

DESERT ISLAND COOKBOOK



...the islands are lonely as prisons...no shade exists...an almost unbearably hot sun bears down all day...parching the skin and hurting the eyes regardless of protective glasses...W.F. McBride, Chief

Radio Engineering Section, 1940

Edited by

Janet Zisk, Archivist

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The Kamehameha Schools Archives

CHIEF COOKS

U.S. Government

Department of Air Commerce - emergency landing sites
 Department of The Treasury - funds
 U.S. Coast Guard - transportation and supplies
 U.S. Navy - supplies, fuel for ships, water
 U. S. Army - camp personnel and equipment

Albert Judd, trustee for the Kamehameha School for Boys
 whose grandfather had a guano operation in those islands in the
 mid 1800s.

Dr. Homer Barnes, principal of the Kamehameha School for
 Boys, 1930-1944

Dr. Donald Mitchell, teacher and sponsor of Hui O'iwi, a campus
 club practicing and preserving native cultural skills and values

E.H. Byrne, Jr., curator of the Bishop Museum,

CULINARY SPECIALISTS IN THE FIELD

KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS FOR BOYS STUDENTS AND ALUMNI

Number= cruise expedition number, about 4 months on an island. The more
 numbers, the longer the stay.

s=spare person on the cruise expedition to replace anyone

L=Leader of the island expedition group

Ahia, Charley 7,8,10L,11L	Braun, Clarence 13
Ahia, Henry B. 1,2L,3L, 5L	Burke,Eugene 7,8,9,11,12,14,15L
Akana,Albert,Jr.,7L,8L,9L,11L, 12L	Carroll, James 4s
Akana, George 13, 15L	Ching, Archie 2
Anakalea, Joe 4L, 6,7,10,11,12	Cockett, Frank 2
Anahu, William 2	Cockett, Herbert 5s
Awana, Theodore 10, 11L, 12L	Faufata, Folinga 3,7
Bederman,Thomas 16,17,19,21L,22L,23L,24L	Haili, Jacob 3, 4, 6, 7, 10s, 12, 13
Bell, Kenneth 5	Harris, Arthur 2s
Blake, Hartwell 5	Hooper, Herbert 3, 4L
Boyd, Andrew 14,15	Hutchinson, William 15

Jacobson, Victor	Mattson, Elvin 22,23,24
Kahalewai, Sam 13,15,16	Newton, Edmund
Kahanu, George 4s,5	Ohumukini, Henry 4
Kahapea, Alexander 4	Opiopio, Killarney 1, 2, 3, 5, 6L
Kahapea, William 19s	
Kaina, William, Jr. 1,2,3,5,6,8,9,10L	Pea, Aki Kini Levi 5, 9, 10, 14, 15
Kalama, Samuel 2	Piianaia, Abraham 1, 2L, 3L, 5L, 6L, 16 cruise passenger
Kalama, Solomon 4, 6L,7,10	Sproat, Manuel 6
Kamakaiwi, James 1,2L,3L,5L, 7L,8L,9L,12L,13L,14L	Suares, Louis 15L, 16L, 17L, 18L
Kaninau, Charles 5s,11,12	Toomey, Daniel 1, 2, 3
Kauahikaua, Archie 3,4	Toomey, William 2
Keliihananui, Joseph 18s,19,20,21,22,23 killed	Victor, Gabriel
Kim, Joseph 4,6,8L, 9L, 10L	Waiwaiole, Luther 4, 14, 25
Kinney, James 12L, 13L, 15L, 16L, 17L, 18L, 19L	West, George 2
Lee, Frederick 5, 13, 14, 16	Williamson, Elmer 2s, 10, 11
Mahikoa, Henry 4	Wood, Joshua 13
Markham, Stewart 5	Yomes, William 4
	Young, Edward 3, 4L, 5, 6, 8, 9

Sources:

E.H.Bryan, Jr., *Panala'au Memoirs*, (Honolulu: Pacific Scientific Information Center, Bernice P. Bishop Museum) 1974.

Loring C. Hudson, *The History of the Kamehameha Schools*, (Honolulu: Master's degree thesis manuscript), 1935.

Directory of Graduates and Staff of the Kamehameha Schools, 1887-1976.

