

Manuscripts relating to the January 1830 samurai repulse of
the piratically seized Van Diemen's Land colonial brig
Cyprus from Mugi, Awa Province (Tokushima), Japan.

Volume 4

The Yamauchi and Mima Manuscript



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4. The Yamauchi and Mima Manuscript

Eight manuscripts relating to the January 1830 samurai repulse of the piratically seized Van Diemen's Land colonial brig *Cyprus* from Mugi, Awa Province (Tokushima), Japan.

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4. The Yamauchi and Mima Manuscript

Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are advised that this translation contains a range of material which may be considered culturally sensitive including descriptions and images of people who have passed away.

Author: Yamauchi Chūdayū 山内忠大夫 and Mima Katsuzō 三間勝藏.

Title: 'Bunsei 12 nen ushidoshi 12 gatsu 22 nichi Mugi Ura ni oite ikokusen uchiharai tetsudzuki tsuketari uchiharai gosonae kubari domo' 文政十二丑年十二月廿二日於牟岐浦ニ異国船打払手續付り打払御備配とも

[The proceedings in the repulse of the foreign ship at Mugi Ura on the 22nd day of the 12th month of the 12th year of Bunsei, year of the Ox, including the repulse's defensive deployments].

Illustrator: Unknown. Captions in the hand of the Yamauchi and Mima manuscript listed as part of the Hayami manuscript. They are all bound in one volume.

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4. The Yamauchi and Mima Manuscript

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Note: Yamauchi and Mima were the two field commanders of the repulse. No times or distances are referred to. Bound with the Hayami Manuscript.

Online digital image: n/a.

Translation

[Cover]

The proceedings in the repulse of the foreign ship at Mugi Ura on the 22nd day of the 12th month of the 12th year of Bunsei, Year of the Ox, including the repulse's defensive deployments.

Yamauchi Chūdayū

Mima Katsuzō¹

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One foreign ship drifted to Mugi Ura, Kaifu Gun, and anchored, and was moored from the evening of the 20th last until the 22nd.² We carefully investigated the circumstances. While the crew claimed to suffer from a lack of food, firewood, and fresh water, since mooring they did not once appear to be a ship that had faced peril. Given the circumstances; the situation looked suspicious. Since Chūdayū's arrival on the evening of the 21st, the two of us had consulted and shortly after the overseers had been dispatched [from Tokushima Castle], we received instructions.³ We knew that based on the public proclamations of the Bunsei Period, a repulse was our course of action.⁴ We consulted, and by the next morning on the 22nd, the deployments were arranged. The overseers arrived and after a short postponement everyone gathered. We humbly reported our consultations to the overseers, and as per our arrangements the deployments proceeded as follows.

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After Katsuzō had been dispatched to Teba Jima and Chūdayū to the inside of Shima-no-Hira, Mugi Ura, to better understand the foreign ship's situation, the

¹ Yamauchi Chūdayū 山内忠大夫, Mima Katsuzō 三間勝藏.

² The 20th day of the 12th month of the 12th year of Bunsei was 14 January 1830

³ Domain overseers.

⁴ The Foreign Ship Repulse Proclamation of 1825 was the strictest ever issued.

Noe Mura Village Head, Okazawa Yahē, and a local family head, Seizaburō, embarked a small boat with a little water, neared the ship and boarded it.⁵ It was conveyed that, in order to receive the water, the ship should set sail promptly, and that if they were slow to do so, we would repulse them. With the aforementioned water they were shown a large cannon ball. Inquiring with hand gestures, our people understood that the foreigners were surprised and, while receiving the water for leaving quickly, they would leave after repairing their damaged sails and repainting their ship. Yahē and Seizaburō returned to where Chūdayū was stationed to report. On questioning them in detail, the area of damaged sail requiring repair seemed small. To both men, when they withdrew, the necessary sail patch had appeared almost finished and similarly the painting of the topcoat had looked near completion. Yahē and Seizaburō

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were sent back to the foreign ship, as even a short delay would be difficult for us to reconcile. They conveyed to them that they should set sail quickly, but the two of them that had been patching the sail became very angry and started shouting, so the skipper, who looked older, intervened, and subdued them. The fact that the ship had already overstayed by a couple of days was conveyed by gesture, but they did not appear in any way readying to set sail. Yahē and Seizaburō returned and reported, and we considered what to do. From the beginning everything appeared duplicitous, and moreover the foreigners had become angry and shouted, etc. Already, their nonchalant attitude was very difficult for us to ignore. We thought it was high time for a repulse. The arrangements with Katsuzō had already been made. From Shima-no-Hira the smoke signal rose and from Teba Jima the loaded 300-*monme* [57 mm calibre] cannon fired, lobbing its ball over the ship. From Shima-no-Hira too, the already loaded 100-*monme* [40 mm calibre] fired. As the reports reverberated, musketeers boarded four small boats that sculled out with

⁵ Okazawa Yahē 岡沢弥兵衛, Seizaburō 清三郎.

one cannon on each boat ranging in size from one 100-*monme* to 20-*monme* [23 mm calibre], as well as one or two smaller bore muskets aboard each.⁶ At first they targeted over the foreign ship with longshots, as

