

Log of trip from Esquimalt BC to – Christ Knows Where!!

- 16/6/43 - Commissioned H.M.C.S. "Waskesiu", Navy's first frigate.
- 17/6/43 - Commenced working up trials etc. Ships picture appears in many newspapers. Trials to last 2 weeks.
- 30/6/43 - Ship makes headlines again when crew stage riot uptown with shore patrol and city police.
- July 1/43 - We are getting ready to sail.
- 8/7/43 - Slipped with sweeper "Canso" for East Coast
- 9/7/43 - Weather good but many of the boys a bit spewy.
- 12/7/43 - Arrived San Pedro Cal. [California] around 1800. Midnite leave granted. We all go ashore to look town over and then headed for Long Beach 5 miles away. Had a good time – arrived back aboard 6 hrs. adrift.
- 13/7/43 - Leave granted at noon. Headed for L.A. & Hollywood. Looked place over in afternoon had a few wets [drinks] etc. & went to Hollywood Canteen. Saw Deanna Durbin & got autograph and then went to Brown Derby & got money exchanged & more autographs from Jackie Cooper, Bonita Granville & Jack Oakie. Then headed for L.A. to have some fun. Visited many clubs & didn't pay for a drink. Had difficulty in returning to ship but made it OK around 0630 minus my autographs.
- 14/7/43 - Too tired to work in morning. Leave granted at noon. Mostly everyone ashore including duty watch & black-list men. Headed for Hollywood. Took in the "Chesterfield" broadcast with "Harry James" at CBS & also "Raleigh" broadcast with Tommy Dorsey at NBC. In evening was to canteen dance & stage show. Saw Bob Benchley, Charles Butterworth, Denis Morgan, Shirley Temple, Fay Holden & a few more Starlettes. Got most of their autographs. Am all for "Ma Hardy", she is a really swell person.
- Then went to the Florentine Gardens. Canadians welcomed gratis. Saw Sophia Tucker and got autograph. Mills Bros were also there. Really a classy joint.
- Headed for L.A. about 1:30. Caught 0315 train for Pedro. Arrived back aboard about 0430.
- 15/7/43 - Up in morning as usual but too flakers to work. Fellows pretty tired also. Leave granted at noon till 0300. Headed for Hollywood. Visited a few

clubs. Was going to Bing Crosby broadcast at NBC but didn't make it. Met a fellow in Tom Tom who was all for buying the drinks so we hung on to him. Went to Brown Derby later (Bamboo Room). Had a drink on a few people including Tim Ryan – actor. Then went to another club – “Tropics” – and later to Mike Lymans. Met Tim Ryan again (Revalie [sic] with Beverley) with wife and they invited us to a party Sat. nite. This was last club I remembered being in till we arrived at Earl Carrol's about 0100. Were supposed to go to Mocambo but don't think we got there. After leaving Earl Carrol's headed back for ship. Arrived around 0530.

16/7/43 - Noon. Leave granted till 0300. Too tired to go to Hollywood again so went to Long Beach. Was down the Pike. Met some civies [sic] who insisted we have drink with them. Did so and got shit hot. Then started on the clubs. Made the rounds & never payed for a drink. “Broke anyway” so uniform payed. Later went to Sky Room of Hilton Hotel & also to a ballroom on the Pike. Arrived back to ship 0300 – worn out.

17/7/43 - Slipped today. Next stop Mexico (south of the border). Gladd we are leaving. It's a great place – no complaints but we need some sleep. One can't keep up such NITE LIFE too long. Hope we do as well in other ports.

19/7/43 - At sea. Weather warm. Riggd awnings today. Catching up on lost sleep.

20/7/43 - Slung me cart on deck last nite, under a Southern Moon. Hold me back. What a nite for love. Over Tropic of Cancer last nite.

Today under the hose back aft. Getting a nice burn & tan.

Issued Sun Helmets.

21/7/43 - My Gawd is it ever hot. Everyone near flakers. Fellows stand watch at night B.B.

22/7/43 - Arrived Manzanillo Mexico this morning. Am Duty P.O. this aft but going ashore tonite. Town is small but quaint. Place lousy with syphilis and other V.D. Typhus prevalent in food and have been warned to lay off everything but the beer.

Ashore at 1800. Town is filthy – what with beggars, open markets & eating places, naked children with bloated bellies, flies & animals – enough to turn ones stomach – and us in whites! I felt like a Virgin. & Stink! – Hold my Nose!

Come after dark “manzanillo” was a different town altogether. Really quaint & typical Mexican. The streets & squares were full of people – senoritas etc. & every corner & beer joint had a Mexican orchestra playing. Other roaming minstrels would play under your window for a slight consideration. Really

enjoyed myself, but my eyes were opened! It's had to believe such living conditions existed.

23/7/43 - Slipped this morning heading south for more heat. Have a Mexican "Chihuahua" aboard we call "Peso".

25/7/43 - Getting warmer. Lots of Mexican turtles as big as wash tubs about.

27/7/43 - Arrived Corinto Nicaragua C.A. this evening. Leave granted till midnite. Am duty.

One of the fellows goes crazy this evening from drinking "Takeila" [sic] a Mexican drink made from juice of cactus plant. It took 6 fellows to hold him down & 3 shots of morphine to put him out. Spent nite in a straight jacket.

28/7/43 - Ashore today. My impression of the town:- Although a lot of disease is about the people especially the children seem healthier & cleaner than the Mexicans. Streets & town itself is better.

Looked place over in afternoon & got a few souvenirs. Lots of fruit here - bananas are 3 doz. For 10cents our or Yank money. Coconuts & pineapples are free for those who care to climb for them.