Excerpts of a letter from Dr. Mitchell to Dr. Barnes

K.S.B

June 29, 1935

Dear Dr. Barnes,

...At Jarvis Island...Henry prepared dinner at their camp for the six of us from the Captain's table and there was nothing but praise for his cooking. He made bread and baked it in an oven, which he had constructed from a kerosene tin, and the bread was fine. He had won the hearts of his fellow colonists with his morning pancakes--"hapa haole" cakes for those who liked them light brown and "kanaka" cakes for those who preferred them well browned. And he is reported to have played the harmonica as each pancake fried.

And Dan Toomey came in for his share of the praise too. He knew the name of every fish in the waters, how to catch them, and how best to prepare them for the table. He knew the lobster caves and provided this delicacy as often as it was wanted. He taught the Army men to fish, to swim, and to feel at home in the sea.

... We left food and water enough for five months although they expect to be there but three. The first group had an abundance of food and water.

...We skipped above the line less than a degree and reached Baker Island. Abraham Piianaia and William Kaina were very glad to see us...Abraham won honors the second day when he went out alone and rolled the fourteen fifty gallon barrels of water uphill into the storage tent while the rest took an afternoon siesta. These boys were reported to be good swimmers and fishermen.

...James Kamakaiwi and Killarney Opiopio waded out on the Howland shoal to help us beach our boat...Killarney had made a beautiful shell collection, numbering hundreds of specimens...James was a skilled turtle and squid fisherman.

...On the return voyage we stopped at Johnston Island for an inspection team. It was not suitable for an air base although Elmer and Arthur offered to stop off and colonize the island...

Sincerely,

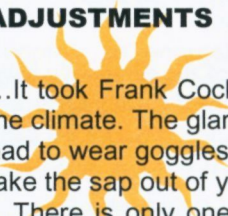
Don Mitchell



PROVISIONS

...We spent two days loading provisions on the United States Coast Guard Cutter *Itasca*. Loading such perishables as apples, oranges, eggs, potatoes, onions, and cookies. And such canned foods as, corn-beef, hard tack, chicken, bacon, ham, spinach, corn, beets, and other vegetables. We had everything in the way of clothing, fishing equipment, camping equipment, first aid, amusement facilities, tobacco and cigarettes of every brand--in boxes containing fifty cartons. We didn't miss a thing. Our water supply was brought in sterilized oil drums. Each drum held 55 gallons and each island received fifteen drums... George West '35, journal entry

ADJUSTMENTS



...It took Frank Cockett and myself two weeks to get adjusted to the climate. The glare of the sun on the white sand is blinding, we had to wear goggles everyday, and the heat is terrific. It seems to take the sap out of you and gives you a tired and worn feeling.

...There is only one tree on the island, a stunted coconut palm obviously planted...Birds are numerous on Jarvis...Together they number about six-hundred thousand. All of these birds subsist on fish. George West '35, journal

To the colonists...the remains of the 'Amaranth' proved a blessing. Its lumber was salvaged and provided shelter, comfort, recreation, and a means to obtain food from the sea. The settlers built shacks which enabled them to move from...tents; beds, surfboards, and a raft from which to fish off the reef. George West '35, *Honolulu Advertiser*, December 22, 1926

...Dinnertime found the four of us around a table--hundreds of mice running around in all directions---George West '35





CAMP

On Board Kinkajou
August 11, 1935

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

...We moved to a new camp site and we have built two terraces with sand stone that we put together without the use of any cement, with two flights of stairs, a brick walk with pebbles, a cook shed, four gardens and a coconut grove...

Yours truly,
Archie Ching

We are building paths to improve the appearance of the camp. We have found farming in any form out of the question. Planted garden seeds are eaten by the "mice." Everything dries up between showers and we can't spare fresh water. (Jarvis Island) *Panala'au Memoirs* by E.H. Bryan, Jr., p. 55

July 16, [1935] At last we have moved into the cottage. It has a lanai on which we can enjoy eating meals. Now we are making cupboards, shelves...We made a new cooking table and safe for dishes and silver. We can see the ocean while we eat... (Jarvis Island) *Panala'au Memoirs* by E.H. Bryan, Jr., p. 63.



