

PORT STEVENS, N.S.W.

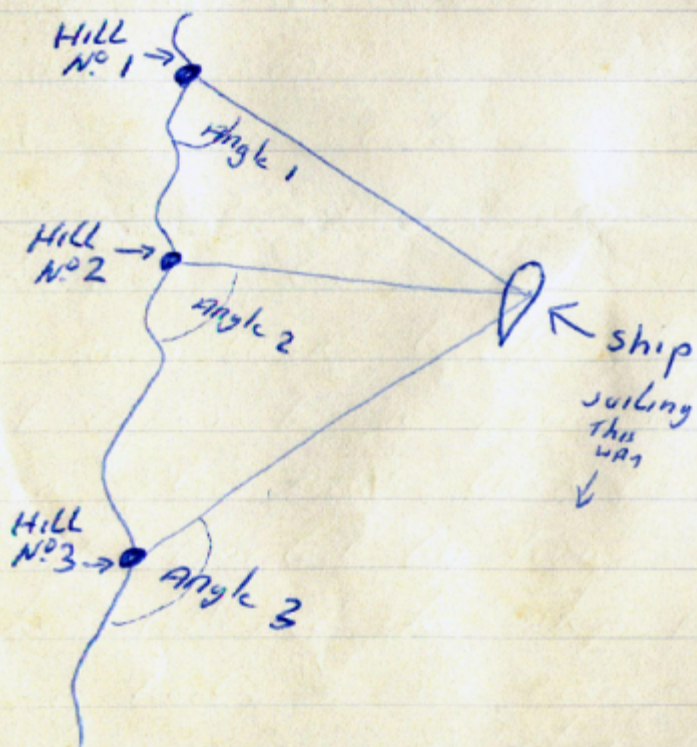
Monday 4. NOV.

Dear Mark,

How are things going with you?  
I'm afraid I haven't much to report, because the trip this time hasn't been half as exciting as the last ones, we have just been sailing along the coast of N.S.W., stopping every so often, then on again.

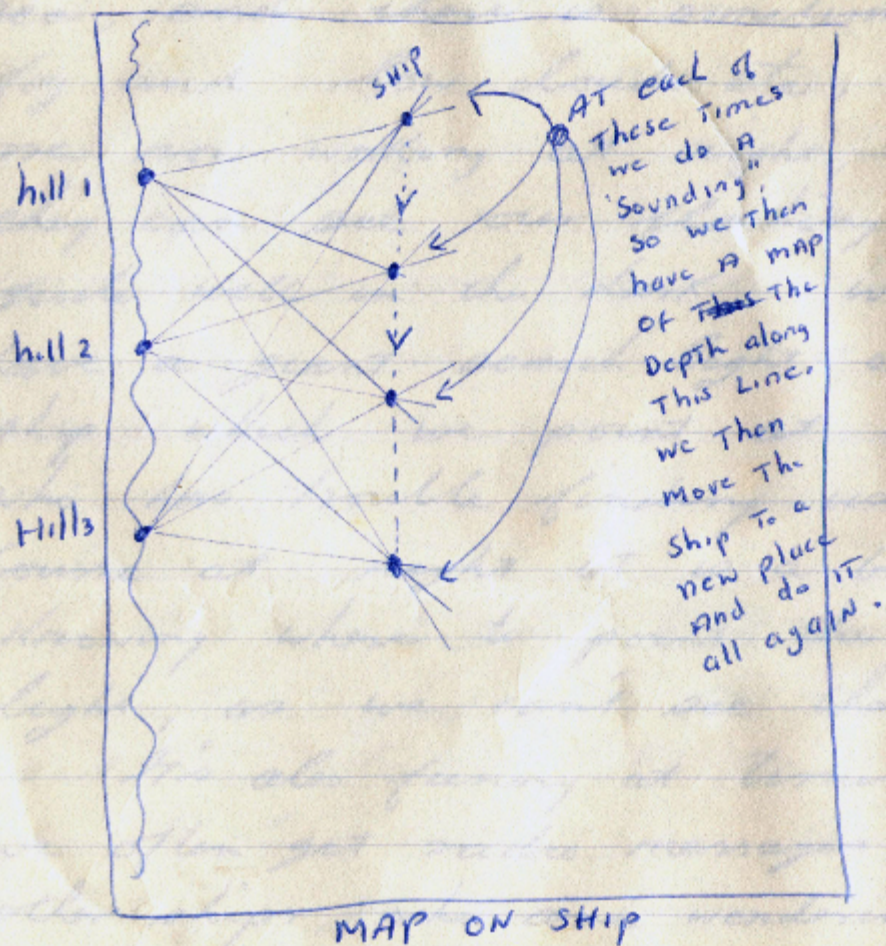
What we are doing is, "sounding", which means, measuring the depth of the ocean, we use an echo sounder, which sends a sound straight down from the ship to the sea floor, that sound signal then bounces back to the ship, and the time it takes to go from the ship to the sea floor and back again, is measured, and divided by two, so we then know the distance the ship is from the sea bed, ~~so we can~~ or, the depth of the ocean at that position. then

to make use of that depth information, we must know exactly where the ship is at the time of the soundings and the way we are doing it at the moment, is by having 3 people on the shore at 3 different places, on high hills, looking out at the ship, and at a precise time, they all read the angle to the ship,



P.T.O.

we then plot these angles on our map (the 3 people give us the angles each time on the radio)



We have plenty of problems of course because the people on the hills have a fair bit of trouble seeing the ship all the time, because the ship is always at least 20 miles out to sea, and there is sometimes rain, fog and low clouds etc, so we are now working at night, because they can see our flashing light quite well in the dark, we also have a giant search light on the ship which we point at anyone who has trouble finding us, but of course at night it is a bit hard knowing where to point the search light, as we can't see them either.

It's also funny at times, because we often get radio messages from other ships, who are wondering if we are all drunk, or in trouble etc, because all they can see, is our

ship in the distance with its flashing light, and the old searchlight swishing around, and on ~~there~~<sup>their</sup> radar screens, they can see we are always changing direction, and just turning right around, going back the other way. Most normal ships just go along in a straight line, so they think we are pretty mad, (sometimes I think they might be right too).

Anyway that is the sort of work we are doing at the moment, pretty interesting but not as good as the last couple of jobs.

How about you - have you had any more interesting projects for school yet? and how about the old piano? I'd like you to stick with it, even though it seems a bit of a grind at times, because it won't be too long now before you will be able to play all sorts of things, and will really start to enjoy it, it's just the

getting over the hard part that is  
hard to keep up with - of course  
the old regular every day practice  
is what will make it so much  
easier, so please keep it up.

Well Mark I must go now, as its  
time to start work, its going to be another  
all night job, with the old search-light  
etc. - so Ill say cheerio for now,  
and I hope to be home pretty soon  
now, Im going to phone Mum  
when I get to Sydney, which  
should be on about the 14/Nov,  
I think.

Anyway till then, keep up the  
good work, look after Mum for me,  
give her a kiss for me also.

lots of love ~~from~~ from

Dad xx

