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## TRANSCRIPT OF THE DIARY OF

ROBERT J. LEVENDUSKY

2ND BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)  
22ND BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)

LATER NAME: BOB LANDON

Manuscript [diary] / Diary of Levendusky, Robert J. AKA Bob Landon / 22BG / 211S / B-26 Marauder / also A-24, P-39, Clipper, Zero / 1941-1942 / supplemental notes 1981 aerial combat / WIA / Ist Evacuation Hospital / 172nd Evacuation Hospital geographical locations: Langley Field, Barksdale Field, Kelly Field, Muroc Dry Lake, Naval Air Station @ San Diego, March Field, Australia, New Guinea, Brisbane, Amberly Field, Ipswich, Townsville, Archer Field, Reid River, Garbutt Field / submarine patrol convoy to Australia / bombing of Japanese targets / combat living conditions natives / Aussies / 8.51' X 1111 / diary copy 32 p. @ 2 original pages per / supplement 4 p. / transcript 16 p. / original data in manuscript [file folder] "Robert Levendusky Diary" - ACCO bound / copy - plastic spine bound / typescript. [From the collection of the 22nd Bombardment Squadron Association, Walter Gaylor, President.]

Transcript and copy of original file folder for: Marauder Archive; San Diego Aerospace Museum (Alternate Marauder Archive); Richard P. Ellinger (Editor of THE MARAUDER THUNDER & MHS Video); John O. Moench (MHS Historian). Original documentation is fragile and should be sparingly used.

TRANSCRIPT, PRINTING AND BINDING BY  
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1997

This transcript was made from a copy of the original diary. In that the copy was faded, some words and spellings were not clear. Where a word or words could not be read, an ellipsis was entered in the transcript; where spelling was in doubt there will be entered a question mark in parentheses (?) following the item. Clarifications are in brackets [ ... 1.

This transcript should be read in conjunction with the letter of September 2, 1981 from Bob Landon to Walter Gaylor — *Landon is formerly LevendusAy.*

The brother of Robert J. Levendusky was Edward F. Levendusky, both received the Purple Heart as a result of the event covered in this transcript. They are listed as S/Sgt in *The Marauder, A Book of the 22nd Bomb Group*, Halsted Press Pty. Ltd., 1944 — the relevant page is attached to this transcript.

In the referenced letter, Bob Landon states that "in the States my pilot was Buingarner." This would be Willis C. Buingarner. As of the writing of this transcript, the name "Benoff" has not been further identified. "Ewbank" is John N. Ewbank, Jr. (in some records this names appears as "Eubank. "Marker" apparently is Donald W. Marker.

In the diary, the April 13, 1942 reference to the "Palmer and Lancaster & crews" refers to 2nd Lt. Horace Palmer, Jr. and 2nd Lt. Carl R. Lancaster. Other names, where known, are set forth in brackets [ ... 1.

**WAR!**

Dec 7 - 1941. Japs Bomb Pearl Harbor. Worked all night getting ships in shape for cross country.

Dec 8. War Declared! Took off from Langley [Langley Field, Virginia] at 7:00 A.M. Flew to Barksdale, La., landed, refueled, took off for Kelly Field, Texas. Landed and put up for the night. **Flew 8:30 that day.**

Dec 9. Took off for Tucson, Ariz. Landed 3:45 later. Beautiful flight. Altitude here 2,660 ft. above sea level.

Dec 10. Weather storming - plane grounded.

Dec 11. Weather still bad - coyotes howl all night long. Rain.

Dec 12. Rained all day - plane grounded.

Dec 13. Weather good. Took off for Muroc Dry Lake. Landed safely. Altitude here 2,300 ft. above sea-level. What a hole. Just made take-off 2:45.

Dec 14. Plane grounded - mag [magneto] trouble.

Dec 15. No mag - plane grounded still. Sleeping in tents.

Dec 16. Put on new mag. Wind blew hard all day.

Dec 17. Plane developed carburetor troubles. Grounded.

Dec 18. Put on new carburetor. Dust flew all day.