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the large cannon on Teba Jima was reloaded and fired. One then two sails were spread. Spurred on by the two-pronged fire, they seemed to set sail, but the situation did not change. Before long, Chūdayū grew impatient, boarded a boat with some musketeers, launched and arrived in the vicinity of the foreign ship. Now, fore and aft of the ship, there were five boats firing in succession, as well as frequent fire from the cannon on Teba Jima. Gradually seven sails were spread. However, the swell was strong, and it was difficult to steer the boats. We intensified our fire, and when the ship finally headed in the direction of Shimonada, we eased our fire and had the boats pursue the foreign ship at a distance of 40 to 50 *ken* [73-91 m]. Moreover, the order was given that if the ship headed for a cove or the coast, it should be repelled aggressively. The four boats pursued the ship and reported that it had stopped off Asakawa and was not moving. So, we fired incessantly again, but the ship did not move at all. It was difficult to assess whether this was a deception or not. Of the guns on the four boats, the 100-*monme* owned by Musketeer Nishizawa Toranosuke

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targeted the stern of the foreign ship.⁷ His aim was good, causing the ship to reverberate and creating complete panic on board. The crew appeared at the gunwales and as one they prostrated themselves begging for their lives. At that moment, the wind came from the front, and the boat hands that accompanied us

⁶ Most musketeers fired muskets, but some fired cannons. To scull is to propel a boat with an oar designed to move from side to side while never leaving the water. The OED definition refers only to stern mounted oars, but larger Japanese sculling boats also had side-mounted oars with their thole pins set in outriggers. Awa Province samurai patrol boats had seven oars in this configuration.

⁷ Nishizawa Toranosuke 西沢虎之助.

told us it would be difficult for the ship to sail away towards Shimonada. We lowered our guns and conveyed by gesture that they should set sail toward Kaminada for Mugi Guchi [cove mouth]. They changed their heading. Katsuzō had launched from Teba, and the ship was sandwiched between official boats to their left and right. We guarded the ship as far as Mugi Guchi. Right on time, an offshore breeze blew up and carried them south, far out to sea. Before long it was dark, so apart from two patrol boats that remained, we and the others returned to Mugi Ura.

However, when the patrol boats returned, I was informed that from the foreign ship, shortly after it had sailed out between Teba and Ōshima, something resembling a 30-*monme* [27 mm calibre] gun appears to have been discharged. On the morning of the following day, the 23rd, Musketeer Fukuya Rizaemon

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returned from Teba Jima and reported that at the moment the foreign ship sailed out beyond the eastern side of the island, the hunters fired their ten 3.5-*monme* [13 mm calibre] muskets.⁸ At that time a twinkle of light was seen on the foreign ship followed immediately by a gun's discharge. He also reported that after that exchange ten more shots were fired in unison; and that after that not another sound was heard as the ship finally sailed out to sea and the sail became indistinguishable.

It must be said that if we had not been so restrained, this foreign ship could have been crushed without time or effort. While we swiftly resorted to a repulse, we did want them to sail away peacefully, so we opened up with our cannons and everything else, all of which is reported herein.

However, during the aforementioned change of heading, the courses of

⁸ Fukuya Rizaemon 福家理左衛門

Chūdayū's boat and that of the foreign ship closed,

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and at that moment he boarded the stern of the foreign ship. We knew not why the foreigners were here. They appeared at the gunwales, removed their hats and head chiefs, prostrated themselves, gestured setting sail, and pointed out to sea.

The End

Stationed at Shima-ga-Hira, dispatched in defence for the Mugi Ura repulse,

Yamauchi Chūdayū

Cannons - Two - Tani Wataemon⁹

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One of those -200-*monme* bore [50 mm calibre] Ikeuchi Okuemon¹⁰

One of those -100-*monme* bore Kubo Yōzō¹¹

Other district musketeers, hunters and musketeers 5 people

No. 1 patrol

One boat

100-*monme* bore Nishizawa Toranosuke

Small bore Takagi Genshichi¹²

⁹ Tani Wataemon 谷渡右衛門

¹⁰ Ikeuchi Okuemon 池内奥右衛門

¹¹ Kubo Yōzō 久保養藏

¹² Takagi Genshichi 高木源七

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No. 2 patrol

One boat, the same

30-*monme* bore Satō Tokinosuke¹³

Small bore Tomura Heibē¹⁴

Small bore Inai Suketarō¹⁵

No. 3 patrol

One boat, the same

30-*monme* bore Satō Sōjirō¹⁶

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Small bore Okazaki Morisuke¹⁷

Same bore Yamamoto Sonojō¹⁸

No. 4 patrol

One boat, the same

20-*monme* bore Ishii Makita¹⁹

Small bore Kurimoto Takuemon²⁰

¹³ Satō Tokinosuke 佐藤時之助

¹⁴ Tomura Heibē 戸村平兵衛.

¹⁵ Inai Suketarō 稲井助太郎.

¹⁶ Satō Sōjirō 佐藤惣次郎.

¹⁷ Okazaki Morisuke 岡崎茂利助.

¹⁸ Yamamoto Sonojō 山本祖之丞.

¹⁹ Ishii Makita 石井間記太.

²⁰ Kurimoto Takuemon 栗本宅右衛門.

Same bore Tsuchikabe Sonsuke²¹

However, from halfway through Chūdayū went out
accompanied by Wataemon

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by boat to be in charge offshore.

Stationed at Teba Jima Island,

Mima Katsuzō

Cannons - Ikeuchi Shōzō²²

300-*monme* bore Ikeuchi Shūsuke²³

30-*monme* bore Fukuya Rizaemon

Others, Aoki Isuke, samurai retainers and hunters.²⁴

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12 musketeers

However, once the foreign ship had set sail and came back
again, Katsuzō, accompanied by Yasuzō and Shūsuke, went
out by boat.²⁵

The End

²¹ Tsuchikabe Sonsuke 土壁村助.

²² Ikeuchi Shōzō 池内勝蔵.

²³ Ikeuchi Shūsuke 池内周助.

²⁴ Aoki Isuke 青木伊助.

²⁵ Yasuzō 安蔵.

