Now for the story of the Diamond's In the Cast days of two a KLM. DC3. under command of a Captern Smirnott was eventing military personnel from Jave to Australia. He was on his last trip as the departer closed in on the seven curjout. As he was about to take off a young woman with baby pleaded to taken and was allowed aboard and at the same Time a Dutch official rushed up with a packet and said that it had to be delivered in person to the Duch Consel in Melbourne - On approchang the Austrolian coestline the plane was attached by These Sayanine Zero's returning from the raid on Darwen Smirnett and some of the cours and pessingers were wounded in the first attack and Siminoff decided to put the plane down on the beach. After landing the Laco's continued to attach the plane killing one of the passengers and wounding more of the others including the woman and her child . [Interlude This accorded is becoming bumpy and my wringing more unreadable ther ever (resure the story a week later in Porth) Atter a two days on the beach when the woman and her child and some of the crew were buried one of the survivors when searching for water was found by one of the local natives who look The vest of the survivors to a dutch mission station about Fifty miles from the beach the plane had landed on. The message got through to Bacome 200 meter South and that's where I entered the story with a trep i a which to pick them up. When I arrived at the Bragh Bay Mission the four survivors were in a pretty bed way and the Coptain Smirnest approved to me to be delerines and kept repeating that he had to get back to the ameratt to pick up the diamonts. For a breet juried we considered going back to the aircraft with some notive quites but it was directed that we had to get the Survivors

to hospital in Browne as soon as possible and so began the worst soo well trip at my like with my passingers curving every bump. I never really belived the existence of the dramont's until some time later it was reported in the paper that a beach comber had come across the plane and found some deamands and was handing them out to the natives as forours and later in Broom was truly desploying them. It Turned out that there was a fortune in the Datch deamonds being evacuated from Jove to the beak in Melbourne. The wire court cases tollowing the discovery of the deamonds but the bulk of the shipment has never been discovered and the heliet is that they are stell buried somewhere in N.W. Australia I was staying in Pirth a couple of years ago when an advertisiment appeared on the T.V. for a special pregramme to be shown in a weeks time called "The Flight of the Dismonds" based on a book of that name written by " Porth author. I was able to dig up a copy of the book and as I returned to Melbourne before the T.V. programme I had my family tope the programme and send it over. So these records helled in the gays that had been hanging about in my mind for all these years. Also recently a T.V. there was a documentary. called the war in the North which covered pretty comprehensively the details of the Darum and Broom raids

Excerpt from a letter written by Norman Keys dated 29 September 1989. Australian War Memorial PR90/030

TRANSCRIPT OF THE EXCERPT:

Now for the story of the Diamonds. In the last days of Java a KLM DC3 under command of a Captain Smirnoff was evacuating military personnel from Java to Australia. He was on his last trip as the Japanese closed in on the Java airport. As he was about to take off a young woman with baby pleaded to [be] taken and was allowed aboard and at the same time a Dutch official rushed up with a packet and said that it had to be delivered in person to the Dutch Consel [sic] in Melbourne. On approaching the Australian coastline the plane was attached by three Japanese Zero's returning from the raid on Darwin. Smirnoff and some of the crew and passengers were wounded in the first attack and Smirnoff decided to put the plane down on the beach. After landing the Zero's continued to attack the plane killing one of the passengers and wounding more of the others including the woman and her child. (Interlude. This aircraft is becoming bumpy and my writing more unreadable than ever).

(I resume the story a week later in Perth) After a few days on the beach when the woman and her child and some of the crew were bureid one of the survivors when searching for water was found by one of the local natives who took the rest of the survivors to a dutch [sic] mission station about fifty miles from the beach the plane had landed on. The message got through to Broome 300 miles south and that's where I entered the story with a trip in a utility to pick them up.

When I arrived at the Beagle Bay Mission the four surivivors were in a pretty bad way and the Captain Smirnoff appeared to me to be delerious and kept repeating that he had to get back to the aircraft to pick up the diamonds. For a brief period we considered going back to the aircraft with some native guides but it was decided that we had to get the survivors to hospital in Broome as soon as possible and so began the worst 300 miles trip of my life with my passengers cursing every bump. I never really believed the existence of the diamonds until some time later it was reported in the paper that a beachcomber had come across the plane and found some diamonds and was handing them out to the natives as favours and later in Broome was freely displaying them. It turned out that there was a fortune in Dutch diamonds being evacuated from Java to the bank in Melbourne. There were court cases following the discovery of the diamonds but the bulk of the shipment has never been discovered and the belief is that they are still buried somewhere in N.W. Australia.

I was staying in Perth a couple of years ago when an advertisement appeared on the T.V. fpr a special programme to be shown in a week's time called "The Flight of the Diamonds" based on a book of that name written by a Perth author. I was able to dig up a copy of the book and as I returned to Melbourne before the T.V. programme I had my family tape the programme and send it over. So these records filled in the gaps that had been hanging about in my mind for all these years. Also recently on T.V. there was a documentary called the war in the North which covered pretty comprehensively the details of the Darwin and Broome raids.