

BOX 143E, ENTRY 1067, PHILIPPINE ARCHIVE COLLECTION,
RECORD GROUP 407, NATIONAL ARCHIVES, COLLEGE PARK, MD

File 999-2-216

Title Diary

Origin Unknown Author

Dates

Authenticity Originals unsigned

Source Unknown

Source by _____ Date _____ Microfilmed _____ Date _____

SCREENED (No PA P)

999-2-216

August 26 Wednesday

Today in general was a depressing day due to heavy rains. I concentrated on studying the "Jesuit Code of Liberal Education" and "The new Deal" by Chase. The latter is a brain teaser in economics. He attacks very thoroughly the generally accepted principles of economics and centers his book around the need of collectiveism in the US. This book written in 1932, is a feeler of the future policies of Roosevelt. The stock market for instance takes a nest slapping. News of the Solomon Islands vague but appears favorable to us. Rumors are persistent that Davao has been bombed and shelled. It is also reported that civilians are evacuating Davao. Personally, I am skeptical of such reports. Our Wednesday night meal today consisted of hamburgers and hash brown potatoes. These snacks are a life saver.

August 27 Thursday

Most of our organized work this morning was on the club house. The porch is completed now. An enlisted detail put the roof on this afternoon after the framework was put up by our group. It has an odd shape but nevertheless it is a porch and a large one at that. Byrd came around this afternoon and stated that Chastaine wants the officers to cut grass hereafter in the morning according to the schedule we previously followed. I know this is not going to set well with the officers. I don't understand why Chastaine doesn't leave things alone. We are managing to keep busy and our morale is good. So why look for trouble. I walked home with Lewis and explained to him the order. He stated that as soon as the old men leave this camp there will be no more grass cutting by officers. Spent the evening visiting with Lewis, Woodbridge and Tarkington, As to be expected the conversation covered SPY most thoroughly. They did not know that Robinson had told Humber that he had been selling guts at the Cagayan front. This is a sore point with these officers for Robinson received a silver star for visiting the front and none of these officers remember seeing Robinson in the vicinity at any critical time.

August 28 Friday

A quiet day. Rains still in abundance. Rumors are persistent that Davao has been bombed. Also a rumor is circulating that the Nips are going to turn the guarding of this camp to civilians and take the soldiers out of here. Sounds like someones imagination. Burgess was appointed inspector today. This was the result of my recommendation to Lewis last night. The case is an embarrassing one for Burgess. He explained it to me. It concerns Col. Beard. It seems that Beard made a deal with an enlisted man to buy a razor for twenty pesos. When the

(Continued)

- 2 -

soldier brought the razor around Beard forced the EEM to accept Cebu currency. A day later at the PX the soldier approached Beard and asked him to change the twenty pesos into old PI currency since the natives will not take the Cebu money. Beard took the twenty pesos and got it changed but it cost two pesos so he returned the soldier only eighteen pesos. The soldier felt that he had been gyped on the whole deal and grumbled about it around his barracks. The result was that it finally came to the attention of the officers who took the latter to Chastaine. So now Burgess has to investigate it. I can't understand what has become of the character of our older officers.

August 29 Saturday

Pursuant to Chastaine's instructions, we work this morning for an hour and a half cutting grass. Personally I don't mind this work as it is good exercise. The others really don't mind it either but it is the manner in which it is shoved down everybodys throat. Radio reports from the hospital state we have caused the Jap navy to back up in the Solomon area and we have complete possession of five is main islands and are fortifying them. No orders yet for the older officers. It was my turn tonight to cook our repast.. I prepared french friend potatoes and Hamburg meat. I took an empty sardine can and punched holes in the bottom and attached a wire handle to make a utensil to drain off the spuds out of the grease. It was very successful except it took all evening to cook enough spuds for our crowd.

Sept 3 Thursday

Had a little mixup over the cutting of grass this morning.

Sept 4, Friday

General Vachon came up looking for me early this morning. He was really stewing.

Sept 5, Saturday

Spent the morning the getting the data for the General. Took it down this afternoon. He was satisfiéd. Said goodbye to him at the same time. He gave me a cartoon of matches and a pack of Chesterfields. This little task has decided me to write a history of the 101st Div. Had a run in with Chastaine this morning and won out so easily I was floored.

Sept 6 Sunday

Went to mass early this morning before breakfast.

(Continued)

- 3 -

Around nine thirty, George came in and told me that the colonels and generals were leaving at ten this morning. At first I did not intend to go down to see the departure but finally went. I can't say there was any tears on the part of the camp personnel remaining. I personally was choosy with whom I shook hands and Sharp was definitely not included, not that it mattered to him, but I'm not that much of a hypocrite. I said good bye to Thompson, He said, "Mac, you certainly did a fine job in this war down here. I'm proud of you. Hope we soon meet again." There was much sarcastic comment from the camp spectators while the departees were being lined up by the Japs. The Japs commander from Malaybalay, a Lieut. Col. was present and made a short speech in Nipponese that was translated by the interpreter. I couldn't hear exactly what was said but I got the gist to mean that he was wishing them a pleasant voyage. Then Sharp pulled a grandstand play. He asked the Jap to take good care of the personnel left and to try to increase the meat allowance. (Seems to me this was a fine time to finally think of this. Why hasn't it been taken up before. Then he had to add what was really on his mind. He wanted to know if the generals were to ride in a sedan. That old me again. They finally got into the transportation. There were four sedans, a truck for the strikers, and one truck for baggage which was certainly taken advantage of. One interesting side-light was Vachon insisting on taking with him in his car a typewriter, a small bag and a musett bag. His striker was carrying it. Vachon directed the boy to put it in the car and a Jap ordered the equipment to be taken to the truck, Vachon tried again and then again but the Jap won out and the baggage went into the truck. The reaction in camp has almost been hilarious. The mess hall was practically giddy this noon. I wondered if Lewis would sit at the round table but he didn't, instead he ended the round table. This was his second decision. His first was to tell McGee to use the field OD orders for toilet paper thereby abolishing the office. Shortly after dinner, Burgess said to me, "I'll bet you that within twenty-four hours Robinson will be around to pass the time a bit with you. "It wasn't neat that long. While I was sitting in the PX talking to Tremaine, he came in, made himself most agreeable, greeted me in a most familiar manner, and gave me a piece of candy, after which he sat down and talked awhile about nothing. This incident shows who is the acknowledged leader in this camp. To add to SPY's embarassment the Japs cancelled the movement order. I don't know what caused it but it was a master stroke. I don't know yet what will be the plan of action in the camp but I am ready for anything. Wilson let out a couple of cracks today that show he felt the cracks that burgess made last night after taps about his method of eating. Perhaps it will have some effect. McGee is here playing

