

Leslie Hound.

July 7th 1948.

My journey to

Australia.

VIA TRAIN TO LONDON
JULY 7TH 1948

TRAIN TO SOUTHAMPTON
JULY 8TH

EMBARK H.M.T ASTURIAS
BOUND FOR AUSTRALIA.
JULY 8TH 1948

JULY 7TH 48

We left Farndon at 8-50.A.M. by taxi to the L. & E.R. station, then caught the 9-20 Train to London, changing at Grantham, we arrived at Kings Cross at 12-15, then took the baggage on to Waterloo station where after a bite to eat we began to view the Historic sights of London this we all found very interesting but, not enough time, we turned in at 11-30 very tired but much wiser,

JULY 8TH 48.

Up at 8-3 clock, breakfast at 8-30 then some more sights, until 12-30, when we left London by Tube for Waterloo to get the 2-30 Boat Train for Southampton. Arriving at Southampton 4-15 we saw for the first time the H.M.S. Anson and forward of her lay the Queen Elizabeth which will pull out for New York at 10.A.M. tomorrow. We have now taken our turns in the queue

through the customs. It is not a long job and everyone is obliging so we pass on and up the Gangway to the deck of the Asturias. We are met by steward and stewardess who direct us to our cabins. Kim & Anthony are up on C. Deck. Gwen & I being on E two decks below them. we get a quick wash and brush up, and off we go to a smashing meal. Then a good look round the ship, by this time it is, 11-o'clock and after a busy day we turn in.

JULY 9th 48

Rise at 7-A.M. Breakfast at 8 A.M. get things straightened out of the cases into our various wardrobes. Then 10-15 this is it! We're off. Anchors are drawn and the pilots come alongside music is being played, and relayed as we move slowly down the Solent, passing the Queen Elizabeth in Dock. By dinner we see Gower in the Isle of Wight and sight Portsmouth making our way for the Channel, it is quite calm and no one

seems to be such, 4:30 PM We are detailed
for Lifelboat drill this is easy and
finish by 4:45, after which the cigarettis
are on sale, and shake us very much
when we only pay 5/- for 100, after playing
3/4 for 20, 6 o'clock dinner, then dry canteen
sweets for the kids, who cannot realize
not having to give points up we are now
well down Channel and are expecting
to be in the Bay of Biscay by break-
fast tomorrow, there is a slight swell
on, and the boat is rolling a bit. The
Children have turned in and Hen. I are just
going to the Lounge for a quiet drink & a
smoke. 10:30 He shall turn in now after a
glorious day.

JULY 10th SATURDAY.

It is a super morning, we entered the Bay
of Biscay during the night it is not too
choppy, Hen. I have a walk on deck before
breakfast and spot a school of Porpoise
off the Starboard bow. It is 8 o'clock and
breakfast time off we go to a smashing
meal. The temperature is gradually rising
and we are going to sun ourselves and read

on deck. (What a life!) just pushing along.
in beautiful sunshine everyone happy
and enjoying the trip. We have been introduced
to 14 members of the Leicester Australian
Club and have made a happy party joining
all the fun. by this time the H. M. S. George
from Zombasa, bound for Southampton has
passed us. It is now Lunch time so we
shall adjourn, 1-45 PM After Lunch and
we are just lazing on the deck as the
ship travels along. by nightfall we shall
be out of the Bay of Biscay.

Sunday July 11th

Yes, when we awoke we were well out of the
Bay and heading for the coast of Spain
10:30 we go to Sunday service, and afterwards
met our friends on top deck. It is a
glorious day boiling hot everyone by now
has got a sun tan, we are just steaming
along nothing to see but an odd
cargo boat steaming away Southampton
bound

5-P.M. we see the coastline of Spain It is

drawing gradually near 6PM. Now we see Lisbon 16 miles off the port bow. By noon tomorrow we should be in Gib. where our mail will be taken ashore. the sea is quite calm now and the weather very hot, we have had dinner and are going to a Sunday evening concert.

MONDAY JULY 12

It is a bright morning but breezy. We are not far from Gib. on the Port side we can see Cape St. Vincent and from the starboard side we see the Coast of Morocco, we should reach Gibraltar by noon the time now is 9-45 AM.