Dec 19. Plane O.K. No mission. Put in 3-600 lb. bombs.

Dec 20. Took off for submarine hunt. Flew 5:20 over ocean with success ... 16,000 ft.

Dec 21. Weather bad- no mission - saw uncles Joe & Ted.

Dec 22. No mission. Plane O.K.

Dec 23. Went after sub off San Pedro that torpedoed M.S. freighter. Flew 6:10 - very tiresome.

Dec 24. Flew again for 4:40 over ocean. No Jap sub in sight. **Slept all night in flying clothes** expecting air raid. Almost shot - bullet went through sleeve of leather flying jacket into heart of Hielman(?) - good friend - he died.

Dec 25. Took off for sub hunt - ran into bad weather - landed at Naval Air Station, San Diego. Flew 4:35. Xmas day - went to dance. Iced up and dropped 2,000 feet.

Dec 26. Still at San Diego - weather bad. Slept in hangar. Taxied B-26.

Dec 27. Flew back to Muroc after searching ocean. Put in 3:00. Nose wheel indicated not down & locked - prepared for crash with bombs. Nose wheel O.K. Indicator out. Snapped both tack generators on take-off.

Dec 28. No mission - saw aunt Jane & ....

Dec 29. No mission.

Dec 30. Took off for Oakland - landed in 5:40. Went after sub in afternoon - no success - flew for 2 more hours. Being News Year Eve went into San Francisco - had swell time at Sky Room of Hotel Empire.

Jan 1, 1942. New Years Day - no mission.

Jan 2. Flew 3:30 in morning & 3:10 in afternoon looking for subs - no luck - went 365 M.P.H.... field.

Jan 3. Took off over ocean - purpose being subs - without success. Saw sharks and whales. Flew for 3:30. Was over Alcatraz (rock).

Jan 4. Plane out of commission. Mag trouble.

Jan 5. Plane grounded - mag trouble.

Jan 6. Spark plug trouble - plane out. Flat broke.

Jan 7. Plane O.K. - no mission.

Jan 8. Flew to March Field - 2:10. Took off for Muroc - :40 for pay, laundry and mail - plane grounded & took off carburetor air scoops.

Jan 9. Plane grounded - engine change needed.

Jan 10. Waiting for new engine.

Jan 11. Visited( ... ) and Joe & went to Palladium. T.D. [temporary duty].

Jan 12. Loosened engine from mount. Came back from 24 hr pass.

Jan 13. No engine.

Jan 14. Still no engine - waiting.

Jan 15. Plane to go to March Field for engine change.

Jan 16. Awaiting further orders.

Jan 17. Fastened old engine back in mount.

Jan 18. Plane takes off for March Field - I stay behind.

Jan 19. Visited aunt & uncle - saw many interesting sights in 24 hr pass. Eddie is restricted.

Jan 20. Upon completion of engine change plane is to go to Sacramento for disassembly & crating.

Jan 21. Will not see Daisy Mae [name of aircraft] until we reach destination.

Jan 22. Packing squadron equipment for shipment.

Jan 23. Still packing - loading freight cars.

Jan 24. Another day of packing.

Jan 25. Went to Palladium & danced to Tommy Dorsey.

Jan 26. Came back from 24 hr. pass.

Jan 27. Still waiting to pull out - dust terrible.

Jan 28. Hard wind - waiting.

Jan 29. Left Muroc for San Francisco by train - rode all day.

Jan 30. On boat - cargo being loaded on boat - sleeping in lower hold.

Jan 31. Left port & passed under Golden Gate Bridge at 3:00 in afternoon.

Feb 1. Water rough - everyone getting sea-sick - expecting same - saw phosphorous fish — first day out at sea without seeing land.

Feb 2. Boat pitching & **rolling something awful — felt dizzy all day - still** not sick - 2nd.

Feb 3. Ocean getting a little calmer - fell fine - convoy still together — 3rd.

Feb 4. Ocean beautiful - sun warm on deck all day - taking in same - saw eight porpoises - 4th.

