

Sto P.O. G.A. STONE'S
Forbidden Diary of
HMS O'Leppala Operations
in the English Channel
5 June to 12 August, 1944.

PLEASE HANDLE
WITH CARE

Geo. A. Stone
S.P.O. 21919 R.C.N.
H.M.C.S.
"Di Appelle"
S.P.O.
London

Eng. Rm.

Stone SPO
#ley SPO
Lasselman R/Sto
Ayres R/Sto
Lelford R/Sto
Harper Sto
Sinclair R Sto
Diering Sto
Lurie Sto
#3
Moussau -
Gallop -
Walsh
Hill
Vinatten
Brown

Moore

3 White Shirts	0.2.3
2 Pr Coveralls	0.3.0
2 Hammocks	8.5.0

~~110.0~~

Debts owed in June 44

Ford	\$1.00	Paid - 5/16 June 5
Grove	\$1.00	
Paddy	2.11	
Foley	3.00 - \$1.5.6	

July

Moore	X	21
Foley	X	\$1

July

Freeman	\$1
Moore	\$1

1895

1896

1897

1898

1899

1900

1901

1902

1903

1904

1905

1906

1907

1908

1909

1910

grove

3 white slits

2/3

Foley

1 shirt

Sord

1 hammock

~~2/6~~

Richards

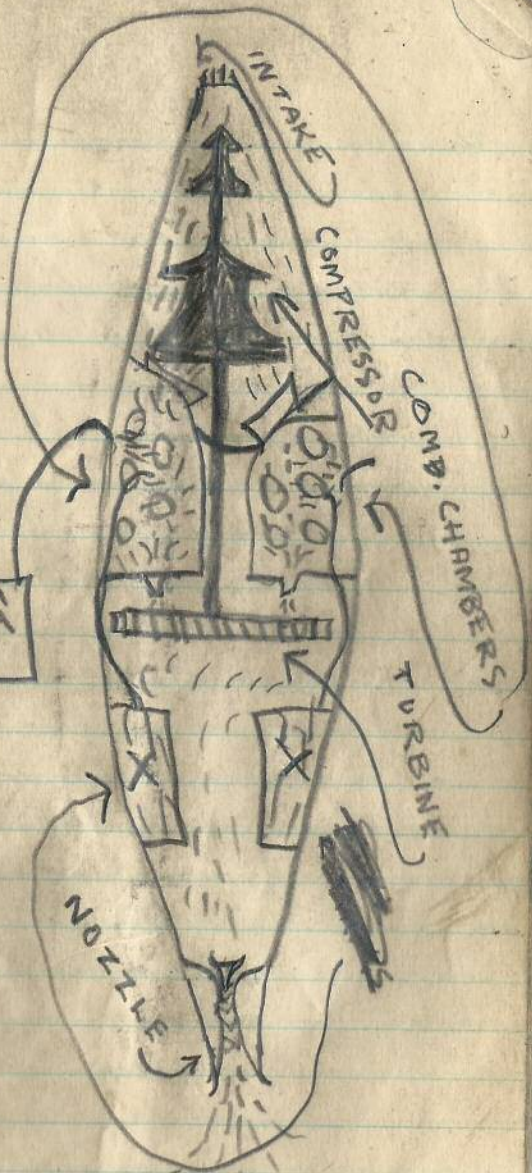
1 Hammock ~~etc~~

McFadden

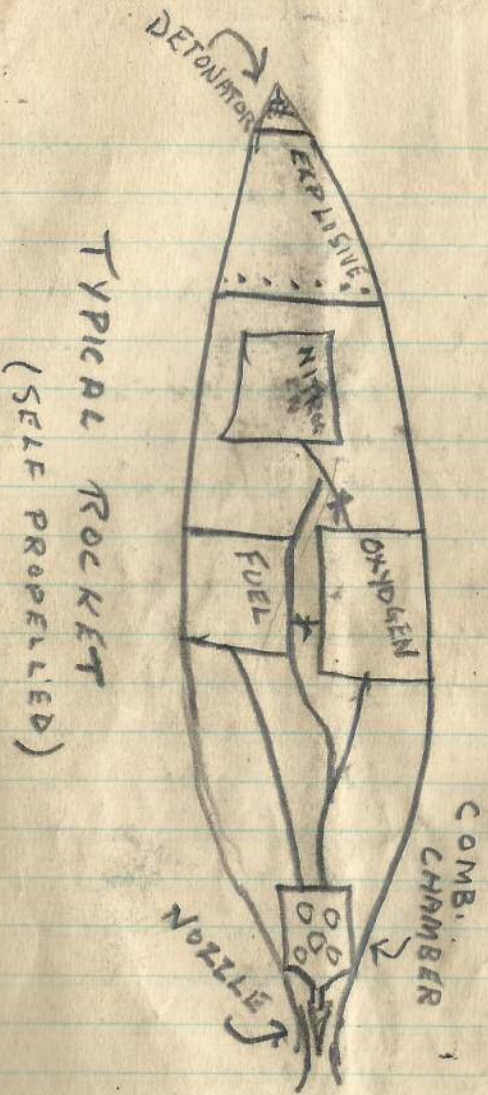
1 Boiler Suit

1 Shirt (W)

~~2~~
60

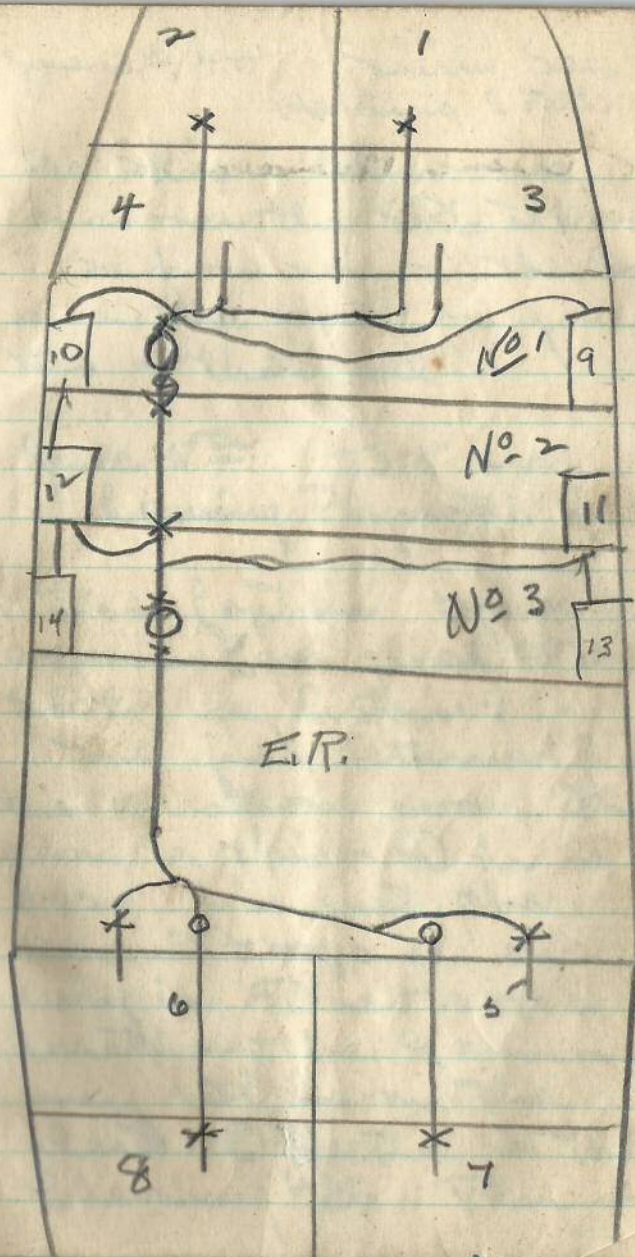


TYPICAL JET PROPULSION MOTOR
SUITABLE FOR AIRCRAFT (NO VIBRATION)
/ PROPELLORLESS /



TYPICAL ROCKET
(SELF PROPELLED)

Besné Murocho



June 3rd/44 Irish Sea
Heading South

The Skipper's calm voice
came over the S.R.E. at Noon,
"So from now on, the ball
is in the air, - on your
toes - that's all".

June 5th 2315 hrs.
Leaving Plymouth Harbour.

