

VX 63724

Pte Kenneth James Monk.
3 Section A Platoon.

I was with Bob Palmer + several others mapping tracks up behind Water Pipe Camp + looking down towards the coast near Dilli we saw warships moving along the coast. When we got back to camp we found that they were Japanese -

The first aggressive Patrol we were sent on was toward Jacolulic to see that no enemy came from Aileu - On this Patrol we heard a vehicle coming so over the bank we went. As it came round the corner we could see it was a old car containing Cpl Callinan + Pte Doyle. We told them where the A Platoon camp was + continued our Patrol -

The next move was the evacuation of the camp up to the Lone Cross spur - carrying the Boxes of Ammo up that Mountain was hell -

It was about now that Bob Palmer took half the section on a Patrol + we did not see them for many days. It was here that Keith Hayes went through on a Koda then B Troop went through.

3 Sub Section was on the right of A Headquarters + 2 Section when the Japs attacked + over the rise so could not see what was going on. Pete Campbell + Eric Weller were sent to find out but were soon back as the place was full of Japs.

We were on our own staying in a Reentrant until nearly dark then went over the Glanc river to Ermera then on to Hatulia where C Troop were then to Gailaco. We went through a number of Postas till we came to Ainaro.

B Troop just beat us there. As B Troop were in the area we were sent to Hata Bulico. Had no blanket - Rowan Robinson + I slept under 1 ground sheet - used to shiver ourselves warm. At Marobo got word Japs coming Maliana so had to go to the Pass from Maliana to Bobanaro - Remember that well as it was my 21st birthday - 4th August. Nothing happened there + went Bobanara - Rumours Japs come so Alf Hillman + Charlie Waller sent on Patrol. Japs attacked Bobanaro Charlie Waller killed + Alf Hillman shot in arm. Went to Artsabe Saddle - the Japs shelled a Hut in Saddle ^{but} we were hit Lower Down. Withdrew up through Hata Balico then down to Ainaro. Was in Artsabe when news came through Wireless had contacted Aust - Was here we got word 2 Aussies running amuck in a Village. We had to go and arrest them + bring them back then had to put a guard on them which hurt a bit as we had not done guard at night for quite a while. ~~It~~ Was here where Japs attacked Letafo where Ballinan was. Then they shelled Rotai which was across the valley. Doing guard down the road when They started shelling Rotai with another chap

Marvellous how it always brought a bout of Malaria on + he would have to go back. Was at Ainaro when the Japs came through but I had to go to the hospital at Alas where a Jap plane did us over - Rather amusing now but remember about three or four of us ducking behind a tree + as he came back other way having to race round other side - trouble was tree was on a bank + had to scramble up + down. At same had pleasure of being bombed by Japs + strafed by our own plane - The Bombing - Jim Waller + self were going up to the OP when 3 planes bombed near enough to get a bit of dirt over us + hear shrapnel fly through the air. For the staffing was up in the same OP when we heard burst of Machine gun fire + a plane flying about 50 feet overhead. There were many flaying arms + legs as he flew over the huts in the plantation. The plane gave the church a burst then disappeared over the hill still flying very low. A few minutes later a message came up wondering what sort of plane - Reply was didn't know but didn't think it was a Jap plane. The plane turned out to be a Beaufighter - Recommended for Japs When the big push was on we were at same + I think it was the night the very light went off we were sent in the middle of the night to reinforce C Troop We did not contact the enemy. In the

last days on the Island we were down on the river between Same ~~at~~ and Tatabauc. I remember we got hauled over the coals as we had ~~been~~ seen Fred Sparkman cross the river then lost him. When he got to Tatabauc they must have asked if he had seen us & said No - How he missed coming along the track we were on I don't know -

Later we had to send a runner back to Tatabauc & Stan King was the one - He walked or rode a pony into Tatabauc straight into a nest of Japs - Nobody let us know they were there. We then got the order to head for the beach where our Sub Section had Receded quite a while earlier for embarkation - Being a Brew Gunner at that time I had the job of Out Post for the embarkation & was in the last boat load to be taken off -
So ends Timor.

Re the breados our Sub section got a lad early in the period. If my memory is right his name was Laboaty. He was Blarrie Turner's lad. He did a great job - was a bit of a standover of the natives but looked after us well. I did not get a breado for quite a while & I think I picked him up between Atsabe & Hata Builico - His name was Mohoda. I didn't need one as I had no gear until August when I got a blanket. I had got a sarong.

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Ken wrote this - about 1994 or 1995.

He finished it by saying -

Sorry I'm late with this but I am
no scribe at the best of times - I have
been brought into action again for the
last 6 or 7 weeks as Robert's wife Cathy has
been out with an ~~of~~ injury - Makes one
pretty tired -

Best of luck
Ken

I have copied this as he wrote it.
& I feel sure I wrote it out
once before & sent it over
but I guess it's better for you to
have 2 copies than none.
Margaret