

Diary of Probationing Officer Iamayuchi, Mayoziman 1st Platoon
Commander of 6th Co., 229 Infantry. Numa 8925, 38th Division.

This diary found by Cecil Lang of Co. M 169 Infantry on
July 29, 1943 on Munda, New Georgia Island.

The Original Copy was sent to the War Department.

April 24, 1943 Saturday-Cloudy.

The waves are breaking against the rocks but the sea is very calm. The clouds are low but there are plenty of squalls as usual. Everyone is busy at the time of departure. I stayed here only 2 weeks and I received many favors from the other soldiers. At 1230 we departed. We arrived at Rabaul after riding on trucks over a rough road. We decided to bivouac in the old house near the line of communications base until the 28th. Each man will cook for himself. I heard the all clear in my dreams. The attack by mosquitoes really bothered us.

April 25, 1943 Sunday-Clear.

Because of the mosquitoes I awoke early. There certainly is something in the beauty of the morning scenery of Rabaul Harbor. The men in the unit were busy cooking. Second Lt. Hakozaki went to embarkation Headquarters unit for liaison, together with Ogawa. I went to the field goods depot to buy PX supplies. Orders were changed so that we had the small steamship "KaitoMaru" of the 400 ton class. It's the first time I ever rode on such a small transport. At 1200 we left by ourselves. We all felt miserable as a squall came up.

April 27, 1943 Tuesday-Clear.

At 0500 we left the harbor accompanied by naval transports. The weather was very clear and the sea calm and the cigarettes we smoked on the ship were very tasty. Iwasa had a fever. My comrades who are lying sick on the narrow beds of this transport, headed for the front, want to drink the pure water of Japan.

April 28, 1943 Wednesday-Cloudy later rain.

Leaving the calm sea with low hanging clouds, the transport entered the harbor of Erventa on Bougainville. In the rain they brought the regimental colors to the bivouac area of my platoon.

April 29, 1943 Thursday-Clear.

There was no wind and the rays beat down on us mercilessly. The waves were quite high and at 1400 we embarked on the destroyer "Asashio." For the first time I was obligated to the Navy for transportation. At 1700 we departed from the harbor and the destroyer headed for Kolombangara with the great speed of 30 knots through the pitch black sea. At 2200 we arrived at Kolombangara and bivouaced in the cocoanut grove near the beach.

April 30, 1943 Friday-Cloudy.

Even in the cocoanut grove, if you are tired, you can sleep well, and I did sleep well. At 1010 some thirty odd enemy planes came and ~~ax~~ caused great damage to the cocoanut trees. There, some soldiers picked up the fallen cocoanuts saying that they are presents from President Roosevelt. At 1400 I went to the bivouac area of the remainder of the 34th Battalion and repaired the roof made of leaves on a hut. I spent the night in the jungle. At night I heard the crying sound of either a bird or an animal.

May 1, 1943 Saturday-Cloudy.

My night in the jungle ended at dawn. During the night we had an air raid, and the enemy bombed in the vicinity of the air field. It rained off and on and even though the sun shown, it was dark in the jungle. I went on liaison and arrived at number 3 pier. We marched through the rain and embarked at night. Speeding through the darkness we arrived at Munda on New Georgia at 2300. We bivouaced in the 2nd Batt., Headquarters area.

May 2nd. Sunday, clear.

From morning on, the rays of the tropic sun shine strongly. Last night a scorpion bit me on the face, it is very painful. At 100 I reported to the 2nd Batt. Comdr. At 1400 the Batt. Comdr. formed a temporary company to which we are attached. I received orders to be attached to the 6th company together with Nokamura. At 1500 we arrived at the 6th company and reported.

Company Staff

Company commander--Aekawa
1st platoon comdr--Miyakimaru
2nd " " --Shirai
3rd " " --Yamamoto
Command section (Liason) Comdr. Teraoka.

May 3rd. Monday, cloudy.

Low clouds and rained quite often. In the morning I went to see the farm and the working places of the company. It made me very happy to see the chinese lettuce growing very well despite the heat. At 1300 I reported to the 1st. Batt. Comdr. He is a mighty warrior a verstile man and a man with an excellent personality. He is one great man. Today we were bombed three times. We are getting used to these bombings and can get under cover quite easily.

