

Historical Data

PROVISIONAL AIR CORPS REGT

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PROVISIONAL AIR CORPS REGT.

2d Bn. composed of 27th Bomb Group Story by Capt. Haltom *Freight*
1st Bn. of mixed units-Materiel Squadrons etc.
27th Bomb arrived Nov. 20, 1941 from Savannah, Ga minus planes.
52 A 24's (dive bombers) were on "Meigs" & were side tracked to
Australia. Had c 75 pilots & 750 troops. Maj. James Davies,
c.o. Maj. Vance, ex (to Brereton's staff); Maj. Sewell, c. o.
after Davis flew to Australia. Dec. 15 with 35-40 pilots to
procure planes. Went in B-18's. Never returned. Others
went later in subs & 2 or 3 by plane.

At McKinley, Dec. 8 on Division Parade Ground. Dec. 24
to Bataan. Lt. Col. Sewell, 2d Bn. comm. Lt. L. G. Stevenson,
c.o. 16th Squadron; Capt. Stirling, 17th Sqd; Capt W. Scott
Haltom, 91st Sqd. Lt. Jay A. Ryan, Hq. Sqd. Capt. Mark Wohl-
feld, bn. ex. _____
1st Bn. c.o. & Lt. Col. Laughinghouse, Maj. Maverick, ex.
(later c. o. & Lt. Col. Laughinghouse became Col. & went to
rear. Regtl Commander Col. Doane, Inf. (31st?)
Dec. 24-16th Sqd. to Bataan field. Rest to bivouac at Silayan.
Reserve of Philippine Division till Jan. 6. Moved to Orion
reserve line that day. Jan 20-to Abucay vicinity of Guitol (?)
where 51st had left. Patrolled but had no contact. After
Abucay-Hacienda they became Provisional Air-Corps Regt. in
Sub-Sector B on MLR, 1st Bn on rt, 31st Inf PA on their rt. 2d
Bn. on left with 41st on their left. No 3d Bn.

Patrolled & were bombed. Very few casualties from bomb-
ing not more than a dozen for whole period. c 6 KIA on patrol.
Once strafed church steeple at Balanga for artillery, OP but
results ng. Stole from enemy & Japs from them. Raided their
peanuts, molasses barrel; once ate a hot Jap breakfast.

After break attempted a line at Pandan? river north of
Mariveles & then broke up. Every man for himself. Haltom &
25 men got to Corregidor.

NB, Lt. Heinzl of 19th BOMB GROUP SAID 19th was on fields
during war. Only some em. were DS to line.

COPIED FROM PROJECT "J" ARCHIVES:

File: 999-2-214 Bk 1
Title: Diary (War)
Origin: Property of Major Calvin F. Chunn
Dates: 1942
Authenticity: True Certified Copy of Originals

Source: These records were recovered from Cabanatuan
POW Camp #1 on 29 Apr 46 by Archives Sec,
RPD.

Pages: 141 thru 142

A TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

T. H. Mehler

T. H. MEHLER
CWO, USA
Asst Adjutant

EXTRACT FROM DIARY OF MAJ. CALVIN F. CHUNN (PAGES 120-122)

RECOVERED FROM CABANATUAN POW CAMP NO 1. ON 29 APRIL 1946

PROJECT "J" ARCHIVE 999-2-214 BK 1.

(Dec. 1941 and Jan. 1942)

Dec. 25-started at night for Bataan. Dec. 26-in Manila trying to buy tires for old trucks. Arrived at Balanga that night. Regt1. CP established there. Batteries to positions vicinity of Abucay as anti-tank defense. Placed in groupment with 23d FA under command of Lt. Col. Atkinson. Later 23d left with 31st Inf (US) for Hermosa battle & got shot up. 41st took 23d positions.

g Jan. 8-moved n & w of Abucay g 1800 yds. back of MTR.
g Jan. 12-supported 42d & 43d Infs. No observation except a tree platform & 3 PA officers on MTR.

Jan. 13-artillery duel, 6 KIA in 3d Bn. by bombs. 1st Bn. on rt, 2d in center, 3d left. 1st Bn. had rice stacks over guns. No other cover. Japs used a harmless smoke shell to target in. Jones, 1st Bn. silenced 5 btrys. 1 afternoon, 2d Bn had mgunners KIA when they got out of fox holes. 3d bn. moved to end of Hacienda rd. (1st Lt. Davey to 3d Bn. Dec.22/ Promotions for Lts D. 19, Col. Moore later). Fired rolling barrages for attacks & special missions for Inf.

Jan. 24-D Btry. fired all night as shell to cover Inf. w/d. Rest of regt, w/d at dusk to bivouac west of Orion when they stayed night of 25. Jan. 26-to positions in rear & supporting Prov. AC/ & 23d Inf. Support firing; little counter battery. 1 gun disabled by fragment in tube. Ord. fixed in 2 days.

Jan. 28-Col Moore reld. & ordered to I Corps as artillery commander. Col. Martelino also to I Corps as artillery supply. Lt Col D. W. Lockwood became c.o & Capt Larry Smarr, asst.

*all am
etc/avn*

EXTRACT FROM NOTEBOOK #1 - DIARY OF MAJOR Wm J. PRIESTLEY

South Luzon Force - Bataan Force - II Philippine Corps

Brief Outline of Activities Prior to and During War

Prior to the outbreak of hostilities on about Sept 1 a SLF Hq in skeleton form was created and functioned briefly. This Hq consisted of Brig. Gen Geo Parker, Lt. Col. C O Wilson, Lt. Col. H. D. Johnston, Capt. Arthur Christensen and Capt. Homer Uglow. Units to be included under this command were not inducted until somewhat later and the troops thus received practically no training before the war started. Only two regiments the 42nd & 52d Infs. were inducted on Sept 1 and no others immediately thereafter.

The elements of the command were drawn up as follows: Nov 1 - 41st & 51st Infs. mobilized and started training, Nov. 24th - 43rd & 53rd Infs, 41st F. A and 41st & 51st Engrs. On Dec 1 the 41st and 51st Med. Bns. Signal Cos, Hq & Hq Cos, & QM Service Co, so that on Dec 8 the state of the SLF was: 41st Div complete less 1 Anti Tank Bn 51st Div complete less 1 Anti Tank Bn & 51st F.A. and 1st & 2d P. C. (inducted in Mid. Nov and assigned for training only) released at beginning of war.

