

Chapter 5

# Japanese soldier's experience of war

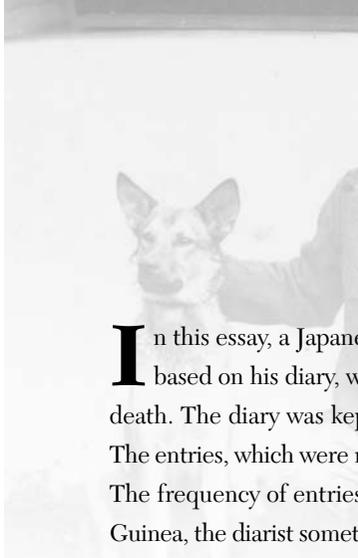
Tamura Keiko



第5章

## ある日本兵の 戦争体験

田村恵子



## Japanese soldier's experience of war

In this essay, a Japanese soldier's experience of war in New Guinea will be explored, based on his diary, which was found in Australia almost sixty years after the soldier's death. The diary was kept in a pocketbook which was issued to every Japanese soldier. The entries, which were made between April and December 1943, filled about 160 pages. The frequency of entries varied over time. During the earlier stages of his days in New Guinea, the diarist sometimes wrote up to ten pages a day. In contrast, the entries became sparse after September, and there were no entries for October and November. The last entry was made on 8 December 1943 when he recalled the start of the Pacific War.

The diary does not contain the name of the owner, but it belonged to Tamura Yoshikazu. He was 158.5 cm tall and weighed 57 kg. So he was about average in height for an adult male in that period, and relatively well built as his chest size was 84 cm. He also had good eyesight. Tamura turned 26 years old on 27 April 1943. He was unmarried, and his immediate family consisted of a father, two sisters and a brother. The anniversary of his mother's death was on 6 February. He also recorded the registration numbers of his firearms, sword and watch, and his bank account number.

Tamura was from Tochigi Prefecture north of Tokyo. In his first period of service his unit served in northern Korea and China, and he wrote his memories of this period in the diary. Although English excerpts of his reflections on China are not included here, he vividly described the cold, dry climate and arid landscape of China, which was dotted with small villages. According to his writing, his unit does not seem to have been engaged in combat in China. After his first period of service, he went back to civilian life where he had fond memories of a climb up Mt. Fuji with his friends.

His second period of conscription became effective from January 1943 in Utsunomiya. He joined the 239th Infantry Regiment (Toto 36 Unit) of the 41st Division on 5 January and left Utsunomiya on 12 January. From Utsunomiya, the troops travelled to Shimonoseki where they boarded a ship bound for Korea. He recorded the departure scenes. The train travelled through the Japanese countryside in winter. He noticed that there was hardly anybody on the station platform to farewell the troops, whereas previously they



## ある日本兵の 戦争体験

このエッセーでは、ニューギニアにおけるある日本兵の戦争体験を、本人の死後約60年たつて見つかった日記をもとに考えてみたい。この日記は、兵士に配布されていた従軍手帳に書かれていた。日付は1943年4月から始まり同年12月で終わるが、この8ヶ月間に約160ページにわたって日誌が書き込まれている。記入の頻度は彼のおかれた状況によっているようだ。ニューギニアに到着してまもなくは、一日に10ページも書かれていたことがあった。一方、9月以降はまれになり、10月と11月は全く記入がない。最後の記入は1943年12月8日で、太平洋戦争開戦について触れられていた。

この日記には、所有者の姓名が書かれていなかったが、田村義一の所有物であったと後日確認された。彼の身長は158.5cm、体重57kgと、当時の成人男子の平均で、胸囲84cmと、中肉中背の体格ではなかろうか。彼の視力は両眼ともよかった。1943年4月27日に、26歳になっていた。彼は独身で、家族は父と妹2人と弟だった。また2月6日の母親の命日も、彼の銃、刀そして時計の登録番号や貯金口座番号と共に記録されていた。

田村義一は栃木県出身である。第1回目の応召では、朝鮮半島北部と中国に派遣され、その当時の思い出をこの日記に書き留めている。彼は中国の寒く乾燥した気候や、小さな村が点在する荒涼とした風景を思い出して描写している。その記述によると、彼の部隊は中国で実戦には参加しなかったようだ。そして第1回目の応召後、彼は普通の生活に戻り、この時期に友人と行った富士山登山は、懐かしい思い出になっている。