May 4th. Tues. rain and later cloudy.

It rained in the morning. The sun came out off and on. Now it is very cloudy. 2nd. Lt. Yamamoto and I made the round of the sentry post. The number two sentry has a post on the point. It would make a good summer resort if ther weren't any air raids. There was an air raid by a formation of some sixty odd planes at Kolomabangara. There was no damage on this island. Plenty of fish came from (D) island so we had it for supper and it was very good. Today I was the officer of the day.

May 5th. Wed. Cloudy and rain.

From morning on it kept getting cloudy and then it would rain. it seems as though the Soloman Islands have entered the rainy season. From 0830 we did fatigue duty until 1030. I am beginning to remember the names and types of the enemy planes as they come over daily. Boeing, Consolidated, Lockheed, North American and Curtis War hawks (English).

May 6th. Thur. Cloudy.

It is cloudy, but the weather isn't so bad, at 0630 we received a fierce air attack by a formation of over 60 planes, including Curtis and Consolidated bombers. They bombed the air drome and caused great damage and also strafed in the vicinity of the air drome. They dropped five or six delayed action bombs behind our bivouas area. Our AA guns shot down twelve enemy planes. I want to see one of the planes on the strip and seeing the burning and scattered plane made me very happy. At night I took 100 men from the regiment for an unloading detail at the beach. There were 13 large motot barges loaded mostly with rations and it took us till morning.

May 7th. Friday and rain.

It started raining in the morning and lasted all day. Being tired from last night's work, I slept all day.

May 8th. Sat. rain.

It started raining from morning and the wind was blowing. I took a detail out to work but came back early on account of the rain. In the afternoon I went to the sentry post on the point. Today we were strafed and bombed once in the morning and once in the afternoon. Three of our destroyers were sunk near Kolombangara and it is very regrettable.

May 9th. Sun. rain.

It seems that the entire Solomons area has entered the rainy season. These daily rains seem to dampen the air and everything else. In the morning I visited the entire company with the Comdr. It was surprising that there was no enemy air attack today.

May 10th. Mon. clear.

Today the weather was hotter than it had ever been. However the humidity was high. I had a detail all day today. At 0900, 50 or more enemy dive bombers came and attacked us.

May 11th. Tues. clear.

From morning the weather has been fine today. I can only see a few clouds through the palm leaves in the sky. Today it must be raining on Guadalcanal as no enemy planes came.

May 12th. Wed. clear.

The weather has finally cleared. There are no clouds in the sky and the wind is blowing from the beach. It is just like a summer resort back in Japan. Today we had an attack and the bombs rained down like rain. Many dropped on the air drome and also many 250 kg. bombs hit near "D" hill. I worked all day. Today we had a naval bombardment and we were frightened, but there was no damage to the 6th company however and I was calm.

May 13th. Clear.

Today I had a fatigue detail again. No bombing but a consildate came over for reconnaissance.

May 14th. Friday. Clear.

The fatigue duty of the foot of the mountain behind the company was completed today. Today I went to B. Hdqr's for officers duty.

May 15th. Sat. Clear,

The weather is fine but it is hot. They say that our planes are going to bomb Guadalcanal.

May 17th. Mon. Squall.

Today from morning on I reported to 1st. Bn. Comdr. the 1st. Bn. was quite disbanded. Visited the various companies before I got there today.

May 18th. Tues. clear.

Batt. mass training for probationary Officers started today. We had a lecture by the Batt. Comdr. I went to Kaneko's place for lunch. Returning in the evening.

May 22nd. Sat. clear.

At 0700, 40 odd planes came and bombed us. Second day of the mass training with 1st. Lt. Shimiger as instructor. The subject was 2 platoon attack (Landing operations). I learned a lot today.

May 23rd. Sund. clear.

Third day of mass training was cancelled. In the morning we repaired the Staff Officer's office. Yesterday a bathing place was constructed. I am certainly thankful for being able to bathe at the front line. Hearing a formation of planes coming I jumped into a dugout without any clothes on.

May 25th. Tues. rain.

From morning on it rained and I felt morbid. In the afternoon we policed and fixed up the surroundings. Today I was ordered to be the platoon Comdr. of the 1st platoon. I felt a great responsibility placed upon my shoulders. However I will try to fulfill my duties well.