Was in a few drink & dance places. - Nothing more than dives and quite a contrast from the clubs of Hollywood. That's a sailors life tho - from one extreme to another.

In evening was to the Yank Navy Canteen & then to a good show there.

The people here are of Spanish descent & speak the language. The women aren't much to look at and carry stuff on their heads, which was of great interest.

29/7/43 - Over to a beach with a swimming party this aft. Really had fun. Place was really perfect for swimming. One side of beach was exposed to the breakers & surf and other side was on a bay (spit). All shore line was sandy beaches with jungle right behind. What a way to fight a war.

This country is O.K. but you have to be very careful with everything. If you go ashore to the villages watch the women they're loaded with V.D. If you eat their food watch out for typhoid. If you swim off the ship watch for sharks & barracudas. If you swim on the beaches near jungles watch for alligators. If you walk in the bush or jungle watch for boa constrictors & spiders. Also stay away

from mosquitoes they carry malaria. Any way it's fun and interesting & one doesn't have to worry about getting run down by cars.

We got under weigh again this evening & our next stop is Panama.

The most fun we had here was bartering & trading with the natives. Flashlites, cigarettes, clothes, empty bottles, tin cans, any dam thing at all they go for. An empty tin can – eg tomato tin – brings a dozen bananas. An empty beer bottle is worth about 30 cents our money. They mustered kits today because the ships clock vanished last nite.

We have another addition to the crew, a parrot. The boys are teaching it to swear pussers like.

30/7/43 - Actually went without my dinner today. Set broke down around 1130 & worked or rather sweated right through till 1730, finally succeeded in getting it going. I'll be a good H.S.D. yet.

31/7/43 - Getting close to Panama, should arrive tomorrow. Weather cooler with a bit of rain.

1/8/43 - Arrived Balboa Panama this morning. Standing by to enter canal.

Went through locks & canal this aft. Quite an interesting experience & a pretty trip. Arrived "Cristobal" this evening. Weather is damp, quite usual for Panama.

No leave granted.

2/8/43 - No leave during day. Demagnetized ship at night. No leave granted.

3/8/43 - Ashore this evening. We tied up at U.S. Submarine Base "Coco Solo" C.Z. [Canal Zone]. Went to "Colon" Republic of Panama. Made the rounds of some clubs & got a few souvenirs. Place is most wide open I've ever been in. Every other building is a club or a bag shanty. Saw a good floor show "Beauty & The Beast" at "Monte Carlo" & also to Club Florida. I really go for this Latin & S.A. music.

All leave for men in uniform up at 2230 in Republic & 2300 in Canal Zone.

4/8/43 - Duty watch. We are tied up a stones throw from a lovely swimming pool with palm & coconut trees all around it – complete with diving boards, floats, beach etc. Really a lovely set up.

5/8/43 - Ashore again. Had some fun. More souvenirs. Don't go for Panamanian cops or Yankee patrols. Plenty tough but no worse than town itself.

6/8/43 - Duty but to the canteen & also to a movie.

7/8/43 - Canteen leave granted, saw "Reveille with Beverley" at show.

8/8/43 - Slipped with "Canso" this morning. Have been gone a month now.

Have some type of "athlete's foot" on both insteps. Very sore & not pleasant to look at, caused by the heat.

9/8/43 - In Caribbean Sea. Next stop "Cuba," West Indies.

Have a baby alligator aboard. Keep it in a wash tub.

10/8/43 - The boys got the parrot drunk on a spoonful of rum today, what a case!

We have our ships crest up on both sides of funnel now. Crest is trade mark off a "Canadian Club" whiskey bottle. Typical of Whiskey-Sue. What a ship! I'll die happy on this one. I've seen everything now.

P.M. - arrived Cuba this evening. Place is rather pretty but nothing here except a small village (out of bounds) & a Yank naval base. Leave granted so went for a walk on the jetty.

One thing we noticed on arrival was all the cockroaches lined up on the jetty waiting to board our ship. Millions of 'em. Hope none got on board (over & along the lines).

11/8/43 - Worked all day on set. Got her going just before sailing time. Slipped this aft. Next stop Bermuda.

12/8/43 - Out of the tropics this morning but its still plenty warm. Got another nice burn today.

Friday 13/43 - To Action Stations this morning 0315. "Disregard - Carry on the Sweep." Am not used to rolling out of me cart at such hours of the morning anymore.

15/8/43 - Nothing eventful since last entry.

Arrived Hamilton Bermuda this morning. One of the cleanest & prettiest towns I've ever seen.

Secured alongside R.N. Naval base across harbor from town.

Leave granted but am duty.

16/8/43 - Started our working up program today. To last 3 weeks. Similar to Tobermory routine but not as tough. This time am only concerned with Asdics so don't mind it so bad.

Received a compliment from S.D.I. & base staff for having the cleanest & tidliest A/S compartments aboard any ship they've worked on in Bermuda & set itself is in good order. Can do with a few recommends.

17/8/43 - The boys are finding the routine kind of tough.

Hurricane warning up today, but it apparently passed west of here.

18/8/43 - We swim 4 times a day. Water is warm and free from all types of ships refuse & gash. Heads & ? are ashore.

Saw 22 Yankee Destroyer Escort Vessels (similar to our frigate) slipping out line ahead this morning. R.N. & Free French vessels are also here.

Prince Robert was in yesterday. Heading East. She left Esquimalt on 29<sup>th</sup> of July - made trip in 2 stops.

20/8/43 - Getting lots of A/S training (P.T.H. & A.T.H.) S.D.'s are pretty grim.