The 41st & 51st Divs. were inducted and trained in S. Luzon what little training they did have and at the outbreak they were sent to their defensive positions on the beaches. The boundary between division running along a general line thru Lemery & Pancipit Rs.-Id. in Lake Taal - Tagaytay and Las Pinas inclusive to the 41st Div. The rest of the coastline was defended by the 51st Div with Manila sector unoccupied due to location of the fortified Ids. On Dec 29th the 1st Reg Div was assigned to the beaches between Infanta & Mauban inclusive and was given the road net in rear of it.

On about Dec 12 the Japanese landed at Legaspi after previously bombing Davao, Legaspi, Nichols Field, Cavite and sections in the BLF territory and started to move N towards the main part of Luzon by rail and by road. Units of the 52nd Inf were sent S to meet them -one Co. along the road and one Bn was split up - its elements being drawn and given different missions - to contact and delay the enemy as long as possible, destroy bridges and military equipment and impede the progress of the enemy as much as they were able.

The Second Phase of SLF activities began on Dec 24 when the enemy landed in force at Atimonan and Mauban. The units of the 52d sent S encountered many adventures of war not covered here, some being out off and breaking thru - others making their way N to join their organization later. On the afternoon of Dec 24 Gen Parker's Hq. was moved to Bataan and the Bataan Force consisting of the 31st Div. 41st Div., parts of the Phil Div., Hq and other misc. units. Gen Jones took command of the SLF upon Gen Parker's departure (his Div. the 41st having reverted to the Bataan Force).

By the night of Dec 24th the "Js" had crossed the Mts. at Atimonan to Malibay and at Mauban had reached the Zig-Zag at Sampaloc. The enemy from Atimonan advanced in successive states and by nightfall of the 25th were at Lucena, Tayabas, 26th Candelaria, 27th Tiaong and on the night of 27-28 contact was broken in that area as the troops were ordered to Bataan. At Mauban the 1st Inf less 1 Bn retreated to positions on the Laguna-Tayabas boundary night of Dec. 25, Louisiana 26th broke contact on the 27th and withdrew to Bataan via Pagsanjan, Sta. Cruz, Los Banos and Manila. One Bn at Tignauan remained there until the 28th with no contact and withdrew on the 28th. The regiments in the SLF were reshuffled on the night of the 27th and were shuttled into Bataan - no contact being made with the enemy. By Dec 31st Gen. Jones and his Hq. had arrived at Plaridel & contacted Gen. Wainwright. By order of USAFFE Gen Jones was put in command of remains of the 71st & 91st Divs, then at Baliuag and stayed there to cover the withdrawal of the SLF thru them Dec 31st - Jan 1. By morning of the 1st those units and Gen Jones arrived in Bataan and the SLF ceased to exist. (Note: Assg'd to SLF prior to this date and moved to Tagaytay pos. was the Prov. Constab. Brigade. Three days were absorbed moving in and thru more out - no contact being made with the enemy).

As part of the 3d Phase of the SLF the Bataan Force existed from Dec. 24 - Jan 6 its function having been to organize the position in Bataan and assist in their occupancy.

By the night of Jan 5-6 the last elements of the NLF had withdrawn into Bataan leaving the covering force at Layac Jct. exposed to the enemy. Organized from right to left in line the pos. contained the 71st Div, 31st Inf (US), and 26th Cav. At 8:00 A Jan 6 our art'y sighted the enemy and began to register on them and at 9:00 A.J. art'y appeared on the road to be re-

inforced by other art'y units soon thereafter and a fierce art'y duel ensued. The "Js" also bombarded portion of the 31st Inf with superior fire and by nightfall the right of the 31st and part of the 71st Div had pulled back. At about 10 P. the entire line was ordered withdrawal behind the Abucay position which movement was executed in great confusion. The 26th Cav, not receiving the order was cut off and withdrew through the Mts. One Bn of the (23d) P.A. was badly shot up and lost all but one gun. The 1st Bn of the 88th FA retreated in order saving all guns.

The Main Battle Position previously organized, was occupied originally by the II Philippine units from right to left 57th Inf, 41st Division and 51st Div, the 57th turning its flank on the beach at Matabang and the 51st Div tying in with the I Corps at Mt. Natib. This position was shelled almost constantly daily particularly on the left flank of the 41st Div, and the right of the 51st Div. The Js effected a penetration in that sector and between the 41st Div, and 57th Inf left and the 31st Inf (US) and 45th Inf (PS) were sent in to counter attack at Abucay hacienda, the 21st Div being sent in to reinforce the MTR on the front of the 41st Div. The counter attack was successful, heavy casualties being inflicted on the enemy and mopping up operation were in progress when the retreat in the I Corps Sector made a withdrawal from the Main Battle Position to the Reserve Orion-Bagac pos. necessary. Some Js had infiltrated thru the reserve Orion-Bagac pos. had the withdrawal not been made.

The withdrawal was accomplished with a considerable confusion during which aggressive action by "J" art'y, air corps and ground troops might have ended the war before the end of January. The position was occupied and divided into subsector as follows from the beach near Limay-North to, Orion - to the Pantingan. SS-A under Col. Irwin- 31st Inf. PA, PA Air Corps Bn, and PA Training Cadre; SS-B-Col Doanes - Prov. Regt. U.S.A. Air Corps, SS-C Gen Blumel - 41st Inf (to March 1), 31st Div less 31st & 33rd Infs, 51st Combat team, SS-D Gen Lough - 21st Div on Right - 41st Div. on left and 33rd Inf on extreme left flank prior to Mar. 1 after which it became Corps reserve and the 41st Inf went from SS-C to SS-B. The Philippine Division, part of which was to have occupied the front line was broken up as Corps and Army Reserve and was employed piecemeal wherever necessity dictated. Its Hq continued to exist under Gen. Lough but never until the final futile effort was it brought together in any attempt at concerted effort. Gen. Lough was killed by nightfall of the 31st. The enemy also forced his way up inside of the 31st in April. The 1st Lt. 51st Inf having been ordered to 1st Lt. 51st Inf to be disposal of Gen. Lough.

The Reserve Battle Position was further prepared and fortified after occupancy - lowlands flooded, trenches dug, camouflage created, barbed wire strung etc & patrol action was constant but not pressure was exerted until the first of April. Here as in the I Corps the "Js" entrenched and awaited reinforcements.

