

# VADM R.R. Waesche's Journal of a Trip to the Southwest Pacific Theatre in 1943



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Special thanks to Ms. Marilla Waesche Pivonka, ADM Waesche's grand-daughter.

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Written on the inside front cover

*"Log kept by Adm R R Waesche Sr during his Pacific trip of World War II"*

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1943

Aug 3, 1943 Tuesday

Left San Francisco 7 p.m. – P.A.A.- Atlantic Clipper – same ship that I made original flight across {Gol}. Merrill-Jewell-Herford-myself and 11 other passengers including Farrington Cong delegate from T.H. Head winds – careful calculations up to “point of no return” to determine whether we would turn back to S.F. Played bridge till nearly 3 a.m. (midnight Honolulu time). All had bunks except 2 ensigns who slept on floor. A little rough during night but generally good trip.

[Reported at {Talumne old airport at 5:30 – passengers must arrive early to get all weights etc so as to determine how much express + freight can be carried.

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[Insert]

Sunday Aug 1

Took off from Wash.By Lockheed Plane – Leamy – Herford – Merrill – Jewell – myself + plane crew – at 6<sup>00</sup> a.m.

Stopped \_\_\_\_\_ am for gas. Arrived El Paso 3 p.m. after trying to go thru to Tucson but returning account of thunderstorms. Poor dinner at officers club. To bed early

Mon. Aug 2

Took off 7 a.m. – stopped Phoenix for gas. Arr. S.F. 1 00 p.m. Roach + James met me lunch at station.

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Aug 4 Wed

Arrived Honolulu 9:30 – docked at 10.00 – 3 hours late. Met by V.A. Ghormley – Olsen etc. Excellent accommodations at Hale Kalauai Hotel – with Lanai – Merrill and I roomed together. Bathed, etc – to Pearl Hbr – lunch with Nimitz + staff – most cordial.

Rec'd Nimitz OK on mission to SW Pacific – approves setting up hearing units and studying need for aids to nav. Unit.

Discussed with Nimitz possibility of Jap landing on west coast of U.S. and need for beach patrol and section bases.

He expressed himself forcibly that there was no probability whatsoever on any such attempt on the part of the Japs and that beach patrol was waste of manpower. Nimitz advised me not to hurry my trip + to get plane from Ghormley and see the islands.

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After lunch called on Ghormley – very cordial – offered to give me plane for trip over the islands.

Ghormley extremely interested in discussions in Washington re – air-sea rescue – particularly conference held by Army Air Corps. Called – his {FWO} and chiefs of staff and had me repeat the story. Explained the set-up in the Hawaiiin Sea Frontier – very good. He issued instructions of CG familiarization in their rescue center and was very decided that the CG should be the agency to organize and operate the world-wide air-sea rescue in view of the fact it would be our job after war.

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Left Ghormley's office about 2:30 – Olsen drove me through Pearl harbor and indicated location of various ships on Dec 7, 1941.

Then drove to Sand Island and inspected CG. Property and need for additional land from Army.

Then to Taney – visited with Perkins (Si) C.O., who told me of recent events {Boker Id. }

Back to hotel – tired and sleepy – bought bathing suit – went for swim. Invited Olsen and Bellamy (aids to Nav.) and our party to dinner. Then to Lanai in front of Olsens cottage where other CG officers joined us. Dozed on Lanai until midnight – Took shower and to bed.

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Called on collector of Customs – Mr. Hibbler

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Aug 5 Thursday

Off at 8 and went for swim before dressing – breakfast at 9 – fresh pineapple - {haut} eggs delicious coffee. 10:00 – to CG officers ? building – inspected offices- then to Pier 11 ACpt of Port offices + barracks, etc. addressed officers. Inspected barracks – then to Pier 5 – barracks for crews of boats – Mazouni in charge – machine shop – carpenter shop etc (forever Lt Ho depart. Ship should eventually be moved to Sand Isld. Pier 5 good side for CG Administration bldg.

Visited and inspected Aloha Tower – Harbor entrance control Post – Kelliher in command but theoretically operates under Navy.

Lunch in officers messroom Pier 11 – about 25 officers.

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About 2:30 p.m. started Drive around Island – Olsen Jewell Herford and Herford's brother-in-law. Merrill had cold and remained on beach. Drove up Nonewa (222) Valley – winding road to Pali (Paley) (a as in cat) Soldiers on guard at Pali – steep cliff – beautiful view over valley and north shore – famous place for suicides – 10 days ago man with baby jumped over baby landed on ledge-saved. Down steep winding road – hair pin turns along north + east shore – Oleanders in various colors – hibiscus – royal {fireciana} bougainvillea – papaya groves – small banana plantations.

Papaya tree resembles umbrella with fruit clustered close to top of trunk under umbrella leaves.

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Sugar plantations. Sugar cane harvested year round – burned over before harvesting.

Pineapple + large sugar cane plantations at other end of island.

Steep volcanic rock cliffs everywhere.

Blow hole in volcanic rock inland – sea surges underneath causing geyser in hole in island at top.

Visited Mah-o-Poc (222) Lt Ho. Narrow-one-way-winding road to top of cliff-front-sheer drop to sea of 1800 ft (2). Telephone at gate – phone ahead to see that road is clear. Road winds along sheer cliff.

Coastal lookout Ft at Ft. – CPO + 8 CG men. 3 former keepers dwellings – 1 occupied by detail – other two vacant in good condition. Lookout tower with signaling torch light – telephone and radio communication with other military centers.

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Radio-beacon - operated only on request.

LT Ho {cse} cliff about 200 ft below – operated on only request by switch at lookout tower.

Largest light in world 2 million candle power – French lense mfg 1887. Height of lense about 6 ft. – can stand up inside. = elec. etc formerly acetylene.

Men like detail – good morale – beautiful view – strong breeze at all times – trade wind. – place well kept – nice lawn – flowers.

Might blooming cirrus – several birds – one dying blossom several days since blooming – bloom only at night.

Good beach at base of cliff with heavy breakers.

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Arrived Guadalupee training station about 5 p.m. Inspected station – {Refrected} reservation on oOne side of road for Jap radio intercepts. Excellent + important work – complimented by Navy. Radio men need special training to copy Jap characters or alphabet – they can recognize Jap operations by style of sending – 23 operators – 3 or 4 on duty during day – 7 to 8 at night – stand 8 hour watches – teletype to Navy intelligence center.

The training station formerly naval radio station – abandoned by Navy – probably not needed by Navy in future. Beautiful setting – on water – flowers – tropical foliage. LT(j.g.) Thorpe in command – fine officer intensely interested in work – has done fine job – about two hundred trainees – also used as receiving unit

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and recreation unit. Had dinner at6 station – our party – Olsen – Kelliher – Mrs. Kelliher – 15 yr old daughter – three other ladies about 20 officers/\.

After dinner – entertainment by band and movies – excellent band – in demand by Army + Navy – better than anything else for dancing etc. Olsen wants it authorized by {ltq} with bandmen {nathings}.

Olsen also wants radiomen on interception duty noted {by}.

Kelliher's daughter presented me with 2 crown flower leis with appropriate ceremonies. Requested me to send her 3-star pin as she is making collection.

Movies not so good – old pictures in poor condition.

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Left training station about 9:30 – back to hotel – loafed on lanai in Layaway till 10:30 then to bed.

Honolulu is real black out at night. Headlights on cars are bosh red – a few have dimmed white lights. All people off streets at tem p.m. unless important military business. Small dimmed light in bedroom and on lanai. City block dark. Movies start at 6:30 – out at 9:30.

Liberty for all men is up at 5 p.m. except {oluce} few that have houses in islands.

Manager of hotel Mr. ? very cordial – friend of Hugh Waesche, volcanologist.

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Aug 6 Fri

Up at seven- packed – breakfast at 8 with our party + Olsen + Sexton. Sexton just arrived by Clipper from States to relieve Olsen. – Pineapple for breakfast.

9:00 held press conference on lanai – about 10 newsmen present – Navy Pub Relations officers on Adm Gormley's staff present.

Arrived departure dock at 10<sup>15</sup>. Due to depart at 10:30. Custom inspection “any photographs, secret documents letters etc.” Olsen says some little jealousy on part of Customs and Navy.

Departed 12:00 – after cruising around harbor for 15 min warming + testing engines/

Martin turn motored plan – Pan Am operated. 4 berths 10 seats for passengers- small table in galley for eating very comfortable but not equal to clippers – less

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Insulation – more noise from motor. 4 passengers besides our party.

Crew of plan normally 6 (2 pilots – nav. – Eng – Rad steward) additional pilot now + eng on board for training. This plane bound Honolulu – Palmyra – Canton – Wallis – Nouema – Auckland – then return same route. We go thru to Moumea with overnight stops at Palmyra + Wallis.

Flying at 8000 ft. smooth beautiful weather – blue sea – scattered clouds. Temperature at this altitude about 75.

Had lunch at 2<sup>00</sup> – cooked on electric range – meat fresh vegetables – salad- coffee. Food fair.

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Sighted Palmyra isld after coming down thru the clouds and skimming the water at 500 ft. Hit it on the nose – good navigation. Navigator getting sights constantly – due to rapid change in bearing of sun – lines of position may be obtained at short intervals. Moon and Venus also used. Also Palmyra has good radio beacon but navigator does not depend on that.

Made good landing in lagoon –entrance fro ships on west side dredged to deep water – merchant ships arrive infrequently just to supply troops. Channel marked by a dozen or so home made buoys. Palmyra Isld is circular atoll - consisting of 53 small wooded islets connected by shallow water or coral flats. These have been filled in to furnish road around Island. Mostly coconut trees but other tropical trees as well.

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Atols build moistly east to west (longest diameter) Booly birds in profusion – various terns, Golden Plovers pass over in migration.

Capt Robert Hunter (USN) (aviator) in command. Battalion of CBs – Marines – Air squadron. No Army. Lots of building equipment. Various types of houses – frame – Quonset huts. Air operation office covered by mound of coral sand.

Capt Van Bergen from BuPers arrived a few hours before us. He left Wash a few days before us and left Honolulu a few hours ahead. Making personnel survey.

Capt Hunter lives in house built for contractor – 4 bedrooms – very comfortable – very few mosquitoes. No Mosquitoes before U.S. moved in and no natives before or now.

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Van Bergen – Merrill and I stayed with Hunter.

Had dinner in officers mess – good food –plentiful – approximately 100 officers. After dinner – movies – good – Jeanette MacDonald in Cairo. Back to quarters and to bed at 10 p.m.

Converstaion of Hunter and Vanbegen developed Navy surplus of officers – more officers than needed on almost every station.