21/8/43 - Did good on A.T.H. today. All nite leave granted but am duty. Got a 2 pound casual payment today.

Our alligator which jumped ship a few days ago was found yesterday by some children on the shore about 2 miles across the harbour. It created considerable speculation amongst Bermudians as to where it came from & was the first one reported in Bermuda as noted in the newspapers. Who ever thought that our baby alligator would ever hit the headlines & cause people to worry about the safety of their children. But this is a headline ship & most anything can happen. As yet we haven't got it back.

Have 2 cats added to the complement of this Ark.

Exercised Action Stations this morning. Program was topped off by Abandon Ship stations. Whole ships Co. including officers & Captain jumped

over the side with all clothes on. Sure was fun seeing 'em all sail over the side. Would appreciate more of that type evolution.

22/8/43 - Sunday Routine. I go ashore for first time since leaving Panama. 5 of us rented bikes for 10 bob (12 hrs) & went for a wheel in the country.

Visited the Devils Hole & also the Crystal Cave two main attractions. Devils Hole is 4 miles out of Hamilton along the North Shore. It is full of all types of tropical fish that got in but can't return to sea.

Crystal Cave is 2 miles beyond that. It is located around a mile or so inland from ocean. Is 90 odd feet below earth level & is reached by steps & tunnel. Was discovered in 1906 by 2 12-year-old boys who penetrated it thru a fissure in the earth caused by earthquake. Water in the cave is 60 ft. deep in places & is clear. Water is brackish. Salt water fish live in it for 6 days & fresh water fish for 2-1/2 days. From roof of cave & along walls hang all different sizes of icicle formations white in color & made of limestone.

Science estimates that it took 1000 years for 1 cubic inch of such formations to take shape. The whole set up is hard to explain but is one of the most interesting sights I've ever seen.

Hamilton itself isn't much. Too full of Yanks to suit me & no women.

Note: 4 hrs. difference in rise & fall of tide in Crystal Cave to that of ocean.

23/8/43 - Am in pretty poor shape today after pumping that bike all over Bermuda yesterday.

24/8/43 - Hurricane warning up this evening. Expected to reach 120 m.p.h. It came but not as bad as expected. Only reach a velocity of between 70 & 80 m.p.h.

25/8/43 - Weather warm today. Nothing much to report. No mail as yet.

28/8/43 - Everything about the same as usual. H.M.S. Indomitable & a couple of Destroyers in today. I go ashore this aft to purchase a souvenir & coming back on the liberty boat H.M.R.T. "Advantage" an ocean tug. What a mass of Matelots. Well over 600 I'd say & nearly all drunk. Standing room only & talk about fights!! Thank Gawd I'm pure.

29/8/43 - Slipped this morning & arrived "St George" evening after commencing our week of sea evolutions.

30/8/43 - Duty Motor Boat's Coxswain this evening so I got ashore off & on. Not much of a town.

31/8/43 - Doing Evolutions with H.M.S. Calder (D.E.) & H.M.S. Finhorn.

2/9/43 - Packed up Sea Evolutions & arrived back at "Malabar" this aft.

Some of the boys got mail today but I didn't. Just s well I'm used to that routine.

We are in for a few days to paint ship before finishing our Evolutions & proceeding to Halifax.

3/9/43 - H.M.C.S. "Sault Ste Marie" is here. A new type Minesweeper - is a nice ship but doesn't come up to our Frigate.

4/9/43 - Sat. but worked all day. Duty tonite.

5/9/43 - Was Coxswain of Motor boat last nite. Made two trips to Hamilton.

Second trip over got off our course & was 3 hours finding again. Ran into the roughest weather I've ever been in on a small boat. Nearly piled up on 2 coral reefs & the beach a few times also. (Hurricane warning up at time).

7/9/43 - Are sailing today for slackers & glad of it. Later: sailing cancelled.

8/9/43 - Sailed at 1600. Received signal to Splice the Main Brace at 715 today to celebrate the fall of Italy. We did so & were all through when signal to "cancel" arrived.

9/9/43 - Quite a noticeable change in climate today. Weather good.

10/9/43 - Off Halifax. The first ship we pass was the "Barrie". Made me slightly home sick or something.

Arrived Halifax 1530 & secure to No. 3 Jetty. Don't notice much change & am glad to get back.

No mail for us! It's on its way to "Bermuda" & I half expected such to happen.

11/9/43 - Ashore last night & have the week end. Am meeting a few of my old friends.



- 13/9/43 - Doing a Dicky refit.
- 20/9/43 - Spent a long week end with L.S.A. Powers & a couple of the boys at St John N.B. Had a good time.
- 24/9/43 - Slipped this evening with Corvette for Newfie.
- 26/9/43 - Arrived St. John's Nfld today. Am duty.
- 27/9/43 - Slipped today with H.M.S. Forrester, H.M.C.S. Assiniboine & 2 Corvettes to pick up convoy for Derry. (Heard this morning that H.M.C.S. "St Croix" had been lost along with three other Escorts & 22 merchant ships when their convoy attacked by a pack of over 25 subs. 7 were sunk - 3 by a flat top).
- We hope for a little action ourselves this trip.
- 28/9/43 - Met Convoy. Our Condensers in poor shape & is a question of whether we put back to port or not.
- 29/9/43 - Still with Convoy. Our whaler smashed up a bit when returning an injured Yank officer to his ship.
- 30/9/43 - We are 2° short of half way across but we turn back for Newfie escorted by "Hepatica". What a fine way for Canada's first "frigate" to start out.
- 2/10/43 - We arrive Newfie. See us blush! Back so soon!! No one ashore. Leave stopped. \$50 stolen from a fellow's attaché case so we all suffer.
- 10/10/43 - Proceeded to sea. Supposedly non stop to the U.K. Have a few Naval officers, Norwegian Matelots, padre & F.F. commander aboard for passage.
- 11/10/43 - Our Vaps & engines go on hum again so we are heading back to Newfie.
- P.M. Arrived Harbour.
- 15/10/43 - Are getting quite a reputation for being a Jetty ship but we expect to have another crack at crossing the pond shortly.
- 27/10/43 - We slipped unexpectedly this evening for Londonderry. We are proceeding along at 17 knots. Weather good.
- 30/10/43 - Over half way across. Weather & sea best I've ever seen on this run. Should be in by Monday.