11-AM We reach Gib. and drop anchor. we are looking directly at the Rock, & as we see small rowing boats making toward us they pull alongside and by arguing and bartering try to sell us their goods Shawls Bracelets watches fine apples & Bananas but need watching. I do not want to show their various articles from their boat, shouting up the price. If agreeable they throw up a rope with

Cass attached down goes your money then
up comes the Goods, we watch this for 1 hour
then Lunch, 1 PM. Anchors away and off
we make for the Mediterranean. Sea leaving
Lib. behind it is a grand sight and looks
quite majestic as we sail on, the breeze
is dropping and its getting very warm.
Into the Mediterranean it is very calm
and warm, the water is blue and we
steam along down the coast of Algiers.

TUES. 10th

We pass Algiers at about 4-45 and
carry on it has been a very hot day and
orders have been issued from the
office, for passengers to avoid the
sun and wear protective clothing as
far as possible we are getting into
the tropics, at 8-15 PM Dance has
been arranged, on the deck. The
floor is prepared and Gaily coloured
streamers are hung from the Lampies.
It is now 8-30 and a beautiful
night, the sun is down and a

crescent moon is shining with its reflection on the water a picture that photography could not do justice too, the dance goes on till 10-30PM and we turn in.

WED JULY 14TH

It is an uneventful day, still very hot Anthony has had a little trouble with the Tumour, we have paid a visit to the D.O. he says its just due to change of food, and will be quite alright. We keep out of the sun as much as possible, We can still see the Algerian coast and as we go along we pass several islands dotted in the Med. We hope to reach Malta by 8 AM. Thursday we are dead on time and everything seems to be working out perfectly, I hear we are going to take about 100, Malteseans on board.

THURS. JULY 15TH

The Med is very thick this morning we are in sight of Malta but are travelling very very slowly we dare not enter Port

and the ships siren is screeching away
we have the engines off and are at a
standstill. By 10 AM the mist is lifting
and at 10:30 we catch our first glimpse
of the George Cross island. It is a
beautiful sight, with its tall buildings
that seem to be just built on rock.
and so we steam ahead into Vellella
Harbour, much to the kiddies delight
there is a British Destroyer at
Anchor. The sun is now streaming down
on us beautifully and makes the houses
overlooking the harbour look a wonderful
golden yellow. Our gangway is lowered
and all sorts of boats pull alongside
from Military Police boats to the kind
of Gondolas, used by the Italian
merchants selling their goods to folk
on the decks of the "Disturias". There is
also Italian divers diving off small
boats for coins thrown off the decks
but the coin must be silver. After
Lunch, From the Forts on the island
a Gun salute is fired, as a German
Cruiser sails by it is a very fine sight.

The Italian passengers are now on board and the British, Italian Police are leaving the Asturias, and by 2.45 the Anchors are drawn and off we go for our next destination will be Port Said "which we hope to reach by Saturday the Asturias will do 19 knots and I think they have got her flat out to make up for time lost in the Gulf this morning. The time is 6.45 I am taking Her & Gren to the Cinema, Anthony is in bed snoring his head off.

FRID. JULY. 16th

It is a hot sultry day we have left Italy well behind the passengers are looking out for the shady spots but they are hard to find. it is more than 24 hours since we saw land, the water is a clear blue and very calm we are just laying about until dinner, which is at 6 P.M. After dinner, we notice how short the nights are as we get nearer the tropics it is only 6.30 and dusk has fallen. the moon is well out. Tonight we put our time on

hour tonight, as I write this we see a light flash as we look over the Port Bow. It is a landmark on the Libyan coast, I think we are looking out toward Benghazi. It is now quite dark, here, the twilight does not last very long, the kiddies are asleep in and I am going in the lounge to play Tombola for 1 hour. we play until 10:30 then turn in.

SAT. JULY 17TH

We arose at 7 AM I had been a very hot night - very little air. we are pleased to get out on deck, after Breakfast we find a cool spot and a couple of deck chairs settling ourselves down for the morning. Gwen has gone to school - Anthony is running around. He expects to be in Port Said tonight.