田村は1943年1月に宇都宮で第2回目の応召をした。田村は1月5日に第41師団歩兵第239連隊(東都36部隊)に入隊し、宇都宮を1月12日に出発した。部隊は下関に移動し、そこから朝鮮に向けて船に乗り込んだが、その出発風景を彼は書き留めている。列車は冬景色の中を走り続け、一度目の応召の際にはたくさんの人がにぎやかに見送ったのに、今回はほとんど誰も駅のプラットホームにいなかった。

田村のニューギニア日記は、1943年4月のウエワクのテント兵舎での記入によって始まる。従軍して3ヶ月が過ぎたが、故郷の家族や友人からの便りをまだ受け取っていなかった。そして日記は1943年12月8日で終わっている。

この日記の特徴は、兵士の日常行動の記録だけではないところにある。彼は日記を通し

had been cheered off loudly by big crowds.

The New Guinea diary started with an entry for April 1943 at a camp in Wewak. Tamura had been on active service for three months but had not heard from his family or friends in Japan. The last entry of the diary was on 8 December 1943. It is most probable that Tamura was killed and his diary captured by Australian soldiers soon after 8 December.

A characteristic of the diary is that it was not just a record of a soldier's daily activities. He used the diary as a means to reflect upon his experiences in the military, and to reflect on his purpose in life, both as an individual and as a soldier for the nation. Some of the letters he wrote to his friends and his family were copied into the book. He also recorded some memories of his past experiences both at home and in China. He missed home as he lived in a tent in the jungle without any communication from Japan for months. The diary also described how the soldiers acted and felt during the air raids by the Allies. Furthermore, the emotions of a soldier faced with death and maintaining his honour are vividly expressed.

He employs two styles of writing in the diary – prose form and the 31-syllable *tanka* poetry form. Tamura recorded over one hundred *tanka* poems in his diary. The format he favoured was to record his activities and reflections for the day and then write down four or five poems at the end. Thus, the *tanka* poems were summaries of his thoughts and emotions on the incidents recorded.

After the war, the diary remained in the possession of Mr Allan E. Connell, who was originally from Melbourne. He had enlisted in the 57/60th Australian Infantry Battalion in October 1941, at the age of nineteen, and was discharged in January 1946. The diary was discovered while Mr. Connell's son, Jeff, and daughter-in-law, Mrs Kay Connell, were sorting through Allan Connell's possessions after his death. It is not known how the diary became the property of Allan Connell, as he did not talk about it at all to his family.

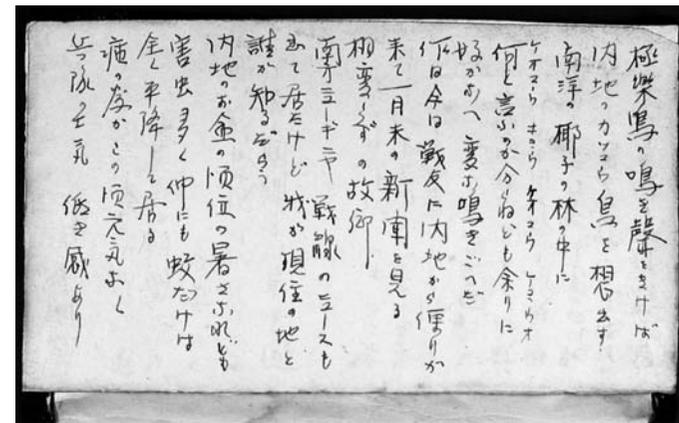
However, it is possible to speculate on the fate of the diary. According to his service record, Allan Connell was in New Guinea towards the end of 1943 and working in the intelligence field. All of the captured Japanese diaries and documents were sent to the intelligence section from the battlefield and eventually forwarded to the Allied Translator and Interpreter Section (ATIS) in order to be assessed for their strategic value. Allan Connell, who was handling those diaries, probably decided to keep one pocketbook for himself when he found out that the diary did not contain any military information on the Japanese. He

て、軍隊生活についてや、個人として、また国のために戦う兵士としての生きる目的を考えている。彼は友人や家族に出した手紙を、手帳の中にも書き写し、また、実家や、1回目の応召で行った中国などの、過去の思い出も書き留めている。日本に思いをはせながらも、国からの便りは何ヶ月も届かず、彼はジャングルでのテント生活を続けた。またこの日記を読むと、連合軍の空襲の最中の兵士たちの行動や気持ちがよくわかる。さらに、死を直視しながら、名誉をどう保つかがありありと表現されている。