FISHING

Our most popular diversion was fishing. Jarvis...is a fisherman's paradise. There are all kinds of fish, easy to catch and many of them are beautifully colored. We went fishing whenever the impulse took us, sometimes four or five times a day. To catch fish we either used nets, hook and line, or dived under water to shoot fish with iron spears...

The reef is lousy with lobsters. One night we caught nearly a sack-full of lobsters. For meat we relied on turtles... One day we caught a five-hundred pound turtle...We had delicious turtle soup, turtle steak, and plenty of lobster...We dried the remaining turtle meat in the sun and had enough dried meat until the next turtle came along.

Sometimes we would spend a whole day hooking sharks just for the fun of it. We'd either stun them and throw them back or extract their jaws for ornamental purposes. The ocean around Jarvis and the South Seas for that matter is literally infested with sharks. We have gone swimming with sharks only 50 yards from us and have thought nothing of it. But strange again, no matter where the place a shark will almost always attack a lone swimmer...

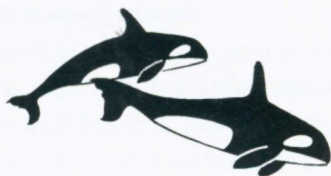
The sharks gave us plenty to worry about. One morning I was wading through the reef holding a bleeding fish...Suddenly I felt a heavy jerk...I soon discovered that in my hand was only the tail of what had been fish.



I must tell you about one of the noblest acts of bravery...Ships coming to Jarvis cannot anchor...In that very area of the drifting boat were sharks. Without one thought of self-preservation Daniel Toomey swam out and rescued the boat while the rest of us looked on helplessly. Another act of bravery was shown by Henry Ahia. The physician of the Itasca had become so engrossed in his fishing that he forgot about the dangers of the reef until he was sucked off the reef by an outgoing wave...Ahia swam out and rescued him. In a very short time that very scene became a mecca of sharks. The doctor, pale and frigid, lay unconscious for several minutes...

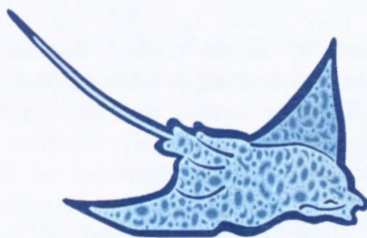
The nights on Jarvis are beautiful and cool. We used to sit out in the moonlight and sing until late...Then we'd go torching, returning at three o'clock we would have roasted lobsters and fish before finally going to bed at five a.m. That was our nightlife.

...an incident that in my opinion had probably never been witnessed by any living man. On this very afternoon while working we were stopped by the sight of the ocean covered with leaping porpoises...about five-hundred thousand.



July 5, [1935] Dan and Frank spent the morning fishing, catching 'o'o and uhu. (Jarvis Island) *Panala'au Memoirs* by E.H. Bryan, Jr., p. 62

July 15, [1935] Seeing large fins, Frank and George drifted out on the raft to try to catch sharks. The fins turned out to be the curving ends of an enormous stingray. It swam around the raft and caused a whirlpool...The Hawaiians call them *hihi-manu*. Fin tips may rise 5 feet above the water. (Jarvis Island) *Panala'au Memoirs* by E.H. Bryan, Jr., p. 63



Just what did the panala'au eat?

"We had lobster tails coming out of our Bill exclaims, " And the wana--ho! Big as a basketball and fat, too! All you had



ears,"

to do to catch fish was get a stick and hit the fishes on the head."

...He smiles, remembering his carefree days in the sun. "It was paradise." Interview with William Hutchinson '38 in *Panala'au Memories*, IMUA, Spring 1993.

EXCITEMENTS

"Say, Mr. Mitchell you should be here to see how much fun we're having with the sand-sharks and how much fun the bigger and more vicious ones are having with us. The later mentioned are the tiger sharks, dark bluish in color and about eight



to ten feet in length.

We ought to know that these tiger sharks are laughing at us for as I sit and write to you...I recall an incident on Saturday noon July 27, when William Toomey and I each speared an Uluu apiece each weighing close to fifty pounds apiece.