6:30 PM. We are just outside the Port. and manouvering in position, flying the Egyptian flag, the flag requesting Pilot, also a Quarantine flag for I hear

there are two cases of measles aboard.
as we wait a Yankee oil Tanker draws
alongside us then accross our bows
I notice he is flying the Pilot flag
so we shall have to give way to him
darkness has now fallen it is a beautiful
night with a full moon, but I don't
know if we shall enter port tonight
or wait until daybreak we are not
due through the Suez until tomorrow
Sunday. From here we can see
the lights on, in Port Said, also
the lights on the bouys marking
the sea lane on our port side we can
just see the top of a funnel this is
a boat sunk during the war, we have
now dropped anchors maybe in the
morning when we awake we shall be
docked in "Port Said," It is now
10:30 the Pilot has been on board about
1 hour, he is taking us into port
tonight, and we make it, as we crawl
along we pass the Monument to
Ferdinand De Lesseps, this is a dividing
Line where West finishes and East begins

several large ships lay at anchor in Port Said. We are then greeted by numbers of men I should say some Egyptians some Arabs, all offering their various wares, but mostly leather handbags. Some even swarm up on deck, but are treated in an appropriate manner. There is even amforurs amongst them. It is a fair hum drum, and the smell is terrific, this bartering and wrangling goes on till 3-AM. When we all turn in, except for one or two who walk round the decks on the lookout for any natives that may have slipped aboard.

SUNDAY JULY 18th

6.AM. Anchors away and off we go through the Suez Canal. It is a glorious morning very warm. we see several natives taking their morning bath some with nothing on at all we go very slowly down the canal for we are not allowed to go fast. one side we see stretches of sand for mules on the Arabian side. Occasionally on the Egyptian

side there are native settlements with Palm trees and Camels sitting idly in the sun. Little native children are walking about on the banks of the Canal then a British Army outpost and sometimes R.A.F. the soldiers are swimming in the Canal and wave a greeting as we pass on by this time we are getting near the Bitter Lakes and, an Egyptian lady passes carrying the water jug on her head, as we enter the Bitter Lakes, what a glorious sight as it opens out into what looks like a beautiful Lido, with Europeans sitting round tables with great Umbrella shades, or swimming around in the water there is green all around the banks this makes a nice change from the sand and more sand, through the Lake and back into the Suez on the side we see oxen we to me seem a very queer shape, by this time it is Lunch time and off we go we return on deck about 1.30 and by this time the sun is doing his best to scorch us everything we touch is hot, so we find a protected place where we can sit around

without getting burned. We are now passing
the actual spot where we are told Moses
led the Israelites, at the Lords will
across the Red Sea, we are getting well
down the Suez now and should be in
in Port Suez by five o'clock too our
Starboard Side we see the "Hell" that
Moses used, and now we can see Port
Suez one or two large ships lay anchored
in the harbour we go steadily on through
the port this town seem to have made
an attempt to get European ways its
buildings, etc. the streets are fairly wide
and clean dotted here and there with
Palm Tree, modern automobiles run along
the streets. we pass into the Gulf of
Suez and out into the Red Sea. The
sun is now dying and makes a beautiful
picture casting its rays from the mountains
and down on to the sea, making a galaxy
of colour impossible to be portrayed by man
we see the Lighthouse on the Rock keeps
blinking away and so we adjourn after
an interesting day to the Lounge for a
quiet sit down. until 10 P.M. we then

turn in,

MONDAY JULY 19TH

What a day the temperature is 91 degrees and every one seems overcome by heat trying to find cool spots. They turn the water on the decks much to the delight of the kiddies who splash around and enjoy themselves thoroughly. Grenville goes for half hour but returns burned. By the sun, the temp is still going up. But by 4:30 PM. the sun has gone down and is almost dark we find our time on half an hour tonight, we find a very cool place on the bows and settle down for the evening.

TUES 20TH JULY

We are well out in the Red Sea no sight of land it is scorching hot the temperature is 101 degrees. people are perspiring by just sitting around several children have got sweet rash this is rather irritating but not dangerous our kiddies are standing up to the heat very well, we should be in Aden by Thursday, this is supposed to be the hottest part of the world, we

just laze about in the shade today
for it is too warm to expend our
energy, and we turn in early. after
baths, it is advisable that baths should
be taken every day.

Wed 21st

Just another day, we pass one or two
islands dotted in the Red Sea and
one Lighthouse it makes one think
how lonely and monotonous it must be
for the man in charge it is miles away
from any place, we pass on for we
are due in Aden by 5. AM. in the morning
we spend a quiet day and turn in by
9.30 PM. for we want to rise early we
are looking forward to going ashore after
being aboard for a fortnight.

THURS. 22nd.

