

**DIARY OF 2nd LT. LARRY REINEKE**  
**From JULY 14th to AUGUST 27th, 1943**

- JULY 14th** LEFT ADAK AT 16:00 BOUND FOR SHEMA.
- JULY 17th** ARRIVED AT SHEMA ABOUT 11:00 APPEARANCE OF THE ISLAND IS BETTER THAN I HAD ANTICIPATED.
- JULY 18th** LAST NIGHT EXPLORED THE ISLAND UNTIL 23:00 THEN WENT TO BED. WAS VERY SURPRISED BECAUSE IT SEEMED VERY NICE WITH WIDE BEACHES, SMALL RAVINES WITH SORT OF ROLLING COUNTRY. THE ENGINEERING OF THE RUNWAY IS VERY IMPRESSIVE. THE WORK IS 24 HOURS A DAY AND THE SOUND OF MOTORS, CATS AND THE SURF ARE CONTINUOUS.
- JULY 21st** PHOTOS TAKEN BY BOMBERS REVEAL PARAMUSHIRU IS HEAVILY FORTIFIED. THE NAVY IS PREDICTING AT LEAST FOUR MORE YEARS OF WAR.
- JULY 26th** 3 SURFACE CRAFT AND 5 AIRCRAFT WERE REPORTED OFF SHEMA 143 DEGREES S.E.
- JULY 29th** ENEMY EXPECTED TO ATTACK HERE OR ATTU.
- JULY 30th** GOT A TOMMY GUN WITH 90 ROUNDS OF AMMO LAST NIGHT AND PACKED MUSETTE BAG WITH ESSENTIALS BUT NO JAPS SHOWED UP.
- AUGUST 1st** STRANGE TO GO TO MASS IN A LITTLE DARK TENT LADEN DOWN WITH YOUR FIREARMS.
- AUGUST 5th** THE BEACH IS PROTECTED BY BARBED WIRE, OUR SQUADRON IS TO BACK UP 50 INFANTRY MEN ON A 1200 YARD BEACH.
- AUGUST 7th** MY 36th BIRTHDAY. WE HAD FRUIT CAKE, DRIED APRICOTS AND SODA CRACKERS TO CELEBRATE IT.
- AUGUST 8th** DUG ABOUT FORTY FEET OF TRENCHES AROUND OUR TENT AREA AND WHILE IT WAS ALL TUNDRA IT WAS NOT TOO WET.
- AUGUST 11th** LT. O'DONELL OF file 21st LANDED TODAY. THE FIRST B-24 TO LAND HERE. ALSO 9 B-24's WERE TO RAID PARAMUSHIRU AGAIN, UNESCORTED.

**AUGUST 12th** 2 OF THE 9 B-24's FROM YESTERDAY WERE LOST. 40 ZEKES ATTACKED THEM AND THEY SHOT DOWN 5 OF THEM.

**AUGUST 14th** IN A MINOR WAY I FIGURED IN HISTORY TODAY BY BEING ABOARD B-24 #3888 (local #7) THE LEAD SHIP IN A MISSION TO KISKA. THIS WAS THE FIRST BOMBING RAID FROM SHEMA. THE PILOT WAS ERV WADLINGTON AND THE OFFICER CREW MEMBERS WERE SMITH AND PFIEFFER. NO AA FROM THE ISLAND AND IT WAS FOGGED IN EXCEPT FOR AROUND THE VOLCANO. TOMORROW THE ATTACK BY GROUND TROOPS IS TO START SO I WILL BE PRESENT FOR THE BATTLE AS I WAS FOR ATTU.

**AUGUST 15th** ATTACK BEGAN AT 06:21 W LARRY HILL WAS ONE OF THE FIRST OBJECTIVES CAPTURED VERY LITTLE ENEMY RESISTANCE.

**AUGUST 17th** THIS A.M. IT WAS QUITE OBVIOUS THAT THERE WERE VERY FEW JAPS ON KISKA. JULY 27th WAS THE LAST TIME AA WAS ENCOUNTERED. NIPS SURE PULLED A FAST ONE ON US.

**AUGUST 20th** OPERATION REPORTS FROM KISKA SAY THAT NO JAPS WERE FOUND AND THE ONLY THING ALIVE WAS 3 DOGS.

**AUGUST 21st** RADIO ANNOUNCED OCCUPATION OF KISKA AS A "VICTORY" TODAY.

**AUGUST 24th** AIR RAID ALERT BUT NO JAP BOMBERS SHOWED UP.

**AUGUST 26th** GOT THE NEWS TODAY THAT I WILL BE SENT HOME BY BOAT.

**AUGUST 27th** JAPS LEFT RECORDS THAT THERE WERE 39 SUBS IN KISKA HARBOR JULY 29th.

**THE VOYAGE HOME WAS EXTREMELY ROUGH BUT AS I WAS UNACCUSTOMED TO THE DEEP SEA IT WASN'T UNTIL THE LAST DAY, WHEN THE OCEAN CALMED DOWN, THAT I REALIZED IT WASN'T ALWAYS ROUGH.**

[Note: Larry Reineke passed away on the 18th of September, 2003 at his hometown located in Middletown, NY.]

---

Copyright "The Shemya Mailbag," Vol.7, No.1, March 1993, Dan Lange, Editor  
Published in Electronic Web Format with permissions by George L. Smith, 26 July 1998