While I dove after my unfortunate victim, and just as I was swimming to the higher ledge of the reef, I spotted a ten foot tiger shark come and circle about me. I took a deep breath and then swam in as far as I could underwater, keeping the shark always in line with my spear joint, jabbing it a few times.

William who left for a moment to put his catch on the beach, immediately rushed to aid me in keeping the shark away by pounding viciously on the water with his spear and hand. Just by that commotion that Bill caused, made the shark hesitate to either get my fish or any part of my brown and tanned meat.

My heart and Bill's were up our throats but after we were safe and sound and all in one piece, we sat down and had a big laugh.

Fifteen minutes later we saw about eight or nine great big Uluus in the crest of the wave just as it was breaking in over the reef. Bill looked at

me and I looked at him, and before we knew it, we were out there swimming and spearing again.

This time Bill caught one and as he and I went for it, two sharks just "UPS," from nowhere and one gulp and only spear and head were left. Boy! You should have seen Bill and I, "body surf in to shore in nothing flat. Only once did we try to fish out there since this exciting incident occurred.

A little about the Sandy ones and then I must say adieu.

You saw those "yellow striped" finned sharks I am sure, well these sharks in only a foot of water on the reefs can swim as fast and as well as in the deep.

We used to be chased by these low down cowardly creatures in the days past, but now, deep, shallow, or dry, we have no fear of this type of shark mentioned and now everything is vice versa and it will stay that way always.

I hope you are not tired from reading this poorly written uneven and badly penciled letter. (Please excuse writing rush.)

Closing with best of luck and success to you and my people and friends. I am.

Yours truly

James Christian Kamakaiwi Jr.

Major Howland Island.

From a letter to Mr. Mitchell dated August 10, 1935.

HOUSEHOLD CHORES

GARBAGE

May 10, [1935]. Work on the new waterhole has been discontinued because of cave-in possibilities. A depth of nearly 12 feet was reached. It will be used for garbage. (Jarvis Island) *Panala'au Memoirs*, E.H. Bryan, Jr., p. 58

WATER

June 15, [1935]. The *Itasca* was sighted...This ends the log as kept by Graf. It was continued by George West...Fresh supplies were landed; also 15 new drums of water...The particular handshake of Mr. Judd and the tone of his words were so sincere and well meaning that they touched us all. We would all make good for Kamehameha (Schools) and all other Hawaiians. (Jarvis Island) *Panala'au Memoirs* by E.H. Bryan, Jr., p. 59.

HOUSEHOLD REMEDIES

July 27, [1935] ...A bug crawled into George's ear and made him feel very uncomfortable. We flushed the ear with coconut oil and warm water. July 28, [1935]...he believes that the bug is still inside...(Jarvis Island) *Panala'au Memoirs* by E.H. Bryan, Jr., p. 65, 66.

An ear infection. (July 11, 1936) "Markham is now suffering with a boil in his right ear...I dropped lukewarm cooking oil in his ear this evening for half an hour, and it relieved the pain a great deal...(July 17) "Since there are four boils in Markham's one ear, a lot of waste matter oozes out one evening, and then the next evening I found a lot more puss in the channel. There is still a lot more in his ear, which is very puzzling to me." (Howland Island), *Panala'au Memoirs* by E.H. Bryan, Jr., p. 102-103.

INVENTORY

July 31, [1935] We took a monthly inventory of ourselves: Physical condition good. We live in a spacious cottage made from pieces of a shipwreck. Air and sunlight abundant; ventilation perfect. Nights are cool....The kitchen is out of doors...We ran out of potatoes two weeks ago. Onions will be used up in two or three days. One can of ham has spoiled. We have enough poi for the month of August. Rice will last two weeks more. We have half a bag of sugar and enough cream to last until the end of August. We have lots of corn, peas, and corned beef; sausages will be exhausted soon, and so will peaches and pineapples. Canned apples are good for weeks to come. Kerosene and water will last for months. There should be a ship on the horizon soon. A chop sui dinner will be given to the first to sight it. (Jarvis Island) *Panala'au Memoirs* by E.H. Bryan Jr., p. 66.

