

EVACUEE REPORTS:

ELLIOTT, BRUCE G.

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA  
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION GENERAL STAFF

AFPO 500  
21 August 1944

Philippine Evacuee Report #211



SUBJECT : PALAWAN and TAWITAWI  
From : Bruce Gordon ELLIOTT, Coxswain, USN 376221.

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Name : Bruce Gordon Elliott  
Born : In 1924.  
Education : High School, Oakland, California.  
Service : US Navy for three years.  
Assignment : Mine sweeper in Philippine Islands.  
In P.I. : Since 1941.

Interrogated by G-2, GHQ SWPA.

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The information submitted by Elliott is considered fairly reliable.

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CHRONOLOGY

- Apr 42 - Placed in prison camp at Cabanatuan, Luzon after surrender of Bataan.
- Jul 42 - Carried to Fuerta Princesa, Palawan with group of able bodied volunteers to do construction work.
- 10 Aug 42 - Escaped.
- Aug 42 - Jul 43 - Lived with natives on Palawan.
- Jul - Oct 43 - Lived with natives on Tawi Tawi.
- Oct 43 - Went to Zamboanga, Mindanao.
- Mar 44 - Evacuated.

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Civil Government in Southern Palawan

Kierson, an American, organized and set up a free government which printed money and contributed food to the guerrillas.

10,000 pesos were printed at Balabac Island, and 20,000 pesos were printed at Brooke's Point. This money was used to pay soldiers and municipal officers.

Elliott thought that Kierson did a good job even though he was hard and ruthless. He was disliked by the representatives of PERALTA, who Elliott believes, were able to edge out Kierson on the grounds that Filipinos and not Americans should govern the Island.

GUERRILLAS IN TAWI TAWI : The organization consists of 3 companies fully armed with rifles. Contact with Jolo is maintained through agents. Several officers under SUAREZ were army officers in peace time. Elliott thought that the organization was an efficient one with good morale, but that it would not stand up under Japanese pressure because of lack of ammunition and food reserves.

SUAREZ : CO of guerrillas on Tawi Tawi. Elliott regarded him as one of the best Filipino officers he had met in the islands.

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R. H. YOUNG ✓: Lt, still talks too much.

KIERSON ✓: An American in Southern Palawan who has been active in organizing the free civil government. He is hard and ruthless.

EDWARDS ✓: An old American living at his coconut plantation at Brooke's Point.

SUTHERLAND ✓: An American living at Brooke's Point.

BITING ✓: He left for Palawan after failing to make an agreement with Suarez in August, 1943.

LT "ALLIE" ✓: A Moro and Olympic swimmer. He went to Palawan before the surrender with orders from General Sharp to destroy the fuel at Puerto Princesa. He sold as much fuel to the natives as they would buy and left the rest for the Japanese. He then went south along the coast and robbed the Chinese and Moros at San Antonio Bay.

SYDNEY WRIGHT ✓: US Marine Corps, escaped from the prison camp at Puerto Princesa and is now with Col FERTIG.

ROBERT HODGES ✓: USN, escaped from the prison camp at Puerto Princesa. He left Tawi Tawi by sailboat in December, 1943.

GEORGE DAVIS ✓: US Marine Corps, escaped from the prison camp at Puerto Princesa. He left Tawi Tawi by sailboat in December, 1943.

ROBERT KELLAM ✓: USN, escaped from the prison camp at Puerto Princesa. He started for Australia in May, 1943, with Captain HARRIS.

CAPT HARRIS ✓: Left Tawi Tawi for Australia in May, 1943.

ARMSTRONG ✓: US Marine Corps, escaped from Corregidor and went to Palawan via Panay in 1942. He was captured in Tambisan, Borneo.

KATERINE ✓: US Marine Corps, escaped from Corregidor and went to Palawan via Panay in 1942. He is believed to be dead.

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