Intermittent showers all evening and during night – very heavy at times – usual climate year round. Always a breeze air temp. in 80’ss – nght 78 to 80. Not unpleasant. Undoubtedly hat at midday. Carlson had an alert to-night

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Aug 7 Sat

Called at 5:30 – bathed – shaved etc – breakfast at 6:15 – in plane at seven – took off at seven thirty – daybreak about seven.

VanBergen joined our party. He is bound to Noumea.

Beautiful weather – smooth – blue sea and scattered clouds below us - 800 ft. cruising about 120 in airspeed.

Crossed equator about 11 a.m. arr. Canton Isld about 2:30 p.m. Played bridge most of morning.

Canton Isld usual circular atoll – dredged channel entrance – fine harbor. Pres. Taylor – wreck-on-beach at entrance. Went ashore for ½ hr. at N.T.S. landing Navy C.A.H and PAA all together – small very comfortable hotel – rooms with bath. Tropical foliage around station – though generally Canton Isld is bare – little room

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one or two coconut trees. British have a small dilapidated looking squatter group (contesting sovereignty)/ On the opposite side of the island Army has about 4000 men under a colonel. Anti-aircraft guns- several squadrons of planes, etc.

Navy total force 2 or 3 hundred – a bombing group of PPY's.

4 radio stations with little co-ordination Navy – CAA – Army Air – Army main traffic/

Good fishing – tuna – pretty hot but breeze blowing.

Took off at 1:30 p.m. 800 ft. chilly – need sweater – same beautiful weather – good lunch – cold cuts – salad – canned strawberries, coffee.

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Played bridge most of afternoon.

Landed Wallis Isld (Wea Isld) about 5 p.m. having set watch back 1 ½ hours from Honolulu time. Plane from south arrived at same time – same type of plane flown by PAA under Navy contract. Col. Lynch USMC met us. He is in command of US troops on Island consisting of about 2700 Marines – 3 or 4 hundred navy – 2 or 3 hundred CBs. Marines and Navy each have squadron of planes – Marines have infantry company – IVATS has group here. A few French aids to navigation in harbor – cheap – skeleton framework buoys.

Col Lynch drove us around Island – passed several groups of natives in gala attire – native dresses - prousy -.

This is Sunday

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for Natives though still Saturday to our troops.

Natives keep same day as New Caledonia – we will cross international date line to-morrow.

Marines + SeaBees have built fine system of roads around and across the Islands. Various US activities- quarters – gun emplacements – plane dispersal – etc all over Island. Landing runway for fighter planes - rolling – one direction only.

Army will shortly move in with B24 squadron.

French governor – Corsican – very excitable te- temper. French give little consideration to natives. Col Lynch has little to do with French governor – each goes own way. Natives employed by our troops – 20¢ a day. Big money for them. They buy stores out as fast as goods are imported.

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Merrill, Capt VanBergen and I spent night in Colonel's quarters – built for him by CBs and marines in beautiful location atop high point of island – look down over island and over sea. Wallis Isld – about 4 miles x 8 miles – heavy tropical foliage – coconut trees, etc. heavily wooded island and hilly. Col's house built with wide veranda – large comfortable living room – bedroom – bath + kitchen, construction of house like shutters so that breeze blows through from any direction. Cool and pleasant. Ate dinner at officers mess – good meal – then to open air movie –Picture fair – 2<sup>nd</sup> run – “Invisible Man”

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Comfortable sleeping – Col. Obviously well supplied with liquor, food, etc. he has been here since last November – Most of the marines have been here for over a year. No raids by Japs. This appears to be back of theatre of active war operations. A few scrawny houses + {pugs} on the island. Little wild life – consisting of birds.

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Aug 8 Sunday

Aug 9 Monday

To-day we cross the date line. We will have no Sunday this week.

Called at 5<sup>30</sup> – black dark – brilliant star studded sky. One bathroom for 4 of us so we did not take shower or shave. Col Lynch drove down (after picking up Herford and Jewell at another bungalow) to mess hall for breakfast. Daylight about 6<sup>45</sup>.

Took off at 7:30 – usual clear beautiful weather – Capt of plane says seldom have bad weather on this run. – 8000 ft -120 knots.

Shaved with elec. Razor. Set watch back 1 hr – Suva time (180° time)

8<sup>30</sup> sighted Fiji Islands – first low submerged and mostly submerged coral atolls

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various shapes. Then high mountainous islands up to 4000 ft high.

About 9:30 landed – went ashore in Higgins boat Lt Fairbanks USN (NATS) met us – very cordial – took party for a ride in Army jeep(or larger) to Suva – 3 miles from landing. We landed at dock of RNZAF which has a squadron of P13Ys for patrol duty. Navy has small for NATS. Army Division on other side of island.

Rather hot and dusty ashore. Suva (about 20000) typical English South Sea colony, under New Zealand govt. Native Fijians along road and on streets of town. Brown + Phillips (South Sea) Co. has several establishments here. Some nice looking shops – Chinese + otherwise.

Page 27 Sugar cane main industry – imported East Indians for labor + they now compose ½ population. They are industrious and are gradually owning the small businesses. Fijians happy go lucky.

Found LST. 203 in harbor – manned by CG. Went aboard. C.O. and most officers ashore. Spoke to LT. Brown and another officer – mutual surprise. This boat not operating with CG Flotilla – under navy command group. Just arrived from Samoa with cargo of landing barges. Brown says morale good but men somewhat homesick. Back to dock and took off at 11<sup>15</sup>. It is Monday here.

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Enroute to Noumea some squally weather but generally good – strong head winds. Passed over miles of coral reefs of all shapes – deep water in between. Sighted vessels navigating reefs – difficult – sailing vessels. In old days certainly did wonderful navigating in these waters – sighted several lighthouses and beacons on small coral islets. Circled over Noumea and landed about 5:45 having set watches back one hour – about 6 ½ hr. flight – played bridge most of the way.

Noumea very busy port – some 20 or 30 ships in harbor – repair and supply bases, etc. many small craft, tenders etc.

Had some difficulty getting air ship to wharf account of strong winds. Ad. Halsey's aid met us and extended invitation to dinner

Page 29 at seven. Admirals barge met us to take us to town – 15 min ride – air landing on island 4 or 5 miles from Noumea. Ad. Halsey apologized having no room in his quarters – went + “Hotel of the Pacific”. Herford + Jewell in one room – Merrill and VanBergan in another – I had single room. Old run down French hotel - probably beautiful and luxurious in its day. Wall-paper in Merrill's room monstrous. All rooms about same – no rug – bare floors – canopied bed with mosquito netting – dirty – old fashioned closet and drawers built in – marble topped dressing table or washstand. Little room on half porch with wide folding windows, curtaining wash stand with one faucet – no hot water

Page 30 Toilet a + bathroom across hall for all guests.

Dinner at 7<sup>15</sup> with Halsey. V. Ad. Fitch USA (in charge of air) Rear Ad. ? and 6 others - 10 in all.

Had drinks + oerdouvres – fine boiled ham carved by aid in drawing room with crackers for oerdouvres. Halsey, Fitch, et al very cordial – strongly suggested I visit N.Z. – Espirito, Guadacanal and possibly {Wharke}. Halsey seemed enthusiastic about mission and told me to go ahead with plans.

Very nice dinner filet mignon – very nicely served – quite different from hotel etc.

Later in evening 2 aides brought in two young good looking N.Z. girls and played piano and sang.

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Returned to hotel a little after ten - discussed with CG officers result of conference with Halsey. To bed at 12<sup>00</sup> – then slept fine – cool invigorating air.

At dinner we all wore shirts – no coats.

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Aug 10 Tuesday

Up at 7:30, breakfast in hotel which is used only by C.O.'s of all services. Breakfast fair- frontier style – no embellishments – canned orange juice – bacon + cold sausage eggs – coffee in glass – no cups.

All 4 CG officers attended Halsey's conference at 9 a.m. – similar to 9:30 Navy Dept conference.

Activities in battlefront reviewed. Lt Gen Harmon USA gave dissertation on Army plan of campaign + advance on Munda. V. Ad. Fitch then gave resume of air campaign on Munda. Japs had to be blasted out – T trenches in hillside – stench of jap bodies – 2000 bodies pushed into trench for burial with bull dozer – fingers sticking out of ground.

Page 33 After conference met with R. Ad. Shaproth to discuss our invasion – extended discussion - Shaproth not enthusiastic. Finally agreed that hearing units might be of advantage but doubtful about aid to nav unit.

Made appointments for Jewell to see legal officer in Shaproth's office at 1:30 and Merrill to see Capt Craig for preliminary discussion re – mission – all to meet tomorrow a.m. in Shaproth's office.



Shaproth offered us his car for drive. All four drove for 1 ½ hrs into back country. Mountainous – volcanic – somewhat similar topography to Oahu. Army Navy MC camps – air – infantry – CB's scattered throughout back country with ammunition dump.

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About 30,000 troops of all kinds – a continual parade of military automotive equipment of all kinds on streets of town and in back country. Great bustling military activity – Little agriculture - Chrome mines – foliage not quite tropical though banana, coco palm, Washingtonian palms, date palms, sago palms, Royal palms, and other tropical plants and trees were in abundance.

Wonderful climate, cool – needed sweater or jacket. Officers who have been here for some time say better climate than Honolulu or Southern California.

Back to hotel for naval frontier lunch at 1<sup>00</sup> – hot dogs, sour kraut boiled pot.

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Stores close in middle day for siesta – I am supposed to be taking siesta now. At 2:30 Herford and I will ramble thru shop but we have been told there is nothing here to buy – 30,000 military people in town of 4000 – keep the stores swept clean.

Ens. Miller CG from an LST called on us. 2 LST - CG manned in harbor.

During afternoon walked around town, visited shops. With 30,000 military men here shops are cleaned out – little to buy except cheap souvenir at high prices – some basket work – bought one string of shell beads for \$2. Took nap before dinner – usual dinner, solid food but nothing to brag about.

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After dinner went to show – “Brother Rat” local Army etc talent. Amusing but very amateurish. Home to bed at 10:30 – show from 7:00 to 9<sup>00</sup>.

Officers bar opening from 7 to 9 – all kinds of drinks. Closed tight at 9<sup>00</sup>. Crowded. Flag officers Bar – small but large enough. At noon to 1<sup>00</sup> bar open for beer only.

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Aug 11 (Wednesday)

Up at 7:30 – breakfast 8:00 Ad. Halseys conference 9<sup>00</sup>. Conf lasted 10 min. review of war activities preceding 24 hours. Conf in R.Ad. Shaproth's office (Deputy COMSOUTH PAC). Present: Shaproth, Major-Gen Breen USA(SOS) Capt Cobb USN Lt. ? USN (legal officer) and myself.

Agreed to assign 3 CG officers and 1 yeoman to each Espirtu; Neumea and Auckland.