- 1/11/43 - Arrived "Derry" A.M. today. Made record crossing – over 18 knots all the way. Place hasn't changed any.
- 2/11/43 - Half ships Co. away on 7 days leave today. I was to go but required on board to assist A/S installation & take course "A Matelots Garden of Curses & the Bitter Tea of an H.S.D."
- 11/11/43 - We shove off unexpected like down river this evening. Are sailing with H.M.C.S. "Ottawa" & rest of Barber Pole group for Newfie.
- 14/11/43 - Completed evolutions at M? and sailed this morning to pick up convoy. Weather dirty & sea rough.
- 24/11/43 - Arrived Nfld. after uneventful crossing.
- 30/11/43 - Sailed for another crossing with same group.
- 9/12/43 - Had considerable trouble with gear this trip but made out O.K. Dropped a Pattern of 10 on a good contact last nite. Results doubtful.
- Arrived Derry A.M. today.
- 10/12/43 - Left for London on 7 days leave.
- 18/12/43 - Back from leave. Had a pretty good time. Stayed at Dutchy Hotel "Lancaster Gate". Went dancing at "paramount", "Covent Gardens", & "hammersmith". Did pretty good & got lost a few times in Underground.
- 22/12/43 - Sailed today with new group. Doing evolutions first. Are now with a Striking Force hunting for trouble so if there's any action we'll see it.
- 25/12/43 - Xmas Eve. Are sailing in morning so are having our Xmas Dinner at 0130 a.m.
- Later – Every mess has an Xmas tree & messes are decorated & laid out for the spread. Captain is dressed as an O.D. [Ordinary Seaman] & O.D. Booth is in the Skippers uniform. All the other officers are dressed as ratings & vice versa. The whole ship is open house and talk about booze!! The ship is flowing with it. Lucky we are secure to a buoy amid stream.
- 25/12/43 - Xmas Day! At sea. Sailed this morning. Last nite was a WOW!! Everybody sick & spewy today! What a Xmas but last nite was worth it.
- 27/12/43 - Started eating meals again today. Are heading south towards Bay of Biscay & some action no doubt.

28/12/43 - At Action Stations 0240 this morning. H.M.S. "Tweed" sighted sub on surface. Attacked – possibly successfully. We carry out search till near noon today. No results.

This aft we leave at full speed heading to investigate a disabled sub spotted by Air Craft. Should arrive at around 0100.

At 0930 this evening at Action Stations for 1 hour. Star shell & gun flashes sighted. Time now 2300. Expect trouble tonite.

Our position off coast of "Portugal" heading towards "Azores". Are also on lookout for 7 German destroyers that are in vicinity & have been in action with Br. [British] fleet in Bay of Biscay. Torpedo bombers are another menace by day. Later we meet a U.S. Task Force.

30/12/43 - Abandon search for sub. Join Convoy. Find that H.M.S. "Nene" our S.O. has picked up 70 German prisoners – (survivors from Destroyer sinking).

31/12/43 - Leave Convoy today to investigate H.F.D.F. bearing on sub. No results. Rejoin convoy. Maybe some luck tonite N.Y. Eve.

1/1/44 - A New year. I wonder what it brings!

5/1/44 - Have been going about from convoy to convoy getting lots of sea time & no action.

We leave with "Nene" & "Tweed" to do a Bay of Biscay patrol with aircraft. Weather perfect & warm.

7/1/44 - At 1610 this aft in perfect sea & weather H.M.S. "Tweed" (frigate) is torpedoed blows up & sinks in 4 minutes. Shortly after we sight periscope of sub no doubt intending to finish us off (800 yds). We carry out several good attacks with D.C. [depth charges] – underwater explosions heard but no definite proof of a kill.

We remain at Action Stations for 8 hours. "Nene" picks up 43 survivors. Over a hundred went down with "Tweed".

I won't discuss my personal feelings on the subject but I am aware there is a war on (44° 18' N – 21° 30' W).

8/1/44 - "Nene" buries 4 dead survivors this morning. We are proceeding to join convoy & rest of our group.

Later. We take over C.O of group. "Nene" is proceeding to port.

9/1/44 - Join Convoy – South Bound. Corvettes – Snowberry, Camrose, Lunenberg, & Edmunston of our group in action. Last nite with U Boats. Two probable.

11/1/44 - At Action stations this aft. U Boat sighted. Also A.A. Action.

We remain at stations all nite. Had sub boxed up. Carried out a dozen attacks. Dropped 110 charges amongst us plus 2 H.H. runs. Results – 2 underwater explosions (D.E.H.M.S. Foley).

12/1/44 - Proceeding to join convoy to escort across Danger Area. Corvettes following behind.

Later: - Corvettes in action with another sub tonite. This Bay of Biscay area is lousy with 'em.