We arise at 4.15, and straight through
the porthole we see Aden. after a closer
look we find we are layed too just outside
the port, and are awaiting the pilot to
take us into harbour. it is early but there

quite a lot of activity ashore, by 8.30 we were
round to move into the harbour we see
the high rocks and Volcano, standing high
above the harbour. we await to go ashore
and just stand looking over the side as
the oil tankers draw along side us for
we are taking on oil today. by 9.45
we see the hire boats draw alongside
to take us ashore. the gangway is
lowered and we make our way down to
the boats. the price for taking us
ashore is 3 Annas or 10^p. We go ashore.
It is surprising how many policemen we
meet, after seeing our policemen these Aden
police, look quite small some do not seem more
than 5'-4". there are Arab children begging
everywhere, and Arab people lying around in
the shade, the heat is intense and as we
pass some of the side streets the stench
is terrific, in the native quarters whole
families live together along with their live
stock one or two goats wander aimlessly
about the streets and a camel hobbles
along drawing a refuse cart. It is now
12.30 and we go to have something to eat

we try the Hotel Ippona it seems to be more European than the others we are waited upon by natives who are in their bare feet and understand only broken English, we buy Lager Beer brewed in England, and have the choice of a magnificent menu, there are large fans suspended from the ceilings and worked by Electricity it is pleasantly cool in these places after the heat outside. we spend about one hour here, watching the waiters trip about and chatter, for they do most everything to please, but after each course they stand there for the inevitable tip, and so we wander back into the street all the Dazzars are open for there is a Boat in otherwise the afternoon is their Siesta.

Natives are trying to sell their goods almost anything from a coconut to a Gold wrist watch there is also plenty of cheap jewellers. we pass along and enquire of a local policeman the whereabouts of the post Office instead of just directing us he personally escorts us it is a matter of about a quarter mile and takes us in, even sticks the stamps

on our letters for us. It makes one shudder when one sees the amount of deformities among the native children and the conditions they live in. and yet for all that they seem to be quite happy. at 3 o'clock we make our way back to the Asturias and are pleased to find the shade of its saloons after the glare of the Sun, and heat of Oden. after dinner we sit in darkness of the foredeck awaiting anchor away, but it is 9 o'clock before this happens and we make our way into the Arabian Sea.

FRIDAY JULY 23rd

It is a glorious morning very calm and pleasant, but comes a little surprise when the Skipper gives the order for anything movable must be fastened down as we are moving into rough weather. thus we find out later is the monsoons. he try's going round it but finds this cannot be done so we make straight through. all port holes are closed and everything is lashed down on decks. the water runs very high and

lashes the sides of the vessel with a mighty force, making it rock and sway about like a cork. It gives one a queer feeling in the head a sort of light headiness whilst the stomach seems to be reaching for the deck and then into the mouth again. Some of the passengers are out with seasickness by now and nearly everyone is feeling some effect of the sway. We turn in early.

SATURDAY 24th

It is now much worse we cannot face our Breakfast. Kin. & I. The kiddies are fine and enjoying it immensely. This carries on all day and gives one the feeling of lifelessness we do not feel inclined to do much but lie on our bunks,

SUN. 25th

No Alteration, we are still ploughing through heavy seas as we make our way to Colombo. we should reach there by Wednesday we lost another passenger during the night due to sunstroke this is the

second to pass on, this week, the funeral service will take place at 8.A.M this morning. seasickness has got Ken by now she is trying everything possible to overcome it, but looks thru shots to the winds & eventually persuaded to go and lie down. I am now feeling much better and decide on a walk round the decks, accompanied by Anthony & Grenville

MOND. 26TH

There is still a strong swell but by now we are gradually getting our sea legs whilst the dizziness still continues we are going to stick it out. We have all been down and enjoyed Breakfast and are seated to the fore of "B" deck watching the table Tennis competitions Grenville is off to school he is awfully keen on this and goes without any persuasion, the teacher has promised with the Captains permission to take ten of them up on the Bridge this afternoon and when we get nearer to Australia up they go again, and the first boy to sight Australia from

the Bridge receives 10/-, By Dinner
time both Win. I are feeling quite ourselves
again and eat an hearty meal afterwards
we go to the Cinema and finish the
the evening with a drink in the Library
the swell is either dying down now
or we have found our sea legs

TUES
~~WED~~ 27 JULY 1948.