Agreed to recommendation from Halsey to {Cosninch} to assign 2 more tenders to SOUTH PAC for buoy maintenance, survey and general purpose. These vessels to be equipped with equipment and personnel to make running surveys as well as to establish and maintain aids to navigation.

Two letters to be prepared covering above two subjects to be signed by Halsey and

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we carry them back via Nimitz to Wash.

Decided to visit Espiritu and Auckland in Halsey's territory.

11<sup>00</sup> Merrill, Jewell + myself visited Capt Stone, WSA representative and spent ¾ hr with him – very intelligent. He felt that CG representative at Noumea was very desirable – did not think representative at Espiritu necessary – representative at Auckland desirable.

The general opinion as a result of all conferences was that M.M. discipline was not bad – a few cases but that CG representation with authority of former BMIN would be of material assistance.

On Noumea military congestion and control is such that merchant marine personnel cannot get beer etc except

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through military so that there is some resentment by M.M. personnel

Capt Stone showed us State Dept Circular signed “Hull” whereby R. + M. of USA was sending representative here to provide :-recreation; repatriation, etc etc for M.M. personnel. Stone did not seem to feel that such assignment was necessary. Seemed to feel that M.M. personnel was being we cursed too much and that such personnel themselves did not desire it.

Call on consul and discussed M.M. officers for 10 minutes. He felt his time was taken up too much by business for various Depts of govt other than State Dept. He spoke of numerous forms that had to be filled out re – M.M. personnel

Page 40 and seemed to think they could be simplified and that M.M. laws were archaic.

Wearing medium underwear with sweater under shirt.

Invited to dinner by Consul – Mr. Day – to meet Dr ? the B.E.W. representative here but declined

Had lunch at hotel – 2<sup>00</sup> p.m. boat (Higgins) from LST 167 took us aboard. Lt Simons, Commdg, - Lt Daugherty, Chf Eng. – Ens. Miller.

Most pleasant and instructive visit. 167 arrived about 3 days ago with cargo. When unloaded, will load cargo and go north to Guadalcanal. Apparently will be used to evacuate sick + wounded – 100 army cots put aboard to use in cargo space.

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inspected vessel – good shape – good morale – fine officers + crew.

Cmdr Petersen on LST 18 and tow other LST’s CG manned in outer harbor Lt Lenci (former warrant) in command of 18 – Young Sangstad on this boat. Petersen’s force cut to these three.

LST 203 at Suva bound for Samoa under Navy Div. command

LST 167 under Navy Div command One LST left in Panama for repairs

Will probably take Higgins gas boat off 167 and give them tow similar boats with Diesel engines. LCT on deck – will be launched sidewise by listing LST. Navy will put 8 to 10 additional men for crew aboard including 2 or 3 Pharmacist Mates – 1 navy Ph M already assigned.

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Back to hotel – autographed 3 hats for boats crew – Cashed \$70 Am. Ex. Checks

At 5<sup>00</sup> Comdr C. H. Petersen can in – he has 4 LST boats in outer harbor – CG manned. (Previous remarks in error). The one left in Panama was not a CG boat. Petersen greatly surprised and glad to see us. Apparently our visit out there caused consternation. Petersen had dinner with us spent evening in hotel garden watching the mob of U.S. officers and 20 or 30 Waacs, and H + N nurses milling around bar – drinking, singing – a few drunks – all feeling good. At 9<sup>00</sup> bar closed and MP chased them all home. Came to room about 10 - read a while – to bed at 11<sup>00</sup>

Will not leave to-morrow plane late.

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Aug 12 (Thursday)

Up at 8<sup>30</sup> – out a little after nine – no breakfast – mess room closes at 9<sup>00</sup> . Sat around and read – all day to kill. 11<sup>00</sup>, called on Ad Halsey by appointment and said good-bye

After lunch went for drive with all four of party – drove from 1<sup>00</sup> to 4<sup>30</sup>, back in interior of island. Constant stream of military congestion here – camps + ammunition dumps – gas and oil storage in all directions within radius of 20 miles. Beautiful scenery – very mountainous – sparsely settled. Mountains along coast similar to Aleutians – covered with grass no trees. back in middle of island, scrubby trees on mountain side. Scrubby dense eucalyptus in valleys.

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Here and there a small clearing with banana groves, a few coconuts, etc. Rugged mountainous country – one narrow gauge RR running back thru valleys – so no trains. Beautiful clear weather – cool and pleasant.

On return to hotel found note routing us to Auckland to-morrow with Capt Smith in his plane – thence to Sidney. Called up + said that did not suit as we had to go to Brisbane before Sidney to report to Carpenter and MacArthur. They said they would do so but would have to put some people off Brisbane plane. They knew we planned to go to Brisbane from here – think they tried to shove us south so as not to interfere with other people on leave.

Sent laundry to-day – will pick it up on way back. We take boat here at 6:30 a.m. to-morrow

Page 45 to go to air landing on other island. Due to take off at 8<sup>00</sup>. We leave from same place we landed.

In evening had personnel discussion with Com (?) Christiansen attached to Ad, Cobb staff – Capt. VanBergen, Merrill, Jewell and myself re – CG. Men in this area. Christensen praised our men – wanted replacement CG officers + men (pool but don't call it that said VanBergen). Both Christensen + VanBergen did not want to mix crews – LSTs have some down undermanned – Navy complement 58 – CG 66 – should be 75. Are putting 40 M.M. guns on these boats. Christensen wanted to know how to handle CG men relieved, sick etc.

All agreed to establish replacement center here under CG hearing officer (Raney)

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We will pick up letter signed by Halsey to this effect

Had usual dinner – sat in garden and watched usual bar festivities – packed up – to bed at 10<sup>30</sup>. During evening some one stole my hat and bathrobe – haven't missed anything else. Now wearing hat without emblem or insignia.

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Aug 13 Friday

Up at 5:45 – had a cup of coffee at 6<sup>30</sup> –in Admirals lounge to plane landing – Capt. Wallin USN also passenger – he will shortly return to Wash. In BuShips

At landing meet Brig-Gen Frank USA also bound to Brisbane. He is brother-in-law to Dimock p also said he had drive L C Covell to our house – had heard of me from many people – strange to meet me first time in Noumea.

Will run to pane account of traffic – Frank went in other plane –Removed 1300 lbs frt from one plane + 1700 lbs from other to take extra gas account of headwinds

Finally took off about 9<sup>05</sup>. 10 passengers – all seats taken – one Br. Naval officer. About 10<sup>00</sup> motor roared up full speed – banked heavily to port.

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Everyone craned necks to windows. Motors continues full speed for about ten minutes.

Pilots had sighted sub – running awash – sub finally crashed dived but pilots saw flash and think they fired at us before diving. Reported location by radio to Noumea. Flying about alt of 500 to 1000 ft.

Hungry – no breakfast. Cloudy – mostly overcast strong breeze.

Flying in same type of plane we came from Honolulu in \_ Martin twin motor – P.A.A. Played bridge last two hours.

Landed at about 3<sup>15</sup> (-10 Time 160 E Long) set watch back 1 hr about 7 hr. trip.

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Rear Ad. Jones + aide met me – Rooms at Lennons hotel. Modern in every respect – best in Australia. Merrill and I connecting rooms – clean, comfortable, modern. Ad Corfunder assigned {nelos} boy – Chinese – young to me – car at my disposal.

Coast here low flat terminal morain with mountains back of us. Cool but not cold. Nice visit with Jones – left us bot. Scotch.

Dinner with Ad. Carpender at 7<sup>00</sup> Carpender, Jones and entire staff extremely cordial, insist we go to Perth, etc. Carpender has comfortable flat – Jones also flat. MacArthur = wife live secluded life – do not go out socially at all – have been to only one dinner since Australia and that a Lord + Lady ?

About 9<sup>00</sup> Merrill + I took a short walk around town – dark – few lights – a number of fruit stands with tropical + temperate climate fruits.

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Saturday Aug 14

Up at 7<sup>15</sup> breakfast with Carpender 8<sup>00</sup> – to Hqs with Carpender conference at 9<sup>00</sup> – Merrill, Jewell, myself – Carpender Jones – Capt Kelly (?) and other members of staff. Kelly soon coming to Wash.

All enthusiastic about our visit desire assistance. Later Merrill + Jewell worked out details with members of staff. Carpenders desires 4 Hearing units (3 officers each) at Townsville, Brisbane, Sidney Perth. As Aids to Nav unit, location to be determined later – with technicians, etc. capable of establishing, maintaining + repairing aids to navigation and making running survey. Probably be established at Townsville or Milne Bay. One Tender.

Also Carpender + staff desires small personnel replacement group.

Brig. Gen Wilson USA with LTCol Crawford – Army Trans. Service came over – discussed hearing units. He wants them

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too but wished to be sure they would not in any way restrict movements of his vesels.

Wilson has a number of small merchant craft under different flags – Dutch, Australian etc. manned by motley crew – wanted to know if our units could help him with those vessels or at least not hinder him.

Called on Gen. MacArthur – offices in same building as Carpender – Most affable + agreeable – discussed hearing units – he quickly grasped the situation and enthusiastically approves. Visited with him about twenty minutes – a flag of ribbons from pocket to shoulder – some navy officer counted them about 58 ribbons.

To lunch at Greens Club with Ad. Jones. Met Am Consul and many others – Army officers and Australians. Back to Hqr. – reviewed 3 letters with Carpender – he signed them and delivered to us for carrying to Wash.

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Attended daily resume of war situation – floor tilted at one end was map of SW Pacific 6 Australian officers from various branches gave their story – all but one spoke without notes. Resume included statement that Jap sub was sighted about 200 miles west of Noumea (this was sub our plane sighted).

At 200 Ad. Jones took us to sub base – later Carpenter with High Comm Davis of Canada arrived for formal inspection – very formal – all honors – we all were included in inspection party – went through buildings – shops-quarters, etc etc. fine layout. Mostly built by enl. Men.  
Inspected sub tender “Fulton” – last word in tender + repair ship – shops of every kind – quarters etc. – 8 submarines

Page 53 in port – inspected one of them. “Bowfin”, onboard sub., did not go aboard – same one Forrestal and I were in New London – C.O. ? formerly C.O. of Tautog which made an excellent record – sinking several Jap subs in addition to other ships-. Capt “Red” Barron made himself know to me – met Ag about 2 yrs. Ago when each of them wer hauled out of their autos during and “alert” in Chevy Chase and made to go into nearest residence.

Had long talk with Cmdr Huttel. He looks fine – said tell his Dad he expects to be home before Thanksgiving.

Capt Fyfe in command of base – very efficient \_ very proud of his command

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Back to hotel.

Dinner with Carpenter (all 14 CG officers).

To my room at 9<sup>00</sup>. Met COs of 3 LST boats manned by CG officers + men and 4<sup>th</sup> CG officer who is waiting to go on Petersen’s staff.