(Continued)

- 4 -

chess with Burgess as I write this now. Weighed in, by order, this PM at the dispensary. I weigh 155 lbs. That is quite a drop in a year, very close to 50 lbs. It is five lbs. less than when I graduated.

Sept. 7, 1942 -- Monday

Labor day in a prison camp. At breakfast Lewis announced that hereafter the calisthenics will be at 8:30 each morning. He also announce the end of required mass activity. The Japs only require that at least one hour of physical activity be allotted by each officer. It is an individual problem and Lewis called upon each officer to play the game and cooperate thereby eliminating any necessary detailing of supervised work such as cutting grass. Today was a holiday for the officers. The Japs don't have a labor day so the details from the enlisted men went on as usual. Went to the market before dinner to see if I could find a better variety than by waiting till later in the afternoon. Found I could. Bought some potatoes and peanut brittle. Weather was miserable this afternoon-cold, long rains. Read a couple of Lincoln books, cooked some potatoe chips and dreamed of home.

Sept 8, 1942 Tuesday

Calisthenics held this morning at 8:30. The instructor was more concerned with form than with giving fifteen minutes of good exercise. There should be less talk and more of it. I am really eager to take strenuous exercises. But unfortunately the system of a new instructor daily defeats this as each one is more interested in making a good front then in putting over exercise. Father Kennedy recommences his school in Philosophy in our quarters this morning. We are short two pupils. Cols Dalton and Thompson. Nelson didn't show up either. I wonder if he intends to give us up now. At noon I gave in to my weakness, a big plate of potatoe chips. It is quite a job fixing them but it is more than worth it. Got a hair cut this morning. The barber has moved inside an end of the headquarters shack. This soldier amuses me I believe he is from Arkansas and his comments in his slow drawl are quaint and witty. He was doing his best to sell me a straight edge razor for ten pesos. Of course, according to him, it was most unusual how well this one was honing up and he hadn't hardly worked on it. The war situation is quiet. No further activity in the south Pacific, The Chinese are pushing the Nip back to the sea, the Russians are counterattacking the Germans, and the reports are favorable from Africa. I am still confident that when we really start, the Nips wont stand up. Sharp history appears to be a justification of his actions to the detriment of the combat troops.

Sept 9, Wednesday.

(Continued)

- 5 -

Calesthenics this morning was a flop. The instructor was an emaciated looking young officer who showed by his lack of coordination that he of all persons needed exercises. I was so disgusted that I went to Lewis and recommend that he appoint someone in charge of calisthenics who really knows how to handle the period. He has appointed Goldtrap with this in mind. Missed dinner today as McGee and I went to the market to be there early and get the chow for tonight's spread. Actually I didn't miss anything as it was sure to be rice. All I get at noon usually is companionship of my messmates. Higgins and I were the cooks though Hig did most of the work. We had some white beans boiled and they became he piece de resistance. The Nips are drilling the PA and it is amusing the see the manner in which the PA snap to for them. There is no foolishness there. The Japs certainly have the Indian sign on them. One of the lieutenants brought in the history of the Division Special Unit which had been written up by the sergeant major of that unit. It reads, to the point of disgust, like an eulogy for Coale. It is so distorted that, fearing it might become made of record, I went down to see Nelson. He also became insensed and is sure it will never get into the files. He also turned over to Lewis the History that sharp took north with him. I will see it later. It

Sept 10 Thursday.

Calesthenics were much more satisfactory this morning. Breitling was in charge. His exercises were the first that I could call of any value. Nelson was here for school with Father Kennedy and said that he read last night the comments in Sharp's report and was so made at the injustice of the report that he couldn't sleep. Tremaine came by and we looked over some maps of this Island that I managed to bring into camp with me. We had a long discussion and are in accordance. Had a cold fine rain all afternoon, making the day miserable. Father Kennedy gave me the book, "The rains Came" By Louis Bromfield. I remember the movie with George Brent, Myrna Loy and Tyrone Power. I skimmed over the books I couldn't get really into it because of the bulky discriptions and characterizations. There is enough in it to satisfy anyone. Took a Latin textbook out of the library this noon and was surprised at the ease with which I can read the latin lessons. Believe I will attempt to read Cicero in the Latin but I know this will not be a cinch. Had a discussion with Father Kennedy about Darwin's discussion of Natural Selection in the "Origin of Species" which I am reading. It is rumored that all officers are to be taken to Formosa this month. Hope not.