Toward the latter part of March enemy truck, tank and artillery columns were sighted on the roads and near areas and it was obvious that an offensive had been planned. This push came beginning April 3 at about 8 A with intensive shelling, dive bombing, high level bombing and a general attack in the 42d Inf area and by nightfall these units had retreated in confusion down trails #6 and #29 to trail #6, the 42d Inf completely disintegrating and disappearing. The 43d Inf was contacted by Gen Lough and ordered to reorg. and moved back up #6 on April 4. However, it was again hit by mass artillery, broke up and disappeared. The 41st Inf. not so hard hit moved N along the road and was not attached in force. On the night of April 4, the 33d Inf in Corps Res. Along Tr #44, about 1 Km N of #6 & 44, was ordered N to reinforce the line, but was not heard from thereafter. On April 4th "J" tanks appeared along the Pilar-Bagac road, some started down trail #28 and went back, and a number worked down the Pilar-Bagac Road behind the MIA of the 21st Div along the Talisay R. The 21st Div then withdrew under pressure to the RRT on the slopes of Mt. Samat. In the face of these attacks and withdrawal by the night of Apr 4 the line existed with a large salient in SS-1 and units were located as follows: 41st Inf on extreme left astride trail #29, a large Jap on its right to the 21st Div on the forward slopes of Mt. Samat, 51st CI, 32d Inf, Prov. AC Regt, 31st Inf PA AC Bn and the PATC. The 31st Inf US had been ordered from its bivouac area to Jct to trs #2 & #10 on April 4 and was in that area that night.

On April 5 the enemy moved down tr #6 and across the face of Samat and by night they had control of trail #64 to the CP of the 21st Div, and were working up the E slope of Mt. Samat. The extent of the penetration by the "Js" was not known exactly and a counter attack involving the 45th Inf (38) up Trail #29 with tank support and the 31st Inf (US) up astride #44, thence up #64 to #44- then up #4 to reinforce and establish the line. Before this could be accomplished in April 6 remnants of the 21st Div came thru the 31st Inf pos. and heavy fire was received from the enemy in Mt. Samat. Heavy pressure on the front and left of the 31st Inf forced its withdrawal to the S. bank of the San Vicente by nightfall of the 6th. The enemy also forced his way up trails #6 & #44 in April 6, the 1st Bn 57th Inf having been ordered to Jct #6 & #44 to be disposal of Gen. Lough.

Before the 57th Bn could reach Gen Lough, however, his Hq was cut off by the enemy on Trail 8 and the Bn of the 57th was forced to take up a defensive position behind the San Vicente R. at the Jct #2 & #46. The tank support of the 45th Inf arrived late and that unit was forced S on trail #29 and into the I Corps sector.

Thus by nightfall of April 6th situation was almost hopeless. On the extreme left the 45th Inf counter offensive up Tr #29 was nipped and it, with Gen Lough's Hq. was cut off from II Corps. The "Js" had routed the 41st Div and followed it up trails #6 & #44 where the 1st Bn 57th encountered the enemy and held them N. of the San Vicente at Trail Jct #8 & #46. On the San Vicente a large gap existed and then the 31st Inf (US) had gone into pos. connecting with the 51st CT of Gen Bluemel on its right flank. Our art'y had been overwhelmed and silenced and the 41st FA guns had all been captured.

On April 7 an attempt was made to organize a defensive line along the Patoc trail (#64) with 201st and 202d Engrs filling the gap between the 57th (2d Bn. in pos. with 1st Bn night of April 6) and 31st Inf (US) and SS-C units. The 26th Cav and 14th Engrs also moved up, the 26th at Jct. #2 & #10 being turned over to Gen. Bluemel & the Engrs. to Col. Tilly who was with the 57th Inf CP and its 3d Bn, attached to SS-C and Gen. Bluemel. The "Js" followed up their aggressive move of the 6th and not only cut trail #46 but staged a separate attack in the 32d Inf area in the right half of SS-C forcing the withdrawal of the 51st CT, along with the 31st (US) to the S bank of the San Vicente and extend a line with the 3d Bn 57th Inf, & 21st & 31st Engrs. The 201st & 301st Engrs had failed to arrive at their position on the Patoc Trail before the enemy cut it and those units were scattered & disintegrated. Thus Gen Bluemel decided to continue the withdrawal to the S bank of the Mamala R where, after consultation with commanders of the 26th Cav, 57th Inf, 31st Inf (US) and Engrs, he decided to withdraw all elements to the Alangan R which long retreat was affected before dawn of the 8th.

April 8th found the line held behind the Alangan R. in a confused state due to hasty retreat and mistaken routes of withdrawal. It was obvious from the outset that this position was untenable. All 37 mm guns and automatic weapons had been lost, nearly all 155 mm. were of ammunitions. In addition the men were almost completely exhausted by the long marches and days without food. The 26th Cav, which had moved from #2 & #10 to #2 & #46 covered the withdrawal of other units & then withdrew to the above pos. itself.

It was intended that new position would be occupied with the 26th Cav, 57th Inf and 31st Inf in line & the 14th Engrs in reserve, but due to a mistake in retiring between new and old trails #20 a scramble ensued and the line was established with the 26th Cav and 14th Engrs astride Trail #20, 31st & 57th to E of old #20 - a big gap to the 803d Engrs, PAC, 31st Inf PA and the 4th PC, (the 4th PC and 803d Engrs having been brought up during the night).

During the morning of the 8th J's bombed the line heavily and the 4th PC and the 31st Inf PA pulled out. Enemy tanks & Inf followed up quickly down trail #20 and soon surrounded the position set that by the night of the 8th the entire line was untenable and further withdrawal became necessary. Orders were confused as were the troops who scattered badly. The bulk of them escaped down new #20 - others cross country. Col. Tilly, Col. Brady & Col. Saint of the 57th Inf 31st Inf & 14th Engrs respectively managed to gather parts of their commands by the morning of the 9th. At 3 A, Maj. Christensen Ass't G-3 for II Corps met Gen. Blumel at Jet #12 & #20 received order to surrender. Gen. Blumel was ordered to take up a position behind the Lamao R. but instead he left a screen and moved troops the rear where surrender came later that day.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

s/ Ruth H. Essary
t/ RUTH H. ESSARY
Captain WAC

A TRUE COPY: ^{com} ^{AW} _{eva/cfs}

REFERENCE TO

PROVISIONAL AIR CORPS REGT.