13/1/44 - Leave Convoy to do “Biscay” patrol with Corvettes. “Nene” joining us shortly but at present is chasing after a sub.

14/1/44 - At Action Stns. around Noon had a good contact. Did a Hedge Hog & D.C. Attack. No results.

15/1/44 - Joined by “Nene.” Weather a bit rough. Heading North.

16/1/44 - E.G. 6 [Escort Group 6] ? & staff go back to “Nene. Last night at Action Stations. Dropped 2 patterns on good contact.

We get some supplies from “Nene” today. Ours are very low.

17/1/44 - Joined Convoy (Med. Bound) off Ireland. Weather rough. 16 escorts.

19/1/44 - Left Convoy last nite. Joined another today. Heading North & figure we should hit port in a few days. Food is very low – ran out of Hard Tack today.

22/1/44 - Last few days uneventful. Arrived harbor this aft. - “Moville”. Have been given the distinction of being the longest out ship at a stretch of any ship in “Western Approaches”.

Secured to Jetty in Derry 2400. Heard over Radio tonite of a 4 day Battle our group was in trip before we joined.

3/2/44 - We slip at 1700 today for Moville after a pretty good stay in Derry.

go.

We have a new Captain. In a way am sorry to see “MacDonald”

4/2/44 - Arrived “Larne” this aft to do Evolutions. Rest of group with us.

7/2/44 - Back at Merville. Proceeding to sea with group today.

9/2/44 - With Convoy. 3 subs sunks in this area by R.N. support group last nite & today.

10/2/44 - “Camrose” carries out H.H. attack on sub today. Many are in vicinity. Left convoy this evening to do A/S Patrol.

14/2/44 - “Be My Valentine”. Are heading for Merville to refuel. No convoys about & looks like something is up. Weather has been rough. Are about middle of N. Atlantic.

15/2/44 - Run smack into Convoy this evening.

Later: Merville trip cancelled. Proceeding to join Conviy with “Nene”.

16/2/44 - With Convoy. Convoy behind us shoots down German Aircraft (Junker 88)

German reconnaissance planes about our Convoy today but keep safe distance. Something coming up I hope. (H.M.S. Bightler)

17/2/44 - Plenty of subs in area. Convoy behind us being attacked.

18/2/44 - H.M.S. “Spey” sinks sub this aft in 11 minutes of Action. 45 survivors. We are temp. with E.G. 18 – Spey-Chaudiere-Gatineau & “nene”. Our Corvettes with E.G. 17.

Later: this evening frigate H.M.S. Findhorn sinks U Boat.

19/2/44 - Our group proceeding to join another convoy being attacked.

Around 1500 this aft. H.M.S. “Spey” (destroyer) sinks another U Boat. Some ships get all the breaks. But there are lots about & maybe we’ll get a chance yet.

1600. H.M.S. “Starling” (Sloop) sinks sub in Convoy we are joining.

1930. "Starling" attacks another sub & is picking up survivors (E.G. 2 – 10 subs 2 weeks)

We are with Convoy. 26 Escorts. Convoy we just left being attacked.

20/2/44 - Nothing eventful last nite except that H.M.S. "Woodpecker" of one of the Support Groups with us got her Ass End blown off by a torpedo. Today she is being towed to port. (re 9/2/44) (Sloop)

We are all feeling Pretty low. So much has happened & we've taken part actually in none of it.

21/2/44 - Left to join Eastbound Convoy escorted by barber Pole group. Are accompanied by "Nene".

22/2/44 - With Convoy. All's quiet.

24/2/44 - Our great Chance came this morning. At 0125 picked up good echo & action stations sounded. Contact classified as submarine & we attack with Hedge Hog [antisubmarine mortar]. No results. Contact regained and we pass over dropping 1 charge to keep her down. Still in contact we pass over again laying a 10 charge pattern. Sub is very deep and no results. Come in for another attack & "Nene" our S.O. gives orders not to fire until she gains contact & classifies. She classifies as doubtful and us still in contact attack with another pattern of 10. We figure we damaged sub - still in contact. "Nene" passes signal to hold till dawn & then carry out creeping Attack.

Around 0600 Nene sends R.T. signal to us: "WASKESIU's contact confirmed by our experts as non-sub and fish echoes." Nevertheless she [Nene] tells us before she shoved off to regain convoy that we might if we wished carry out 1 more attack before proceeding to join convoy. We do so and with good results. At 0600 we had the sub on the surface. All our guns open up on her & they abandon the sub, which was still under way. "Nene" is back at the rush & also opens up on "OUR" "FISH ECHO": - Sub goes to bottom. We pick up 4 Jerries & "Nene" 14. Lots of bodies & stuff floating about.

So ends the story in brief of getting our first U Boat – in which we had to battle with that Juicer R.N. Clown & his A/S staff on the "Nene" as well as produce the sub to prove that when we say we are in contact with a submarine we mean it.

This morning we "splice the Main Brace" [have a sanctioned celebratory drink to mark a special event or occasion] & every body aboard is as happy as HELL.

Late this aft we rejoin Convoy. Our sub is confirmed all in our credit & old ECG 6 on the Nene is the laughing stock of the North Atlantic.

Position of our battle 49° 19' N – 26° 00' W. Sub destroyed was 500 tons with a 48 man crew – possibly the U 257.

25/2/44 - We are proceeding with “Nene” to port, to land our prisoners. Messages of congratulations have been coming in from other ships.

From “St Catherines” to “Waskesiu” – “Your kid sister is very proud of you”.

From EG 3 – EG 6 – “Jolly well done. Have you any non-sub survivors?”