All CO’s Lts. One White (?) was liquored up a little held long conference – dresses them down a little after praising them. They seemed to think other CG people were having it easy while they took the brunt. They think LST boats are hazardous duty, tho none want to be relived and assured me they would do their job. One boat is to be made PT boat tender. Gave them authority to rate 10% authorized ratings. Left note for Petersen to se that other promotions, incldg, enl. Men were pushed. To bed at 11<sup>00</sup>.

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Sunday Aug.15

Up at 7<sup>15</sup> – coffee – orange juice in room – all four of us had breakfast with AD. Carpenter in his flat. Left hotel 8:30 – Carpenter drove with me to our port – Took off at 9<sup>15</sup> a.m. – Lockheed Lodestar transport – single row seats each side radio in same compartment as passengers – plane heated – very comfortable – I have on heavy underwear – 2 pr sox. LtComdr Stewart – aide to Carpenter with us. Flying 7000 ft. – beautiful clear weather – 1<sup>st</sup> half hour flying over rugged barren mountains about 3000 ft. – occasional dry looking farm. Dry barren brown desert looking country – very few signs of settlement – very occasionally small village – later flat and rolling country – brown desert – occasionally a small farm or small village. About 10:30 passed over valley - about ½ or 2/3 cultivated. A green field very rare. Farther south a few more green fields – then low wooded mountains – with snow capped mountains to eastward.

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Arrived Melbourne 1:15 p.m. met by LTComdr Mc--- to Meuzies hotel – fine room trun beds – fine bath – ample closets, Merrill here to, Herford, Jewell + Stewart at Melbourne club. Washed – Merrill + I lunch together. LtComdr + {nls} MacKenzie came for us at 3<sup>00</sup> and took us for drive 20 to 25 miles in country to eastward up winding mountain road. Beautiful scenery looking down over country and to sea, although this season is equivalent to Feb in States – climate was like early November day is Wash. – so winter temp. here 50° to 55°. Climate about like Jacksonville, Fla. Many palm trees- oranges + lemons though not in profusion – tree fern - shape like pal trees mountains appears like blue ridge mountains – winding road like approach to Blue Ridge Summit or

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Braddock Hts. Many picnickers – came up on train and hiked thru mountains - like English, fond of open air and transpiring. Many cottages etc like Blue Ridge Summit – Lyre Birds in Sherwood Forest quite an attraction.

Back to hotel at 5<sup>00</sup> – shifted to slate gray – Capt Cousey – Naval Attache called – to his house for a drink – then to cocktail party – met Admiral (Sir Guy) and Lady .- Mr Robinson, Australian Financer + continuous traveler – London N.Y., Wash., etc Mrs. Darling – two sons – one in service – gold boomerang – Also Mrs. {blank}

Returned to Capt Cousey quarters – 3 of us had dinner – arranged for me to give

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Dinner party tomorrow evening – back to hotel – hot bath – in bed by eleven – read and wrote diary til twelve – then – to sleep

Meuzies Hotel

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Monday Aug 16

Up at 8<sup>00</sup> breakfast with Merrill at 8<sup>30</sup>

9<sup>30</sup> Capt Cousey arrived – Merrill, Cousey + myself called on Admiral (4 star) Royal in command of Australian Sea Frontier and all Br. + Australian Naval activities in this area. Pleasant visit – discussed M.M. affairs – our mission etc. Then to hotel – then Merrill + I went shopping – Bourke St – Collins St – Little Collins – Little Bourke – etc.

Nice shops but anything worthwhile to take home sold out - opal mines are shut down all opal jewelry sold out – uncut opals but poor quality. Looked through a number of stores. Finally found sporting good shop where bought boomerangs – having previously in desperation bought 3 souvenir boomerangs. Asked every jewelry store for small gold or silver boomerangs which Australian mothers etc give to the Australian soldiers as

Page 60 the motto of the boomerang is “I go but I return”.

Back to hotel at 12<sup>30</sup> in time to go with Capt Cousey to Metropolitan club for lkunch with Capt Davis{cp} of Maritime interests both Lt Ho Service BMIN. After lunch to garden for coffee - cannot smoke in dining room. Discussed maritime affairs with Davis then excused myself and left Merrill to continue conversation.

Went to hospital to visit Maj. Gen Roputus who went to hospital for two days ago with first attack of malaria, Many fresh cases of malaria still coming in. 6000 marine sof 1<sup>st</sup> Div. (1/3 of Division have been in hospital with malaria, 80 sent home recently account of filialerosis (?). Roputus led attack but had dung fever in Guadalcanal – maybe it was malaria.

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Many Army cases no coming in. Met Col. Mccauley in charge of hospital former member of Chicago bears football – Cleveland outfit mans this hospital. Under construction by Australians when US. Moved in – took over hospital and finished construction – no one seems to know how final financial settlement will be made. 2300 beds – about 250 beds now vacant – beautiful hospital. Roputus will be in 18 days – fat round face but not healthy looking. Spoke of Holcombs being carried in after retirement age account of policies – appointment probably made after election.

Drugs used for malaria repressive only – no cure

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Returned to hotel – wrote letter than again on shopping tour – no results. Back to hotel – bathed, shaved etc for party. Liquor served only at table after six – inconvenient for party – can't give them a drink till they are seated at dinner, except before six o'clock – very restrict – no drinks any place anywhere after eight – not even own liquor in own room.

Party in private hotel Room – guests selected by Capt Coursey and LTComdr + Mrs. MacKenzie – latter acting as unofficial hostess. Mrs. Moore to my right – Mr. MacKenzie to my left. No drinks standing up after six – none sitting down after 8.

After dinner adjoined to MacKenzies house for an hour or so for drinks – back to hotel about midnight.

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Guests at dinner

Mrs. Streafield

Mrs. Buchanan

Mrs. Price

Mrs. Paxton

Mrs. Fairbairn

Capt + Mrs Nichols

Commodore and Mrs Moore

Comdr +Mrs Spurgen

Cmdr + Mrs Wilmot

LtComdr + Mrs McKezie

Mr + Mrs Jandry

Mr +Mrs Hudson

Mrs Jandry has brother at CG Hqr. – Mrs. Jandry has brother – Fire 2C in CG.

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Tuesday Aug 17

Up at 6<sup>30</sup> – breakfast 7<sup>00</sup> – took off at 8<sup>00</sup>. Capt Causey making trip with us – over cloud banks for a while – then clear – strong head winds. Stopped at Adalaide for gas – Adalaide usual Australian city from air – red roofs – flat – onbay.

On across Bothem Australia - Yorke Peninsula – most farm land – then across desert – miles + miles \_ miles – flat – red soil – a few scraggly bushes – no houses – no life – no habitation – a real deserted desert.

Stopped at Forrest for gas – a few houses – flat desert then on – railroad runs like a ribbon – straight as an arrow – best time by train across Australia about 4 days but may well take a week or ten days. Different gauge in each state

Page 65 Arr. Perth 5<sup>00</sup> having set watches back 2 hrs (120 E Long time; - 2hr)

Suite at Adelpibi hotel – very comfortable except light and heat – winter climate about like St Pete, FLA – Red Roof houses – all houses neat – no slums.

All of us had dinner with Ad Christie at his quarters – fine house – garden – tennis court – most comfortable – Navy rents it for nominal sum.

Back to hotel at 9<sup>00</sup> – to bed 10<sup>30</sup>

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Wed. Aug 18

Up at 7<sup>30</sup> – breakfast hotel – walked down tow blocks to Ad. Christies office – discussed mission – Christie and staff glad to get CG detail – needed – while n recent trouble with merchant seaman – they have had minor trouble from time to time and have been handling cases arbitrarily by military court. Pert busy way station for merchant ships – about 100 a month bound to Bombay and other Indian ports – about half stop at Hobart and half at Perth. Christie showed me around office – operation office – chart of route of merchantmen – rice from Saigon - oil, coffee, tin, etc from NEI – he thinks more subs should operate from Perth against merchant shships at the expense of Halsey + Nimitz group operating in other areas and to contain Jap fleet at Tmk. Regular period of patrol for sub 50 days – about 25 to 30 days in hunting area.

Chart of location of merchant ships – Christie Hqr – Commodore

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? (Br) hq at Freemantle – AD Royals up at Melbourne Ad Carpender up at Brisbane Brig Gen Wilson (Army Trans) at Brisbane – probably at Hobart. Etc.

Both Hobart and Pert route merchant ships each keeping other advised. British do routing. Met USA representative – Merrill and Jewell spent some time with him and other officers going into details – they would like a LT Ho tender-survey vessel – probably need it more than east coast – they have none – virgin territory for CG.

Ad. C + I drove to Freemantle – 18 miles – Comm ? (Br) drove in separate car – inspected Br offices at Freemantle – Br have complete control of harbor – routing – anchorages – repairs etc – under gen supervision of Christie but also under Ad. Royal at Melbourne – Christie is under Carpender for operations but under Nimitz + Was as Com Sub Pac.

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Discussion disclosed – Wash makes allotment of subs between east + west coast of Australia – Halsey – Pearl Harbor Line between Sm + SW Pacific causes divided auth. + responsibility – the whole set-up – Nimitz – Halsey – MacArthur – Carpender – Royal – Christie is confusing and overlapping.

Nav sub base at Freemantle being completed - built by local contractor – local labor – local hardwood – sub tender – converted C-3. Sub base when completed can serve 6 subs continuously – tender serves 12. Br Hqr in Freemantle old style building – musty offices etc.

Back to Perth – lunch at Christies quarters – N.Y Times Correspondent and wife ( Red Cross re. – daughter of Chinese missionary – born in China – speaks Chefoo language) also at lunch – they are bound for India

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Ad. Christie gave me his car for afternoon – driver, Mary – Dutch girl – mother and two daughters escaped separately from Java – finally found each other – living in Perth – father still unheard of – last seen in Java.

Merrill and I drove through Kings park – high bluff overlooking city and harbor – Flower trees and Kangaroo plants numerous – then about 20 miles into country and up mountain – drive somewhat similar to Melbourne.

Passed many citrus groves – grapes – Boys camp – log cabins – waterfalls – very scenic – Mary had seen wild kangaroos – this section – all we saw – Australian jack rabbit. Back to hotel at 5. 7<sup>00</sup> dinner for Ad. C + staff – 6 with our party of 6 – 12 in all. Drinks in my room – then dinner in private dining room – cost about \$36. Christie, McLane – McKain – Wills and 2 others. Broke up at ten – burnt pants in front of elec heater.

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my quarters very comfortable 3<sup>00</sup> per day incld breakfast – large drawing room. Like all Br. Hotels – scanty on light and heat. To bed at 11<sup>00</sup>

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Thursday Aug 19

Up at 5<sup>30</sup> – breakfast 6<sup>00</sup> – Left for airport 6<sup>30</sup> – Capt McLane drove us out – took off at 7<sup>11</sup>.