NATURAL FOOD

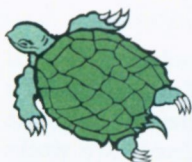
Nov. 7 [1935] Dan, Kenneth and Louis caught 197 *aholehole* in Dan's surround net...They used some of the fish as bait to catch sharks...Louis caught two sharks, and Kenneth caught two red snappers and four other fishes. Seventy *aholehole* were cleaned and dried, also all next day. (Jarvis Island) *Panala'au Memoirs* by E.H. Bryan Jr., p. 79.

Nov.22 [1935] Kenneth caught, cleaned, cooked and ate a young bos'n bird... *Panala'au Memoirs* by E.H. Bryan, p. 80.

Dec. 17, [1935] Henry, Dan and Louis went net fishing north of camp and caught 150 *aholehole*. They cleaned 45 for the next three meals, also 25 for drying. The balance was thrown back into the ocean. The next few days followed the same pattern. The number of *aholehole* caught were as follows: Dec. 18, 62; 19th, 50; 20th, 45; 21st, 56; 22nd, 60; 23, 35; 42th 40. (Jarvis Island) *Panala'au Memoirs* by E.H. Bryan, Jr., p. 83.

Feb 23 [1936] Henry recording...He sewed two bug bags together to make a net, with a four foot mouth. Kenneth also made a fishing bag out of brown canvas. They have made fish drying an "industry." (Jarvis Island) *Panala'au Memoirs* by E.H. Bryan Jr. , p. 93.

OTHER NATURAL FOODS



BREAKFAST



Breakfast usually about 7:00; a mainstay... Toomey and Ahia like the water and supply us with marine food, both fish and lobsters.

(Jarvis Island) *Panala'au Memoirs* by E.H. Bryan, Jr., p. 55.



12-11-35 Folinga who is our cook today fried the fishes caught last night for breakfast. Cold tomatoe juice, pork & beans, hot cakes and good strong coffee made up a very dandy and appetizing breakfast. Howland Island, Diary of James Kamaka 'iwi '34.

COOKING

April 18, [1935] while cooking breakfast the oil stove caught fire. Graf dragged it out of the tent and put a wet blanket over it; but the stove was damaged beyond use. Work began immediately on a fireplace a few feet southwest of the kitchen tent. Breakfast was delayed, but not for long.

(Jarvis Island) *Panala'au Memoirs* by E.H. Bryan, Jr., p. 56.

EGGLESS PANCAKES

A handful of flour
Water to make a paste
A little oil
A little salt
Fry to taste

July 25, [1935] Ever since we started having...[eggless]... pancakes for breakfast every morning, a competition has been on. Everyone has tried to claim the title of champion pancake eater...(Jarvis Island) *Panala'au Memoirs* by E.H. Bryan, Jr., p. 65.

PANCAKES



September 3, [1935] For the first time since leaving the Itasca we have eggs to eat; fried eggs for breakfast and some in our pancake dough. Fresh fruits, butter and rice were also received. (Jarvis Island) *Panala'au Memoirs* by E.H. Bryan, Jr., p. 70.

Oct.21 [1935]



In the evening, Kenneth and Louis went into the field to collect booby eggs. They got a total of seven to eat for breakfast tomorrow. (Jarvis Island) *Panala'au Memoirs* by E.H. Bryan, Jr., p. 76

BOOBY BIRD PANCAKES



October 27, [1935] This morning we put bos'n bird eggs in our hot cakes. It made the cakes fluffy and gave them color. Out of fourteen eggs collected four were good...(Jarvis Island) *Panala'au Memoirs* by E.H. Bryan, Jr. , p. 77.

November 3, [1935] ...Kenneth collected eggs of a booby and a bos'n; boiling made them just like rubber... (Jarvis Island) *Panala'au Memoirs* by E.H. Bryan, Jr. , p. 78.

1-1-36 A new day, a new month and a new year find the four of us in good health and physical condition...We were up very early this morning assisting Killarney, who was to-days cook, bake muffins for breakfast. We wanted a very special breakfast this morning so we had fried ham with onions, vienna sausages, pork & beans and tomato juice. Good strong coffee was enjoyed with the muffins. For fruits, we had yellow cling peaches. Howland Island, Diary of James Kamakaiwi '34.