Feb 5. Laid out in sun - got an awful sunburn - on guard - saw flying fish - ocean calm - 5th.

Feb 6. Nothing of importance happened today - ocean choppy - hoping to see land soon - 6th.

Feb 7. Ocean calm - small fire in hold - meals getting lousy - sun very hot - 7th.

Feb 8. Rained on & off all day - got a little more tan - 8th.

Feb 9. Two destroyers arrived and took away two transports from our convoy - making better time now - cloudy all day - got haircut - 9th.

Feb 10. Was followed by enemy sub - destroyers got rid of same - pulled guard - crossed equator - 10th.

Feb 11. Rained on & off all day - chow lousy - reading “Weathering Heights” - 11th.

Feb 12. Saw two navy planes catapulted off cruiser looking for sub - ocean calm & having a beautiful blue color - listened to records all evening - 12th.

Feb 13. Friday the 13th out in the Pacific somewhere with no land yet in sight - chow piss poor - 13th.

Feb 14. Ten ships joined our convoy today making a total of seventeen - pulled guard - saw several small islands - 14th.

Feb 15. Ocean choppy - reading “Whistle stop” - 15th.

Feb 16. Read all day - ocean calm - had fire and boat drill - 16th day.

Feb 17. Pulled guard - ocean calm - 17th.

Feb 18. Destroyer found submarine & dropped three depth charges - apparently got sub - in dangerous waters now - 18th.

Feb 19 - 20. Crossed international date line at noon today - we gained a day today - Friday the 20th. Received card certifying we crossed equator - 19th.

Feb 21. Weather cloudy - sea calm - 20th.

Feb 22. Convoy split today - original convoy remaining - 21st.

Feb 23. Weather hot - ocean calm - English bomber passed over convoy - 22nd.

Feb 24. Was attacked by enemy sub - torpedo missed bow of our boat by eight feet - destroyer dropped rive depth charges - probably got sub - 23rd.

Feb 25. Sighted land at 8 A. M. after 24 days at sea - it certainly looks good - landed at Brisbane, Australia at 4 P.M. - situated at Queensland Turf club - a beautiful horse racing track - sleeping in tents.

Feb 26. Weather swell - chow fairly good - camp is in Ascot a suburb of Brisbane.

Feb 27. Signed pay roll for \$65.00 - went on pass to Brisbane - saw show & went to dance at Troc(?) - had swell time - girls most pretty here.

Feb 28. Went to town again & ended up in a drinking party - had swell time on forged pass.

Mar 1. Moved from Brisbane 30 mi. to Amberly Field on R.A.A.F. field. Was on advanced detail and put up tents all day.

Mar 2. Loafed all day - town of Ipswich located about three miles from field - waiting for chance to go to town.

Mar 3. Working on line assembling A-24s - night shift - 6 to wind up.

Mar 4. Took out \$30.00 allotment - worked night shift.

Mar 5. Went on twelve hour pass to Ipswich - went to show and dance.

Mar 6. Wrote two letters and worked six to midnight.

Mar 7. Went on pass to Ipswich - took in two dances - fair time.

Mar 8. Jim Blain(?) and I went to Brisbane - got two girls - took in the park - rented a car and drove around at night.

Mar 9. Slept all day - worked at night.

Mar 10. Still working on line at night.

Mar 11. Went to town in afternoon and got high with Steve, Frank & Bill.

Mar 12. Started working day turn - assembly line.

Mar 13. Another Friday the 13th. Finished assembling A-24s - went to town in evening - had swell time dancing.

Mar 14. Worked all day - went to bed early.

Mar 15. Assembling P-39s - daytime - no pass until 21st - P-39 went into spin & crashed killing pilot.

Mar 16. Worked all day - visited Pat at his hut.

Mar 17. Still assembling P-39s - went to movie on post - saw "Waterloo Bridge" & "Road to Zanzibar."

Mar 18. Worked twelve hours.

Mar 19. Still working on line - went to movie.

