NOTES

Introduction


Chapter 1: Early Days (1915–September 1941)

1. Yokoi used two different Japanese words for the same thing, section (buntai) and squad (han). This translation follows his distinction throughout.
2. This paragraph has been inserted by the editor.

Chapter 2: To Where Are We Going To Be Posted? (February–March 1944)

1. Yokoi used two different Japanese words for the same thing, section (buntai) and squad (han). This translation follows the original distinction throughout.
2. This sentence has been inserted by the editor from the original author’s account given to Chūnichi Newspaper, Kaisō Yokoi Shōichi, No. 17, 5 July 1972.

Chapter 3: ‘Deployment’ in Guam (March–July 1944)

1. This paragraph is slightly adapted and altered by the editor.
2. A local Chamorro word for a variety of lime.
3. The Chamorro word for cycad nut is laguna. Federico is Spanish (Frederick).
4. A Chamorro word for the local variety of hibiscus tree.
5. Infection by the parasitic round worm Ascaris lumbricoides.
Notes

6. A Chamorro word for the local variety of foxtail grass. Yokoi called it ‘thatch’ (kaya).
7. Yokoi wrongly described ‘Agent Red’ as ‘tear-gas’. The secrets of the ‘Epidemic Control and Water Supply Squad’ could not have been known to him. Tear-gas was ‘Agent Green’. ‘Agent Red’ was of greater toxicity, and caused severe vomiting and coughing. In July 1944, Prime Minister Tōjō forbade the use of any biochemical weapons, lest the Allies launch superior ones. As these agents were normally used against unprotected targets like popular resistance in China, it seems likely that the chemicals were on Guam for fear of local revolts.
8. This is around what is today’s Potts Junction near the Anderson Air Force Base.
9. The Japanese Navy had already lost its aircraft carriers. Their fleet was soon to be nearly annihilated in the battle of Leyte, the Philippines, in October 1944.
10. This sentence has been inserted from its place in the original, at the beginning of Chapter 4.

Chapter 4: The US Invasion: ‘Attack the Americans and Die!’
(21 July–6 August 1944)

1. Yokoi realized in retrospect that this was not a worthwhile battle but one without military or strategic purpose or value.
2. The beginning of this chapter has been moved to the previous chapter. The official history is contained in the Japanese Defence Agency, National Institute for Defence Studies, Senshi Sosho (Military History Series) vol. 6, Chibun Taiheiyu Rikugun Sakusen No. 1, Mariana Gyokusai-made (Army Operations in the Central Pacific Theatre, up to the Loss of the Mariana Islands), Chō-un Shimbun-sha, Tokyo, 1967, pp. 569–70.
3. This paragraph has been inserted by the editor from its original place in Chapter 12.
4. This paragraph has been inserted by the editor.
5. In reality, it was the rainy season.
7. The US renamed it ‘Nimitz Hill’ after the war.
8. A hill north of Mt Chaochao. There is no local name for it.

Chapter 5: The Last Days of Our Platoon
(6 August–September 1944)

2. A tropical aroid plant, Colocasia esculenta, with tuberous roots used as food [Polynesian].