1-4-36 Folinga was to-days cook so at six, he was up and in the kitchen baking biscuits for breakfast. We had fried corned beef smothered with onions, peas and coffee...Peaches were enjoyed as fruit. Howland Island, Diary of James Kamakaiwi '34.

LUNCH

October 20 [1935] Another Sunday. Dan collected shells before breakfast and also



spearred a large-size moana [goatfish] which was enjoyed for lunch... (Jarvis Island) *Panala'au Memoirs* by E.H. Bryan, Jr., p. 75.



Dec.26. [1935] Henry...stewed a "quail" bird, which Louis had caught, with tomatoes and dill pickles for lunch. Some though...it was "delicious"; others were less enthusiastic, but at least it filled their stomachs. (Jarvis Island) *Panala'au Memoirs* by E.H. Bryan, Jr., p. 83.

DINNER

Generally

...The evening meal is eaten between 6:30 and 7:30. After that we talk, tell stories, play cards or checkers, practice on the mouth-organ, or sometimes catch insects around the light. (Jarvis Island) *Panala'au Memoirs* by E.H. Bryan, Jr., p. 55.

Specifically

April 25, [1935],...A supper of sweet potatoes, cabbage slaw, pea soup, wieners, crackers, jam and other nicknacks was highly enjoyed. (Jarvis Island) *Panala'au Memoirs* by E.H. Bryan, Jr., p. 57.

May 3, [1935] While helping Aune get supper, Toomey spilled some hot cooking oil and burned his legs and feet. Through prompt treatment, although huge blisters formed, they were nearly healed in about three weeks. (Jarvis Island) *Panala'au Memoirs* by E.H. Bryan, Jr., p. 57.

May 29, [1935] Ahia had good success baking in an improvised oven. He strives for variety and tries many new things. We relish his baked dishes. He and Aune worked together last evening on "peach cobbler." (Jarvis Island) *Panala'au Memoirs* by E.H. Bryan, Jr., p. 59.

Supper, June 4--pea soup, tomatoes, fried fish, boiled squid, navy beans, sauerkraut, called a "meal fit for a king." (Jarvis Island) *Panala'au Memoirs* by E.H. Bryan, Jr., p. 59.

June 15, [1935]...In the midst of our supper we remembered that we had forgotten to lower the flag, so we rushed out and did so in true American style. (Jarvis Island) *Panala'au Memoirs* by E.H. Bryan Jr., p. 60.

September 19, [1935] Just before lunch, two large fish were noticed swimming around the bathing place. They...were believed to be either 'o'io or 'a'awa. Dan's surrounding net was used...but one broke through...and got away. The other...weighed 60 pounds. Some we had for supper, and the rest was dried. (Jarvis Island) *Panala'au Memoirs* by E.H. Bryan, Jr., p. 72.

Sept. 27 [1935] "The boys caught 12 manini and 2 octopus, so we had broiled fish and stewed octopus for dinner." Oct. 12. "15 manini and one squid." Nov. 5. "unexpected calm of the sea; fishing 12 big ula'ulanehe; ate two raw, one cooked, and dried the rest." Nov. 9" caught a squid and 3 lobsters." etc. etc." (Baker Island) *Panala'au Memoirs*, E. H. Bryan, Jr., p. 116.



Nov. 6 [1935]

Bill Chadwick hooked an octopus which measured about 8 feet from tip to tip. After considerable pounding and boiling, half was fried for supper and the rest dried. (Jarvis Island) *Panala'au Memoirs* by E.H. Bryan, Jr., p. 79.

12-11-36 Lobster salad, spinach, rice, coffee and hard tack made up our menu for tonight's supper. Howland Island, Diary of James Kamakaiwi '34.

12-12-35 At eleven Killarney and Folinga went out to fish at the north point and returned with three good size Uu's and a *Weke*. These were fried for supper. Tomatoe juice, poi, squids, beans, coffee and hotcakes made up a delicious supper. Howland Island, Diary of James Kamakaiwi '34.

12-29-35 Chopped meat from a bachelor Boobie was fried for supper by Anakalea. Spices had to be used to take away the fishy smell. It may do for emergency rations but as a regular dish—I am anti-Boobie. Howland Island, Diary of James Kamakaiwi '34.

