrast, could not replace their losses in aircraft, shipping, and skilled manpower. However, they were helped by the New Guinea jungle that sheltered them from Allied planes and made large scale offensive maneuvers against them difficult or impossible.

MacArthur used Allied air and naval superiority to land troops where the Japanese were weakest, to confine the stronger Japanese forces to pockets from which they could not break out due to natural terrain obstacles and the Allied control of air and sea. The next nine months of 1944 were devoted to this strategy.

Capture of the Admiralties at the end of February 1944 isolated Rabaul and gave MacArthur a forward air base that extended his fighter range past Wewak. He took advantage of the superior position and battle resources by ordering a change in plans that would leapfrog 400 miles up the New Guinea coastline to capture the major Japanese air and supply base at Hollandia, in the Humboldt Bay area. Sixty [B-24 heavy bombers](#), escorted by [long-range P-38s](#), went against Hollandia on 30 March, demolishing nearly all the Japanese aircraft and ending any threat to the Allies from the sky over New Guinea. A well-designed deception effort kept the Japanese expecting a blow at the Madang-Hansa area while the true focus shifted to the west at Hollandia and Aitape, splitting the Japanese forces on New Guinea in half. On 22 April, three landings were made by the U.S. Sixth Army, two in the Hollandia area and one to the east at Aitape. On 26 April the pincers closed on Hollandia and the few surviving Japanese fled to the jungle in hopes of reaching Sarmi, about 150 miles to the northwest.

The next leapfrog landed unopposed in Maffin Bay near Sarmi on 17 May and took the small Wakde Island after two days of unexpectedly heavy fighting. An attempt on Sarmi Village

(about eighteen miles west of the beachhead) was held up by an effective Japanese defense and threatened counterattack. Lone Tree Hill, the high ground dominating Maffin Bay, was finally taken by reinforcements on 24 June. Scattered resistance continued through the end of 1944; the fighting near Sarmi cost U.S. Army units approximately 2,100 battle casualties while over 10,000 Japanese perished.

Biak, Noemfoor, and Aitape

On 27 May, another leap of over 300 miles was made to seize airfields on Biak Island (dominating strategic Geelvink Bay) where fierce enemy resistance was encountered. The delay at Biak led to the order for the U.S. Sixth Army to seize Noemfoor Island (60 miles west of Biak) on 2 July and clear it of Japanese defenders to make its airstrips available for Allied operations. The advance continued to Sansapor on 30 July and to the island of Morotai on 15 September 1944.

While Biak and Noemfoor were secured, 500 miles to the east intelligence reports warned that the Japanese Eighteenth Army was approaching Aitape, held by the Allies since their 22 April landing. Engineers had converted the Aitape Japanese airdromes into a major fighter base, well defended by prepared positions close to the base and by a weak outer defensive perimeter along the western banks of the shallow Driniumor River, about fifteen miles east of the airstrips.

Rather than wait for an enemy blow to fall, on 10 July U.S. Army units moved out across the Driniumor and probed cautiously eastward, missing the Japanese force massed to attack in the opposite direction. That night ten thousand Japanese attacked across the Driniumor, charging through the center of the badly outnumbered defending force, precipitating a month-long battle of attrition in the New Guinea jungle. In the end, the Japanese were cut up and trapped between the Americans in the west and the Australians in the east, at Wewak. During July and August 1944, nearly 10,000 Japanese perished. Almost 3,000 Americans were casualties along the Driniumor, 440 of them killed, including four awarded posthumous Medals of Honor. It was MacArthur's most costly campaign since Buna.

As fighting along the Driniumor wound down, MacArthur's final assault landing on New Guinea took place at Sansapor, a weak point between two known Japanese strongholds on the Vogelkop Peninsula. About 15,000 Japanese troops were at Manokwari, 120 miles east of Sansapor, while sixty miles to Sansapor's west were 12,500 enemy soldiers at Sorong, a major air base complex. The well-tested amphibious leapfrog was used at Sansapor, with 7,300 men landing unopposed on 30 July 1944, splitting the Japanese. Two airfields were quickly built to provide support for the invasion of Morotai in the Molucca islands. Allied forces remained to defend the airfields, but the remaining Japanese were isolated and on the defensive. Major fighting in New Guinea was over as of 31 August 1944.

Recommended Books about the New Guinea Campaign

- [Touched With Fire: The Land War in the South Pacific](#)
- [Macarthur's Jungle War: The 1944 New Guinea Campaign](#)

Find More Information on the Internet

There are many fine websites that have additional information on this topic, too many to list here and too many to keep up with as they come and go. Use this Google web search form to get an up to date report of what's out there.

For good results, try entering this: **new guinea wwii OR world war ii**. Then click the Search button.

Especially recommended:

- [New Guinea, 24 January 1943-31 December 1944](#)