May 26th. Wed. rain.

From morning on it rained and again I felt morbid. In the afternoon we fixed up the area. Because of the great number of patients in the company, the Comdr. called his staff together and discussed ways and means of decreasing the sick list. Due to the damp weather the number of sick increases daily. Dmae had a fever. Nakakura had a pain in the abdomen. Due to many patients in the company the moral is gradually getting lower and lower.

May 27th. Thurs. cloudy.

Today is Navy day and as usual we did fatigue duty, on the battle front there isn't any holiday for Navy day.

June 7th. Mon. clear.

The continuous bad weather had changed and we are having a normal weather now. Today 70 of our planes in a beautiful formation bombed Guadalcanal. About five of our planes made an emergency landing on Munda air drome. We are deeply impressed by the indomitable spirit of the pilots with serious wounds all over their bodies who returned their planes to the drome.

June 8th. Tues. clear and later a squall.

From today on we again had to guard the point. With 10 men I left for "Bomb" (Bakudan) mountain. What a wonderful feeling being bathed in the breeze as it comes from the beach.

June 9th. Wed. clear and later squalls.

The scenery from "Bomb" mountain is very beautiful. I can hear the commands of the morning calisthenics. We had two air attacks today one at 0800 and the other at 1330. In the second bombing a formation of six Boeing bombers and five fighter came.

June 10th. Thur., Clear.

Clear weather continues. Scenery from "Bomb" hill very beautiful and the breeze blowing from the beach certainly refreshes me and makes spirits very high. The morning bombing caught us by surprise and it was dangerous. In the afternoon six Boeing bombers came and bombed us. Toward dark our planes on the way to bomb Guadalcanal landed on the field to refuel. Its certainly swell to see the determination on the faces of the pilots.

June 11th. Fri. Clear,

Today the enemy planes didn't bomb us but came on reconnaissance. We constructed roofs, shelves for the kitchen and etc. We had two squalls. At night there was no wind but there was plenty of mosquitos causing discomforts to the soldiers.

June 12th. Sat. Clear,

Its a swell feeling being at sentry post with the wind blowing in from the sea. Today the enemy planes didn't bomb us but were just reconiassing.

June 13th. Sun. clear,

I was relieved from sentry duty by 2nd. Lt. Yamamoto.

June 14th. Mon. clear, sometimes rain,

I went to Munda point and talked with Chief petty officer Yameoto.

June 15th. Tues. clear,

I attended the lectures on Lewis machine guns (non-commisioned officers and nine men) from the first platoon. Corp. Nakagena, Superior Private Fujumeto, and Private first class Fujunara and. Osawa attended this lecture also.

June 16th., Wed. clear,

Attended Lewis machine gun class again.

June 17th., Thursday, clear,

Lectures on Lewis machine guns ended, I had a little fever but it wasn't much.

June 18th. Fri clear,

I was notified to make a report to the company. From 0830, I went to the Bn. Hdq. and met Tanoka and Iwasa who were my classmates and found that they were in good health. In the afternoon we had a Bn. Commanders inspection, We were cautioned in refards to the care of our shoes. The lecture ended, was enjoyed by all and everyone seemed to be very happy and high spirits.

June 19, 1943 Saturday-Clear.

At 0630 we had a meeting with the Batt. Cmdr., 2nd Lt. Isunemo and four men ordered to make a sketch of 2nd Batt. I rested the remainder of the day.

June 20, 1943 Sunday-Clear.

I brought Tujimoto and started to make a sketch but it was certainly difficult, that night 25 men (reserves) from the 3rd Batt. was transferred into our Batt.

June 21, 1943 Monday-Clear.

In order to make a sketch and make arrangements for a billeting area, we walked around Horseshoe Mt. (Bibilo Hill) I was exhausted. Around 1500 today a formation of 60 odd enemy planes came and bombed us. It was a scene which can't be described with words as I watched from Bibilo Hill. I went to Batt. Hdqtrs. and talked to Mishimura. We tried to fill our empty stomachs on sugar.

No entries until July 14. 30 June - 24th Seabees land 0600

July 14, 1943 Wednesday-Clear: later rain.