Holiday Meals



Nov. 28. "This is Thanksgiving day, but the sea doesn't seem to know it. It is still angry and rumbling like a spoiled tiger. Having no turkey, chicken or pig did not spoil our Thanksgiving

Day party a bit. Caught two booby birds and introduced them to the cook. The cook curried one and stewed the other...That was something to be thankful for." (Baker Island) *Panala'au Memoirs* by E.H. Bryan, Jr., p. 119.

Dec 25 [1935] The flag was flown in observance of Christmas Day. The ham was cooked for Christmas dinner. (Jarvis Island) *Panala'au Memoirs* by E.H. Bryan, p. 83.



Washington's Birthday

One bright, fine morning on February 22, 1936, Solomon Kalama and Alex decided to go fishing across from the camp...Within a short period sufficient fish and lobsters to last for several days were caught. (1) *aholehole* or mountain bass...(2) *uhu* or parrot fish...found throughout the coral reef...(3) *manini* or surgeon fish...(4)...lobsters...(5)...*aweoweo* or big eye is a nocturnal feeder...Returning...Joe...select[ed]... the best fish for the planned big holiday feast...Alex and Henry cleaned, scaled and salted the fish and placed them on a screen wire for drying, then removed them to the stone wall directly in front of the camp. The lobsters were kept in a temporary



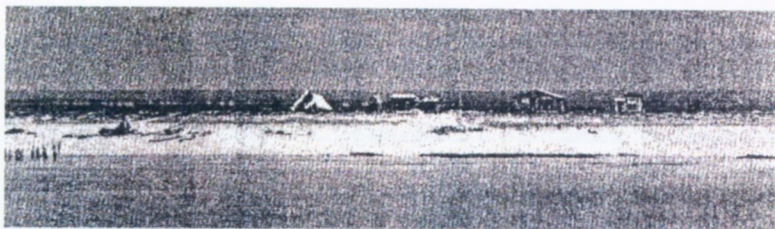
fifty-gallon drum, to be eaten as needed.

That day an agreement was made to have one big meal for the day. For preparation, everyone starved himself...Responsible for the meat and bakery department were Joe and Solomon. Henry and Alex were responsible for the fish and lobster. The menu for the holiday meal consisted of fried and steamed fish, smothered with onions; mashed potatoes; beets, lobster salad and charcoaled lobster; fried ham mixed with pineapple; peaches; coffee; and fruit cocktail. And naturally, canned poi...The big meal was scheduled for 4 o'clock ...to provide sufficient time for everyone to complete his assigned chores.

At approximately 1 o'clock, the whole group decided to take a swim in front of the camp. Within one and a half hours, everyone was seized with unbearable hunger pains...

So the combined breakfast, lunch and supper meal was advanced to 3:30. At long last...Every dish tasted delectable, even one's least favorite food...The perfect day ended with group singing over the calm ripple of the gentle ocean waves... *Alika, the Hawaiian*, Volume I by Alexander N. Kahapea, pp. 21-23.

NO DESSERT: THE BITTERSWEET END



Sunday, Dec. 7, [1941] was just like any other day to us until 6 in the afternoon...In the morning we took the weather as usual but...were unable to get Canton and we didn't want to bother Honolulu. Meanwhile we had given the news of the war by radio to the four weather observers stationed at Baker Island only 35 miles away. Toward noon all four of us were down on the beach, cleaning fish and putting them out to dry. Suddenly Joe Keliihanani looked up and saw 14 twin-engined bombers flying in high from the north west. They didn't look like American planes and they came from the wrong direction. Acting on a hunch that something was wrong, we all ran to the high spot (about 20 ft. above sea level) in the center of the island. There was a low grove of dead and decaying kou trees which partially camouflaged us. Joe and Dick Whaley went together, while Elvin Mattson and I stayed together.

From a height of about 10,000 ft. the bombers let us have it. They dropped about 20 bombs, then turned and came back over the islands, dropping some ten more. The explosions shook the ground under our feet and the smoke concealed almost everything from our view. Mattson thought he heard a scream, but we couldn't be sure...we didn't have as much as a single revolver. Mattson and I lay flat in a clump of bushes 100 ft. from where Joe and Dick were hiding. As we watched, three Jap planes came in lower than before, machine-gunning the Government buildings and the radio station.