この日記では、散文と短歌の2種類の文体が使われ、100首以上の短歌が書き留められている。彼の記入のしかたは、まずその日に起こったことを記録し、それについての感想を書き、そして4首から5首の短歌を記すというものである。つまり、短歌は出来事についての彼の考えや気持ちを要約する役割をしている。

戦後、この日記はメルボルンのアラン・コネル氏の手元にあった。彼は1941年10月に19歳で57/60豪歩兵大隊に入隊し、1946年1月に除隊している。彼の死後、子息のジェフ・コネル氏と彼の妻ケイさんが、父親の遺品の整理中に日記を発見した。故コネル氏は日記について一言も家族には話さなかったので、入手の経過は定かではない。

しかし、日記のたどった運命を想像することはできる。コネル氏の従軍記録によると、彼は1943年の末、ニューギニアにおいて情報部門で働いていた。当時、捕獲された日本軍兵士の日記は、まず戦場の情報収集部門に集められた後、連合軍翻訳通訳部門(ATIS)に送られ、そこで作戦的価値があるかどうかのチェックを受けた。そのような資料を取り扱う機会があったアラン・コネル氏が、この日記に対日戦で軍事的に利用



The first page from Tamura's diary, probably written soon after he arrived at Wewak. The bird described in this section was probably a New Guinea friar bird (*Philemon novoguineae*).

ウエワク到着後まもなく記されたであろう日記の第1ページ。ここに書かれている鳥は、ニューギニアで見られるハゲミツスイ(学名フィレモン・ノバギニア)と思われる。  
AWM PRO2035

might have anticipated that the diary would eventually be destroyed. Although such an action was not officially permitted, it appears that similar incidents were not unknown.

Upon discovery of the diary, Mr. Jeff Cripps, a friend of Jeff and Kay, contacted the Australia–Japan Research Project (AJRP) in 2001 and sent a photocopied page, in order to find out about the contents of the pocketbook. That particular page included several beautiful poems about life in the jungle in New Guinea. Those poems clearly revealed the soldier's literary sensitivity towards the foreign flora and fauna. Later, Mr & Mrs Connell kindly agreed to provide photocopies of the whole diary for the project so that we could read it through and translate part of it. The AJRP would like to express its great appreciation to Mr & Mrs Connell and Mr. Cripps for their cooperation.

### Movements and actions of the 239th Infantry Regiment of the 41st Division

According to the Japanese *War history series*, the 239th Infantry Regiment of the 41st Division was first raised in Utsunomiya, Tochigi prefecture in September 1939. For the operation in which Tamura was involved, the division consisted of about 19,000 personnel. According to official records, the regiment had moved to Qingdao on 29 January 1943. Between 20 and 24 February the troops landed in Wewak.

The unit history stated that, between March and April 1943, the regiment was engaged in airfield construction in Wewak and But. Between April and June 1943, the troops worked on an airfield in Dagua, constructing roads from Dagua on the coast, to Maprik which was inland. Between July and September 1943, the regiment came back to Wewak to engage in airfield construction again.

The Tamura diary mentions that the Wewak area was bombed during the period of airfield construction, but the bombing was restricted to a single bomber at night, while Allied reconnaissance planes flew over the area during the day. So, although the construction work was delayed, it did continue, and eventually the airfields were completed. According to the Australian Official History, by August 1943, the 6th Air Division of the Japanese army, with five fighter and three bomber groups, totalling 324 aircraft, was established at Wewak. The 7th Air Division with a total of 156 aircraft was also established at But, some kilometres west of Wewak. At this stage, Japan was aiming to regain the balance of air power and making plans to bomb Port Moresby and other areas.

However, Japan's prospects were completely dashed on 17 August 1943. Allied forces became aware of the concentration of aircraft in the area and decided to attack them.

できる情報が含まれていないことを知ると、それを手元に置くことにしたのではなかろうか。そのような種類の日記は、いずれ破棄されることを予想していたのかもしれない。手元に置くことは、本来は認められていなかったものの、そのような行為は現場では行われていたとの報告がある。

日記が発見された後、2001年にコネル夫妻の友人であるジェフ・クリップ氏が、この従軍手帳の内容を知るために豪日研究プロジェクトに連絡をとった。その際送られてきた1ページには、ニューギニアのジャングル生活を生き生きと詠ったいくつかの短歌が含まれており、そこでは異質な自然や植物が文学的な繊細さで表現されていた。その後、コネル夫妻が日記の全頁コピーを当プロジェクトに提供し、ようやく日記の全体像を知り、翻訳作業を始めることができたのだった。

