

**Excerpts, April 3-16, 1942, from Personal Diary of Brigadier General Ralph Royce
Regarding the Special Mission to the Philippines**

April 3 - Friday

Breakfast at house – to office. Gen. Brett moved to Australian Headquarters. Banking – lunch at house – office. 5 o'clock meeting – Pazdral [Nuel, Medical Corps] & I drove Mrs. Patterson [Royce's new secretary] home - dinner at house Mrs. Stevenson and Mrs. Mowat guests - I ate crackers and milk. Chamberlin and I cribbaged till 11:15.

Wrote estimate of trip [pending Royce Mission] to Philippines.”

April 4 – Saturday

Breakfast at house – office – meant to fly but was too busy – ended up going to see Southerland [Sutherland] with Brett re Phil. trip. Lunch at house with two Lyon girls & Miss Frazier.

[Note: all but first line above marked out by General Royce. He apparently entered this on wrong day because the crossed-out entry was then copied verbatim into the April 5 page.]

Lunch at house – Gen Wilson guest – office – dinner at home – Mrs. Mowat & Mrs. Stevenson for dinner [preceding entry re Mowat and Stevenson then marked out by Royce]. Cribbage in eve.

April 5 – Sunday

Breakfast at house - office - meant to fly but was too busy - Brett & I to see Southerland [Sutherland] re Miami [Del Monte, Mindanao] trip. Lunch at house with the two Lyon girls & Miss Frazier as guests – Kurtz, Pazdral & I drove to Laverton but no plane available - Brett & I to Littles for cocktails and then to Mrs. Guy Smiths for same – We brought the Lyon girls home for supper and cribbaged till 10:00.

April 6 – Monday

Breakfast at house – office till 11:40. Pazdral & I to town to get uniform at Snows & then haircut – lunch at house – office till 6:00. Mrs. Guy Smith dropped in – cribbage with Chamberlin [Col. Stephen J.]– Brett out to dinner but told me to take his place on trip to Perth – Dean & I worked on papers till 11:15 then drove to Laverton

April 7 – Tuesday

Off in B-24 with Capt. Bowman as pilot at 1:05 – tried to sleep in radio compt. but not much luck. Landed at Cunderdin at 9:40 (8 hrs. 35 mins.), shaved, breakfasted, looked over flight of our Liberators and saw pet kangaroo - then to Pearce Field 11:00 - 11:40 - 30 mins - to Perth with Base C.O. Lt. Col. Mann - to see Admiral Purnell U.S.N. Air Commodore de la Rue - A.O.C. West District – lunched at Adelphi Hotel – saw U.S. anti-aircraft regiment with Col. Colburn – to see new landing field with de la Rue – nap at hotel – to Pearce by car and off at 10:10 Perth time 12:10 Melbourne time.

April 8 - Wednesday

Landed at Laverton at 8:40 - 8 ½ hours – to house bathed, shaved and large breakfast – to office - Scanlon there – Gen. George [Brig. Gen. Harold H.] and Maj. Davies [John Hubert] arranging Miami trip – lunch at house – Scanlon as guest – office – to bank to send money home. 5:00 meeting – dinner at house cribbage. Miss Lyon to dinner.

Gen. MacArthur called me about Miami trip and promised a DSC on my return.

April 9 – Thursday

Breakfast at house. To office – saw Gen. Brett – Adm. Leary – Hipps & I to Laverton – off in B-17C for Brisbane – I took off & through overcast and turned over to Northcutt. Landed at Archerfield 9:45-14:20. 4 hrs 35 min. – Saw Col Davies and B-25s – decided not to install extra tanks [nose tanks] – to A.C. warehouse – Sneed’s office – hotel – shopping – bought handkerchiefs – hotel “Lennon” – to dinner with Sneed at mess – to bed by 8:30.

April 10 - Friday

Breakfast in room – Van Volkenburgh [Brig. Gen. Robert H.] drove me to field – off at 10:45 in B-17C with Northcutt piloting to Charters Towers (14:10 - 3 hrs 25 mins) Lunch in camp – briefed crews – drove to negro part troops camp & to Charters Towers. Supper in camp & then tried to sleep till 11:30.