When the planes finally left, Mattson and I walked over to where Dick and Joe were lying. They had been badly hit. They were both hurt in the legs and one had a chest wound and a hole in his back. We were going to fix up a place to put them, but by the time we got something arranged, they were dead.

That night Mattson and I were not going to take any chances of getting caught in the building if the Japs should come bombing again. We got our blankets and clothes and slept out in the open.

Two days later the Japs did come again. This time it was a submarine. We saw it at 2 in the morning. It was a dark night, with a light rain and no moon. We could see this dark gray shadow, looking big and sinister, just outside the reef. We knew that as soon as dawn came we were in for trouble. To make ourselves as safe as possible, we fled that night to the other side of the island, away from the buildings, and there dug a dirt trench two and one-half feet deep, camouflaged with grass. We hoped the submarine would not spot us. At 7 in the morning the sub started shelling. What looked like shells from 3- and 5-in. guns crashed into the sides of the buildings, knocking down all our radio apparatus and putting the weather station out of business for good. We expected sailors from the sub to land but they never did. By noon they had left and we were alone again.

Then we had the problem of getting enough food and water to live on. I guess we were pretty lucky. We caught enough rain water to prevent us from getting very thirsty and there was still canned corned beef, pork and a few canned vegetables left in the ruins of the Government buildings. To get some variety we continued to go fishing and we developed a special fondness for wild birds, especially young terns which could be caught by simply walking up to them and grabbing them. Our matches we protected by hiding them in several secret spots around the island. On Christmas and New Year's Day we had special treats. Originally there had been five chickens on the island but three of them had been killed by the bombing and shelling. We ate the other two on Christmas and New Year's to help celebrate the holidays and to remind us of what we were missing at home.

By Jan. 1, nearly a month after the first bombing attack, we were convinced that we were in the middle of this war's no man's land and that we would probably have to stay there for the duration. On Jan. 5, we have some more excitement. A big four-motored Jap bomber came in at about 12,000 ft. and dropped bombs near the buildings. At the time we happened to be nearby, looking for food. By the time the bomber had turned and was coming back to drop more bombs, however, we had quickly hurried to the other side of the island where our dugout was still located. Then what looked like the same bomber returned on Jan. 24 and dropped more sticks of bombs, we were safe in the dugout.

After Jan. 5, when we saw that bombers were likely to return at any minute, we stayed hidden all day long in our dugout. There we played checkers, read and slept. At night we would go back to camp for dinner by the stove, which was still intact, then lay our mattresses out in the open and sleep there. We never lit any lights of any kind at night.

Then came the morning of Jan. 31. Just after dawn on the west side of the island, we saw a dark gray destroyer...over the horizon. We couldn't be sure what nationality it was but we imagined it was Japanese...a landing party to seize the island formally. A half hour later we saw the landing party...We watched them for awhile and then knowing they would find us sooner or later, decided to give ourselves up to them. When we were within 100 feet my heart gave a terrific jump and I was happy for the first time in many weeks. They were...Americans. A few minutes later Mattson and I were taken aboard the American destroyer...

By noon that day the destroyer was off Baker Island, where in spite of a heavy pounding surf we rescued the four boys who had been marooned there since war started. All six of us were thirsty, hungry and almost naked. When we finally landed in Hawaii, our families thought we were risen from the dead.

"Howland Island Rescue: Destroyer saves two after 53-day marooning"
by Thomas Bederman, *Life Magazine*, March 9, 1942, pp. 55, 57, 58, 60.

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE:

[http://kapalama.ksbe.edu/
archives/historical.htm](http://kapalama.ksbe.edu/archives/historical.htm)

A commemorative booklet
to
celebrate the Bishop Museum Exhibit
Hui Panalā'au
at
Midkiff Learning Center
Kamehameha Schools
Kapālama Campus

November 6 - December 5, 2002



In honor of the 51 Kamehameha Schools students and alumni
who participated in the settlement of remote islands in the
equatorial Pacific from 1935 to 1942

Mahalo nui loa!

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