It is still a bit rough but everyone
seems to have settled down now and
everything is back to normal, we just
pass a lazy day. we expect to see
Colombo tomorrow, we turn in early

WED.
~~THURS.~~ 28TH

Yes when we awoke at 6.30 AM. we were in
the harbour at Colombo, as we view it from
the deck it seems to be much more
modern than Aden it has large buildings
overlooking the harbour and the natives
look much cleaner, we travel by ferry
boat to the jetty, and then pay 1/8^d.

fair before being allowed off, as we walk
down the main street we see the rickshaws
with the native boys pulling them along
it is amazing the speed these boys travel
and evade the traffic, there are also lot
of ~~color~~ covered carts being each drawn
by two small bullocks they just jog
along through the streets. we can also
by past editions of English newspapers
as we go along we pass a Buddhist
Temple we decide to look in it is
wonderfully clean, there are a few pair
of sandals lying in the door way, we
enter through an through an archway
which leads into an open courtyard, there
is a shrine to Buddhah surrounding
by dozen of glorious flowers, to my
mind the flowers give off a strange
oriental perfume kind of sickly these
flowers are changed religiously twice each
day, one or two natives are on their
knees worshipping this image, we stand
under the shades of two huge coconut
palms whilst this goes on, we can
see the huge coconuts growing high up

in the tree tops, and there are dozens
of Indian Black Grouse flying about
they are similar to our crows in England
but do not seem to have so many
feathers, anyhow the time is getting
short for we have to be back aboard
by 1 PM and there is much more to see
we pass out of here and wander
down the street with its native
Bazaar there seems to be quite a lot
of shops displaying all kinds of
cheap jewellery and one or two crafty
old natives who try to pass this
imitation off to you as Gold. Then
we get to the more high class shops
we go round these there are great
numbers of beautifully clean natives
in gorgeous coloured robes so of the
girls are almost lovely. you may buy
almost anything in these shops
unlimited amounts of Ceylon Tea and
English and American foods our time
is getting short so we make our way
to the docks we meet one or two
beggars in the street but nothing like

the number we saw in Aden, as we get within 100 yards of the docks without any warning we are caught in a great burst of torrential rain. We make a run for shelter but are soaked before reaching it anyway we make our way to the Jerry Boat, and back on board the Asturias. we have a meal then go up on deck to watch the boat leave Colombo harbour. practically up to the time of the ship sailing there are native boys over the side in their small boats trying to sell us pineapples, coconuts, elephants carved in jade and all kinds of wood carvings. 3 PM Anchors are drawn and we are once more on our way we leave Colombo and our next port will be eight days time Fremantle. 4 PM We all go down to dinner and after putting Anthony to bed we go to the local Talent Show, a very interesting day.

THURS 29th

9 AM. a lovely morning not a sight of land we have left Colombo 250 miles

behind, we are now well out in the Indian Ocean, Gren and I pass our time away watching the Flying Fish it is marvelous how these things fly just above the surface of the water they seem to have tremendous speed. We shall pass over the Equator at 11:15 this evening no arrangements have been made for the old proverbial duckings I suppose it is so late when we pass over the line.

FRID. 30TH

Today is Childrens day aboard, it is a pleasant day the sun is shining beautifully. There is a concert for the kiddies at 2 PM followed by a Fancy dress parade, 3-4:30 the parade has started and led by two accordians the children parade round the decks, some of them look lovely and some humorous, there are no prizes but each child receives a block of chocolate, then off they go to a Tea which includes Cakes and Ice Cream, all the kiddies and most

adults enjoy this, 8-15, There is a
Whirl Drive in the Cinema Hall
also a Dance on "B" Deck. It is
very crowded and very warm we
turn in at 10-30

SAT. JULY 31ST

Two more days to go before we reach
Fremantle we have had several forms
to fill in for the Quarters, and
every one seems to be eager to get
a glimpse of Australia. We lie
about in Deck chairs in the sun
and pass the time away. Gren is
still going regular to school, both
kiddies are, keeping themselves well
amused. 8-45, Tambola is played
in "A" deck Lounge there is also
another performance of the Local
Talent Concert.

SUN. AUGUST. 1ST 1948.

