

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 9

The Musketeer's Manuscript



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9. Musketeer's 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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9. Musketeer's 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 of people who have passed away.

Title: 'Tsuikei' 追啓 [Supplementary text].

Author: Unsigned. Possibly Musketeer Ikeuchi Yasuzō 池内安蔵.

Illustrator: Unillustrated.

Date of completion: Between 25 January 1830 and 22 January 1831.

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9. Musketeer's Manuscript

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Note: Claims that the damage to the brig was from the cannon on Teba Jima. Most musketeers fired muskets, but some fired cannons.

Online digital image: n/a.

Translation

Supplementary text. At the end of last year as the foreign ship drifted off Mugi Ura, we were ordered to prepare for trouble on the coast. When the foreign ship dropped anchor in the Teba Jima area, Mima Katsuzō Sama called on me to accompany him.¹ From the arsenal at the Hiwasa Garrison, we took a 300-*monme* [57mm calibre], a 200-*monme* [50mm calibre] and a 100-*monme* [40mm calibre] cannon. With a 100-*monme* [40mm calibre], as well as the 30-*monme* that we had brought, and some 20 and 30-*monme* [23 and 27mm calibre] pieces from the Tomo Garrison, a total of nine guns were organized and ferried to Mugi Ura. I was ordered to find firing positions for the above-mentioned cannons. One place we looked at on the coast south of Nishi Mugi Ura was called Shima-no-Hira and was about 18 to 19 *chō* [2.0-2.1km] from the foreign ship. After that, we loaded a boat and crossed to another position on Teba Jima which looked about 11 *chō* [1.2km] from the ship.

As other locations were far from the town, the cannons were set up at these two positions. At Shima-no-Hira we readied two cannons, the 200-*monme* and the 100-*monme*; and to Teba Jima we ferried the 300-*monme*, as well as a 30-*monme*. Chūdayū Sama was stationed at Shima no Hira.² I crossed to Teba Jima to convey the order to fire the first shot of the repulse. However, we were told not to smash the foreign ship, but instead to aim for and fire at the sails. On the occasion of our first shot, the sails were not set. We aimed directly for the tip of the mast, but Katsuzō Sama observed and told us to aim higher to avoid hitting the hull. Since the effectiveness of our medicine [gunpowder] had not yet been tested, we took our first shot aiming about 2 *ken* [3.6m] above the ship [tip of the mast]. The shot flew exactly 2 *ken* over the rear of the ship and fell about 1 *chō* [109m] away. We could all see exactly where it fell.

¹ Mima Katsuzō 三間勝蔵

² Yamauchi Chūdayū 山内忠大夫

Not waiting for the second shot, the foreign ship hurriedly put up its sails, but without wind the ship moved gently. We reloaded again and again firing five times, the third shot appeared to hit the stern. As we were reloading with our sixth ball, it became difficult to acquire our target, which was heading for Mugi Ura. While we were relocating to the south west [north west?] of Teba Jima to reset the cannon, thankfully Chūdayū Sama, who was stationed at Shima-no-Hira, ordered Nishizawa Toranosuke, Ishii Makita, Satō Tokinosuke, Satō Sōjirō and Kubo Motozō to launch in four fishing boats, into which they had loaded large- and small-bore guns.³ Chūdayū Sama boarded a boat and launched with them giving orders. They started their repulse at a range of 2-3 *chō* [218- 327m]. However, the foreign ship closed on Teba Jima. It appeared to be just 3 *chō* away. From the mainland, the overseers sent someone out in a launch and the foreign ship's ensign, anchor, etc. were found to closely resemble those of the British.⁴ So, there was no issue with us repelling the ship, and we were ordered to do that. Our position on Teba Jima was no longer good for target acquisition. Had we received the order earlier, we could have smashed the ship with the previous five shots. As we still had enough balls remaining, adjusting our aim at the target a little, we moved to the edge of the beach with a strong charge in the 30-*monme*. I put it under my chin and fired, but the discharge was bad, so we reloaded and fired again, but it was an overshoot. After that, we corrected our range and ordered Sōjibē's son Shūsuke to fire.⁵ We loosed off fourteen to 15 shots, of which 4 or 5 were seen to hit the sails and later reported as such.

As above, while we continued with the repulse, night fell. Katsuzō Sama and I boarded the same fishing boat and set off. We approached the foreign ship.

³ Nishizawa Toranosuke 西沢虎之助, Ishii Makita 石井間記太, Satō Tokinosuke 佐藤時之助, Satō Sōjirō 佐藤惣次郎, Kubo Motozō 久保素藏.

⁴ Domain overseers.

⁵ Ikeuchi Sōjibē 池内宗次兵衛, Ikeuchi Shūsuke 池内周助.

Toranosuke, who I mentioned in the previous paragraph, fired the 100-*monme*, and one shot struck the stern of the foreign ship. He aimed at the bottom of the ship under the waterline. On the ship, they were very scared and started to panic, and we saw a hole made by a 300-*monme* ball piercing the outside of the stern of the foreign ship, but it was already dusk, and I do not know the details. As I looked for the holes made by my 30-*monme*, an offshore breeze blew up and gradually the foreign ship sailed away from Teba Jima until we could not see the sails. The patrol boats remained out. When they returned to Mugi Ura, I boarded the same boat I had arrived on.

When I returned [to Mugi Ura], Chūdayū Sama told us that the overseers were glad the foreign ship had been repulsed, and I handed back the cannons and muskets used for the repulse from Teba Jima. Regarding the damage to the ship, there is no doubt it was caused by the 300-*monme* from Teba Jima, without waiting for the repulse from Shima no Hira. This was commended by Chūdayū Sama and Katsuzō Sama. I, however, was utterly useless. For what little I achieved, I am indebted to the skill of my gunnery master. Also, after decamping from Mugi Ura, we took the equipment, 500-*monme* [68mm calibre] cannon ball and five unused 200-*monme* balls to Hiwasa Ōhama where we were ordered to give a demonstration. We consulted with Hamada Jinsuke and aimed offshore, but when Satō Kichiemon lit the 200's fuse the cannon broke into three pieces.⁶ As Chūdayū Sama and Katsuzō Sama had come to observe this demonstration, there were many spectators. No one was injured and the town officials were relieved with this outcome. I would have liked to explain in more detail in the preceding paragraphs but must confess that my calligraphy brush fails me. You should kindly hear the details from Katsuzō Sama. My letter is lacking, but I hope to explain in person next time we meet. This is the end of my report.

⁶ Hamada Jinsuke 浜田甚助, Satō Kichizaemon 佐藤吉右衛門.