The Captain spoke
again. Gas glued to the
S.R.E. we listened:-

I've just returned from
the operations room. The
plan is this - D hr is
0720. We met the
assault troops on our
way in. Due to the
weather, the Germans
may not be on the
alert. Objective is the
Lherding 4th. Plan is

to cut off the Pan. and
take the ports of Luffau
and of harbours. This
harbour will be made
from some eighty old
pickets, until a harbor
is captured - We had
already seen these old
ships plodding along,
empty, and wondered
at it, now we knew.

Our assault force
consisted of five Div.
of shock troops. Silently
we breathed a prayer
for those guys that
had to get ashore
and establish a beachhead
in the face of every-
thing the Japs had
to throw at them!
O her the B. is Est.

the captain went on; it
will be a race between
us & the G. to keep supplies
coming up, that's all.

We, aboard the ship,
felt jubilant at the
thought of the second
front finally starting,
after all those hard
times years on the
N.A. landing supplies
over, building up, just
waiting for the day.

I, myself had spent
over four years away
from home, with over
two dozen crossings
to my credit, and there
were many more of
the senior ratings
aboard ship, who
held a similar record.

There were eight of us in the mess at the time of the Skipper's speech, and miraculously, a bottle of rum appeared, and we drank a solemn toast to the success of the attack. As the Captain put it - "We are helping to make history." (All times are Double Br. Summer time.)

6th of June 2110

Captain just finished giving us the lay of the land. Six -

Six Narvik class Destroyers and eight mules, have been sighted at 1900, coming along the Ushant Pen. heading up

Channell. Between us & the enemy are four Dec. Two Polish - two Br. Two more are joining them now. Five of the Gulls are headed in the gen. Dir. of the Scilly Is. (This was our territory). The Dec. are to stop the Narviks.

I might add at this juncture, that Narviks are the best the Enemy has.

5 gun turrets (cal. N.K.)

8 fish and plenty fast, 12/10 ft.

Tomorrow is D day for us. May God be on our side.

The enemy is less than seventy miles away!

7th of June

Fairly quiet day, 2nd sub
sounded. Went below at
2000, then things started
to happen. Various contacts
with subs. One suddenly
appeared 100 yds of S. side
just the periscope. Immediately
a full ahead and we
opened up on it with
everything we could bring
to bear, plus D.C. SK also
opened up. Imm. she
went down again.

Four fish were fired,
accoustic. One too close to
Sub - that boys thought she
was gone. E. air also
handy. Sounded at 2340.

8th of June

Below at 2000. Things
happen again. Subs fire
4th fish at our group.

Something's wrong! their
fire explode harmlessly.
A few counter attacks
pulled off with neg results.
Chirocraft by neg. E. air in
vicinity. Sounded at 1130.
Got to wait for her to surface.

Finally surfaced 8 M. away.
We fired but she dived.
Knew she couldn't last much
longer, but we were called
to intercept 4 E. Destroyers.
Were all ready, but called
off again, meanwhile Sub
surfaced in fog & escaped.
The Captain said to St. By
to intercept E. destroyers.

9th of June

@ 0245 the Alarm went, and
we went towards the Enemy.
Their fire power was about 4-1
and some of us were

wondering how we'd make out. However, two F. Glass came around astern of the E. and opened fire. Salvos were exc. and one ferry made off and blew up when he hit a mine. One of our ships was down, but the other one chased the E. until two Con. Fishals came up. Hala scored hits on E. Des. One of them blew up, apparently from a hit on the mag. This made two down. The others made off firing over their shoulders. We returned to reg. patrol.

Quiet Morning Watch. Log gave details of last night's battle, and stated that there were many Subs

being sent in to cut sup. to beachhead. At 1445 the gong went again. Sub surfaced two miles away. Up knots and away we go. Standing on the focal, I saw a torpedo wake cut across our bow. The ship went 20° to Port and it passed about 25 ft from us. Another one was seen on the Port side almost simultaneously. Wow! Sub. crash dived and some old stuff with neg. results.

Away again at 1920. Guts dropped ten charges. Neg. results. Picked up some fish. Sighted a "wimpy" on horizon.

10th June.
Below for Middle. SK spots sub. Neg. results. Demint. on the aft. up K. to catch a

Subs on the surface. Aircraft
led us to it, and sank sub.
Our Support is good today.

Oil getting low now.

Hell broke out at 9.30 P.M.