Nrign Gen Godfrey, Army Eng Corps took passage in our plane. He just arrived last night from India via Catalina plane – on tip around world in connection with studies of Army Air fields – construction etc. He heads up construction group similar to Seebees. Also Comdr Hopkins Navy Air Corp took passage. We now have full plane with 9 passengers + 4 crew. There are 12 passenger seats in this plane. First hour flew above cloud bank – then clear beautiful weather. Almost 9<sup>00</sup> stopped at Calgoorie for gas – big gold mining town – numerous smelters – etc. here is where Herbert Hoover operated a long time. He was not popular with Australians believed to be slippery.

375 mi to Perth – repair depot for air engines for Navy

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Takes an av of ten days to ship engines these 375 miles – gauge of RR changes here so NAF tries to ship engines on freight bound for Melbourne this far by truck (Army)

Uneventful trip from Calgoorie to Adelaide – flyin over desert – flat – coppery – baked – not a blade of vegetation

Landed Adelaide at 5<sup>00</sup> having set watch ahead 1.2 hrs. Met by a Lt (NAC) liaison office – stationed here to receive Catalinas ferried over from US – Bermuda – Africa, etc.

LtCol Ford met Gen Godfrey. He and one other officer represent Army. The 131<sup>st</sup> Div – used to be here but that is gone and now Army and Navy have nothing here. R.AAR officer (Lt) also met us very military.

We all drove in (30 min, ride) to South Australian hotel – Merrill and I had small double room and bath together. Jewell + Herford

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were put in room with stranger Naval officer – 3 in room – usual poor light + no heat. Downstairs – private lobby with fireplace detailed to us – had drinks. U.S. Consul called – Hutchinson – later brought in Mrs. Seymour Canadian widow – husband lost in war. We all had dinner – back to lobby (private) for brandy – talked awhile – to bed at 10<sup>00</sup>

Adelaide like other cities – red roofs – people all seem to carry little hand bag with them.

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Friday Aug 20

Up at 6<sup>30</sup> breakfast 7<sup>15</sup>. ½ hour to airport – Took off at 8<sup>30</sup> – good weather – cumulus clouds – uneventful trip to Melbourne. Landed Melbourne 10<sup>15</sup> to drop Cansey – took off at 10<sup>35</sup> for Sidney. In and above clouds most of the time – Had talk with Comdr Hopkins re- air reserve – no protection for planes between Perth + India – only 2 direction finder stations on west coast of Australia – one at Perth and one several hundred miles north of Perth – one plane (only) lost – went out and never returned – 2 crash boats for lose inshore work.

Landed Sidney at 2<sup>00</sup> – having set watch ahead ½ hr.

Commodore Coman met us – to Australian hotel – fine accommodations in “new” section of hotel

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“Old” section has no heat – navy has that section. Army has new section and only Navy flag officers are allowed by Army to have quarters in “new” section. Fine, modern, heated suite – drawing room, bedroom, bath, and extra room with wash basin and closets. Very comfortable and luxurious. Unpacked, bathed, shaved, sent laundry, etc. At 3<sup>00</sup> Com. Coman came for me and we called on Consul General \_\_\_\_\_ : discussed mission here with him and Vice Consul Hawkins Jr who has charge of merchant marine affairs. Both glad we are sending men here. Made appointments for Merrill and Jewell to follow up. USA Agent Palmer in hospital.

Back to hotel – dinner our own party – could not get drinks at bar or anywhere except beer etc.

Page 76 until we sat down to dinner – then scotch – Australian scotch weak – always order double scotch.

I am getting 2 bot real scotch from Com. Coman

After dinner came to my room and played bridge till ten – had two rounds of scotch served in room.

Letter to Chalker, Ag Bill Flo.

To bed at 12<sup>30</sup> – latest I’ve turned in for some time but no appointments till noon to-morrow.

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Saturday, Aug 21<sup>st</sup>

Up at 9<sup>00</sup> – breakfast in “coffee” shop about 9<sup>45</sup> – out and walked around shopping district – window shopping – streets crowded – like F St on busy day. This is election day throughout Australia – voting compulsory – fine 2 £s for not voting. They take voting very serious – many candidates – a number of parties – Labor party in control and everyone conceded they will remain in forever.

This like all other cities had terrible scare from Japs – over it now – but buildings still boarded up and sand bagged – numerous air raid shelters.

1<sup>00</sup> to lunch at Commodore Coman’s falt – Palmer (Consul General) Sir Thomas Gordon (Br + Australian minister of shipping) Mr McHose of WSA Capt Coney (Deputy to Coman) Very pleasant luncheon – back to hotel at 2<sup>30</sup>. About 3<sup>00</sup> went out window shopping again. Street deserted.

Page 78 All Australian stores close up tight at noon Saturday – even restaurants and eating houses. The crowded streets in a.m. and deserted streets in p.m. quite a contrast – walked through park – Tomb of unknown soldiers – Tomb covered by sand bags – quite an inspiring memorial.

Back to hotel at 500 – got 2 bots good scotch from Navy special supply. Four of us had couple drinks.

645 left of Ad Coman's for "family" dinner. Coman, his son Bob, Mrs. Seymour(?) (fiancés and myself – just four of us. Mrs. S, widow of Br. Naval officer who commanded cruiser Canberra sunk in action. It was a very enjoyable party – Coman to be married about middle of Sept. he has a young daughter in San Francisco.

Engagement with Mrs.

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S to take me shopping Sunday – then back to lunch. Coman going to Brisbane.

Coman + Consul General both have engagements for Tuesday evening When I planned a dinner for them – will not be able to entertain them. Back to hotel at 10. Streets deserted. Election returns over radio – Labor party making grand sweep.

Saturday p.m. and Sunday ship are unloaded by volunteer workers – shopkeepers etc – double time. Regular long-shoremen won't work war or no war.

WSA representative has trouble getting repairs here to merchant ships.

Merrill and Jewell had satisfactory discussions on shipping matters with Vice Consul – WSA – Army Trans. S. Navy. All glad to have CG come in the picture. One of their problems is taking

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Care of stragglers from merchant ships.

To bed at midnight

Lunch with Consul General Palmer at 1 p.m. Tuesday – Coman will call at 12<sup>45</sup>.

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Sunday, Aug 22

Up at 9<sup>30</sup> breakfast 10 – the four of us took a ride out into the suburbs – along beach – winding road – hair pin turns – up over bluffs and down along beach – precipitous cliffs at headlands with sheer vertical drop to sea – Sidney somewhat similar to San Francisco – big beautiful harbor with a number of inlets bounded by high headlands – deep water. Sidney on many hills – houses terraced – good beaches. Went over famous Sidney Bridge and out to Manly Beach. 10 or 12 in swimming – riding surf boards. Our route followed north along the Pacific Coast – a beautiful day – Sidney is a beautiful city. Many nice resorts and cottages along coast line. A number of autos + trucks have gas bags on top bigger than the vehicle for fuel for auto – others have charcoal burners – but most burn gasoline. Many many palm trees of various kinds – lots of flowers. Wattle

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And flame tree in abundance. Barbed wire along beaches. Returned to hotel at 130. Lunch at 200 limited to four shillings – Pea soup 1s ½ portion lamb chop ( 1 lamb chop + fr. Fried Pot) 2 shillings – apple juice 1 shilling. Exchange rate \$3.228 pr £ but hotels charge about 3.25

Stayed in hotel in p.m. Bridge in late afternoon – Dinner at hotel – bridge in evening – read until 1 a.m.

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Monday Aug 23

Up at 9<sup>00</sup> – breakfast – At 10<sup>45</sup> car called – picked up Mrs. Getting and went shopping bought opals – 2 handkerchiefs – went numerous places for Koala bear – while at lunch Ala, the chauffeur got me a koala bear for 35 shillings.

Lunch at the Princess – beautiful modern restaurant – music – dance floor in center but used only in evening. After lunch took Mrs Getting home – back to hotel. At 5<sup>30</sup> called again for Mrs. Getting and went to

home of Mrs Lloyd Jones for cocktails – beautiful home – also present R Ad. Hardison COMAIRSUPAC and aide – Capt and Mrs. R.N

Excused myself at 6:30 to come to Merrills dinner Vice Consul + Mrs. Hackney Jr.

Mrs. Lloyd Jones wished to be remembered to Mr. Denby (Lend-Lease in Was) and Mrs. Moffat staying

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With her sister in Wash. Mrs (wife of Capt R.N.) particularly wished to be remembered to Vice Admiral Anderson and Vice Admiral Russell Wilson – knew them in London.

Back to hotel – Vice Consul + wife and four of us had drinks in my quarters then across the street to restaurant similar to Princess – dancing – very much like any wrld class night club in Wash. Met young Macauley (son of Capt Macauley USMC) and his fiancée – he wished that I saw him and that I approved of his fiancés. Back to hotel at 12<sup>30</sup> – played bridge till three

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Tuesday – Aug 24

Up at 9<sup>00</sup> – breakfast- went out to Koala Park – 16 miles out - driving rain. Got lost several times – backroad – mud – car got stuck/ Finally found park but due to driving rain did not get out – back to hotel just in time to get to Consul General partner's luncheon at 1<sup>00</sup>.

Koala park - sanctuary for Koala bear primate, but also for kangaroos, wallerous wallebys + birds.

Lunch at Consul General, beautifully served – Present : Consul- Gen Palmer Ad.Kaleroos (?)(Br. Ad.); Commodore Coman, Capt Conly (Chf of Staff to Coman) Mr. Davis (USA reg. formerly Makan line – been here 17 yrs); Mr. Huckney(?) Vice Consul; Sir Thomas Gordon (Br. \_ Aust shipping Consul) Merrill, Jewell, Col. U.S.AT. Sev and myself [one more]

All genuinely glad CG will have units out here.

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Br. Admiral specifically asked me what our mission is Returned to hotel at 2<sup>45</sup>. 3<sup>00</sup> went shopping – sent Chinese Platter to Commodore Coman + Mrs. Getting. – Bought 2 more opals for 7 shillings + -2 Kangaroos – 2 silver boomerang pins – 1 bronze koala pin. Back to hotel at 4<sup>40</sup>. Laundry back –Preparing for leaving.

Commodore Quinn, head of ordnance supply, formerly Customs agent from Los Angeles called very cordial close to CG – invited me to dinner but could not accept – friend of Tom Gorman and other customs me – our men should contact him. Moved to Brisbane before long

Spent evening packing – to bed at 10<sup>00</sup> – Left call for 2:30 a.m.