Mar 20. Completing P-39s - made corporal.

Mar 21. Finished & policed up hangar - went to dance in Ipswich - fair time on forged pass.

Mar 22. On twelve hour pass - went to Brisbane for the day - met two girls - photographer from newspaper took our pictures - had swell time.

Mar 23. Picture appeared in Brisbane paper — got a lot of razzing from the fellows - working on line - final maintenance. Steve cut out picture from paper and fitted it to my wallet - pretty sharp.

Mar 24. Still working on line at final maintenance.

Mar 25. Loafed around all day - three B-26s came in.

Mar 26. Loaded gasoline drums on trailer from Ipswich station - saw the girls at the "North Star" - twelve B-26s arrived.

Mar 27. Loafed all day - sent a cablegram home.

Mar 28. Left for dump no. 3 to pull guard. **Enough bombs and ammunition to blow up this part of Australia to hell and back.** Went on pass to Brisbane with Jim and got a car & picked up two girls & drove out to the beach - some fun! Slept in a hotel over night.

Mar 29. Still in Brisbane - rented another car - got Ruby & Joyce & went driving - had to go on guard at five which spoiled evening.

Mar 30. Pulled guard in morning & went on pass in afternoon — saw Ruby & went to a movie.

Mar 31. Went to town again & picked up a girl and took in another movie.

April 1. April fool's day - came back to Amberly Field - sorry to leave Archer dump [Archer Field].

Apr 2. Got paid - drew \$21.14 [over-writing — this could be in Australian money at 21# 14'1.

Apr 3. Loaded B-26 engines from Archer Field to Amberly.

Apr 4. Unloaded squadron equipment onto freight cars to be shipped to future destination.

Apr 5. Left Ipswich station at 11:00 in the morning for Townsville - a distance of 700 mi.

Apr 6. Still on train - a tiresome ride - nice sunny.

Apr 7. Arrived at Townsville at 5:30 A. M. and sleeping in barracks two miles from town.

Apr 8. Unloaded equipment & supplies. City dead.

Apr 9. Moved into mountains, 40 miles from Townsville - put up tents - fairly nice here - two ships went on raid.

Apr 10. Made clearings in woods for our bombers.

Apr 11. Cut trees with ax - put blisters on my hands - dynamited stumps - filled in holes - getting swell sun tan - Eddie's birthday.

Apr 12. Helped get Andy's ship in shape - heard we lost two ships from Hawaii - crew unknown as yet - signed payroll.

Apr 13. Palmer and Lancaster & crews lost in ocean - got Pete's ship into shape - weather awful hot.

Apr 14. Sweating out some of our ships - did nothing all day - then came sun.

Apr 15. Did a little work and played hearts most of the day.

Apr 16. Went to Townsville on supply detail - drank - had a good time - felt awful next morning.

Apr 17. Unloaded supplies at railroad station - dug crap house [toilet].

Apr 18. Helped on engine change - Pete's ship - bombed ....

Apr 19. Went forty miles - . . . church at Townsville.

Apr 20. Two of our ships ... from raid - got ... all available planes to leave for Port Moresby by... - my plane not in as yet - still ... hope to get up ....

Apr 21. Cutting down trees for the purpose of making an underground shelter.

Apr 22. Still cutting trees and helped dig bomb shelter for operations and communications - Ed came in with crashed landing(?).

Apr 23. Did some work as yesterday - had moving picture in the evening.

Apr 24. Unloading gas drums & placing them in woods.

Apr 25. Went down to the line and put up a few tents.

Apr 26. Rained all day - couldn't do any work at all.

Apr 27. Still raining - place is getting to look like a mud hole - aerial engineer on 1399 - B-26 - same ship with Ed.

Apr 28. Moved from camp over to combat area near our ship. Lt. Ewbank 1st pilot.

Apr 29. Flew this morning for one hour - first time for three months. Co-pilot screwed up the works twice - hydraulic and short - went into stall - first time in a B26 - coughed out at 120 - what a sensation.