Extracted from Vol. I of

"TRIUMPH IN THE PHILIPPINES"

At this effort was coming to a close on the night of January 23, a desperate Japanese battalion commander to their front ordered a banzai charge. The Japs attacked with fixed bayonets. They did not fire, but simply yelled as they ran. The automatic weapons of the 31st combined with the fire of the 88th ^{Field} Artillery almost completely wiped out this suicide force, but the cost of stopping the attack was great. The 31st Infantry, which engaged the bulk of the enemy, had to be withdrawn to rear areas to rest and its casualties replaced by Chemical Warfare troops. The 31st Infantry had suffered forty-five to fifty percent casualties, though they had killed an average of ten Japs for every one of their own losses.

While the 31st and the 41st were patching the line of the 51st Division, the Japanese were still infiltrating through the jungles on the eastern slopes of Mount Natib, where American artillery could not reach them. In a last desperate attempt to close the critical 5,000-yard Mount Natib gap between the Corps, the US "Provisional Air Corps Regiment" was ordered to cover the slope with rowing, combat patrols. This effort met with little success. The 31st Division, Philippine Army, was called from the 1st Corps area to help. Its effort to move through the thick jungle resulted in disorganization to the point where, when the time came, it could not stage an effective counterattack.

In the Second Corps, the new line (from right to left) was as follows:

The 31st Infantry Regiment, Philippine Army, on the beach at Orion, the right flank.

The Provisional Air Corps Regiment, U.S. Army.

The 32nd Infantry Regiment, Philippine Army.

The Fifty-First Combat Team (formed from remnants of the Fifty-First Division), Philippine Army.

The 21st Division, Philippine Army.

The 11st Division, Philippine Army, on the extreme left.

The Philippine Army Air Corps Battalion, the Philippine Army Training Cadre Battalion, and the 4th Regiment of the Philippine Constabulary guarded the eastern beaches below Orion.

The 2nd Corps area was subdivided into sectors as follows:

Subsector A, under the command of Col. Constant L. Irwin, included the beach defenses from Orion southward to Lisay. It was comprised of the 31st Infantry Regiment, Philippine Army; the Philippine Army Air Corps Battalion, and the Philippine Army Training Cadre Battalion.

Subsector B, under Colonel Irvin E. Deane, included the U. S. Provisional Air Corps Regiment near the right flank of the main battle position.

Subsector C, under Brigadier General Clifford Bluemel, included the 41st Infantry Regiment, Philippine Army; the 32nd Infantry Regiment, Philippine Army; and the 51st Combat Team, Philippine Army. It was in the center of the main battle position.

Subsector D, under General Lough, included the 21st Division, Philippine Army; the 41st Division, Philippine Army, less the 41st Infantry; and the 33rd Infantry Regiment, Philippine Army. It was on the left flank of the main line of resistance.

Subsector E, under Brigadier General Guillermo Francisco, on the Manila Bay beaches below Limay, included the 2nd Regular Division, Philippine Army, which had been made up from the 41st Regiment of the Philippine Constabulary and other miscellaneous units after the withdrawal to Bataan.

After the withdrawal from Abucay, all Regular Army and Philippine Scouts units on Bataan were held in the rear as USAFFE reserve. The headquarters of the Philippines Department, originally composed of Philippine Scouts and Regular Army units, continued to exist under General Lough but these units were never again organized for any combined effort during the remainder of the fight on Bataan.

-Vol I, Triumph in the Philippines, pp. 112, 113, 114.

The only Fil-American units still occupying the original main line of resistance on April 7 were the Provisional Air Corps Regiment, AUS, on the extreme right of the line, and part of the 31st Infantry Division, PA, on the eastern beaches. The Provisional Air Corps Regiment had suffered least of all the original units on April 7 along the east road and was still well enough organized to be used in the last-ditch defense lines organized by General Bluemel along the Alangan River, the Lamao River and at Cabcaben Airfield.

-Vol I, Triumph in the Philippines, p. 176

With the situation in the II Corps area somewhat worse than hopeless, General Clifford Blumel personally led a few ragged remnants of Philippine Scouts and Regular Army units in attempts to stem the Jap tide at the Marala, the Alangan and the Iasao Rivers, and eventually at Cabeben Airfield. He employed the regimental staff of the 26th Cavalry as his command group.

Early on April 8, the Fourteenth Engineers, PS, the 26th Cavalry, PS, the 31st Infantry, US, Regular Army, a part of the 57th Infantry, PS; the 803rd Aviation Engineers Battalion, US Regular Army, and the Provisional Air Corps Regiment, US Regular Army, were able to establish a line along the south bank of the Alangan River in spite of almost continuous enemy action.

-Vol I, Triumph in the Philippines, p. 182

Wording desperately in an attempt to bring a semblance of order out of the chaos that last night, Colonel Tilly of 57th Infantry, Colonel Bradley of the 31st Infantry, and Colonel Saint of the 14th Engineers, managed to gather enough of their scattered commands by the morning of April 9 to establish them on a defense line near Cabcaben air field, north of the town at kilometer Post 160. Here the remnants of the Provisional Air Corps Regiment, part of the 200th Coast Artillery, AA, and several miscellaneous units were also employed.

The casualties in the 200th Coast Artillery had been exceedingly heavy -- almost the whole unit was wiped out.

-Vol. I, Triumph in the Philippines, p. 186, 187

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1ST PROVISIONAL GP
SELF PROPOSED MOUNTS

1ST PROVISIONAL GROUP
SELF-PROPELLED MOUNTS

Story by Lt. Col. Ganahl, c.o. Capt. Dan W. Cranford,
Capt. W. B. Jones, Capt. Gordon Peck. (At that
time, each down one rank).
Organized day of war with 175 men into 3 batteries; 6 Americans
12 PS, rest PA. All PA officers except battery commanders. Other
groups commanded by Lt. Cols. D. S. Babcock & Lindsey.
Pubero river shallow but pioneering needed for vehicles. c pm.
Dec. 19-Lt. Williams phoned CP & Ganahl heard his stage whisper,
"The bridge did not blow". He was then surrounded by Japs who had
crossed on bicycles. At dawn Ganahl went to his batteries & found
them firing at 400 yd. range on mg. It took 45 min. to stop them
from firing at half track but mortars continued. 50 men at bat-
tery. Many wounded; 12 killed, PA driver with arm shattered in
shreds to shoulder remarked, "Sir I can still drive!" Ganahl
patted him on shoulder & smiled, "Of course you can." Later got
him out. Turned 2 guns to rear & this fired all around 75 HE to
50 yd. rage. Their one mg jammed from overheating. 2 half trucks
damaged from mortars. One gun started w/d prematurely c 10:30 a.m.
Issued orders then loaded w/ drove out to rd. Saw bicycles along
rd. & thought of bike rental in Florida. Ganahl w in ear & leg
from mortar. Cranford in arm. Staccats against armor; Rd. not
blocked to rear.