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We. Aug 25

Called at 2:30 – down at 3<sup>00</sup> – Imperial Airways bus came for us at 3:15 – at dock at 3<sup>30</sup>. Heavy rain – downpour – checked in baggage – weight allowance 44 lbs – but we received special priority for 54. Certified no cameras. – Tea + cakes - sat around – finally boarded plane at 5<sup>00</sup> – took off about 5<sup>30</sup> – black dark. Very comfortable plane – seats – high head room – everything perfect except no heat – gave us foot muffs – served coffee + cakes about 6<sup>00</sup> – Beautiful sunrise – flying over scattered cumulus clouds – head winds – about 5000 ft alt. 7<sup>00</sup> breakfast – ham – bologna – hard boiled efgg– dry cereal + milk – bread butter jam coffee. Up to 10,000 ft – plane cold but managed to keep warm – seats comfortable for sleeping lunch on plane – ample

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Cold meat – salad – tart – fruit – hot coffee – Last 2 or 3 hours above clouds most of the time – Landed at 2<sup>00</sup> or 4<sup>00</sup> N.Z. time having set clocks ahead 2 hours – Met by Comdr Raines – Rooms at (?) hotel – taken over by Navy – best in town – Army took over 2d best. Comfortable room with bath – electric heater.

Comdr Raines apologized for Capt Jupp not meeting us – officers + town in a dither as Mrs. R- is due tomorrow. Raines got busy immediately on phone – Consul Boucher (?) came over and we discussed mission – consul has considerable M. M. work + some trouble out here – Raines got others on phone with result that at dinner we had Col. ---- ATS – Mr. Bulang (?) WSA representative here for some time and about to leave for San Francisco – Comdr Wilson, Chief Operations officer, Comdr Raines and the four of us - at dinner

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Discussed M. M. affairs during dinner and after and cleared up most of our business – Merrill + Jewell will meet with Col \_\_\_ Bulong (?), the Consul and several others to discuss it further. All very pleased to have CG out here and feel there is a decided need from many angles.

Local ref. of Am Bur of shipping – a 72 yr old New Zealander, unnecessarily (in the opinion of Bulong) delays turn around of ships by requiring repairs as rep of classification society – when necessity of repairs is doubtful. Merrill will go into this further and we will bring it to the attention of Cushing at S.F. and WSA.

Comdr Wilson took us for ride around city – port Naval barracks, up M + Eden – narrow winding road – beautiful view of city. Many old small volcanic cones on which city is built. Labor {Grab} and labor situation similar to Australia. To bed at 11<sup>00</sup>.

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Thursday – Aug. 26

Slept till 9<sup>00</sup> – breakfast at 9:30

Mrs. R delayed a day and will not get here till to-morrow. Army, Navy + M.C. each have supply depot here. Army furnishes provisions to all shore units of A., N. + MC is SW Pacific from this base. A. + N. each has hospital. 3d Div MC just left. Marine corps out in country. About 10 to 12M all US forces here now and diminishing. From now on this will be mainly base supply depot for stores which could spoil in tropics and for health, medical attention and recreation of US forces. Excellent co operation among services, WSA, Consul etc.

At 10<sup>30</sup> – went for ride in country –rolling country – pasture - small farms – everything green – trees and pastures – similar to Maryland + Va farm country – sheep +cattle – some small

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groves of citrus (oranges)- roadside and hedges mass of yellow blossoms – similar to golden rod – probably various forms of wattle. – chilly but not cold. About late March or April weather around Washington. Hilly country – mountains – volcanic – green – flowers. Lunch at 1<sup>00</sup> – Merrill + Jewell had satisfactory conference with Army Navy WSA – Consul – officials.

Lunch at 1<sup>00</sup>

2<sup>30</sup> Merrill, Jewell + myself took auto ride over Waitakare scenic drive – up and around mountains – scenic drive is well named – beautiful view over town and harbor – mountains and valleys – thick jungles – tropical ferns and fern trees and other dense growth in profusion – flower similar to golden rod in profusion along road and in clearings – walked down path to lone Kauri (?) tree

Page 92 about 15 ft in circumference – northern part of island still has many of these trees which were once prolific and comparable to Calif redwood trees. – Met Englishman with his two prize wire haired terriers.

Back to hotel at 4:30 – met Capt Jupp – Charge-de-Affaires and Mrs. Cox. – Commodore ? of British Navy all just in from Wellington ready to greet visitor to-morrow – Mrs. Roosevelt. Had drinks with the party and dinner.

After dinner – talked a while with Ens Stevens CG off Hunter Liggett – temporarily with relation to some disciplinary cases of crew of Hunter Liggett. – stated morale of crew good – a hundred or more have been hospitalized with malaria – landing party of 100 or more with boats are usually left for several weeks with each

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troop landing. Replacement at times with Navy personnel. Hunter Liggett at sea about 60% of time and 30% of that time are in war zone manning guns continuously – have been fortunate so far in that no actual attacks have been made on them – Herford bough Maori swagger stick for me

In room at 9:30 and packed up – plane takes off at 7:30 to-morrow for Noumea – In bed by 11:30

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Friday, Aug 27

Up at 7:15 – breakfast – ½ hr ride to plane – delayed – had coffee at airport – large airport training NZ pilots. Finally took off about 8<sup>45</sup>. We had been dreading Scot planes account of lack of comfort and cold – had on 2 suits underwear – 2 pr sox – 2 sweaters – khaki uniform rain coat.

Brig Gen Harris, M.C.; Col J C James (?) MC - Lt MC and about 6 Ens. In N.Z. Navy also passengers. Douglas commando plane – wide open space – 7 aluminum seats – 3 on one side 4 on other – rest of passengers curled on baggage + freight – enough heat in plane to take off some of the chill so that with the clothes we had on – we were fairly comfortable. Flying about 10000 ft – mostly over clouds

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– a little bumpy the first two hours then smooth – we brought sandwiches with us for lunch – good flight generally – landed at Mareno (?) field – about 30 miles winding road from Noumea – transferred to another commando plane and landed at field 15 min ride from Noumea. Met by aid to Ad.Halsey and brought to his quarters – very comfortable.

Pilot of plane from Auckland to Noumea was LT A.P. Moore USMC former Sec to Sen. Carter Glass – desires we call Smith – clerk to Sen Approp Committee. He has been on this run for some time + now has over 1000 hrs in the air – very happy – wants to stay here – looks fine.

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Dinner with Halsey then with him to movies – about a dozen officers – film breaking all the time.

Shaproth gave me letters – no exactly as I would have them but OK nevertheless

Col. Julian Brown and Col. Ray both of MC on Halsey staff – mess with him.

To bed at 11<sup>15</sup>

Mrs. Roosevelt left here yesterday – spent 2 days here visiting hospitals and barracks – Halsey gave small dinner – also Harman – French Gov wanted to give dinner by Mrs. R \_ refused. She will go to Guadalcanal on her way back though Halsey would rather she didn't.

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Saturday Aug 28

Up at 5<sup>00</sup>, breakfast 5<sup>30</sup> to NATS plane at 6<sup>00</sup> – took office at 6<sup>30</sup> (CBM Navy has seen in CG – see Short Sworden)

- Pleasant trip – cumulus clouds – partly to mostly cloudy – flying 7000 ft. Rode last two hours in pilot seat and remained in control room during landing – seaplane.
- Lt Bil Kings aide to Fitch met us – took us to quarters – I have one room bungalow next to Fitch – use his bath room etc. Fitch extremely hospitable – thoroughly enjoying visit. Before landing – circled over island – many coconut palm = tapping – straight rows of trees evenly spaced. First real cultivated coconut plantation I have seen. Landed about

After lunch had conference with Merrill – Jewell – Fitch – Maj. Gen Murray (USA) command of island – Capt Boak USA (under Murray) in charge of harbor. Explained mission and what we proposed to do – all were interested and

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glad to have CG here. Discussed cutters of Balsam class – They agree that they need two more. Fitch was very positive that we should have “aids to nav” unit here and could not understand why Shaproth had not requested it. He intimated he might take it up with Halsey.

Capt Boak took Merrill Jewell and I on tour of inspection. This is a beautiful port – lie a picture in wonderland or movie screen. Army Navy MC camp – air- supply – sea bees etc etc scattered around within radius of 20 miles – some in coconut groves – others carved out of jungle.

3 modern wharves, one completed today – the other is a few weeks – will take 2 liberty ships at one time – 3<sup>rd</sup> pier made of coral rock where SC’s + tugs, etc tie up to.

Over 100 miles of hard surfaced roads – coral rock – salt

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water binder – work began in February – a small city built here in the jungle since last Feb. Barber shop As 1 + 3 Navy No 2 Army (6200 ft runway) fighter strip. Modern airplane engine overhaul and rebuilding plant – 200 engines per month – as modern as any in US.

SeaBees have done wonderful job – view from Capt Schneider’s house overlooking harbor + coconut plantations.

Supply dump – ammunition dump – stacks of pontoons for barges wharves or what have you.

Some 30 to 40 thousand Army Navy + marines – Army home squadron of B-18s + B24s and medium bombers – Navy + MC fighters + dive bombers.

A mixed organization of Army Navy + MC which according to Fitch is working wonderfully. Drove down to wharf and met Comdr Yost CG – head of stevedoring gang.

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Capt Boaks said we could have him about Oct 15 – He + Fitch agreed to orders detaching him Oct 15 or as soon thereafter as Boak could spare him.

Met Lt Comdr \_\_\_\_\_, C.O. of CGC Balsam – discussed improvements that could be made in other ships – Merrill + Jewell went into more thoroughly and went out to Balsam.

Fitch Boak Murray all say balsam has been most useful and general utility – placing moorings, lifting weights – placing buoys. Water + fuel boat for cruisers.

Came back to Fitch’s quarters and went for drive with Fitch. Visited bomber shop – op. office, - com, office – intelligence office – Army hospital – nurses behind fences.

Many of these camps are

Page 101 also built in middle of coca plantations – cocoa trees about size of peach trees – shining green leaves – fruit the size of a fat cucumber or gourd.

Much coffee grown here but did not see any. Many hard wood trees – mahogany etc – big banyan trees – camouflage

Lizards in bunk – spiders on the wall.

Returned to quarters at 5<sup>30</sup> – bathed and shaved – about 20 officers on staff of Fitch met in his quarters for drinks at 6<sup>30</sup> – singing and general good time – 7<sup>00</sup> dinner after dinner movies – to bed about eleven.

A most cordial and enjoyable group – Fitch and his staff are tops.

Boat repair yard – damaged boats on beach – {seaproins} unloading planes at special dock built of pontoons.

Fitch insists we go to Guadalcanal.