Apr 30. Left for Port Moresby with 1960 lbs. of incendiary bombs - flew 4:30. What a jungle this place is.

May 1. Took off to bomb Lae but after a half hour on our way bomber went out of the formation, developed trouble as we had to turn back - came back to Townsville - time 5:15 - after eating dinner we had orders to go back to Port Moresby so we took off for Port Moresby again in the c.o. ship with 3-500 (1500 lbs.) of demo bombs - 3:10.

May 2. Just got off the ground at 7:00 when Japs came to attack us. P-39s took care of them. We went on to Rabaul & bombed the shit out of that harbor - lot of boats there. Anti-aircraft fire broke all around us. Just after that six zeros came after us and we hit the clouds after 30 min [minutes] of severe combat. A shell from a zero hit in our bomb bay & caught it on fire. Max(?) put it out with the fire extinguisher. Eddie put a bullet through the wing of a zero which started smoking - don't know if it went down or not - 6:15.

May 3. Took off for Townsville early in the morning - landed in 3:30 time - ate lunch and came back to Reid River - :30 — all fellows looked over the ship and agreed we had a close call.

May 4. Got a two day pass to recuperate - went to Townsville - took in a dance - got my watch fixed & slept in the G. N. Hotel.

May 5. Was in tville [Townsville] until 1:00 - had swell time - came back to Reid River.

May 6. Flew to Townsville with the C.O. - Maj. Anderson [George R. Anderson] to go on a mission - didn't go out at all - time :20.

May 7. Started out to bomb a Jap convoy - developed turret trouble - had to turn back - time 1:15 (Coral Sea).

May 8. Took off from Townsville to bomb a Jap convoy (Coral Sea) but couldn't find it - landed at Port Moresby - time 6:15.

May 9. Left Port Moresby with two 1,000 lb. bombs & found a Jap transport & ten flying boats - dive bombed the boat at 800 ft. going 280 mph - guns from boat opened up on us but missed - our bomb dropped 30 ft short but caused plenty damage - dropped the other bomb from 4,000 ft - overshot - time 7:00.

May 10. Had the day off - rented a horse and went horse back riding for the first time - pretty nice.

May 11. Loaded four 500 lb. bombs & took off for Port Moresby - time 3:50.

May 12. **Went on to bomb Rabaul but the weather wasn't permissible - stormy** - couldn't see a thing - came back to Port Moresby - refueled & came back to Reid River - time 9:15 (McIver) [Otto B. McIver].

May 13. Went to Townsville on pass - bought a camera - took in a dance - slept at North American Hotel - had a fairly good time.

May 14. Came back from town in the afternoon - got two letters from Rose - prepared for another mission tomorrow.

May 15. Took off for Port Moresby after loading ten 100# demo bombs and five incendiary bombs - time 4:10.

May 16. Went over Lae in the morning to bomb but couldn't get through due to bad weather - took off again in the afternoon & bombed the airdrome from 900 ft. Anti aircraft fire popped all around us - hit vertical fin - we did considerable damage - strafed the field as we went over - Japs were running everywhere - a very successful mission - flew lead ship - time 7:45.

May 17. Came back from Port Moresby to home base - ship needs a lot of work done on it - crew all tired out - time - 4:15 - rumors had it that I had been killed - some shit.

May 18. Ratings posted - had been a sgt since Apr 25 - went to Townsville - went to movie.

May 19. Still in towns [Townsville] - made a date for the evening - went to another movie - had a swell time. Sent \$200 dollars home - \$100 for Ed and \$100 for myself.

May 20. Came back to Reid River at noon - prepared for another mission tomorrow.

May 21. Flew to Garbutt, loaded #100 demo & oil bombs - slept there that night. Six crew of our combat men slept in some barracks - before lights out everyone in good mood, joking & laughing about tomorrow's mission. I wondered about how many of us would get back. Little did I realize that I would be the one.