### 第41師団歩兵第239連隊の行動と作戦

日本の公刊戦史である『戦史叢書』によると、第41師団歩兵第239連隊は、1939年9月に宇都宮で編成された。田村兵士が従軍した作戦に、師団は約1万9,000人の兵士を送り込んだ。戦史叢書は、1943年1月29日に連隊はチンタオに移動し、ウエワクには2月20日から24日の間に上陸したと書いている。

1943年3月から4月にかけて、連隊はウエワクとブーツで飛行場建設に従事した。4月から6月には、ダグアでの飛行場建設と、海辺のダグアから、内陸部のマプリクへの道路建設にかかわった。そして1943年7月から9月にかけて、連隊はウエワクに戻り、再び飛行場建設に従事した。



Dagua airfield under aerial attack from Allied planes in February 1944. Constant air raids became part of the daily routine of Tamura's military life.

1944年2月、連合軍の攻撃を受けるダグア航空基地。絶え間ない空襲は田村の軍隊生活にとって日常のことになった。AWM 108782

On 17 and 18 August Allied aircraft bombed four Japanese airfields in the Wewak area intensively and the Japanese army lost about 100 planes, including light bombers, fighters and reconnaissance planes. (See chapter 3 of this volume for details of these attacks.) From October 1943 to February 1944, the regiment was mobilised to go to Madang under Commander Nakai to participate in the Finnisterre and Sidor campaigns. In March and April 1944 the regiment was under the 41st Division at Madang.

In his memoir, *Nyuginia-sen tsuioku ki (Memoir of the New Guinea campaign)* (Tokyo, 1982), Hoshino Kazuo, who was a staff officer of the 41st Division, wrote that by the end of the war only 600 troops of the 41st Division survived out of an original strength of 20,000 men. He also wrote that, of the 200,000 Japanese troops who were sent to east and central New Guinea, only 10,000 were alive at the end of the war. Thus, the rate of attrition was extremely high, particularly towards the end of the war, due not only to the desperate battles the Japanese fought, but also to the disease and starvation the soldiers suffered during their retreat.

### Extracts from the diary

The diary starts with the following entry. The exact date is not known, but it is most likely that the entry was recorded in early March 1943, about two months after the landing in Wewak. The writing shows that the diarist's reference point at this stage was firmly fixed in Japan, as he contrasts the unfamiliar scenery and nature with those back in Japan.

When I hear birds of paradise sing, I remember cuckoos back in Japan. They live among tropical coconut trees. I don't know what they are saying, but they make very weird cries that sound like "keukoh, kiou, keukoh, kiou".

A mate of mine received a letter from home and he showed me a copy of a newspaper dated the end of January. Nothing seemed to have changed at home. It also contained an article about the front line in New Guinea. Who could know that I am in New Guinea now?

The climate here is similar to that of mid-August in Japan. Yet, there are so many noxious insects, and the mosquitoes in particular are a real nuisance. Since many of us are sick and do not feel well, our fighting spirit seems to be low.

Tamura was a keen letter writer and he yearned for letters from home. At the back of his pocketbook he recorded details of letters sent and received. He also copied some of the letters into his pocketbook. In this section, copies of three letters are included. The first letter

田村兵士の日記にも書かれているように、ウエワク地域は飛行場建設の最中に爆撃を受けたものの、日中は偵察機の接近だけで、爆撃は夜間の単機爆撃機による攻撃のみであった。そのため、建設が遅れが出たものの作業は継続され、ようやく飛行場が完成し、この地域で日本軍機の発着が可能になった。オーストラリア公刊戦史によると、1943年8月までに、陸軍第6飛行師団の5個の戦闘機戦隊と3個の爆撃機戦隊がウエワクに配置され、総力は航空機324機であったという。

しかし日本の戦意は、1943年8月17日に完全に打ちのめされた。連合軍は日本軍航空機がこの地域に集中していることに気づき、それに攻撃をかけることを決定した。8月17日と18日に、連合軍爆撃機編隊がウエワク地域の日本軍飛行場の4ヶ所を集中攻撃し、日本軍は一度に軽爆撃機、戦闘機、偵察機など100機を失うという、大きな損害をこうむった。(この攻撃と影響に関しては、進藤論文に詳しい)1943年10月から1944年2月にかけて、連隊は中井支隊長のもと、フェニステルとサイドル作戦に参加するためにマダンへと向かい、1944年3月と4月にはマダンにおいて第41師団の指揮下に置かれた。