Up to 25-K. The G.R. informed
me if we were chasing
2 Horn Sweepers and to expect
anything, as you could
see the 7. Goats. Was

released at Mid, and a Sta.
broke out at 10 to 2. We }
did not know what to }
expect as we were on }
the enemy's doorstep, but

again the enemy led it
and I got to sleep at
five o'clock. We then
headed for our base to
replenish our fuel tank.

Arrived safely and without
incident at 1000 hrs.

Afterwards I found out the
results of the trip. Subs sunk
3, by aircraft. Damaged, 1, by
my own ship. A new record
was made in having a fish
fired at us, Jim.

After two days patrol
off hands. End: -

June 15th 9.30 P.M.

Captain said we are headed
out to our old hunting ground
tonight. Subs are trying to
get thru again, one sank the
"Mon" this A.M., but was
attacked & Dam. and is
considered to be handy, also
poss other one also.

Captain said he could not
promise us sleep tonight,
and it's a good night to
wear life belts, eyes, or else
got the middle two!

Wed. July 5th/44

TIME. 1930

~~E.G. 12 SHIP'S CO'S - S.O. E.G. 12~~

Swedish Group Ships 9's

Team. S.O. E.G. 12

By the luck of the draw, we are the first to play the new game on the enemy's door step. Let us see that we do not throw away what fortune has given us. Good luck.

This signal was accompanied by the pipe "Hands will go to right action stations around 2400."

As I write this, I am waiting for the Captain to let us know, "What's in the wind", at 2045 Cap has just spoken.

Tonight we play a new game! 8 Mine Sweepers come out from Brest to escort subs in. Subs on surface for last 20 M. We are to up knots and sweep in across the path of Sweepers. No challenging, everything is cannon-food. After we have beaten the Sweepers, the Cap. want on matter-of-factly, we will carry out after the subs they were to meet. Nice work. We will be 5 or six miles off the coast, and if we don't engage the enemy, we should be out by about 2:30. He went on to describe the sweepers. Main arm. 2-4.1" guns. "See first and shoot first" That's all! (Yes, I'm scared, but calm", "we got the middle")

Thursday July 5th /44

Alongside at Devon Port.
Well, it happened!
Last night we went to act.
Sta. at 2300. My watch was
ordered below. 3 lbs hooked
up. Speed was increased
to Full Ahead, and in we
went, hell for leather,
looking for trouble. We
found it in the shape
of 3 minesweepers and 2
subs, surfaced, doing 12K.
They challenged us, and
our reply was in the
shape of a salvo from
the big guns. They
promptly opened up on
us. They raked us
with gunfire from stern
to stem. Down below
we could hear the hits.
But everything was OK.
down there. We let drive

With our torps and secured
a direct hit on the second
ship. It blew up. The third
one was left blazing.
Also fired and got hits
on sub.

Score - Two sunk, one
by the first two salvos,
one by torpedo.

One possibly sunk, as
it was left blazing furiously.
Sub damaged by gunfire.

Our casualties were
eighteen wounded, including
the Captain, who, when
hit, refused to leave the
bridge. There are quite
a few shell holes in the
ship. H.E. hits on the bridge,
holes in the funnels and
ship's side. Damage is only
superficial, considering the
action.

English Channel July 25th
Some where off Cherbourg. 49

Last night at about
10.20 the Luftwaffe
decided to do something
about us calmly
patrolling along their
coast.

As usual my watch
was below, as it
had been for every
other ^{major} action we had.

Steaming quite peacefully
at 19 K. on 2 lbs.

Suddenly a loud explosion
and speed is increased 22 K.
Act. Sta. goes, and full
speed is being about 27 K.

More explosions. I
am holding the steam
pressure O.K. until
they ring for 30 K. Then
the steam goes back to

210 lbs, as the third boiler
~~could~~ stop valves were
jammed!

Our guns were chattering
and banging and the acid
smell of cordite drifted
down the funnels.

Suddenly a loud
explosion and we heeled
over hard, and the
helast started the hr
pulsating. One of the
Stokers dropped to the
plates instinctively, while
I hung on to the air
valve grimly keeping
my eyes on the gauges.
The ship strain leaned
up again, and I chalked
down, "Near Miss" on
the oil heater for the
benefit of the Stokers, as

you couldn't hear
yourself speak with
the noise of the machinery.
After awhile we slowed
down and everything
was normal again.

Some went at 2320.
After I got up top I
found out what
happened.