May 22. Flew to Port Moresby - refueled & went on to bomb Lae. Very low ceiling - bombed at 1,000 ft. When over the enemies (sic) field was shot in both legs either from the ground or zeros. Never saw where it came from. Called pilot on interphone & told him I was shot. He immediately left formation & headed for Port Moresby, short cut over the nits [mountains]. Marker shot down a zero who tried to follow us. Was given first-aid in the plane for my left leg was broken from the bullet and bleeding badly - right leg not as bad & not broke. Tourniquet applied to both legs by Eddie. On arriving at Port Moresby - met by General Scanlon - told me I

would have a long rest. **Was put on a stretcher & taken off the bomber and placed in an ambulance.** Eddie was **with me all the way to the hospital & stayed there until I** . . . around by a plasma transfusion which was not given me too soon for I had lost practically every drop of blood. Capt. Ewbank came up to the hospital which was over seventeen miles from the runway & situated in the hills - in the evening and took Eddie back with him that night. I layed on the stretcher all night.

May 23. Was operated on in the morning. Left leg was set & put in a cast. Bullet was removed from my right leg & presented to me. Felt a little better but awful weak.

May 24. Still awful weak - can't see properly - hardly can lift a glass of water or eat. Loosing weight fast. New Guinea natives clean the ward every morning. Ward is cleaned practically a [to - words are not clear] bones(?). Natives are small, very dark, with black bushy hair & talk in their native tongue which seems funny.

May 25. Forgot to mention that this is an Australian hospital with Aussie doctors, nurses and ward boys. Campbell [possibly Peter F. Campbell] & Miller were up to see me. Their ship is grounded for an engine change. Feel slightly better today although weak. Always thirsty - water terrible. Lt. Carey & I are always demanding ice water. He is on my left and was shot down by zeros over P. Moresby. (A P-39 pilot).

May 26. No better today. Bill & Tony were up to see me. Heard that I was to be flown to Townsville by Clipper. Lt. Carey also - next day. Was taken by ambulance to Port Moresby hospital this evening and put to bed. About 10 o'clock there was an air raid warning & we were transferred to stretchers & taken to trenches. Laid there for about a half hour - nothing happened & was taken inside the hospital once more & into bed. It wasn't long until the building and bed started shaking & I knew the Japs had come & were dropping their eggs about three miles away on a runway. My first experience of being caught in an air raid - not a delightful one.

May 27. Was awakened at 3 in the morning & taken to the harbor where Lt. Carey & I were put on a boat & rode to the Clipper. Was put on board & we took off at 5. During the flight I suffered from shock when the crew tested their guns. Upon landing at Townsville 5 1/2 hours later was taken to a hospital & given plasma transfusions. Shortly after was put on a train (hospital) bound for Brisbane at 3 O'clock in the afternoon. Every time they move me they hurt my leg more.

May 28. Couldn't sleep all night. Train stopped & jerked continuously. On a liquid diet. Lt. Carey laying across from me. We only have to travel 800 mi. yet it seems years on this slow train.

May 29. **Last night something broke loose in my leg as a result of the jerking - my leg feels as if it is dead.** In the morning I find my cast all soaked with blood. Feel weak. Can't wait till we arrive at Brisbane.

May 30. Arrived at Brisbane 6 A. M. [Was] put in an ambulance. After a short ride we came to the hospital and put into a bed. My leg is hurting me something awful and can't help from crying a little. A nurse Mrs. Peggy Larson came to me **and did wonders** in consoling me. I was getting the impression that nobody seemed to care what happened to me and I began not to care either until Peggy took notice of me. She cleaned and washed me and after a while I went to sleep. Received another plasma transfusion.

May 31. My old cast was removed today & a new one put on. Wounds were dressed. Feel a little better. Ward boys address me as Lt.

June 1. Received a blood transfusion of 500 cc's. I don't know who the donor was. My blood is AB — a very rare type.

June 2-11. Feeling better right along. Cast hurts more every day.

June 11. Dr. Mendolsen - Capt. - removed my cast and set the leg again without anesthesia. The pain was so terrific I almost passed out. Nurses were putting cold packs on my head & ward boys were holding me down. After re-casting he said "If I knew it was going to hurt you so much I would have put you to sleep." Such is life.

