

EVACUEE REPORTS -

BARRETTO, RENATO

~~SECRET~~

23 January 1945

SUBJECT: Luzon Intelligence Report. This report was submitted by Capt, Renato L. Barrett, Air Corps, Philippine Army, at the request of G-2, GHQ SWPA.

1. After the surrender in Corregidor on 6 May 1942, I was successively concentrated in Bataan, Camp O'Donnell, Camp del Pilar, Pasay and Fort McKinley. In August 1943, I was arrested by the Japanese Military Police for underground activities and sent to Fort McKinley for investigation until my release on 31 October 1943. My release was done under guarantee.
2. I spent the following six months doing nothing for fear that the Military Police were still on my trail. In June 1944, I contacted another Philippine Army Air Corps officer and made arrangements to leave for Negros. Our plans, however, did not materialize so I left the following month for northern Luzon. I went to Isabela Province where I remained four months.
3. While in Isabela, I was informed that the Military Police again was on my trail, so in November 1944 I returned to Manila where I made arrangements with an agent of Governor Escudero of Sorsogon to go to southern Luzon. I left Manila on 8 December 1944 and reported for duty with Governor Escudero's guerrillas on 17 December. I served with Governor Escudero's guerrillas until 12 January 1945 when I was ordered to report for duty with Headquarters, Philippine Army, in Tacloban, Leyte. I arrived in Tacloban on 18 January 1945.
4. During the period 1941-1945, the only guerrilla unit with which I had any close contact was the Escudero unit. The strength of this unit is equal to a Philippine Army division, with one regiment in Sorsogon and two in Albay. During the latter part of December 1944, Lt. Col. Patus of Cagayan Sur reported to Gov. Escudero for the purpose of uniting his unit with the Escudero guerrillas. Judging from what I observed, Governor Escudero is well liked throughout Sorsogon Province, wherein he has great influence over the people, with the exception of those on the western coast which is controlled by the guerrilla unit headed by Maj. Liserio Lopus.
5. Other guerrilla units in the Bicol region, include those led by Lopus, Zabat, Onrubia, Sandico, and Turko. I have no knowledge of their respective strengths and organization. Tayabas also has a guerrilla group along the southern coast of Laguna de Bay. I was told that an ROTC unit was located in the Marikina Valley and Marking's Guerrillas are in the Novaliches area.

DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR ON
20 AUG. 75

-1-

DECLASSIFIED PER AR380-5

~~SECRET~~



~~SECRET~~



6. In northern Luzon, there was little guerrilla activity. The guerrillas were moving northward during my stay in Isabela. In Manila, the only guerrilla unit with which I had contact was the FAIT (Fil-American Irregular Troops). Its Manila headquarters was headed by Bonifacio Araullo, who had assumed the rank of General. My father, Carlos A. Barretto, worked with this headquarters. Their work was mainly intelligence, reporting enemy concentrations and activities to CPs in various provinces.
7. While in Isabela, I noticed large enemy movements northward to Cagayan Province. It was reported that the Japs would make no attempt to resist a landing by Allied forces in the Aparri area. The enemy has constructed dugouts, trenches and barbed wire entanglements approximately four kilometers from the northern coast of Cagayan. He also has built roads leading to the mountains. Evacuees from Aparri reported that the town had been destroyed by Allied bombings and that few civilians remained in that area.
8. The Japs constructed a landing field in the northwestern outskirts of the town of Tuguegarao. I have seen part of this field from a distance of 300 yards; and, according to third-party information, it extends northeastward and covers three barrios. It was reported to be six kilometers long but I believe this was an exaggeration.
9. The Japs occupy most of the houses in Tuguegarao, including newly constructed barracks in the center of town. There was no enemy concentration in Ilagan, Isabela. During my return trip to Manila in November 1944, I noticed that all bridges were guarded by small Jap units, ranging from a squad to a platoon. Balete Pass in Nueva Vizcaya was guarded by a platoon. Santa Fe town also was garrisoned. There was an enemy garrison at San Jose, Nueva Ecija, but I was unable to ascertain its strength.
10. In Manila, a strip of Dewey Boulevard, extending from Cortabitarte Street northward to the Luneta, has been turned into a military reservation. The old and new Lunetas also have been declared military reservations. I counted at least six antiaircraft guns along Dewey Boulevard, between Cortabitarte and San Andres Streets. There were other guns along the northern portion of the boulevard and in the Luneta. The guns had a calibre of slightly more than three inches. I have also seen machine gun emplacements in this area.
11. Jap-occupied buildings in the boulevard area include the Admiral Apartments, Elks Club, Luneta Hotel, Bayview Hotel, Manila Hotel and the United States High Commissioner's Residence. All the houses along Dewey Boulevard were occupied by the enemy. Downtown, the Calvo and Crystal Arcade Buildings on the Escolta were occupied by Japs.

DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR 08
20 AUG. 75

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~



DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR 08
20 AUG. 75

12. There were gasoline drums under the trees along Padre Burgos Street, from the Legislature Building to the Post Office on the Pasig River. Boxes, believed to contain ammunition, were stored under the trees along Taft Avenue, from the City Hall to Ayala Boulevard. Large boxes, contents unknown, and auxiliary aviation gasoline tanks were stored under the trees on both sides of Taft Avenue, in front of the Philippine General Hospital. The University of the Philippines is a military area. A radio station is located in the YMCA building on Isaac Peral and San Marcelino Streets. A Colonel was in command of this headquarters. In June 1944, during a visit to Pendacan, I saw our captured guns stored in that area.
13. When I left Manila, there were large numbers of Japs in the city. I saw them practice street fighting; and it was reported that they intended to make a strong stand in the city.
14. From Mandaluyong, I could see Zablan Field. The Japs had reconstructed the destroyed PAAC hangars. While visiting friends at Mandaluyong, I heard that an artist friend had been arrested by the Military Police near the Wack Wack Golf Club for painting the scenery. I interceded and obtained his release. I was unable to find out why he was arrested. On my way back to the city, by way of Passay, I could see the western end on Nichols Field and noticed several fighters and bombers parked on an unkept runway. The Japs were still using damaged hangars.
15. While riding in a truck on my way south from Manila, a Jap sentry at Las Pinas threatened to shoot the passengers if caught looking over a high fence on the eastern side of the road. Between Candelaria and San Pablo, Laguna, I saw pillboxes on both sides of the road. There were ammunition dumps in nipa shacks and it was reported that there were tanks and large numbers of Jap troops in the area.
16. While I was serving with an antiaircraft crew in Passay, the Military Police arrested me on 4 August 1943 and took me to Fort McKinley, where I was detained for two and a half months. After four weeks of solitary confinement, Jap investigators questioned me about the guerrillas in Manila. They accused me of being a leader in the resistance movement and of organizing an Air Corps Guerrillas unit. When I denied everything, the Japs threw me on the floor several times and struck me on the head and arms with a wooden club. They returned a few days later, and tried to get me to implicate fellow Philippine Army officers but I denied them again. My denials were followed by more beatings which brought forth new bumps on my head and body. During the early part of October, the Military Police came back with different tactics. They treated me gently and said that they would not harm me if I cooperated with them. I said that I would gladly help but I knew nothing. Exasperated, they kicked my shins, stepped on my bare toes, struck my head and body, and threw me on the floor.

S

-3-

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Exhausted, they departed while I sat and prayed for endurance. On 15 October 1943, a member of the military Police informed me that I was to be released but first I would be confined in Pasay for recovery. On our way to Pasay, he tried to get me to spy for them. I refused and expected to be taken back to Fort McKinley. However, we continued to Pasay where I stayed until my release on 31 October 1943.

17. Spies employed by the Japs are paid for every service rendered. After my release, a German Jew, Hermann Schare, employed by the Japs as a spy, was kind enough to warn me to keep out of mischief and to watch out for mestizos. All the people in Manila suspected each other of spying. A good example was my case. One of the persons who spied on my activities was a distant uncle, Antonio Barretto, rat-faced, thin, with banjo eyes. Another was a former USAFFE officer, Dominador Alo, who denied that he was a Jap spy, declaring that he was merely a "feeler" whose job was to investigate the political inclinations of suspected persons.

18. A large number of men and women in Manila are Jap spies. Some of them claim to be agents of General Headquarters, Southwest Pacific Area, and have forged papers of identification bearing the signature of Gen. Douglas MacArthur. In this manner, the Japs obtained evidence against some members of the resistance movement in Manila, who were subsequently imprisoned in Fort Santiago. Some women who became Japanese mistresses were employed as Jap counter-intelligence agents. About August 1944, young, handsome Russian men arrived from abroad and were used by the Japs as spies. The Russians were furnished with money and instructed to mix with Manila society. The liaison man between these spies and the Military Police Headquarters was a Portuguese, a Mr. Carneiro, who transmitted orders from the Military Police to the spies.

Renato L. Barretto
Capt., AC, Philippine Army



-4-



DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR ON
20 AUG. 75

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

... they departed while I sat and waited for my release. On 15 October 1945, a member of the Military Police informed me that I was to be released but that I would be confined in Parris for recovery. On our way to Parris, he tried to get me to spy for them. I refused and expected to be taken back to Fort McKinley. However, we continued to Parris where I stayed until my release on 21 October 1945.

17. Spies employed by the Japs are paid for every service rendered. After my release, a German Jap, Herman Goetz, employed by the Japs as a spy, was kind enough to warn me to keep out of mischief and to warn out for me. All the people in Manila suspected each other of spying. A good example was my case. One of the persons who spied on my activities was a former USAF pilot, Antonio Barretto, who spied with his eyes. Another was a former USAF pilot, Antonio Barretto, who spied that he was a Jap spy, describing that he was merely a "fly-lar" whose job was to investigate the political indications of suspected persons.

18. A large number of men and women in Manila are Jap spies. Some of them claim to be agents of General Headquarters, Southwest Pacific Area, and have forged papers of identification bearing the signature of Gen. Douglas MacArthur. In this manner, the Japs obtained evidence against some members of the resistance movement in Manila, who were subsequently imprisoned in Fort Mearns. Some women who became Japanese witnesses were employed as Jap counter-intelligence agents. About August 1945, young Japanese women were recruited from abroad and were used by the Japs as spies. The women were furnished with money and instructed to mix with Manila anti-air. The liaison was between these spies and the Military Police Headquarters and a Portuguese, a Mr. Carmelo, who transmitted orders from the Military Police to the spies.

Benito L. Barretto
Capt., AC, Philippine Army

DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR 08
20 AUG 75



1



~~SECRET~~