From Nene – Waskesiu – “A grand effort & all alone you did it. My warmest congratulations to all on board for your fine achievement”.

26/2/44 - Sea quite rough. In by morning.

27/2/44 - Our prisoners have been treated very well & are quite friendly & happy. No doubt will be sorry to leave us. Arriving Derry this evening – late.

1/3/44 - Bothered all day by Navy Photographers & Naval News men. Our Sub episode is really going to be a big splash when released.

6/3/44 - Sailed A.M. today for Merville for work up.

9/3/44 - Are now “S.O. E.G. 6. Left with group accompanied by “H.M.S. Vindex” Air Craft carrier to do “Striking Force” work against U Boats. Are to be joined by E.G. 2 – (H.M.S. Starling & group) the most famous force on the Atlantic. Last trip E.G. 2 sank 11 U Boats, “Starling” accounting for 6 alone. Captain of “Starling” is Britain’s ACE U-Boat Killer (25 to his Credit). Capt. Walker R.N.

We expect a lot of action this trip as well as being in on the Invasion when it comes.

10/3/44 - Aircraft from “Vindex” down this evening.

6/3/44 - Are in Sub Area. Over 20 are reported in vicinity.

12/3/44 - Around 0100 this morning Aircraft from “Vindex” (Swordfish) in battle with U-Boat. Badly shot up & gunner killed. We detach with destroyer “Qu’Appelle” & frigate “Outremont” to assist. We pick up contact around 0230 &

attack with H.H. [hedge hog mortars]. Later attack with D.C. [depth charges] & lose contact. Not regained. Oil slicks on water this morning. Doubt if we got it & dam disheartening but more coming up.

13/3/44 - Rejoined "Vindex" this morning. Are Inner screen (worse luck). E.G. 2 doing for'd [forward] sweep (Gravy Grabbers).

14/3/44 - "Swordfish" crashes into sea near Carrier this evening. Airmen saved by "Outremont".

15/3/44 - E.G. 2 sink another sub early this morning ahead of us. Getting sick of playing nursemaid to this dam Carrier.

19/3/44 - Last nite enemy jamming our R.T. signals & sending phoney messages to carrier.

Have been joined by Canadian frigates "Cape Breton" & "Grou".

20/3/44 - Around 2230 last nite "Swordfish" from carrier crashes into sea. We search all nite for survivors but find only a life raft "empty" this morning. Suspect they went down with plane. Carrier is definitely a Bottle-Neck.

21/3/44 - E.G. 2 left for Scapa Flow. Starling - Wild Goose - Wren - Magpie & Whimbrel.

23/3/44 - Plane dives into sea on takeoff from carrier this morning. We have 3 survivors aboard (same ones that cracked up first plane).

24/3/44 - Plane drops flare on Carrier & starts fire demolishing 1 aircraft on flight deck. 1 man killed. "Vindex" is definitely a "Jinx".

We detach with "Outremont" to take over sub contact from B.D.E. H.M.S. "Gardener". She loses contact & we haven't regained. Time 2000.

25/3/44 - Joined by "Vindex" & rest of group. No luck with sub as yet.

26/3/44 - Proceeding to Merville with group. No luck this trip.

28/3/44 - Leave "Vindex" bound for Clyde & proceed into Derry. No leave granted.

29/3/44 - Shipped with group to do patrol off West Coast Ireland.

31/3/44 - Nothing to report. Bit of a panic last nite over a misunderstood signal.



- 1/4/44 - In harbour & no April Fool.
- 16/4/44 - Slipped with group for Moville.
- 17/4/44 - Left A.M. for Scapa Flow. Expect big doings this trip.
- 18/4/44 - Arrived Scapa A.M. today, base of Home Fleet. Lots of ships in including "Anson" & "Howe". Also couple of Canadian Tribals (Iron Duke).
- 19/4/44 - Slipped A.M. with unit of First Cruiser Squadron H.M.S. "Diadem" – 2 Aircraft Carriers – H.M.S. "Fencer" & H.M.S. "Activity" 3<sup>rd</sup> Destroyer Flotilla & 8<sup>th</sup> Destroyer Escort Force. Are proceeding at 18 knots bound for Russia to pick up a Convoy. We are the First Canadian Escort Force to take part in Escorting a Russian Convoy. Never a dull moment on "Waskesiu" am all fir it!!
- 20/4/44 - Our forces consists of H.M. Ships Diadem, Fencer, Activity, walker, Boadicea, Keppel, Beagle, Wescott, Constant, Whitehall, Wrestler, Meteor, Milne, Marne, Musketeer, Matchless, Vernlam, Ulysses, Viargo {sic} [poss. Virago], & H.M.C. Ships Waskesiu, Grou, Outremont & Cape Breton.
- 21/4/44 - Over the Arctic Circle this morning. Weather good & all's well. 4 Jerrie {sic} mines sighted today (1/2 B.H.F.L.S.).
- 22/4/44 - We pick up 3 crew members of a "Swordfish" that did a pancake landing along side our ship early this morning. Forced into sea due to damaged Arrestor Gear. Plane sank in less than a minute. Poor buggers wouldn't have lasted long. Water near freezing temp.
- P.M. Rounding the "North Cape". Weather dirty & cold. In tomorrow. Enemy Aircraft shadowing us today but staying clear. We're "FORMIDABLE".
- 23/4/44 - We arrive "Vaenga" Kola Inlet Northern RUSSIA this evening. What a bleak, barren, desolate, windswept, snowbound country & its plenty cold, I'd hate to have to live here let alone fight (12 miles to Murmansk).
- 24/4/44 - Had fun today trading clothing & fags for coins knives & souvenirs etc. The Russian people & servicemen are very friendly towards us – seem quite healthy and are hard working & rugged looking. The young kids in their fur hats & big boots fascinate me. & we are only too glad to lash out [be generous with] our woolen clothing. We have lots & they need it worse than us.