June 12. Couldn't sleep last night. Cast is too tight. Had it split all the way down. Made staff sergeant. Because I was shot in combat the fellows have a lot of respect for me.

June 13. My leg was twisted in the cast in order to have the bone connect and I am in pain constantly from that.

June 14. Peggy helped me out wonderfully last night. The pain was so great I hardly could stand it. Peggy gave me a shot (hypo) [hypodermic] to take the pain away and held my hands & consoled me until I went to sleep.

June 15-18. Every day was the same thing - over & over pain. I can't get to sleep because of so much pain. Continually taking pills & hypo's during the day & night. Practically begging the doctor to try changing my cast again. If it wasn't for Peggy at night, I don't know what I'd do. She is the swellest nurse & girl I have ever known. So kind & gentle to everyone & without her at night I'd just be lost.

June 18. The doctor finally said he would change my cast today. At 3:30 they took me to the operating room & when the ward boys put me on the operating table they accidentally dropped me - which dislocated the bone in my leg. The pain was awful

**& nothing could be done because the cast wasn't cut off my legs as yet. A doctor gave me a shot to lessen the pain - which worked. My mouth then became so dry it felt like cotton.** I couldn't swallow. After a little coaxing on my part, the doc gave me some water which I had to spit out after rinsing my mouth. They injected something in my veins to put me to sleep & off I went. That's the last I remembered until 8:30 when Peggy put her hand over mine to take my pulse & I immediately awoke. During my sleep when I came out of the operating room at 6:00 everyone in concern tried to wake me but could not. Even Ben the head ward boy slapped my face - to no avail. I learned afterward they gave me gas on top of the shot which accounted for my staying asleep so long. It seemed that Peggy was connected to me in every way. They set my leg over again & put on a new cast.

June 19. What a change. My leg gives me no pain and the cast is put on perfect. Can eat once more.

June 20. The 1st Evacuation Hospital left for Rock Hampton which included Peggy. I am sorry to see her leave. The whole outfit was swell. Our new bunch is mostly from Texas & is the 172nd Evac [Evacuation Hospital]. In my opinion they aren't as good as the 1st although the orthopedic doctor is great. Peggy and Miss Phillips presented me with a 1st Evac pin which makes me a honorary member.

June 21-30. Getting along fine. My bed is situated between two Lts. 1st Lt. Carey on my right and 2nd Lt. Meadows on my left. Have a lot of fun with Stan Meadows. He is a former state & national juniors skeet shooting champion. Hails from Grimes or Des Moines, Iowa. Has a broken leg as a result of engine failure & crashed into a mt. [mountain] near Townsville. Lt. Carey was shot down by zeros and he had to bail out. Came out with two broken legs. He hails from L.I. [Long Island], N. Y.

July 1-14. Same old story every day. Doctor won't tell me the true condition of my leg. However, I know there is a large gap to be filled in where the bullet took out the bone. Also, there is a hole big enough in my leg to drive a Mac truck through. The right leg is getting along beautiful - can move it all over the bed.

July 14. Eddie came to see me today. What a surprise. Also Mather & Price [probably William J. Price]. The whole ... received a ten day furlough.

July 15-27. Eddie came to see me every afternoon. Capt. Ewbank & Lt. Marshall [probably Raymond A. Marshall] came up twice & once. We sure had some swell times. There was always something to look forward to in those afternoons.

July 27. Eddie brought me two cases of coca colas. He couldn't stay long for they were leaving that day.

July 28-31. Have been going out on the verandah every day for fresh air and sun shine. Wrote a letter to Peggy.

Aug 1. We have a boy in the ward from Sugar Natch. His name is White Wasnoski (?). He keeps the ward laughing all day by imitating Parkukarkas.

Aug 2. Two sailers, one named Chief, & the other Jimmie pulled in. Chief is a swell guy - was in Pearl Harbor and Midway.

— END OF DIARY RECORD -