

War Era Story Project 2012

Submitted by: Fred Haeberle

Current home town: Delaware, Ohio

Age: Not given

We were on the island of New Georgia in the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific. I was told to take my platoon down a trail to see what or who was down there. We started out down the trail. In a short time, it split into two trails. We decided to wait and see if anyone came down either trail. I leaned back against a tree trunk and put a cigarette in my mouth. My sergeant turned his lighter on to light my cigarette. He kept his hands down low so if anyone came down either trail they would not see the flame. I bent down to get a light. After I had bent down about 5 inches, a Jap sniper put a bullet into the middle of where my head had been. Thank heaven he waited until I had bent my head. The guys in my platoon finished him off in a hurry.