第41師団の参謀将校だった星野一雄の著書『ニューギニア戦追憶記』によると、当初約2万人いた第41師団の兵力のうち、終戦時に生き残っていたのはたったの600人だったという。さらに、ニューギニア東部と中央部に送られた20万人の兵士のうち、生き残ったのは1万人のみであったと書いている。死亡率がこのように極端に高かったのは、戦争末期の日本軍の悲壮な戦いによるものだけではなく、退却の際の兵士の病気と飢餓に原因していたのだった。

### 日記抜粋

日記は次のような文から始まる。日付はないが、おそらくウエワク上陸後約2ヶ月後の1943年3月上旬に書いたのではなかろうか。見慣れぬ風景や自然を、日本と比較することで、田村は常に故郷のことを思っていたのだろう。

極楽鳥の鳴き声をきけば内地のカッコウ鳥を想出す。南洋の椰子の林の中に、ケオコーウ、キョウ、ケオコーウ、ケヨウオ。何と言ふのか分からねども余りに好かない変な鳴きごへだ。

昨日には戦友に内地から便りが来て1月末の新聞を見る。相変らずの故郷。南方ニューギニア戦線のニュースも出て居たけど、我が現住の地と誰が知るだらう。

内地のお盆の頃位の暑さなれども、害虫多く中にも蚊だけは全く閉口して居る。病の為かこの頃元気なく、兵隊の士気低き感あり。

was sent from Palau to his younger brother. In this letter, Tamura was in high spirits and wanted to tell his younger brother about the adventure he had embarked on in the tropics. Palau was still peaceful around that time. Hoshino, a staff officer of the 41st Division, wrote in his memoir that he enjoyed coffee and cream soda at a tea room, and a full-course dinner with ice cream dessert at a hotel on the island. Hoshino also purchased accessories made out of turtle shell as souvenirs for Japan. Of course, those souvenirs were never taken back to Japan.

A letter 12 February

How are you? Are you working hard? I wonder if you are shivering in the cold weather. If you are, why don't you come over here? You wouldn't want to stay long because it's too hot. How have you been back home? I am well. I swam in the sea on Emperor's Day.

I would like to send you lots of coconuts through my dreams. So many that you could eat as much as you wanted and still not finish. I wonder if they will arrive home safely. You will be able to keep them in a basket by your bedside.

I will write to you about interesting things later.

To my dear young brother. From your older brother.

Tamura wrote a lot about his work in the Wewak area. His unit was engaged in airfield construction – work that was hard and monotonous. The following poems describe the work and his feelings about it. The only break the troops could enjoy from their labour was during the air raids.

Under the blazing sun,  
Soldiers construct airfields  
With sweat and without words.

The construction work progresses day by day.  
The adjutant officer comes for inspection today as well.

We sit down by the shore, wiping sweat from our face  
And look across the sea, waiting for letters from home.

On branches of coconut trees,  
Birds of paradise sing,  
Gradually the day is getting light.

田村は筆まめで、故郷からの手紙を心待ちにしていた。手帳には、手紙を誰に送り、誰から受け取ったかが記録されていた。また、何通かの手紙を手帳に書き写していた。ここに記載した手紙は、彼が弟にパラオから出した手紙の写しである。この頃、田村はまだまだ士気が高く、熱帯で始まった冒険を弟に知らせたかったようだ。この当時パラオはまだ平和で、同時期に島に到着した第41師団参謀の星野一雄も、喫茶店でコーヒーとクリームソーダを飲み、島のホテルではフルコースを楽しみ、デザートにはアイスクリームを食べたと書いている。星野はまた、日本へのお土産にべっ甲のアクセサリーを買ったが、もちろん、これらの土産物を持ち帰ることはなかった。

一信[ママ]二月十二日

どうだ元気で奮闘中か。寒いと震えているのと違ふか。もしそうだったらこちらに来給得。一度で暑くて逃げ出すから。あれから内地もお変わりありませんか。兄も元気です。紀元節には海水浴でした。

夢で椰子の実をたくさん送って上げませう。どんなに食べても余る程。無事とどくかどうかね。枕元にかごでも置いてねる様に。

またその中、珍しいことを知らせましょう。

兄より。弟に。

田村は、ウエワク付近での作業について一連の短歌を書いている。彼の部隊は、過酷で単調な飛行場建設に携った。これらの短歌はその作業と、その際の気持ちを表現している。兵士が作業を休めるのは、空襲の時以外にはなかった。

