

PH 3671

H.B. Stevenson M.B.

Dess!

H. C. S. Pirie

to British Fleet Club.

Thursday 16th August 1945

Dear Phil,

Well Phil how did you
you enjoy the the peace
celebrations? you better hurry
up and write and tell me
all about it. Do you feel
any different? I'm bloused if I
do, we received the "cease all
offensive & operations against
Japan," yesterday, but we still
had to keep morning watch
work, the forenoon, and keep
the "first dog" and middle.

I think just can't
realize yet that the war is
over, we are still in the middle
of the Pacific.

Tuesday 3rd August 1945

I had to leave this
for a few days Phil but as

as it happens it is just as well ~~it is~~ because now they have lifted the censorship, so I can write just what I want to.

I think I'll start by telling about today. Today is the day of days for this ship. Since the day this ship was put in the water, it has been the hope of the crew to take it into "Tokyo," harbour.

Today our hopes have been realized, at six o'clock this morning we came through the entrance to "Tokyo Bay," and at nine o'clock dropped the anchor just off the shore from the big Japanese dockyards of Yokohama, on the outskirts of the biggest fleet of fighting ships the world has ever mustered.

As we came into the "Bay," the first thing we saw were the white surrender flags placed at intervals of about

a mile along the coast.

Next came their harbour forts, but they were just an island of rubble that will never again be of any use. Also there is a Japanese "Battle Ship," but that too will be of no use to anyone.

To get where we are now we had to pass through the biggest force of fighting ships the world has ever seen. The two British "Battle Ships," the "King George V," and the "Duke of York," are here with their "Cruiser" and "Destroyer" escorts also the "United States" Fleet led by the "Battle Ship,"

"USS Missouri," in company with a half a dozen other "Battlers," and their "Cruiser" "Destroyer" escorts, all tendered by Fleet tankers, supply ships, troop ships, and Hospital ships.

On the other side there are the smaller ships

such as "sloops," "frigates" and "corvettes."

We have the honour of being the first Australian built ship, the first Aussie "Corvette," and the third Aussie ship to enter Tokyo with the fleet of occupation.

There are three other "Corvettes" here now but the "Girie," led them all in, we were quite proud to be at the head of the column believe me.

The two ships that beat us in were the Aussie N class "Destroyers," "Mizam," and "Kajiper." Coming up the harbour now are the Aussie "Cruisers," "Dobart," and "Shropshire," tendered by the Aussie "Destroyers," "Warramunga," and "Bataan." I bet they got a shock when they saw that we were already here,

the boys are all lined up on the docks yelling out comments such as, "Where have you been" and "were you frightened to come in until you knew it was quite safe, and a few other things that I don't think you'd like to hear.

From where we are now we can see the Japanese people moving around the city of "Yokohama," and boy what a city it is, most of it has been reduced to rubble but you can still count 400 factory chimneys still standing. I'd like to go ashore and have a good look around the place, but I don't think it would be wise unless you were well armed, because the people don't look too happy about it.

I suppose you have read in the paper about the giant submarines the Japs had just brought into operation, well we passed two of them on the way down the harbour and believe me they are every bit as big as they are claimed to be. They were anchored right astern of one of the "Fank" "Battles", and they are nearly as long as them with three earplane hangers just abaft the conning tower, I'd hate to see their armament.

It was announced that one of them had just returned from its maiden run, down around "Wuk", on the same course as we were on a few weeks ago, so I guess we were very lucky not to meet it.

I don't know how long we will be in harbour

only for a few days at the longest, we have received orders to go to "Hong Kong" for the fleet of occupation there as soon as we get a relief to take over our station here in "Tokyo."

I don't think we are going to be in "Hong Kong" for long either, because we have been told that we will be in Adelaide in the middle of November to have a rest, so you can expect me home then.

I can tell you now why you haven't been getting any mail from me since I was home last. From the time we left "Brisbane" we went straight back to "Manus" island in the Admiralty group and had one night in harbour, and picked up a few tankers and supply ships up to

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The fleet to give them fuel and stores and except for one occasion when we went back to "Marcus" with an empty tanker to fill her up again and coming back again the next day, for the past two months we have been steaming up and down the coast of Japan.

On V.I. Day, when the Japanese surrender was announced and we received the cease fire we were 750 miles from "Tokyo" and at the time the closest an "U.S.S." ship had ever been to it.

It made us wild when we were told that all the sailors down F.N.P. had four days leave on the strength of it; because we were working in the rain when it was announ

ced, I was splicing a wire, and naturally we quacked up work and started to give a few hearty cheers, but we weren't quacked up for long, two and a half minutes after I left my work I was sent back to it, so we celebrated V.I. day by working in the rain just off the coast of Japan.

There was a signal from the "Admiralty" telling us to "Relieve the Chain-Drace," but we haven't done it yet, and as that was a fortnight ago, our blood sort of boiled over when we read about the free beer that was handed out in "Russia," but still our time will come I suppose, & for one am going to have my celebration when I come home and where-

betide any one who tries
to step me.

The ship's company
is going to have a "banguout"
when we get to Adelaide, so
I guess I'll have to have
somebody to put me to bed
after it; how about you?

Well Phil, there isn't
very much more I can tell
you, and it is getting
late, and I want to write
to Mum before I go to
bed so I'll say cheerio
till we get to Hong Kong

Lot of love

Steve ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~

SIGNING OF SURRENDER TERMS
TOKYO BAY

2nd SEPTEMBER 1945

Reverend Mr. Ward

B. Baywood

W. H. H.

George Beer

Jessie

Samson

Jackson

A. S. Hall
VIA AIR MAIL

L. Davis
K. G. G. G.
J. G. G. G.

Bill Gates

W. H. H.

Jack Aitken
J. H. H.
W. H. H.

R. H. H.
R. H. H.
R. H. H.

M. R. H.
F. H. H.

M. R. H.

R. H. H.

R. H. H.

Opin

W. H. H.

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Johnston R.W. Hester
my name is 23
Shackley

R. Edwards
Thurlock

Bue Bottomia

E. P. Galtman

Bill Gates

Frank

Junston

S. Smith

J. L. Childs

AS Wakeham

Thompson

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