April 11 – Saturday

To field and watched 11 B-25s take off then 2 B-17Es & then in B-17E with Bostrom as pilot off at 1:50 for Batchelor. Landed at 7:50. 6 hrs even. Slept most of the way on radio room floor – met by Bladin – shared breakfast – drove around dispersal areas – Wurtsmith made flight from Darwin to see me. His first since his broken collar bone – off at 11:00 delayed somewhat due to broken oil lead collar. Landed at Del Monte at 20:00 – 9 hrs. - #3 engine feathered last 2 hrs. To Gen Sharp’s house – dinner – to operations room in old club and settled missions – bed in Sharp’s house – Walters of Gingoog also.

April 12 – Sunday

Up at 5 – to field to see planes take off – Elsmore [Maj. Ray T.] & I to #7 field – to Bacchus’ house for breakfast around fields again. Teech [Teats] came back with bad engine – B25s hit transports in Cebu – Teats hit transport at Legaspi – Bostrom off late due to bad oil leak - back at 13:00 – hit Nichols Field. – Lunch at Sharp’s – sent B25s to Cebu again – P-40 to Davao – two single engine float planes and later three of same dive bombed field. On first attack damaged tail, oxygen equipment & hydraulics of Rawl’s airplane – on second attack hit and burned Bostrom’s airplane – nap – decided to send Rawl’s airplane home with Bostrom tonight – Teats needs engine change – plan to keep it here – transports reported at Davao – plan to send P-40s & B-25s against them at dawn then keep pursuit on alert here for any further dive bombers.

April 13 – Monday

Up early and to Elsmore’s house to see about getting the two bombers off – they left at 5 & 5:20. Run into dugout about five times by dive bombers – to Elsmore C.P. [command post] under hill – then to field and fought ground fire set off by dive bombers – lunch with Elsmore – to house & with Gen. Sharp to see his C. P. – to field to meet returning B-25s (19:00 hrs) – 11 hit Davao in morning - 4 hit it in eve. [evening] 4 hit Cebu again – Gunn brought 6 passengers from Iloilo and one had bad motor trouble but got in late – dinner just before they arrived just after a bath & shave – back to house till 24:00.

Bombing for day according to program – Pursuit shot down 2 divers & lost 1 boy on take off [Lt. John P. Burns] – Bombers shot down several as well as hitting several on ground. They report fires at Cebu result of yesterday’s bombing still burning.

April 14 – Tuesday

To field and off at 0050 in B-25 with Lt. Col. Davies as pilot – passengers also Nat Floyd, NY Times correspondent and Kennard Med Corps (Flight Surgeon). Landed at Batchelor 8:40. 7 hrs 50 mins. I laid down in back end for about 4 hrs and dozed a very little – finally crawled up in front on landing. Six B-25s came in before we left – one left for its base – Left Hipps in charge – Same plane & pilot – same co-pilot, Lt. McAfee – Nav., Lt. Clapp – off at 12:25 for Alice Springs – I

piloted one hour – we added Capt. Villamor Phil. Army Air Corps – Col. Chinese Army & a Sig. Corps Corporal to passenger list – followed RR & road – landed at 16:45 4 hrs 20 mins. – waited at field while trying to telephone but no luck so to hotel – supper & a bad nights sleep – mosquitoes – noise – bad bed etc.

Talked to Brett at 19:00 and he expected me at Laverton at 3:00 a.m. where I intended 3:00 tomorrow.

April 15 – Wednesday

Breakfast at hotel – shaved – put off departure awaiting Brett's arrival – to field - saw George (Brett) and he took off – We had a little motor trouble and at last got off at 12:40 – landed at Adelaide at 16:50 4 hrs. & 10 mins – milk and sandwiches at airport – talked to Gowen [Col. John K, Jr.] at Laverton – off at 17:25 landed at Laverton after dark at 19:30 2 hrs and 05 mins. Photographs – presentation of medals by Lincoln [Gen. Rush] to Davies and myself – to Menzies Hotel with Gowen & Bill Courtney and saw Southerland [Sutherland] for a few minutes - then to Australia [Hotel] for a drink with correspondents and then to house – Kennard stayed the night - dinner was still waiting for me.

April 16 – Thursday

Breakfast at house – to office - Reporters and correspondents in at 12 – Lunch at house Agronski as guest – reporters again at 3:00 – Gowen & I squashed at South Yarra Club – home – cribbage with Chamberlin – dinner Gowen had Mrs. Neville Manning of Sydney as guest – Pazdral & I to movie “Road Show” Adolphe Menjou and Carol Landis (not very good).

Received telegram from General Marshall – Jack MacNider [Brig. Gen. Hanford] called me up – no word from MacArthur.

(diary continues)