炎天に汗だくだくの兵ものは 唯黙々と飛行場を作りぬ  
日々に進み行く行く工事場に 副官今日も巡視来りぬ  
波際に汗をぬぐいて腰おろし 便り来ぬかと沖をながめる  
椰子のかげゆるる梢に 極楽鳥ないてほのぼの余波明けにける  
空襲を度重ねると来ぬ日には 何と待たるる作業の休みに  
蝉鳴けど木の葉散り行き秋らしく 若葉を見れば春を想わん

内陸部を訪れた際、田村は現地住民と出会った。田村にとっては、現地人の言葉も外見も行動も、まったく異様なものだった。しかし次の文に見られるように、果物を買うために彼は意思の疎通を計った。現地の子供たちの無邪気さに感激し、自分たちが現地人を好奇の目でながめるのと同様に、現地人も日本人兵士を奇妙だと考えていることに気付き、これを面白がった。彼が違いを認め、現地の人々を人間として見てるのがはつきりとわかる。

Air raids become so frequent that  
We look forward to them on a quiet day  
In order to have some rest from our work.

Cicadas are singing and leaves are falling.  
It feels like autumn.  
But when we see fresh green leaves,  
We think of spring.

During his trip to the inland, Tamura and his colleagues met the local people in the area. For Tamura, the way they spoke, dressed and behaved was completely foreign. However, as we shall read in the following two pieces, he communicated with them and bought tropical fruits from them. He was impressed with the innocence of the local children. He found it amusing that the locals found the Japanese as curious as the soldiers found them. It is clear that he appreciated the differences and managed to see the local people as human beings.

#### Natives

They speak fast in a foreign language. The soldiers listen to the language earnestly in order to understand it.

We've got it. They've come to exchange goods.

In little string bags, they each carried about twenty bananas and papayas in order to exchange them with the goods the soldiers have.

They wear loincloths, but the rest of their bodies are naked. The way they live seems to be primitive.

I gave twenty *sen* for two bananas. These are the first bananas I have had in New Guinea. They tasted very, very sweet. The size of the fruit was as big as my arm or even bigger. They were astonishingly large.

I dreamed that we could eat as much fruit as we liked, but so far only two. Yet, I enjoyed my first taste of bananas in this place.

#### Natives 4 May

When I saw real naked natives for the first time, I felt frightened. But they did not do any harm. They were very well hung, and proudly decorated their hair

#### 土人

早口に分かりかねる言葉を言ふ。兵隊さんもその意味を知らんとして一生懸命だ。

ああそうか。交換に来たんだ。

小さい網の袋にバナナとパパイヤを二十ばかり入れて、兵隊の物と取りかへにきた彼等。

腰にだけは一物をなしといえど、外は何もない裸体原始の生活だ。

二十銭の金を出してバナナを二本とる。これがニューギニア最初のバナナの味。非常に甘い。大きさも自分の腕位かいやそれ以上ある。

まったく大きい。夢にはこんな物が好き程食べられると思ひて来たのに、それどころか、やっと二本。でも現地に来てバナナを食ふ楽しみを初めて味ふ。

土人 五月四日

本当に裸の土人を見た時、怖いと思った。何もせず。大きいのをぶらぶらして頭に雉の羽をさして意気揚々たり。これ見よとばかりの風には驚く。

目的地に着いた夕方、守備隊の兵舎に体を休めていると、土人が四、五十人



Bananas were purchased from the locals. New Guinea did not possess the abundance of fruit Tamura had expected to find in the tropics.

現地住民からバナナは買ったものの、田村が期待していたほどニューギニアには熱帯果物が豊富になかった。  
AWM073060

with bird feathers. It was a surprise for me to see the way they showed off their decoration.

When we reached our destination in the late afternoon, we rested by the regimental barracks. Forty to fifty natives came, and they were all naked. Some were carrying thick ropes and bush knives. A few were wearing crosses on their chests. Furthermore, about half of them were completely naked.

The soldiers stared at them strangely. The natives were also staring at the soldiers intently. They went around the building about twice and disappeared. When I asked other soldiers who had been here previously about them, they told us that the natives came to have a look at us. To them, the soldiers looked very weird. Probably, we looked very foreign to them.

I asked for bananas in the mountains. They seemed to be saying that they did not have bananas at the moment. I felt I understood their language a little bit. Compared with Chinese people, the native children did not have any traces of gloominess and looked so innocent, as if they were blessed by God. They seemed to regard the soldiers as a peculiar group. They were not frightened and did not cry although we were still new to them.

Deaths inevitably occurred around Tamura while he was in Wewak. As the type of war he was involved in was not direct bloody combat on the ground, the sudden disappearance of his war comrades hit him hard. The following section expresses his feeling of loss.