Still healthy and did my usual duty. This morning at 0800 the enemy in 20 odd barges tried to land in front of the 5th Co. Positions. But the 5th Co. repulsed the landing sinking 13 of the barges with artillery fire. The probationary officers on Rendova is still holding out against the enemy and I admire him for taking his responsibility so seriously. Today Kirujama received wounds on the shoulder and was evacuated. Yesterday at 2330 Fujusawa Kazuo of the first section was killed by an artillery shell while he was preparing to go to his sentry post becoming the (guardian spirit of the country). He was the first one to lose his life from my platoon and there are no words to express my sorrow.

July 15, 1943 Thursday-Clear.

I'm still healthy today and from 1200 to 1500 we strengthened our positions. I was deeply impressed by how hard the men worked on night labor. About 12 of our planes, (eight bombers and a few fighters) appeared above Munda. After waiting for them for over a week it was a welcome sight and it skyrocketed the morale of our soldiers. Today the enemy daringly tried to land in front of the 5th Co. with 20 barges but our mountain guns and 5th Co., repulsed them and sank 13 of the barges. The others withdrew. However they say about 500 of the enemy landed successfully near the swamp area of Ai River (Bariko River.)

July 16, 1943 Friday-Clear.

Today the enemy attempted to land in front of the 5th Co., and we suffered a great loss. However three enemy tanks were destroyed by Probationary officer Kenako. The action of the Kanako platoon was so great that it made the Gods weep. They kept firing their heavy weapons until the tanks were within five meters of them. The Nakao section which was sent from our platoon to Batt. Hdqtrs. received a fierce attack from the enemy on our unarmed hill. Sgt. Nakao, Superior Pvt. Yamanaka were wounded while Ito is missing in action. There are no words to express my regret at having so many men sacrificing their lives. They are planning to evacuate Sgt. Nakao and Superior Pvt. Yamanaka who still wanted to stay and fight and every one was ~~know~~ touched by his fighting spirit. Today we received cigarettes from the Emperor. We are certainly thankful for the cigarettes even though the enemy is in front of us. We were even issued chocolates. The soldiers became determined and their morale skyrocketed to unknown heights.

July 17, 1943 Saturday-Clear, full moon.

Today there ~~was not~~ much artillery shelling, but in the direction of the Ai river we could hear rifle and mortar fire constantly. This morning our breakfast was very light. Today we evacuated Sgt. Nakao and Pvt. Yamanaka. Ito hasn't returned as yet so I guess he must have been killed in action.

July 18, 1943 Sunday-Clear.

Eli Merchant arrived with 24th Seabees

I hear the Saku Platoon was annihilated in the vicinity of Koo Lake. The men at the airport are young and we all want to go to the front line. Our minds jump to the front lines of Shimizu hill. I hear the k3 Inf. has reached the end of Ai River.

July 19, 1943 Monday Clear.

At night we constructed positions and no matter how much noise the artillery made the soldiers certainly could sleep well. The enemy artillery shelling is decreasing daily. Of the artillery shelling from Rendova, out of every ten shells, seven are just fired blindly. Today according to Batt. orders an NCO patrol was sent out from the 6th Co. to reconnoiter the enemy situation in the vicinity of Aikawa (Barko River.) From our platoon, Sgt. Suguyama went as the leader of the patrol and it is a very important mission, we gave him a great send-off. I envied the members of the patrol as they left for the front full of spirit. My heart is at the front lines.

July 20, Tuesday-Clear.

We were issued five days rations (aside dish Fikishibakutsu). There isn't much artillery shelling and there is much blind firing. This evening we received orders to advance to the front line. We received artillery fire in the vicinity of the battalion headquarters, and two of my men were killed and one wounded. I have nothing to say to die before fighting. It is very regrettable to lose such an excellent soldier as Hirai. Long Live the Emperor. He became the guardian spirit of the country and the flower of the Imperial soldier. Osawa died immediately and Fujimoto was injured in the leg. I have no excuses to make. Those cursed American Soldiers! I am determined to get revenge for the killing of my comrades.

July 21, 1943 Wednesday-Clear.

Today we are waiting for our opportunity in front of the 8th Co. bomb shelter. (Last entry)

Translated by T/Sgt. S Yasutako and T/Sgt. R. K. Matsumoto.
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