Weather today good & I took some pictures.

25/4/44 - 10 Yank matelots drafted aboard for passage from U.S.S. "Milwaukee" cruiser turned over to Russia. Ashore this evening for a long walk. Quite a country.

27/4/44 - Still here & have looked town over. Am not fussy about Russia's standard of living. Everything is for the "state" & this is certainly "NO DEMOCRACY".

28/4/44 - We shove off with rest of Force - supporting the last Convoy out of Russia for the summer months. (Midnite sun) It's a big one! Weather good.

29/4/44 - Wildcat shot down by 2 Jerries

30/4/44 - At 2100 our Convoy attacked by U-Boat Pack. 1 Merchant ship sunk. We attack 1 sub twice & had ten fish [torpedoes] fired at us which exploded astern in our "FOXER GEAR". With second pattern we blow U-Boat to surface but she crash dived & escaped. 2 Destroyers taking up hunt & we resume station.

Action lasted a good two hours with lots of gun fire (at periscopes) & depth charge attacks. Expect more action from U Boats & Air Craft. 150 survivors picked up (off Spitzburgen) from (Russian)Merchant Ship sunk.

1/5/44 - "Outremont" had fish fired at her A.M. today. German Aircraft shot down ahead of us by Wildcats from Carrier. We proceed to pick up survivors but only one body floating about amongst wreckage (JUNKER 88).

Over 5 subs trailing us all day at 20 mile range. More than that about & we expect more action at any time.

P.M. Subs had a go at Convoy again but driven off by Escorts.

2/5/44 - Aircraft destroyed 1 sub today & damage another. Plenty about (?)

3/5/44 - Subs dropping behind

4 Home Fleet Unit shove off.

5/5/44 - From CinC [Commander in Chief] Home Fleet "Thank you for your untiring efforts in defending R.A. 59".

For 5 days over a dozen U Boats tried to attack us without success, & although none were destroyed, some were damaged. We all did a good job.

6/5/44 - Arrived "Derry".

- 17/5/44 - Slipped with group for Merville for exercises. Joined by H.M.C.S. TENE.
- 20/5/44 - Joined by Carrier H.M.S. BIGHTER for evolutions.
- 23/5/44 - Still at Merville. "BIGHTER" recalled to base. Joined by Carrier H.M.S. "EMPEROR".
- 27/5/44 - "Emperor" away with 3 ships of E.G. 9. We sail with group for Liverpool. Other groups following us. Apparently the Invasion is "Just About" & we have a part to play along with half the Canadian Navy. We haven't been lying about with dozens of other ships waiting for Nothing.
- 28/5/44 - Are anchored "MOELFRE BAY" "Anglesey" Wales. A lovely spot - shore leave granted. Joined by E.G. 1, 2, 5, 9 - 33 ships - E.G. 15 & 2 Carriers to follow, making around 40. Standing by for Invasion so we think (U Boats are all in & waiting as well. It's going to be a grim battle when it comes.
- 5/6/44 - Slipped with groups & Carriers to take up station. Cmdr. Birch our S.O. gave a speech (Eve of Invasion).
- 6/6/44 - "D" Day today. Our position Off West end of CHANNEL. Our job! - to keep U-Boats out of channel. It is not a "Born for Glory" job but an important one. Operation - Charlie ABLE (NEPTUNE - OVERLORD).
- 8/6/44 - Doing A/S Patrols with Carriers PURSUER - STRIKER - EMPEROR. Enemy Aircraft sighted today - no subs.
- 10/6/44 - At 0211 this morn H.M.C.S. "Tene" rammed amidships by H.M.S. STRIKER. 2 men trapped in Boiler Room killed - 14 missing. Taken in tow by Outremont & we escorted them to Land's End (cut half way through & quite a mess). (TRACKER H.M.S.)
- 11/6/44 - "Grou" to Liverpool with Condenser trouble. Joind by H.M.S. CAM & E.G. 1 - Sweeping end of CHANNEL (OFF SCILLEY Islands).
- 18/6/44 - Under Plymouth Command farther up Channel. 5 D.C.s today netted 98 codfish.
- 22/6/44 - Arrived "Derry" for short lay over. Very few ships in.
- 27/6/44 - Out to sea again. Heard H.M.S. "Blackwood" lost in Channel with all hands; also H.M.S. Morne - 20 survived. Both B.D.E.'s - Torpedoed in our Area.

28/6/44 - Back on CHANNEL PATROL. Weather dirty. To be joined by "New Waterford".

2/7/44 - H.M. Destroyers "JAVELIN" & "ESKIMO" in collision this morning. Taken in tow – one by "HURON" & escorted to PLYMOUTH by 3 of our group. Weather dirty with fog.

1/7/44 - Sub sighted ahead by Aircraft (3 Miles). We hunt with no results along with 3 other group which came to assist.

3/7/44 - Are approx.10 MILES off "USHANT" German U-Boat base (E BOAT) Coast of France doing A/S Patrols. We have U-Boats, E Boats, MINES, Aircraft etc. to watch out for. Personally I'll take the broad Atlantic.

4/7/44 - Three Miles off French Coast this morn. No Acvtion but something big coming up.

6/7/44 - Raid on USHANT & BREST by E.G. 12 & 14 last nite. We could see gun fire. "SKEENA, QU'APPELLE, SASKATCHEWAN damaged. 2 Jerry Minesweepers probably sunk. Raid tonite by M.T.B.s [Motor Torpedo Boats]. No luck for us.