A few days ago, my friend was killed by enemy shells in this bay. However, the bay with its white waves does not look any different. There are a few drums floating away from boats. The landscape of the headland is as lush as before. Boats are moored to the wharf as before. But I feel so devastated!

He left us after a work session, sending his regards to other members of our section. The next morning, this friend could not be found anywhere and now he is at the bottom of the sea after an attack by enemy planes. What an unfortunate fate he had.

But it is no use lamenting. We hope he is in a peaceful slumber and becomes a god protecting the nation. At his grave, I prayed for my dead friend's peaceful repose.

どやどやと裸で来た。大きな網、又蕃刀の様なのと、もう二、三人は十字架を胸に下げて、然もその半分が丸はだか。

兵隊も珍しくてみていると、彼等も兵隊を珍しくて見ている。家の回りを二度程廻ってガヤガヤと出て行った。前に居た兵隊に聞いたら、兵隊をみに来たのだと言ふ。土人と比したら兵隊も変だから珍しいのかも知れない。

バナナを求めたら、山の中にはある。然し現在はないと言う様だった、言葉を少し分かる様になった。子供達も支那人に比したら、明るい。陰気の点が少しもなく、神の子のように純情だ。兵隊には或る一種に見られるのか、恐りもせぬが、あまり日がないためなつかない。

死は田村のウエワク生活に必然的に訪れた。彼の経験した戦いは、陸上の白兵戦ではなかったので、戦友を突然失ったことは打撃だった。彼の喪失感が次の文に表現されている。

二、三日前戦友の敵弾に無なしく散り。この内海は何時もと変りなく白い小波が漂っていた。船をはなれたどらむ缶が二つ三つ浮いて居る。岬の緑も変らず、波止場の小船も変りなし。されど何と悲しき事ぞ。

作業の帰り道、分隊勇士によろしくと伝言頼んで分れた戦友が明るく朝は何処へとも知れず。遂に敵機の為に、恨みを呑んで海底に散る。ああ無念なり。

されど詮なし。唯安らかに眠りて護国の神となれ。今は無き戦友の冥福を祈りし君の墓所に立つ。

田村は日記に彼の感情の起伏を詳しく書き残しており、それには彼や戦友の士気の高揚や低下が反映されている。最初の例は、兵士たちの複雑な感情を歌っている。歌詞はおそらく部隊の戦友が戦いの初期に口ずさんでいた歌から取られたものであろう。そこには、はるかに遠い戦場で戦う兵士たちの士気と同時に、国を懐かしむ望郷の念が表現されている。

四月一日  
若草燃ゆる丘の上  
浪路はるかに眺むれば  
太平洋の黒潮を  
今日ものりこえはるばると  
強く勇しい船が来る  
祖国の便りをのせて来る

Tamura records his feelings extensively in his diary and some of the entries reflect the ups and downs of his and his comrades' spirits.

The first section expresses the mixed feeling soldiers had. The words probably come from a song that may have been sung by his friends in the unit during the early stages of the campaign. They show both the heightened spirit of adventure in a faraway land, and homesickness.

1 April

From the top of the hill with its fresh green grass  
I gaze towards the ocean horizon.  
Across the Pacific, across the Japan Current,  
From far away, a boat is coming with might and courage  
With letters from our homeland.

Sitting in the shade of a coconut tree  
Looking across the sky above the ocean waves  
Thinking about home from New Guinea.  
With the heat, it hurts to realise  
How far this place is from home.

The soldiers' spirits were affected by various factors, such as illness and difficult living conditions. In addition, the unreasonable authority exercised by their superiors also influenced the level of morale. The following two sections demonstrate the problems the troops faced in maintaining high morale in the face of illness and hunger.

We are generally in bad shape. In spite of our superior's words, our fighting spirit has been in decline.

It might be to do with working too hard or malnutrition. No, no. It was not like this at the beginning. Military life is never exciting, but the current situation is not at all rewarding.

The duty of a soldier is to carry out his tasks without complaining. Yet, somebody who does not have any worth as a person can throw his weight around just because he has the senior rank.