One gun played but at San Juan. Removed block but get it la-
ter. W/d to San Fernando,

Phipps arrived in San Fernando with some troops. Ganahl put
50 PA Engineers on high ground north of town & started to San Juan
with c 200 after taking on Primrose's command. Patrolled trail out
of SUY to beach. Column strafed. 2 km north SJ no PA around. Japs
were not pursuing but consolidating. Then he w/d. Brougher in SF
decided on defense of Bauang. Deployed.

Dec. 21-landings along coast. Jones may have sunk transport because
Youngblood saw one hit amid ships & go down. Artillery sank 3 land-
ing boats. Fired on barges crossing their front to land north of
Bauang. Cranford fired 100 yd. range HE very effectively. Cranford
lost 3 guns-2 of them had been damaged at Bacnotan. Jones fired
one gun himself because his men W. W/d thru Bauang & set up east
of town. Ganahl returned to town & found most of troops out. Bliss
was bravely loading rice on a truck. Bliss hauled Ganahl in his
Jeep to Jones. There was a negro mestizo with trucks-the only sol-
dier who had stayed on his post. He had been drinking & evidently
spooing dalagas nearby. He left reluctantly who Ganahl told him
to take out his vehicles. Jones later was surrounded & fought way
out one American soldier Hamilton. Most of his men lost but some
went to hills.

5 half tracks left. On road to Baguio Horan showed up with
message for Bonnett to go to Rosario. Ganahl went ahead with vehi-
cles to service & repair them in Baguio. Maj. Fellows, ex. of
Camp John Hay told him after supper that Maj. Wm. Collins, Inf.

adviser of 71st div. had reported on arrival in Baguio that Kenyon road probably cut. Ganahl told not to go down rd. without inf. protection. Ganahl searched till 11 pm. Found Bonnett in Dilemma. Called gates on rd. but couldn't make up mind. He asked field ofcrs. for comment. Ganahl & Horan recommended he go down Kenyon rd. Bonnett had c 1200 men & there was only a possibility that Japs had reached Klondyke-1st gate. Bonnett decided 4 a.m. after a night of bewilderment but he had an alternate plan by Bobole & consented to go on Kenyon if Horan would do reconnaissance on it. Horan c 5 brought in favorable report but Ganahl not told. Column moved out 5 a.m. & G. thought the guide did not know when he was going. Bonnett was leading column to Bobok. Ganahl arrived there 7 pm. after hard corners & motor trouble.

(Ganahl morn of 21st ran into Jap inf. at beach; they could have captured him if they had held their fire. Jones & Crawford were driven out) (H-said he was cut off, that an American named Jameson, his wife, few Englishmen, & c 100 natives ran to the mill, Dec. 23-rested (Japs were in Imugan Dec. 29. G-600-700 on hike. Maybe Dec. 24-Horan called & said W. ordered SPM's to return to help him defend Baguio. Ganahl; Moses & Noble persuaded Bonnett to take the whole command back, because they didn't like prospects of going across trail & Having to destroy all rolling stock. Ganahl, Moses, Noble, Bliss, etc. went ahead in cars. After a time in Baguio a message came thru to abandon the city. (Came in clear because that stupid Horan had destroyed his code books.) The officers started back & not the column at Ambuclao (15 km w. of Bakod) at 4 pm. Ganahl destroyed 3 guns there & 2 at Bobok. Turned column about & returned to Bobok mill & destroyed vehicles. Horan also ordered rejoin NLF. 200 joined guerrillas 1200 in no.

Dec. 25-Capt. Enriquez, G-2, 11th Div. sent with 50 men to find Townsend at Balete Pass. Column started & straggled to Kayapa. Americans bunched up at head of sections & did not push soldiers along. Spent night there; 2 a.m. Bonnett, afraid of the dark, came in & awoke field officers to worry there about his fears for their situation. He thought they were cut off, surrounded, or pursued - & they were deep in the hills! They told him to go back to sleep. He snored so loudly Moses woke him up & insubordinately told him he'd have to shut it up or get out.

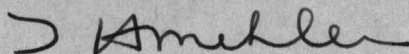
Dec. 26-Proceeded to Tingian (sp?). Enriquez reported Townsend had w/d to Mexico, Pamp. After much discussion Ganahl volunteered to take short cut suggested by solicitous mestizo guide to get transportation to Aritao to meet column. Started by dhobie horses, trail gave out, they got lost, waded stream for hours. After much cussing get out to barrio on road & after dickering a long time got car & gas. Drove to Aritao. Ganahl vent his wrath at mestizo who grew excited & drove into ditch. Arrived Aritao midnight. Bonnett there already.

Dec. 27-Bonnett thought they were cut off: released units to c.o.'s G & 100 men & 2 BC's hiked down rd. Fellows came out with 105-150 Imugan. Horan w/200.

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CWO, USA
Asst Adjutant

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3rd PURSUIT SQUADRON

3rd

Pursuit

3rd Pursuit Squadron
Story by Lt. Ellis

Capt. Henry G. Thorne, c.o., 1st Lt. Herb S. Ellis, Capt. Frank H. Richardson, MC, 2d Lts. Charles P. Christie, Howard P. Hardegree, Lycurgus Johnson, James E. Mackey, Donald K. Miller, Robert W. Newman, Wm. H. Powell, Jr., Paul Rocicot, Charles A. Sheeley, James B. Alsobrook, W. O. John McBeth.

Stationed at Iba, 34 men & ofcrs. KIA there in bombing Dec. 8. Lost 9-planes out of 24 at start. Completely demoralized, straggled for two weeks. Reorganized at Nichols. Jap papers said, 3d PS completely annihilated.

