

Dec. 2, 1945

Observed 3 porpoise today starboard with dorsal fin cutting the water surface. The closer they came to the ship the more active they came until finally they moved into a playful mood in the rough water aft. They jumped 4 or 5 feet into the air in beautiful and graceful arcs. They continued to play in wash of ship and were still playing as they appeared only as specks in the far distance.

Sunrise and sunset beautiful. Sea calm. No bird life since leaving mouth of Hoog River at Calcutta.

Dec. 3, 1945

Last night ship shifted to westerly direction. At 6:00 A.M. still trending W. Saw for first time a flock of gulls? and 1 shear-water. Petrel at 5:30 P.M.

Dec. 4, 1945

Flock gulls? starboard at 6:00 A.M. At noon observed 2 petrels flying fore of ship about 60' above water. Also a marshhawklike bird. One of these same birds (marsh hawk) in afternoon flying directly overhead. Color of sea between these two blues. This color in Arabian Sea and Sea of Bengal

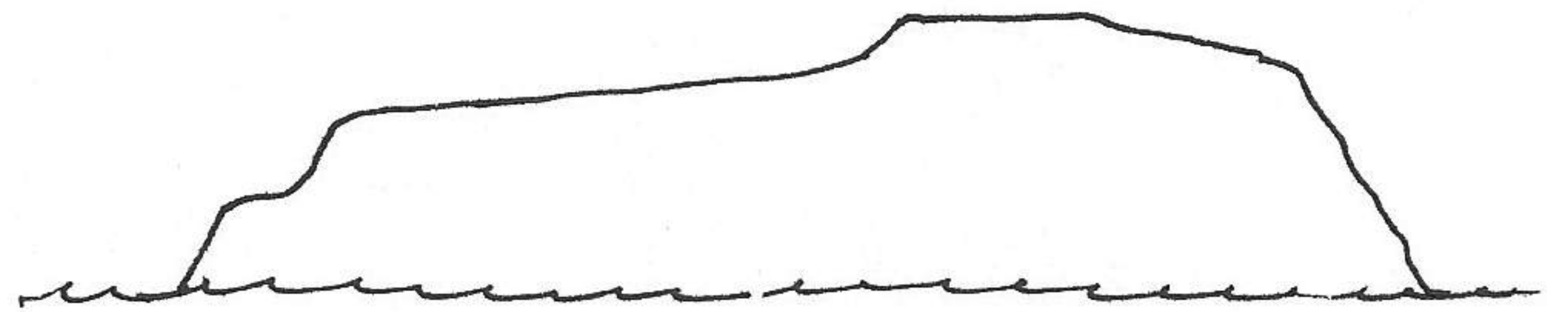
Dec. 5, 1945

Just pleasant sailing.

Dec. 6, 1945

Increase in marine life as we approached a group of islands. This morning saw 2 small whales. They would surface straight up into the air and then clumsily flop back into the sea. About noon observed 4 porpoise in characteristic turnovers. They delight in playing in the wake of the ship aft. As we approached the islands from the east noted profile thus:

Another long island to the north and another one similar to the one outlined on this page was observed to the west. The



most notable thing was the increase in marine life. Linear rafts of a medusa (purple body) (man of war?) approx. 6" wide trended SW-NE, some of these rafts nearly touched each other. One school of porpoise (dark medial line) of 12 in number passed the boat, 2 of