

EVACUEE REPORTS -

ARONSON, FRANCIS A.

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION GENERAL STAFF

Philippine Evacuee Report #236

16 May 1944

Subject: 6th Military District Printing Press

From : Mr. Francis A Aronson

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Name: Mr. Francis A Aronson
Born: 1910 at Jasaan, Misamis Oriental, Philippine Islands, of
an American father and Spanish mother.
Education: High school
Civil Occupation: Manager, Photo Supply and Stationary Company, Iloilo

Interrogated by G-2 GHQ SWPA

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Aronson spent most of his time in evacuation in the mountains and has little information of value.

CHRONOLOGY

8 Dec 1941: Volunteered for service with 61st Division on Panay.
10 Dec 1941: Engaged as civilian employee, USAFFE. Worked with Enemy Alien Property Custodian procuring supplies from Japanese stores for the army.
10 Jan 1942: Worked with 1st Bn., 64th Inf., setting up rice dumps in evacuation areas.
10 Apr 1942: Inducted into USAFFE as Captain, Quartermaster, and assigned as Assistant S-4, 1st Bn., 64th Inf.
29 May 1942: 61st Division surrendered. Aronson evacuated to Mr. Ford's camp above Tapaz.
5 May 1943: Reported to Headquarters, 6th Military District near Sara. Commissioned 1st Lieutenant, Quartermaster, and assigned to Air Base Squadron under Captain Gundt as Personnel Adjutant and Adjutant.
13 Sept 1943: Evacuated to the mountains on the Japanese penetration in the Sara area.
19 Oct 1943: Assigned as Executive Officer to 6th Military District Press under Lieut. Col. Gemperle, 6th Military District Finance Officer and Quartermaster.
Mar 1944: Evacuated to Australia.

6th Military District Printing Press The Japanese captured #1 press in the Janiway area in January 1944. Aronson was never there and has no more information about it.

Aronson was Executive Officer at #2 press in the Mt. Baloy area. Money is printed from wood cuts made on the spot, printing the face of one note and the back of a second note at the same time. It is a slow process and it takes five days to print one million pesos in denominations of five pesos and up, working day and night. During the time Aronson was there - five months - 12 million pesos were printed.

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The press operates under the direct supervision of Lieut. Col. Gemperle, District Finance Officer who confers with Col. Feralta and decides the denominations to be printed. The press works 24 hours a day with eight officers on each shift. When paper is short, bills of large denominations are printed.

The money is printed by the Army for the Philippine National Bank; a representative of the latter is stationed at the press and assigns serial numbers and keeps a record of numbers and amounts printed. When the money is finished, it is turned over by the Bank to the Army and Col. Gemperle signs for it. The Army then distributes allotments to the various officers and to the civil government. A representative of the Provincial Auditor is also stationed at the press and records numbers and amounts of currency printed.

JUAN QUINSUMBING, Provincial Fiscal

B. FERNANDEZ, Provincial Auditor Surrendered to the Japanese during January 1944. The press was moved immediately afterwards for security.



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