Dec. 13-moved to Tanauan, Batangas to improve an airfield made by the Engineers. Left some men at Nichols. Prepared for P-40's & B-17's.

Dec. 24-ordered to destroy equipment & evacuate by train to Manila. Train did not show up so commandeered trucks. Train arrived next day & was bombed at Calamba. Jap papers then said remnants of 3d PS were annihilated (nb-spy work). 3d PS arrived Manila 3 a.m. 25 & began to load boat. At noon they w/d from Port Area just before air raid & ate in Luneta on funged chow. Loaded everything in sight afterward. Sailed for Bataan that night, arriving at Lamao. Found own bivouac & collected their stragglers.

Dec. 28 or 9-moved to Signal Hill with mission to defend it. Began inf. training.

Jan. 7-to Biaan Pt., Regtl front on beach widely deployed. Called "3d Pursuit Battalion Provisional Infantry 71st Division." 134 e.m. extended from Kenalupatan Pt. to just short of Vigia Pt. 2d PC on rt., Naval Bn. supposedly on left but were so thin they were never seen. Just north of Pucot Hill. Good communications. Under Gen. Pearce, South Sub-Sector 2, SW bck. def.

c Jan. 17-Japs discovered on Pucot hill. Notified by hearing shots. Ellis ordered to take squad & investigate. Told by stragglers that Japs were there. 3d PS then established a line east & west, south of Pucot hill. Comdr. Bridget joined with Naval Bn. & took charge. That night 20th Pursuit Squadron moved in to reinforce the 3d PS line. Localize Japs between Biaan & Los Cochinos Points south of road. That night 3d PS returned to original beach positions in event of other landings.

After place cleared up Japs still in area. Feb. 5 Sgt. Kelitch, radio operator, asked a man for a match. He was a Nip & ran off. A sentry that night killed one Jap & another got away. c Feb. 4-6 cleared up when boats used. c 300 Japs estimated there. Comdr. Goodall wounded ankle when planes strafed & bombed them when they were firing on caves. Killed 13, tools 3 line prisoners, 3 wks. later found emaciated Jap. Filipino shot him "because he look suspicious." One Jap buried hastily in 3d PS kitchen area. Leg protruded.

At surrender, 3d PS had 16 duty men out of 100. Incendiary bombs burned bivouac area. Shoved searchlight over cliff. Two men reached Mindoro in banca captured later. Other men turned in.

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T. H. MEHLER
CWO, USA
Asst Adjutant

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5th INTERCEPTOR COMMAND COMBAT UNIT #1

5th Interceptor Command Combat Unit #1

Late in January, 1941 about 150 men from Far East Air Force Headquarters Squadron & some SC men from Aircraft Warning Co. were formed into two platoons of infantry for the Agloloma affair. Capt. Horace Greeley, pilot. c.o.; Capt. Whitfield, pilot, administrative ofcers. 1st Lt. Emanuel "Boots" Engle, John A. Goodpasture, Brown; 2d Lt. Woodrow Lackey, pilot; Lts. Whitcomb & Wolfe. Jan. 24-moved to bivouac near 91st div. CP. Jan. 25-to Agloloma. Bombed en route & 2 WIA. Jan. 27-replaced the line mixedly composed of 803d Engineers 21st Pursuit Squadron & a PC unit (whose ex was a Maj. Sperry). The Japs had landed there c Jan. 23. The line extended across Quinauan Pt. from Agloloma Bay to-other side. AC went in on rt. flank of PC & formed rt. of line. Stayed for 24 hrs. & were replaced by 3d Bn. 45th Inf. Co. B, 57th Inf. came in later. AC had no contact. Then split into two units to protect the flanks of MLR occupied by 45th. Joined PC on rt. & 34th Pursuit Squadron (under Capt. Wray) on left. Wentfold had 1 plat. on left, Greeley the other on rt. Once backed up the 45th line & suffered casualties. (Had heavy 30's, two 50's Springfields (some men picked up garands but couldn't use them very well. Later ordered turn them in after battle.

Lt. Hay, tank platoon comdr., brought down tanks Feb. 2. They turned back immediately because of anti-tank guns. (Learned later they had been out of action.)

Lt. Brown assisted Croom in firing mortar. One time had only 2 live rounds out of 25.

Maj. Sam Jones drove his command car up to front line. KIA.

Feb. 6-returned to 5th Interceptor Command Hq. at Little Baguio, Feb 4 Capt. Ed Dyess had brought in 21st Pursuit Squadron for final push.

Feb. 12-organization was reformed as the 5th Interceptor Command Combat Unit #1. It had Cas. A & B 1st Lt. Mitchler, A & Lt. Freeburg, B. Other ofcers-1st Lt. Leslie "Pop" Holmes, ex., Greeley, c.o., Lt. Barker & Whitcomb & Johnson, & Maj. Philipps, Med. C.

Sent to replace a PC anti-tank unit, under Maj. Cepeda, at Longoskayan from Bian bay to Neklec point. Attached to 71st div. & remained there to end of war.

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T. H. MEHLER
CWO, USA
Asst Adjutant

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17TH PURSUIT SQUADRON

17th Pursuit Squadron
Story by Lt. Crosby

1st Lt. Howard B. Connor, c.o.; 1st Lt. (Capt.) Raymond Sloan, c.o. Jan. 28-Feb. 12 KIA; 1st Lt. Ridgely Hall, admin. (reld); 2d Lts. A. W. Balfarez, Jerry O. Brezing, KIA at Angasan; Stephen H. Crosby, Willis P. Culp, Richard L. Gillette, John P. Gillespie (no pilot), Maurice G. Hughette, Earl H. Hulsey, Joseph L. McClellan, James B. Phillips, Elmer B. Powell, James N. Ross. 1st Lt. Theo. T. Brank, MC. 17th PS arrived in PI Dec., 1940 on the Etolin. Had 192 e.m.

Crosby was executive officer. Conner & Ross, 1st platoon; Belfany & McClellan, 2d Plat; Gillespie & Hughette, 3d plat.