It is now getting cooler. we go to the
morning Service this is conducted by
the Captain and Second Officer, after

this we go on deck for 1 hour and then to Lunch. After this we just lay about during the afternoon. At 8-15 PM there is a Quiz this is very entertaining after this we turn in

MON AUG. 1ST

A bright morning we sit on deck watching the finals of the various Competitions. Deck Tennis Pick Quarts etc, at 8-15 PM. a Fancy dress parade is to be held, this is quite a turn out, and the various dresses are amazing this is judged by the Captain and after much fun the winners of different classes are announced. afterwards a dance is held in the Cinema, this is very packed and it is more fun than dance, owing to the heavy roll of the ship, the dancers cannot control their feet and to every ones amusement just stagger from side to side, this goes on until 11 PM then they play the King and

everyone turns in

TUES. AUG. 3RD

Two more days and we should reach Fremantle. we have heard the H. B. I. Orund has already arrived there. she left Tilbury Docks just before we left Southampton. The boat is rolling a little this morning but most everyone is quite used to it by now and cases of seasickness are very few. It is the Childrens Sports today the kiddies are quite excited about it especially Gren he is going to enter for one or two events these take place at 2. PM. we go to lunch afterwards we go to the Sports. It is a very nice affair. races suitable for kiddies of all ages. this goes on till 4.30. We all go for a bath and then to dinner. afterwards we spend the evening reading and gossiping

WED. AUG. 4TH

It is a lovely morning, and we sit on deck, till 10-30, then go to the school to watch the presentation of prizes by the Captain to the schoolchildren. a very entertaining little episode when the smallest child in the school presented the Captain with a card, with every child's name on it. the Captain was very touched with this and picked the child up to kiss her. After Lunch it is announced that after tonight all shops and Bars aboard will be closed until the Customs Officers have taken stock. in the evening we play Tombola in "A" Deck Lounge.

THURS. AUG. 6TH.

Of such excitement aboard we are expecting to get our first sight of Australia by 11 o'clock people are already leaning on the rail, to get a good view. And at 9-45 there it is on the horizon we cannot discern anything yet it is too far away. but by 11 o'clock we drop anchor outside Fremantle and

await the pilot. we hope to set our
feet on Russian soil today but up to
now it is doubtful. The Doctors have
come ~~some~~ aboard. and we have our
medical exam we are soon out of this
and go for Lunch, when we come out
of the dining hall our ship has pulled
into the harbour at Fremantle, we have
only one passenger aboard whose
destination is Fremantle at 2.30 we
are told we can go ashore if we wish
until 4.30 in the morning. This is it!
off we go. We walk along the streets
viewing all the shops which are
wonderfully stocked. Fruit of every
kind, vegetables, sweets nuts. Wines
in fact everything, no austerity about
it everyone is so obliging, we go for
Tea in a cafe, the menu astounds us
but no more, than we get served for
there is enough on one plate alone to
fill ~~one~~ two persons, and the cost for
4 in Russia amounted to the cost for
2 in England. After tea we walk a
little more we like the novel idea of

passengers on the street cars with their
frames hung on the front. By now it ~~was~~
getting dark. and the shops are beginning
to light up. It was a grand sight
for the two kiddies for they had not
seen the adverts in lights before and
was highly amused at them flashing
in and out. and so we make our
way back to the ship, feeling that
Australia was even better than we
really believed it to be, and so
to bed.

FRID 7TH AUG. 1948

~~Stock.~~

7.15 AM. Anchors away and off we go on
our last stage of our journey. It is a
bright fresh morning we have some of
the Australian authorities aboard and they
give us a very interesting talk about
different organisations all ready for us to
take advantage of on landing in
Melbourne. Our Identity Documents
are taken from us and we are issued
with Station Cards for Butter, and Tea

These are the only two things that are rationed in Australia. We are interviewed about the various jobs we are going to. Our Friends & Relations have been notified of the time of our arrival in Melbourne in fact everything has been done to ensure our welcome to Aussie and every thing is so simple to follow. It is now 2 PM the boat is not only rolling but pitching, and one or two folk are feeling the effect of it, and we shall not have the Australian Bight, which is comparable with the Bay of Biscay until 7 PM tonight. By 7 PM. we have got a great roll on and all the portholes are clamped down. Ken & I have got a slight churn on the tummy so we go to our bunks to lie down. Gren & Anthony have still no effects of it. The weather is getting much cooler and there is a strong wind blowing people have deserted the decks and are sitting either in the lounges or in their cabins there is no amusements tonight as the

various rooms are being used for interviews and other formalities so we turn in early.

SAT. AUG 8TH 1948

We are now well in the Bight. It is a glorious morning with a cool fresh wind blowing. We are not getting quite so much roll as we had last night and folk seem more cheerful. We have had Breakfast and are sat in "B" deck lounge. I so packed this morning. There is not much to do on board as everyone is trying to get in and out of the cold breeze. We stay until Lunch, after lunch we go for our ~~stomach~~ afternoon nap, and get up in time for Dinner. After Dinner we play Tombola in "U" Deck Lounge.