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Sunday Aug 29

Up at 6<sup>00</sup> – breakfast Took off in sea plane about 8<sup>00</sup> – about 12 passengers including one army nurse. usual 10 or 12 aluminum seats – baggage and freight piled in center of plane – uneventful – flew at 10,000 ft – chilly put on sweater – did not take uniform coat along. Approaching island – flew over several small islands – coconut plantations – small settlements. Skirted north shore and landed at 12<sup>30</sup> – met by LtCmdr ? representing Capt Quigley and Col. ? representing Brig. Gen Howard M.C., commanding general. Drove to Howards quarters – lunch with staff of about 20 officers (I knew Howard when I was in planning section of Navy. Met another naval officer

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who was with me on Board for Promotion of rifle practice.

Drove down along water front with Gen Howard and Col ? Army who has charge of unloading ships from dock end. Navy contingent under different control unloads on barges. Use pallets in unloading from barges to trucks on docks – Navy will not put cargo on pallets is unloading from ship to barge so extra time is consumed.

Gen Howard is somewhat concerned re – msg he received from Halsey re – sinking of SS Pam ? by Jap plane which followed our planes in at night. Msg told him to speed unloading – much cargo damaged primarily by loading from ship to barge.

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visited with Ad. Wilkinson – CP amphibious force – about 18 miles down coast – although he established his hqr ashore recently he has much better facilities than Army under Howard with Quonset huts - native construction of mess hall underway etc.

Throughout Navy has better facilities and better consideration than Army in way of beer – cigarettes – ships service etc.

After dinner went down and took speed boat out to visit AK Cora Corella in harbor manned by CG officers and men – cruised around harbor for about an hour but unable to find boat – pitch dark – finally a speed boat came out and told us AK had left at sundown – to be back in a.m. – we had been told by harbormaster that she was in the harbor



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when we left dock. This illustrates apparent lack of good communication – and capable officers in charge of technical operations. The unloading of ships is of particular concern and Gen Howard is trying to find someone to organize the group. He discussed situation with Merrill and myself at length.

Watched night unloading those ships that are not being unloaded at night leave harbor and return in a.m. account of Jap raids. Returned to tent and turned in about 9<sup>30</sup>. Merrill and I occupied tent – house – I used General's shower – have to hold down chain to keep shower on – facilities for comfort not nearly so good as elsewhere and could well be better – would be in a Navy camp.

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Jewell conferred separately with “personnel” officer and Merrill with Capt Quigley. The are anxious for a “hearing unit” here and a ship of the balsam type.

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Up at 5<sup>45</sup> – shaved in cold water without mirror – good breakfast – in DE-3 plane – Douglas Commando. This plane for our own use – no other passengers or cargo – seat plane – 9 aluminum seats one each side – same as other – cold as the devil – 10,000 ft,

Cold flight – 12000 fr – no heat – sweater + rain coat – rode in pilot seat most of the way – arr. about noon – met by Lt Bill King – back to same quarters – lunch with Ad Fitch staff – took up with Fitch air rescue – Herford + Greenlade dew up letter which Fitch signed – copy to me. Merrill – Jewell Herford and I went aboard Balsam – in addition to captain talked in wardroom to four officers – 2 from Reserve course and

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2 old time enlisted men – all stated they were happy and that morale was good throughout the ship – mustered crew – spoke to them – inspected ship – in fine shape.

Discussed with Capt. And with Merrill some proposed changes – Merrill has list. Following most important + should be done

- 1 increased cooling water
- 2 camber strut for towing
- 3 ballast tanks
- 4 increased chart room space
- 5 New type of boom
- 6 another generator

Told Capt to have 1,2, + 3 done here if he can –

He says boom + gear weigh 80 tons – only one directional movement – drums on boom restrict arc of swing – cumbersome – too heavy etc

Capt said otherwise ship is fine – good sea –going

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Qualities – good power – fueled Libert ship off reef – single screw (Capt is LTHo tender {rerow })

AD. Fitch's barge took us over to see drydocks – then landed across harbor at fleet recreation grounds – baseball – soft ball – tennis – boxing rings – beer etc – a beautiful sight in coconut grove. Back to landing – drove out 15 miles to 1<sup>st</sup> {Figender} ship – great number of planes – excellent camp – fine location. Drove into native villages – houses of matting with thatched roof.

Back to camp – met usual crowd before dinner – singing etc. Ad. Wilson just

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Arrived from Honolulu to take command of Cruiser Division, LtComdr Moffett there - in command of division of PB3Y2 (?) (Navy counterpart of Army Liberator – 4 motor job)

Moffett on way back to states – he has done excellent work and has lost a number of his pilots in action. Apparently a favorite – was toasted and all that sort of thing.

Dinner and movies - movies only fair.

Fitch got word that a coding machine shipped from Guadalcanal to here some time ago is missing – serious – he is holding conference to-night

To bed at =10<sup>30</sup>.

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Tuesday Sept 1<sup>st</sup>

Up at 4<sup>00</sup> – bathed – shaved – breakfast at 4:30 – in plane at 5:30 – in air at 6<sup>05</sup>. PB2Y3 plane operated by Pan-Am – deepest part of plane must be 14 ft – steps up forward and aft/ Crew very attentive – fruit – coffee. Some heat in plane but sweater and 2 blankets feel good – 10 to 12 thousand feet. This plane has the appearance of a big box car or rather a barn – one passenger besides our party – nice lunch served. This is the longest hop we have made except from Frisco to Honolulu. Partly cloudy – cumulus – dodging thunderheads.

Passed over Funa Fuly at 11<sup>55</sup>. Irregular shaped coral atoll enclosing large harbor – apparently several entrances – a few of the islets are wooded (extremely small) but most are just coral + sand islets awash – practically a coral atoll locked harbor – 4 ships in harbor 4 fighter planes flying over us.

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Landed at Canton at 4<sup>00</sup> set watch ahead 2 hours to 6<sup>00</sup> p.m. (+11 Time here)

Crossed date line during passage so t-day now becoming Monday Aug 31

Comfortable hotel here run by Navy – comfortable bedroom with private bath – rather warm. Good dinner cafeteria style – Lt \_\_\_\_\_ USN manager of hotel. Well kept – grass flowers- shrubbery. WE landed just before dark so no opportunity to swim. Canton has been on alert the last few days – expecting a Jap raid went to open air moves – warm- good breeze – comfortable – beautiful night – searchlights playing on plane overhead in practice maneuvers. Poor movies – played bridge from 9 to 10 then to bed.

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Tuesday Sep 1<sup>st</sup>

(crossed date line yesterday)

Up at 2<sup>30</sup> a.m. – breakfast 3<sup>00</sup> – in plane at 3<sup>30</sup> –took off at 4<sup>40</sup> – beautiful clear morning – pitch dark – sky studded with stars. Su-up about 6<sup>00</sup> – ran through light tropical front from 7 to 8 – heavy clouds – overcast – somewhat bumpy – breakfast at 8<sup>30</sup> – scrambled eggs – bacon toast-coffee. Not as cold as yesterday – but sweater and blanket feel good – about 10,000 ft – picked up a couple more passengers at Canton. This hop is longer than yesterdays. Uneventful trip – good lunch – played bridge a couple hours.

Arrived Honolulu 5<sup>00</sup> p.m. (+10 ½ time Honolulu time). Met by Ad Ghormley's aide – Merrill + I quartered with Ad. Ghormley – beautiful house and gardens – I have large bedroom and share bath with Aide to Ghormley. I have room normally occupied by a member of Ghormley's

Page 114 staff – temporarily away – large bedroom –with large folding window opening on front lawn – large spacious living quarters downstairs – spacious grounds with various kinds of flowers and shrubs – vegetable garden in extreme rear. Bathed and shaved in time to have a drink and then excellent dinner – several Filipino's cook – serve, etc.

Jewell and Herford stayed at Pier 11 – comfortable quarters – air conditioned.

After dinner to open air movies for officers across the street “Mission to Moscow” interesting and enjoyable. To bed at eleven.

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Wednesday, Sep 2.

Up at 8<sup>00</sup> – good sleep – breakfast shave – Navy officers up warlier Merrill still sleeping – breakfast at 8<sup>30</sup>. 8<sup>45</sup> Ghormley called for me and we attended Nimitz's 9<sup>00</sup> a.m. conference (similar to 9<sup>30</sup> Navy Dept Conf)

Met and spoke to

V.Ad. Towers

V.Ad Calhoun (friend off Mrs. Springer)

V.Ad. Turner

Lt.Gen Richardson

R. Ad Spruance

After conference, I had conference with Nimitz. He approved formally

(a) Letter re – hearing units from Halsey

(b) “ “ Balsam type of cutters “ “

Informally approved by memo

(a) Rudy Valees band to SW Pacific when transportation is available

(b) Establishment of CG pool of men at Noumea

I showed him for his information the 3 letters from Carpenter

(a) hearing Units

(b) Navigational units

(c) Pool of CG men

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I also showed and gave him copy ( at his request) letter from Fitch to Halsey requesting CG planes and men take over rescue work in South Pacific. Nimitz was going to approve the copy without waiting for original coming thru Halsey but Spruance advised him to wait – se what Halsey says and act on original.

Nimitz asked me to give following msg to King “with a smile”

“We are bearing up cheerfully despite the terrible things we have to contend with – our faces are turned to the west – not the east and we still believe the Japs are our worst enemies”.

Back to quarter and loafed around till lunch. After lunch took short sunbath with Ad Ghormley and others – loafed around quarters – read etc till plane time

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Capt MacRobertson Chief of Staff to Ghormley went to plane with us – plane take off delayed – returned to Ad Ghormley's – then back to plane and took off about 6<sup>30</sup>.

Saw Sexton at plane – had talk with him – apparently everything OK from his stand point.

About 12 passengers – plane – little cargo – bunks for all – due to short water – runway for take-off about 3000 lbs lighter than plane leaving San Francisco.

Played some bridge – dinner at 9<sup>00</sup> – turned in at 10<sup>00</sup>. Sick headache – first and only ill feeling I've had on the trip.

Page 118 Thursday Sept 3

Up at 8<sup>00</sup> – breakfast – read and played a little bridge. Smooth crossing – good weather - head winds. Capt. William in command of plane.

Landed Treasure Isl airfield about 1<sup>00</sup>. Roach + Jones had been advised that plane would arrive 2<sup>30</sup> so were not there to meet me. Officials very courteous. Navy transportation to Customs House – conferred with Roach and Jones.

Roach complained of:--

Taking Slika away (Settled that)

“ Schroeder away (Promised to look into this)

Reduction in allowance of gas so that he has to lay up YP boats which are needed for port security patrol.

Merrill – Jewell conferred with Jones re – news flash against “Hearing units”. Jones advised me re – steps to

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for Pan Am to take over CG air side Navy driving Pan Am off Treasure Isld.

Talked to V. Ad. Greenslade over plane – told him of seeing his son – mentioned Pan Am site – he has sent memo to Wash.