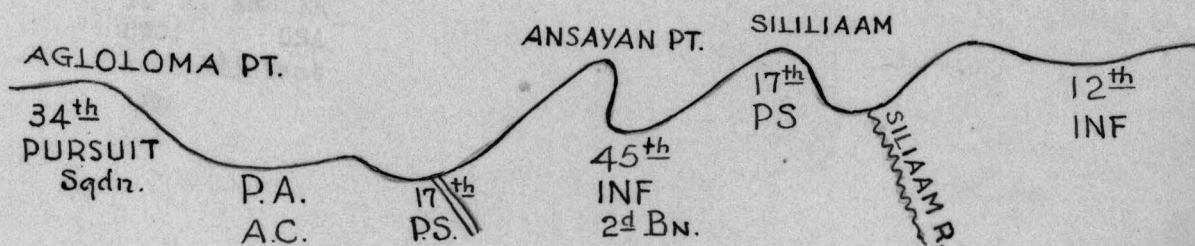
Evacuated Nichols field Dec. 24 & went to Pilar field. Flew recon missions. Once Ross was coming in for landing, field signaled o.k. but zero dived on him. McClellan however, was waiting his turn to land & shot down the Jap.

Jan. 12-moved to Rodriguez Park. Midnight ordered to Kaibobo Pt. beach defense. Left flank on Bobo, right 3 points north 1 (Saysain?).

Jan. 27-turned over the area to PA & moved to South-Sub-Sector Hq. area. Noon next day ordered to go to KP 199½ for a couple of hours to wipe out 20-30 Japs. To be attached to PC but on arrival found no PC-just a hastily evacuated CP with a smashed switchboard, complete aid station with medicines & stretchers set up on rocks.

Marched down trail then to carry out mission. Men asked officers how to operate rifles. After contact was made (1 pur) one man called out, "I see a Jap in a tree waving a flag. What shall I do?" 2d Plat advanced first (after a meal on the food left cooking in PC pots). Ran into Jap mg 400 yds. west of main road. Sloan phoned report in & Pearce's hq. would not believe that PC had departed & there were many Japs present. Late in the day the PC returned after Hq. had found them. 17th w/d a little way & PC deployed behind them for night. Lt. Brezina had been killed when he walked into a vine attached to a grenade. He had led a patrol of Filipinos to the left flank to get Jap mg. When he was killed, Filipinos left him & would not tell Americans what had happened.

Jan. 29-aided by 16 AC light mgs. advanced 2 km. to base of Angasan Pt. before contact. (Jap OPLR had w/d during night). 49th Inf. 2d Bn. arrived. That night PC stampeded when fire crackers went off.



Capt Sloan hit by mg in abdomen c Feb. 12 when 17th CP surrounded. He tried find way out ran right into Jap as scared as he was. Bronk was with him. Had to evacuate north to Bobo. Sloan died during operation. Ted had given him plasma at collecting station en route. Lt. Powell then became c.o. Anayasan affair casualties for 17th-2 officers KIA; (18 KIA in whole war flying etc. Only 1 e. m. WIA none K.

Feb. 17-squadron moved to Bian river bridge c KP 180. Rested one day then tools over Bren carriers as reserve unit. Feb. 18^o to Quarantine base. 1st Lt. Hugh Marble 1 from 20th PS) became c.o.

Feb. 19-to Los Cochinas Point & northward to 5th Interceptor sector. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 3 mi. of beach defended by 165 men. 2d plat. on south 1st & 3d on north. No reserve. Food brought by boat till Hughette & Fralick left for Indo-China. Then packed in over rough terrain on mules.

17th formed a part of a unit called the 24th Pursuit Group-3d, 17th, 20th (21st & 34th attached).

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20
PUR. SQ

20TH PURSUIT SQUADRON

20th Pursuit Squadron
Story by Lt. Fulks

Capt. Joseph Moore, c. o. Capt. Garrett, adj., Lts. Roberts & Shelton, admin. c 36 ofcrs - five 1st Lts 34 second Lts. 7 got out to Australia. 2d Lt James W. Fulks one of pilots.

Dec. 8-2d Lt James Drake's plane hit by bomb in air just after he had taken off. Dec. 10-Lt. McCowan came in, hit hole, took off again but hit tree. Died later. Limb crashed down & hit Alder & killed him. A limb bruised, Fulks.

20th had 21 planes at start. 18 destroyed Dec. 8. Thereafter the pilots alternated with the 17th in flying missions in 17th planes, 2 officers. WIA Dec. 8. 1 left on hosp. ship c 20 e. m. casualties for whole war; 9 KIA. Lts. Louch, Luker, Drake, Mulcahy KIA. Reconnaissance & strafing missions after Dec. 8. Dec. 24-ordered to Bataan. Spent oneday in bivouac near Balanga, Thence to biv. near Pilar 3-4 days, then to Mariveles cut-off for rest of war. All Pursuit Squadrons organized under 5th Intercepted Command & rotated on 18 planes.

Early in January Lt. Marshall Anderson got in dog fight, shot down 2 Jap planes. His own plane set afire. As he parachuted down Japs riddled his chute with bullets so that he plummeted to death. When his body was found it had no bullets but the chute was filled with holes.

Jan. 21-ordered to 3d Pursuit position on beach. At 10:30 pm ran into Jap patrol on road; Fulks WIA multiple bullet wounds in right leg. He was only casualty of Pucot hill in the 20th PS.

Capt. Moore flew missions to Cebu & Del Monte to bring medicine back. (Carried radiograms out).

Participated in Subic raid in which Lt. Crellin KIA. (Fossey's story). 20th PS given Mariveles field & stood by for planes. Some pilots were on training table. None got to Corregidor on surrender. 145 e. m. started war; 57 died in prison up to July 1943. 17 others missing (probably died or killed on hike). 3 officers died in prison.

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21ST PURSUIT SQUADRON

21ST
PUR. SQ.

21st Pursuit Squadron
Story by Lt. Parcher

Arrived Nov. 20, 1941 with 18 officers & 210 e.m. 21 P-40E's for them were already in P. I. Capt. William E. Dyess, c. o. (went to Davao & escaped & got back to US?), Capt. W. R. Brenner, MC, 1st Lts. H. H. Ball & Lawrence W. Parcher, 2d Lts. R. D. Clark (KIA 12191417; J. P. Cole (went south); L. A. Coleman, J. V. B. Donaldson, L. B. Golden Jr., S. C. Grashio (to Australia), R. S. Ibold, B. S. Irvin, Harold Johnson, J. E. May (KIA Agloloma); J. L. McGown, L. L. Schramski, A. F. Williams (south). Leo Bolens (south), J. P. Burns (KIA Mindanao 4/42).