SUN. 9TH

We get up early and after breakfast we sit about until church time then we go to service. It is a very nice

cheerful service and enjoy it. After Lunch we get our news papers and go for a read. There is not much doing aboard at Sunday so we settle down for a nice quiet day. After dinner a quiet drink, and game of cards and we turn in at 10 P.M.

MON. AUG. 10TH

Everyone is getting a little excited we expect to reach Melbourne tomorrow (Tues.) and be along with 725 more passengers will be disembarking there are many rumours aboard. About the time we shall be allowed off board. We have an interview with an Aussie official and find out we shall not be able to leave until 3. A.M. Wed. owing to our destination being 90 miles up country and no train after we disembark. After Lunch we spend the rest of the day packing, until dinner. After dinner we go for a walk round and then into the lounge. I think we shall play Tombola again tonight.

there is not much to do, as there is
~~nothing much~~. It is the last time
aboard, we shall be pleased to be
on land again. The pilot meets us at
11-AM. Thus to take us into Melbourne
Harbour. He turns it at 10-30

TUES AUG. 10TH

This is the day everyone is excited
We are up very early our packing is all
completed and we get up on deck early
to get a good view of Australia we
see the land and move slowly on
towards port Melbourne it is a
great day for us. For today is the
day we meet for the first time the
people who have sponsored us we
pass along and see Point Lonsdale
then move slowly on and stop
out of Port Melbourne we see the
dockside crowded with people waiting
to meet their friends and relatives.
the tall buildings of the City
of Melbourne stand high above
us. It is a cool morning but I

think we feel the cold a little more
after travelling through tropics
we are now pulling alongside the
dock at Prince's Pier there is a mass
of baggage for the Scottish people
who have arrived, we can see the
folk plainly on the docks now
folk with bunches of flowers other
with streamers and some with
names in large bold letters in their
hats looking for relations up on the
decks, we are all called to the
Cinema Hall, for it will be much
easier for our friends to find us
for they have now started to let
them aboard, there are many touching
scenes as relatives meet some for the
first time after years there are laughs
embraces and even tears we are straining
our necks but cannot see our friends
yet, ah there they are we see them
with our friend Harald we go up to
them and are introduced we make
our arrangements for going ashore
but we first have to pass the customs

this is quite a job as everyone seems to be wanting to get off at once it is now quite dark and we are still waiting to go through the customs. It is 7-30 PM. when we get through and a car is waiting to take us up to our friends Brothers home for something to eat he lives six miles from the City it is a grand sight as we travel through and see the Beacon Lights. we arrive there at about 8-o'clock where a grand meal and a great welcome awaits us, we stay until 12-P.M. We are then taken back by car to the Augustinas where we spend the night. Our friends meet us at 8-30 AM where they are going to take us by car 90 miles up country to their home this eventually turns out to be 118 miles but we have a great journey it is a glorious Spring morning and as we travel along through miles of open country we reach Geelong by Lunch time this is quite a town so we decide to stay for Lunch for

we are just about half way to our destination
after dinner we set off to complete our
journey it is still a beautiful day and
we enjoy the run immensely we arrive
in Golac at 4 p.m. and decide to stay
here for a while for this is the last
place we see before reaching our
destination 18 miles away By 5 p.m. we
are off again and finally make it
at 5.45 we see for the first time
what is going to be our home for
a few months. We have Tea and then
saunter around to find our bearings
it is well out in the Bush and
things do not look too rosy for they
have no Electricity gas, and water
is stored in Tanks water is a big
snag up here for we depend very
much on the rains, Our friend has
forty cows milking so we all have
to do something, I go into the Cowyard
and help with the milking whilst
Win helps in the house, We all go
to bed early at night for we have
to be up early each morning and

six fifteen ^{A.M.} see's me back in the Cow
Yard It is not light yet so we use storm
lamps. I have to go down to Colac
tomorrow to interview my new boss. We
all go down in Tom's Car for it is
market day and all the farmers and
their wives go to town, anyway I
run up against some foul luck for
the job I have come out to as been
given to another man. This is a bit of
a shock for me I do not intend staying
up on the farm for farming is definitely
not one of my strong points so I talk
it carefully over with him and we come
to the decision I go to Melbourne
to find work and an house, so at
4 o'clock on Saturday afternoon I set
out for the Big City. I arrive in
Melbourne at 10-15 P.M. and now to find
somewhere to sleep for the night
so I trek around as best I know
the place and after several refusals
I decide on the Y. Y. C. A. but
have no luck they as weekends are
reserved for servicemen in uniform