Went shopping with Mrs Roach – back to air station – changed clothes – dinner with the Roach's – back to air station – in bed at 11<sup>00</sup>

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Friday Sept 4

Took off at 8<sup>00</sup> – circles and came back around account of propeller trouble – propellers had been re-newed. Sat in air station and read till lunch time – Jones + Roach came to lunch – Took off again at 1<sup>00</sup> – uneventful flight 14000 ft – read – arrived El Paso about 6<sup>15</sup> – 7<sup>15</sup> El Paso time (watch ahead one hour)

All hotels in city full – got accommodations at El Ranchotel about 10 miles out – Army furnished transportation. Fine comfortable Ranch hotel – comfortable cabins surrounding main building – my cabin \$7<sup>00</sup> for one night – twin beds – bath etc very attractive and very comfortable – steak dinner – turned in at 10<sup>00</sup>.

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Sat Sept 4

Up at 430 a.m. – car at 5<sup>00</sup> field at 5<sup>30</sup> – no breakfast – took off at 6<sup>15</sup> just beginning daylight. Fruit and coffee on plane – good weather – 8:30 to 9:45 up to 16700 ft to go over “front”.

Arrived Jackson about 12<sup>15</sup> (Jackson time) watch ahead one hour. Hemmed in on all sides by “fronts” forced to remain in Jackson rest of day and night. Good accommodations – 1<sup>st</sup> class air conditioned hotel. Very disappointing not getting to Washington

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Sept 5

Up at 4:30 – field at 5<sup>30</sup> account of weather did not take off till 7<sup>30</sup> – overcast – later scattered clouds.

[Then skipped 20-30 blank pages and starteded what looks like a log of gifts, contacts, etc]

Page 1

Ag

Tables – black opal – Handkerchief

Bill

1 Holster Belt – 1 large boomerang

-1 small boomerang – 1 Maori stick - silver boomerang pin (for tie pin)

1 small boomerang for Jerry and 1 for Jimmie

Flo

Chinese Pap – white opal

Doris

1. Black opal – 1 lare boomerang

Darsy

1 handerchief

Judy-

Koala bear

Marsella

Kangaroo

Randy

Kanagaroo

Dolph

1 large boomerang

Mark

1 koala bear pin

Page 2

LtComdr Moffet – son of Ad. Moffett – faterh fo Moffett who lives across street.

Mr. Moran of Comptroller of Currency (?) office Trsy Dept recently in Honolulu – spoke of me to Custom Inspector Gallagher – Gallagher wishes to be remembered to him.

Over

1 Large Boom

1 Kiwi bird Jim  
3 opals

Page 3

Tell V Ad Greenslade

Talk with Comdr Greenslade son of V. Ad Greenslade Aid for air op to V. Ad Fitch – the image of his father.

Herford talked with Greenslade about air rescue – he would like CG pilots + planes to do this work to relieve Navy pilots – 3 PBYs kept on call for rescue – 83% of combat pilots shot down are rescued.

Discussed air rescue with AD Fitch – he is asking for CG to come out and make planes + form rescue unit – Army advised him there were coming unit to report out here next May – strongly opposes army getting in this game – Have his full permission to quote him to Ad King

Page 4

Guadacanal

Capt Quigley USN Base Comdr R Ad Wilkinson Com Amphibious Force Gen USA Com Air Forces

Ad Wilson ( present at dinner with Nimitz) arrived here (Espiritu) today Aug 30 – to take command of cruiser division.

Get present and sent to Mrs Fitch Coronado Calif. Wife of V Adm Fitch – vase or something remembered to V Ad Fitch a most hospitable officer + gentleman (three sons in service)

Page 5

Letters on return to Wash

C.J. Spiker, Consul Gen. Melbourne Ad. CArpender

Plane – 3 star pins etc.

Lt Comdr Stewart – aid to carpender (coming to Wash.

Ad. Christie

Capt Causey

A.P. Moore – LT USMC (air corps)

Page 6

Pert

Comdr “Dutch” Williams

Remembered to Codington – Johnson

Small – Edwards – Bob Post

Ad. Christie

Capt McClane

Capt McCann (coming to Wash. In Counsel office shortly will call me up)

Strong sentiment for more subs in SW Pacific versus S. Pac – oil, rice, coffee, etc by merchant ships – charts of routes of Jap merchant ships

Flaming Tree (African Tulip Tree)

Capt McClane (Chf of Staff to Ad Christie) particularly wished to be remembered to Ad. King – he worked for him for 1 yr with pleasure + satisfaction

Cpt Coursey wife + family is in Indianapolis – call them up if we stop.

Page 7

Melbourn

Drummonds Jewelry Store

Georges – Dept

Enforum – “

Drivers ? “ (next door to Zup

Builly

6 Gold {Bromeninmgr

Ag-Flo-Judy-Betty-Teeter Doris

Ag

Linen

San Francisco (Chinese Table)

Flo

Chinese pajamas

Beads or Costume Jewelry

Ag-Flo-Daisy

Randy – Maresella

Page 8

Melbourne

3 small souvenir boomerang \$1.25 ea 3.75

4 large souvenir boomerang about 1.25 ea 5.00

Noumea – 1 necklace shells

Sidney

1 Koala Bear (Judy) 35 shillings

Ala bluejacket clean offer got it from woman who washes them

1 Opal 12£ - 10e

1 Opal 5£ -0

2 opals 0 -10 sh (5 ea)

2 linen handkerchiefs (Chinese) 25 Sh.

2 Opals 1 2 Sh – 1 5 Sh

2 Kangaroos – 9s11p each 19s10p.  
 1 Bronze Koala bear pin 1s9p  
 2 silver boomerang kiwi bird 2s9p(ea) 5s6p  
 1 Maori swagger stick – N.Z.

San Fran

1 set Tables \$40  
 1 suit pajamas \$10  
 1 gun + belt (Bill 4

Page 9

Wash. Time	+4
S.F. “	+7
Honolulu “	+9 ½
Wallis “	+11
Suva “	+12
Noumea “	-11
Brisbane “	-10
Melbourne Sidney	-10
Perth	-8
Auckland	+12

[We lost Sunday Aug 8 in going over date line set to Mon.]

Espirito	-11
Canton	+11

We repeated Tuesday Sept 1<sup>st</sup> in crossing date line

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Approx mileage  
 Nautical Miles

Washington to S.F. via El Paso	2190
S.F. to Honolulu	2070
Honolulu to Palmyra	990
Palmyra to Canton	750
Canton to Wallis (Uea)	690
Wallis to Noumea	1140
Noumea to Brisbane	
Brisbane to Melbourne	750
Melbourne to Perth	
Perth to Adelaide	
Adelaide to Sydney	
Sydney yo Auckland	
Auckland to Moumea	
Noumea to Espirito Santo	
Espirito Santo to Guadalcanal	



Guadacanal to Espirto Santo  
Espirito Santo to Canton  
Canton to Honolulu

Back cover left

2 khaki shirts  
1 “        trouser  
2 pr brown socks  
1 drawer (small for herford  
1 khaki hat

back cover right

Things to do  
Wedding present for Mrs. Getting  
    China bowls  
    Simpson + tie

Take Merrill to opal shop

Visit junk shop suva for boomerang pins

Belt + pistols for Bill ?

Get moving

Inside is a loose leaf 1 page itinerary – not his handwriting – maybe from one of his staff/pilot? [Image inserted below:]

DATE	FROM	TO	STATUTE MILES	DEPARTED	TIME ZONE	ARRIVED	TIME ZONE	FLIGHT TIME IN HOURS	PLANE
1 Aug	Washington	Atlanta	560	0600	+4	0900	+4	3.0	CG Lockheed Lockheed
"	Atlanta	Ft Worth	760	0930	+4	1300	+5	4.5	"
"	Ft Worth	El Paso	540	1345	+5	1503	+6	2.3	"
2 Aug	El Paso	Phoenix	370	0626	+6	0826	+6	2.0	"
"	Phoenix	San Francisco	730	1000	+6	1300	+7	4.0	"
3-4 Aug	San Francisco	Honolulu	2408	2000	+7	0930	+9½	15.5	ATLANTIC CLIPPER PAA-NATS
6 Aug	Honolulu	Palmyra	1030	1200	+9½	1830	+9½	6.5	PBM 3 NATS 6761
7 Aug	Palmyra	Canton	897	0735	+9½	1110	+11	5.1	" " "
"	Canton	Wallis	763	1205	+11	1645	+11	4.7	" " "
* 8-9 Aug	Wallis	Suva	506	0745	+11	1000	-12	3.3	" " "
9 Aug	Suva	Noumea	839	1130	-12	1706	-11	6.6	" " "
13 Aug	Noumea	Brisbane	950	0915	-11	1512	-10	7.0	" " 6459
15 Aug	Brisbane	Melbourne	900	0907	-10	1318	-10	4.2	COM SOPAC Lockheed Lockheed
17 Aug	Melbourne	Adelaide	408	0820	-10	1035	-10	2.3	" " "
"	Adelaide	Perth	665	1100	-10	1405	-9	4.1	" " "
"	Perth	Perth	775	1435	-9	1712	-8	3.6	" " "
19 Aug	Perth	Kalgoorlie	340	0712	-8	0852	-8	1.7	" " "
"	Kalgoorlie	Adelaide	1080	0925	-8	1605	-9½	5.2	" " "
20 Aug	Adelaide	Melbourne	408	0830	-9½	1105	-10	2.1	" " "
"	Melbourne	Sydney	448	1112	-10	1345	-10	2.4	" " "
25 Aug	Sydney	Auckland	1289	0520	-10	1530	-12	8.2	Short Sunderland FB-Tasman Empire Airlines
27 Aug	Auckland	Noumea	1123	0505	-12	1525	-11	7.3	DC 3 SCAT
28 Aug	Noumea	Espiritu Santo	470	0636	-11	0955	-11	3.3	PBM 3 NATS
29 Aug	Espiritu Santo	Guadacanal	620	0800	-11	1150	-11	3.8	DC 3 SCAT SNAFU
30 Aug	Guadacanal	Espiritu Santo	620	0645	-11	1045	-11	4.0	DC 3 " 12
* 31-30 Aug	Espiritu Santo	Canton	1695	0615	-11	1820	+11	10.1	P32Y 3 NATS
31 Aug	Canton	Honolulu	1915	0420	+11	1700	+9½	11.2	" " "
1-2 Sept	Honolulu	San Francisco	2408	1820	+9½	1250	+7	16.0	PACIFIC CLIPPER PAA-NATS
3 Sept	San Francisco	El Paso	1100	1250	+7	1915	+6	5.4	CG Lockheed Lockheed
4 Sept	El Paso	Jackson	940	0612	+6	1215	+5	5.0	"
5 Sept	Jackson	Washington	930	0733	+5	1320	+4	4.8	"
			26447					169.2	

\* Crossed date line

Total To Jackson 28507

Total to Jackson 1164.4