Dec. 8-at home station, Nichols. Flew to Clark that night.

Dec. 9-4 planes cracked up on take off at dawn. Clark killed when he hit B-17 parked on field. Dust, holes & darkness caused troubles.

Dec. 10-Nichols bombed & strafed. 4 em KIA.

Dec. 15 or 20-to Lubao to build field. Jan. 3-to KP 184. 7 west side as mobile reserve.

Jan. 29-1 platoon sent to Quinauan Pt. Next day rest of squadron went. 1st Platoon-Lt. Ball; 2d plat-Parcher; 3d Schramski (all had infantry training).

1 Co. 803d Engrs. on at of line.

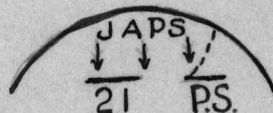
1 man KIA, 1 WIA first day in 21st.

Quinauan Pt.

Parcher's plat.

on rt. bent out when
Japs hit center & left
him alone.

139



Jan. 30?-45th 3d Bn. arrived. 21st w/d for week to bivouac area.

Feb. 6-21st returned to help strenghten gaps in line. Parcher's plat. on rt. relieved Co. L, 45th which had 15 PS left on line.

Tanks came in to help next day. They cleared resistance & 21st followed them in. Walkie-talkies used. 5 KIA; 1 an ofcr-Lt.

May killed by Jap who stayed under tank & fired when it passed over him at May following it. 27 WIA. Next day reached beach on

right & fired at swimming Japs. Later 16 men went in 2 shole boats

towed by armored tugs. Dyess in charge of 1 section after firing

at remnants on shore they landed with Lewis guns & asbestos gloves

to clean up resistance. Dive bombers attacked. 1 projectile

landed on Trail. One of the 2 men Parcher sent for water caught &

upper half of him blown away. A Scout Peering from behind tree, had

half his face blown off. At dusk that day the 21st pulled out to

bivouac.

Feb. - - Parcher & 80 men to Cabcaben; rest to Bataan field &

remained as AC till war ended. Parcher & a few men reached Corregi-

dor via skiff & the Harrison. Lost his musette bag in skiff told

to leave gear & get it in morning. Parcher assigned to Marinas

at Middleside with Capt. Schofner 1 who escaped from Davao).

Results of war: 4 officers killed or died; 107 dead @. m. 2

unknown.

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34th PURSUIT SQUADRON

34th PURSUIT SQUADRON
Story by Lt. Paulger

Arrived Nov. 20, 1941. 1st Lt. S. H. Marett, c. o. 2d Lt. B. S. Brown, operations officer. 14 pilots 2 administrators- 2d Lts. Pagel, McDaniel, Hall, Knockstedt; Baker, Robb, Crossland, Nicol, Paulger, Coleman, Bryant. 1 Pilot per squad. Not organized into platoons.

Dec. 8-at Del Carmen sugar central. 22 planes-P-35s. 218 em. At noon, heard bombing of Clark, 9 or 12 planes & took off & saw some Jap at 4,000 ft. Fired few rounds but Japs left. Patrolled an hour.

Dec. 9-ordered to San Marcelino. 6 planes went & landed just as B-17s began to land also.

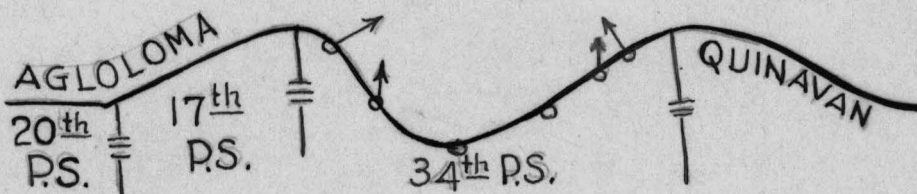
Dec. 10-returned to Del Carmen ordered to go to Vigan & strafe everything on the water. Fired on barges, small boats & transport which exploded, blowing right wing off Marett's plane & killing him. Lt. Houseman's (atcd from 20th) engines quit, baled out, reached squadron again in 4 days. (4 planes had to return to field because of engine trouble & Paulger's wouldn't even leave field.) At noon 6 or 11 Japs strafed their field, burned a gas trailer & all but 5 planes. A P-40, who heard of the action, arrived over the field in time to shoot down 1 Jap. That night the squadron moved into town & afterward just watched the planes go over.

Dec. 25-to Orani field from which they flew recon, alternating with 17th & 20th. 2 flights daily-dawn & sunset. 9 planes in operation at Orani & 9 at Bataan field-the extent of the US air force. 18 P40s. Only accident was when Paulger hit soft spot & used brakes. Turned upside down & wrecked plane but did not hurt himself.

cJan. 4-ambitious plan to ambush some bombers. Planes from both fields were to rendezvous over China sea & attack as Japs came in. Communications bad, they failed to take off together.

Missed Japs. 1 flight went on to Mindanao as ordered, the rest of P'40's returned to the field on Bataan. After this the 34th PS moved to Little Baguio & thence to beach defense c Jan. 8 at Agloloma. Had 6 50 cal. air-cooled mgs, Springfield rifles, no bayonets.

Jan. 23-Japs landed at Quinanan. 1 AC gun position there but crew evidently asleep. The operation awoke them & they crept back to their CP. Japs evidently had stocked the position with food & material ahead of time.



Each pilot had a squad of c 25 men. PA cadets were there on defense & they had six 30 cal. mgs.

34th attacked enemy. Asked Gen. Selleck for mortar second day & got it.

Jan. 24-Paulger was leading patrol to relieve night shift. Firing opened up; he hit ground, bullet struck his left hand & right shoulder. c 8-10 e.m. KIA, c 12 WIA. No officers KIA; 2 WIA (Jennings & Paulger). 1st Lt. Bob Wray become c. o. at Orani. Hall & Baker DS to fly from Bataan field. Hall MIA on a flight. Coleman, Robb & Brown to Australia April 8. McDaniel & Croslin reached Mindanao. McDaniel KIA there; Croslin ranked out of his seat for Australia. Bryant went to Corregidor with AA. Erickson, Croslin & _____ flew 3 P4Os up from Mindanao.

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