10/7/44 - In Plymouth for short lay over at "Devonport". ALL BOMBED out.

12/7/44 - Heard I was mentioned "for our Sub Action.

13/7/44 - At sea under PORTSMOUTH COMMAND. Patrolling off CHERBOURG & a few miles off this morning. 2 Flying Bombs shot down near us/P.M.

14/7/44 - Hauled a dead Jerry out of the drink this aft. What a stink. & there ius no shortage about.

18/7/44 - D.C. attack by "CAM" detonated underwater object (Possibly Mine) putting "CAM" out of action & seriously injuring 7 Men. Being towed to Port by "Cape Breton" escorted by N.W. & U.S.40 men injured. Ship in bad shape.

22/7/44 - Arrived "PORTSMOUTH" for short layover. To SOUTHSEA today. Nice place – 2130 leave.

26/7/44 - At sea. Saw my first FLYING BOMB last night + it past just ahead of us chased by a plane that couldn't keep up with it. Lots of em over CHANNEL.

30/7/44 - Are screening a torpedoed Troop Ship this aft. "Cape Breton" assisting us. Rest of group away. Corvette has Trooper in tow.

31/7/44 - PORTSMOUTH for short lay over.

4/8/44 - Back on CHANNEL PATROL weather lovely. No complaints. H.M.S. "BRISSENDEN" dive bombed by our own planes. No Hits.

6/8/44 - H.M.S. "STAYNER" destroys sub near us. Our M.T.B.s under Machine Gun & Torpedo Attack by our own planes. There is too much of everything in this dam CHANNEL -

P.M. We screen a Yankee Troop Convoy to Normandy.

7/8/44 - In Seine Esturary [sic]. Lots of planes flying over & we see them bombing the coast.

10/8/44 - Bit of Action a few miles from us last night between E-Boats & Aircraft Vs M.T.B.'s Destroyers. A few Doodlebugs [bombs] as well.

12/8/44 - Arrived Portsmouth.

13/8/44 - Are in THAMES River (Lees? Sherness) Escorted 4 ships here from Portsmouth. Tons of Flying Bombs crossed DOVER STRAITS last nite.

16/8/44 - Arrived LONDON GRAVING DOCKS - EAST INDIA DOCKS LONDON for Boiler Clean.

18/8/44 - Doodle Bug hits ship ahead of us this morning. Plenty have been coming over & I've no liking for Em.

22/8/44 - Back from 72 hrs leave. Lived thru a regular F.B. Blitz this weekend out in Shepherds BUSH & LANCASTER Gate where I stayed.

24/8/44 - Slipped this morning after a very enjoyable stay. Wish all Ports of Call were like LONDON Doodlebugs or Not.

27/8/44 - Out on Patrol after night in Portsmouth. Time 2300 - Are chasing after sub which just ? a ship. Are in SEINE BAY - can hear & see GUN FIRE from Ashore. 8 Naval ships including "ALBERNIE" [sic] lost out here this past week including NUMBER of Merchant ships. Jerry ain's finished yet!@

30/8/44 - Patrolling swept Channel between Portsmouth & Cherbourg. Continuous stream of Cross Chan. Trafic. Cherbourg lit up at nights,

31/8/44 - Arrived PORTSMOUTH with group. Taking on supplies. Something in the wind!

1/9/44 - Leave with convoy bound for Plymouth.

2/9/44 - P.M. Arrive ? after stormy trip (70 MPH Gale) Our Convoy took shelter "TOR BAY". We arrive alone.

5/9/44 - Back on support Duties. With a Convoy.

P.M. Returning to Port. Condenser Trouble with H.M.S. LONDONDERRY. Lieut. Lincoln in Command - Oldman to Liverpool.

10/9/44 - Arrived Merville P.M. today. Sailed for "Loch Ewe" to escort a ship.

11/9/44 - Arrived Loch Ewe. Are Escorting ship to Greenock-Clyde. U-Boats reported in the Minche's.

13/9/44 - Arrived Londonderry. No Leave granted but everybody ashore. Sailing at 2000 tonite for Canada. Are all finished with E.G. 6 which is in here now. Our relief was H.M.C.S. Loch Morlich.

14/9/44 - Had quite a send off last night. Tons of Wrens etc.

Are at sea now with E.G. C-3 "Prince Rupert" S.O., Escorting Westbound Convoy O.N.F. 253 - 64 ships. Speed 10 knots.

15/9/44 - Are being supported through U-Boat area by E.G. 5, 30, & Force 33. Over 30 ships.

16/9/44 - Support Groups have left. Are taking Southern Route & should be in by the 24<sup>th</sup> with luck.

18/9/44 - Are in teeth of a gale - our first real storm. Escorting a straggler speed down to 4 knots. Will be away adrift in arriving. Convoy miles ahead.

20/9/44 - Weather good. Overtaking Convoy

23/9/44 - Joined by W-4 C-3 off to Slackers. Are 51 West. Convoy breaking up. A/S out of Action.

25/9/44 - In to Sydney for A/S Repairs. No leave Canada looks good.

27/9/44 - Arrived Halifax after a quick trip from Sydney. Docked shortly after midnite.

29/9/44 - Lots of News Men & Photographers aboard. We get a big splash in the papers. Over half ships Co. away on leave. Are doing refit in "SHELBOURNE".

1/10/44 - Arrived "SHELBOURNE" with "Kootenay." The end of the road & it was a long one. St. Kits is here as well. Expect leave shortly.