Diary 27 May

The fine rain was falling continuously even though the moonlight was bright. I

椰子の木陰にたたずんで  
波の彼方の大空に  
想ひ惚ばすニューギニア  
遠い異郷が今更に  
暑さと共に胸に来る。

兵士たちの士気は病気や厳しい生活条件などの要因によって左右された。加えて、上官が無理な命令を下すことなども影響をあたえた。次の2つの文章は、病気や飢えに直面しながら、高い士気を維持する難しさを表現している。

一般に元氣なし。何故上の注意にも関わらず士氣低きや。  
作業の無理か、栄養の不足か。否々面白くないのだ。元より軍隊は面白い所でない然れども、余りにも張合いのない現況だ。  
不平不満なきことが兵の本分。人としたら、何の価値なき人が上官なる故に威張る。

日記 五月二十七日

月光が輝いていたのにさらさらと小雨が降っていた。爆音がするのを目覚む。  
ああ夜明だ。悪くない身体工合のためか夜も眠れる様になったと安心する。

中支のマラリアに比して悪性とは言い乍ら、この分だと全快早し。戦友が皆んな作業に出た後、久しぶりで兵器の手入。兵隊さんは何時迄も駄目だ。

中隊長も入院。この頃の患者意外に多し。

故郷の青葉の候を思ふと現地の気候はむしろ下り坂。幕舎も雨もりして雨期が一番いやな時。

故郷の使りが欲しい。誰もの声である。思出して友に二通手紙を書く。

完

## エピローグ

上記のエッセーが、豪日研究プロジェクトのウェブサイトにて2002年に掲載されて約1年が過ぎた頃、NHKから日本人兵士の遺書や日記についての取材をしたいという依頼があり、田村日記の存在を知らせた。偶然、同じ頃に時事通信社からも、田村日記についての取材依頼が入り、新聞記事は2003年8月に日本各地の新聞に掲載された。NHKのドキュメンタリー番組は「最後の言葉」と題して同年8月15日に放映された。

それぞれの報道機関の調査の結果、ご遺族が栃木県小山市で見つかった。田村義一が

was awoken by the sound of a plane engine. The dawn had come. I felt relieved that I could sleep through the night after I had recovered my health.

Compared with malaria in central China, I have heard this illness is more difficult to treat. Yet, I might be able to recover quickly. I stayed behind in the camp after my colleagues left for work, and spent my time looking after the firearms. Soldiers cannot help looking after their arms.

Our company leader is also in hospital. The number of patients exceeds expectations.

While Japan should be enjoying the season of fresh green leaves, the weather here is getting worse. The ceiling of the tent is leaking and makes us feel very uncomfortable.

I yearn for letters from home. Everybody feels the same here. I thought of home and wrote two letters to my friends.

## Epilogue

The AJRP received a request from NHK, the Japanese national broadcaster, concerning final letters and diaries belonging to former Japanese soldiers, about a year after this essay appeared on the Project's web site. The Tamura diary was subsequently made known to NHK. Coincidentally, a request for information about the Tamura diary arrived from Jiji Press at around the same time. Articles about the diary appeared in various newspapers around Japan, and the NHK documentary, titled *Last words*, aired on 15 August 2003.

As a result of investigations with various institutions, Tamura's family was located in Oyama City in Tochigi Prefecture. The head of the family in which Tamura Yoshikazu had been born and raised was now his younger brother, Sadanobu. His younger sisters were also alive and in good health. According to the notification of death received by the family, Yoshikazu had been "killed in battle in March 1944 at Biliau, New Guinea". Biliau was near Cape Gunbi, where Allied troops had landed in January 1944, and was the site of fierce fighting between the two forces.

None of Tamura's personal effects had returned from New Guinea. The diary is his only legacy. The Australian War Memorial decided to return the diary in accord with the deepest wishes of the family. It is at last possible for Tamura Yoshikazu, along with the diary, to finally return home to his waiting family sixty years after passing away.

生まれ育った実家は、弟の田村貞宣氏が継ぎ、妹さん二人も健在だった。家族が受け取った戦死公報には、「1944年3月ニューギニアのピリアウにて戦死」と書かれていたという。ピリアウは、連合軍が1944年1月下旬に上陸したグンビ岬に近く、日本軍と連合軍の間で激しい戦闘があった場所である。田村氏の遺品はニューギニアから何も戻ってこず、この日記が唯一の形見だという。遺族の強い希望に応じて、オーストラリア戦争記念館は日記を日本の家族に返還することを決定した。亡くなってから約60年たつてようやく、田村義一は日記と共に、家族が待つ故郷に帰ることができたのだ。



Tamura Yoshikazu (1917–1944) arrived at Wewak in February 1943 with the 239th Infantry Regiment; there he was engaged in construction of airfields and roads. (Photograph provided by Ishizuka Chieko)

1943年2月、田村義一（1917-1944）は歩兵第239連隊の一員としてウエワクに到着し、飛行場や道路の建設作業に従事した。（写真提供 石塚千恵子氏）