JAP CRU.

Australians' Expe.

(From Neil Adams, Our Own Correspondent, Somewhere in Australia)

An amazing episode believed to be unique in the war, followed the sinking of a small naval vessel, HMAS Patroclus, near Wessel Island, off the north-east tip of Arnhem Land.

After sending the ship to the bottom with a direct hit and bombing and machine-gunming the survivors in the 'wakes', the planes alighted on the sea and took prisoner one of the personnel of the ship who was wearing only a pair of shorts and who was half of hungering.

The Japanese pilot clambered out of the cockpit on to one of the floats and sailed to this man who was the nearest of the survivors to the plane. The man swear to the plane while the pilot covered him with a revolver. Other survivors could see them talking but were too far away to hear what was being said. The conversation lasted for about three minutes and ended with the pilot, helping the prisoner down the pilot's ladder.

Then the pilot dived her out of the water, just after firing, and the first bomb, striking the bi-plane and disabling the latter, blew the bottom out of the watercraft. Two others succeeded in this surging revenge, and the last was dropped on the deck. The enemy's ship was another bomb in among them, killing all but two native members of the crew. They crowded over the men for help, feeling their machine-gunning from the water, the Japanese were acting from a humanitarian motive.

After the plane made off, the survivors put the more seriously wounded man on a damaged raft which had been blown off the ship and improvised of other rafts from the 'wakes' to which the man clung.

Wessel Island was visible, but after paddling and swimming for hours, the survivors found themselves no better.

In the early hours of the morning the vessel found on a small rocky island, off the coast of Wessel Island.

They had been in the water for nearly 15 hours. They were found by native and given food and water. The幸存者 were taken ashore and put in a canoe on Wessel Island, where he had to walk 35 miles in his bare feet in two days. The following day the aeroplanes dropped supplies to the survivors and four days later they were rescued and brought to an Australian port. While on the Island, a soldier and a native died from the effects of the bombing in water.