but he gives me an address of an Hostel
so off I go in an hurry as by now it
is daylight and Ifac's hostel is four
miles out of the City. at last I arrive
there, and meet a very abrupt fellow
who at first refuses to let me have a
bed, but after a lot of persuasion he
decides to give me ago so I pay him
5/- for bed and breakfast and he tells
me to follow him we go through his
shop and across his backyard to
an old shack, he opens the door and
in I go, Khava Dwe after lighting the
bit of candle Ifac has so courteously
provided me with I am surrounded
by bunks in tiers and fellows laying
snoring there heads off, at this I
decide on a smoke before I settle
down to a sleep. Then I turn in
after seeing every thing is on my
person and nothing layens about.
I awake at seven thirty and the
room is deserted so I go out to
find somewhere to wash at last I
find the place and after a good

swell I move into Wags backroom for my breakfast. here I meet some of the Wotley crew of roommates so I sit myself down and bolt my breakfast for I shall be glad to get out into the fresh air again but I go deciding definitely not to return there, so I catch a train down into the City, it is certainly sabbath day day in Wyelbourne and not a place open so I decide to go and have another try at the Y. Y. C. A. to book me from Monday I interview the clerk at the booking office and he informs me very much to my surprise a gentleman has been down and left a note for me, I open it hurriedly and find it is from Toms brother asking me to go up and see them, important so off I go it is six miles from the City I arrive there at 2-30 and am made very welcome and told I can stay there till I find somewhere for us to go. So I move in, it is a great change after the previous

night. for everything here is scrupulously
clean. I turn in fully deciding to be
out bright and early in the morning to
get a job. I awake and after a very
nice meal I get out for the City. The
first place I try is the Government
Printing Works and after a long heart
to heart talk with the Manager I
get the job. but he advises me to have
a look round the City and if I do
find a better job just let him know
and it will be quite O.K. so of I
go, and come to the Melbourne Herald
a very prosperous looking place. I
decide to give this place a trial
so off I go and ask for the Staff
Superintendent. I get an interview
with him. and he tells me I can
start on nightwork after I have
passed a Medical Exam by their
doctor so off I go to the surgery
and strip off for a Medical I pass
this and now my job is O.K. Night
work will suit me for it will give
me a chance to find an house for

Win and the kiddies are now 118 miles away. so off I go house hunting what a job. It is like asking for Gold day after day trying to get a place weekends I go to Colac to see Win & the kiddies, weeks pass and yet no hope of getting a place I tap every source possible and travel miles inner and outer suburbs it is now late October and starting to get really warm people are contemplating there Summer Holidays. My friends I am staying with, their married daughter is going on holiday for a fortnight and offers her house to us whilst she comes back. This is a Godsend I write Win straight away and ask her to be ready to come down to Melbourne Win is so very excited for things have not been easy for her and the kiddies up on the farm. So at 12.30 on Saturday Oct 30th Win arrives with the kiddies in Melbourne and what a day pouring in rain. But it did not dampen our spirits for we were together again. ~~we~~ set off

early on Monday and go around the shops then to a show and so every day we go somewhere different and make the most of our time together. The fortnight fly's by, and our friend has booked us a week at the Holiday place they are staying at. It is 40 miles outside Melbourne a nice little seaside resort by the name of Dromana we all spend a very happy week there but it passes too quickly and the end of the week I take him & the kids back to the Farm, this is not so good, for it means being separated again, but there is just no alternative. I go back to work and my job of house hunting again this is not very easy for houses are just about as scarce as hens teeth, and I don't seem to have any luck more months roll by and by now it is Xmas, so off I go to spend Xmas on the Farm, which I do not look forward to at all. It is very very hot and after milking we spend

the rest of the day out of doors, in
the paddocks playing Cricket, by dinner
time it is so very hot all the men
are stripped to the waist playing.
We are called in to Xmas dinner, it
just all seems out of proportion
to me eat plum duff and Turkey it
is so hot. I think instead of
Singing, Good King Wenceslas we
should sing Summer Suns are
glowing anyhow we spent a very happy
Xmas together, and now it is over
so back to Melbourne for me and
the old routine.