One enemy plane had
come over as a decoy
and of course our
fighters tore after it.
While they were busy,
three enemy a/c. came
over and launched their
glider bombs, or "Phase
-me-Charlie", as we call
them. Six, in all were
launched, only one at
us apparently. This was

launched about a mile
away and at high alt.
It was coming straight
at us with deadly
accuracy.

The guns opened up,
~~and~~ but couldn't stop
it, and I guess the extra
speed plus the maneuvering
saved us, as the bomb
hit right in our wake
about 200 ft astern of the
ship. We were doing
about 28½ K. at the time
so you can imagine
what that extra half knot
meant to us.

Now we are up & bound
away from Ushant, looking
for a couple of Subs.
Maybe we'll find them!

3 Miles off Ushant
2100 August 11th/44

"The Captain will speak over the S.P.S. within the next half hour". The O.M. has just made this pipe. In a little while we will see what's up. We know that we are going into

Brest tonight, as the 3rd Bdr. is Reg'd at 2300.

Cap has just spoken. We are to be joined by another ship, (H.M.S. Allright) at 2300. then we sweep south to Penmarch Pt. there we turn around and sweep up, close to the coast into Odeon Bay and camp on to Ushant. The Guns are expected to evacuate Brest, and it is possible that

they will try to get out tonight, as we could see them being posted by bombers last night and this afternoon.

Two Destroyers made this run last night and encountered nothing.

The Cap hopes to burn into something tonight.

We will be close inshore and within easy range of Shore Batteries. Looked like fun on the upper deck for this show. The Skipper was cheered at the end of his speech. I'd hate to see a German tonight!

22 hrs. later Aug 12/44

Plymouth

Here we are safe in Port.
This Morning we closed up
to act. Sta at 0115. The moon
was a dull red quarter
just coming up at that
time. Vis. about 1000 yds,
but getting better as the
moon rose. There were
fires of us sweeping along
at about 22K.

Suddenly the ship said
over the SRG; "Three objects
close inshore, Green six or
range 600 yds."

Being Senior ship, we
led the other ships in
"Line Ahead" formation.

at about 2000 yds, our big
guns belched out star shells
which were followed by
flares and rockets.

Two of the enemy were
clearly ~~silhouetted~~ silhouetted
on the horizon. Immediately
the ships astern of us opened
fire with their big guns.
The enemy replied as
the range closed, but their
shells were falling short
of us. Now our Port Deck
opened up, ringing their
chatter of death, and
a hoarse cheer was
~~heard~~ rung from a hundred
throats as one of the
enemy was seen to burst
into flames.

That another was hit
and promptly laid a smoke
screen.

Our ships circled this
smoke, pumping in shells
of every size and description

The scene was continually lit up by star shells, and flares, and when an enemy flare hung over us, it ~~gave~~ gave one the same feeling as walking down the street in the nude.

Meanwhile another E. ship had caught fire, and these two burning ships headed for the beach where they ran aground.

It was then decided to go into the smoke screen to see the other one. This almost proved fatal to us, as our ships lost formation, and the Skuas came charging straight towards

our Starboard side at a 90° angle. It was a tense moment, but she swerved to Port and hit us astern, right in the tiller flat. This put us out of the fight, as it damaged our steering gear and the tiller flat started to flood.

All around us, the battle was still going on, as we rigged up pumps, and tried to slow get our steering gear to function.

I was expecting to get shells lobbed at us any minute, as we were awful handy the coast.

After awhile we headed away at a slow speed, followed by Skuas

Our other ships were still engaging the Hun, when I went below at 0410. The fight still carried on for awhile, and the shore batteries belched hate at us as we limped toward home at 0530.

However, we reached Ply. without mishap, and even managed to thumb our nose at a tug sent out to assist us.

It is not very clear, as yet, as to the damage we inflicted on the Hun. We were not hit at all, by shells.

It appears, that three other Huns came along

just about the time we were hit, and our 3 des. engaged them. Seems they sank a couple of these, and the one in the smoke screen blew up.

That makes 5 out of 6 commission out of the six.

Now we will be out of the war for at least a week and way, but it is hoped that we are out ^{again} in-time enough to feel the thrill, upon sight of an enemy ship being soundly thrashed.

GEORGE A. STONE, CD
1552 CHAMPNEUF DR. ORLEANS
837-6036

