

EVACUEE REPORTS:

HALKYARD,
JAMES E.

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION GENERAL STAFF

APO 500
3 July 44

Philippine Evacuee Report #163

Subject : NEGROS
From : James E HALKYARD, ASN 6562934

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Name : James E Halkyard
Born : 1918 in Nevada City, California
Education : High School and College Preparatory
Service : Enlisted in 1937, stationed at Hickam
Field, Hawaii. Transferred to Clark
Field, Philippine Islands in 1940.
Assignment : 14th Bomb Squadron, Mechanic and Gunner.
In PI : Since 1940

Interrogated by G-2 GHQ SWPA

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Halkyard is young and better educated than most of the EM evacuees. He is observant, and apparently held positions with the guerrilla organization which enabled him to see more than most. His actions appeared to have been guided by prejudice and spur of the moment judgements. His information on Negros is accurate and checks with other available information. His information on Mindanao is old and colored with personal feelings.

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CHRONOLOGY

3 Sep 41 - In air crew under Capt Colin P KELLY, 14th Bomb Squadron, on Hawaii, left for Manila.
15 Nov 41 - Clark Field alerted.
8 Dec 41 - Bombing of Clark Field.
10 Dec 41 - After bombing a Jap ship in Lingayen Gulf, two Jap planes attacked and set Capt Kelly's plane on fire. Strafed all the way to the ground but all landed safely except Capt Kelly whose chute did not open.
25 Dec 41 - Evacuated Clark Field and moved to Bataan.
29 Dec 41 - Taken to Mariveles and boarded the SS Mayon with other air corps personnel.
1 Jan 42 - Landed at Bugo, Misamis Oriental.
Jan 42 - Infantry training at Del Monte Plantation.
Feb-Mar 42 - Stationed at Camp Keithley, building camouflage shelters for seaplanes in Lake Lanao.
Apr 42 - Landing of Japs at Malabang. Halkyard and a few companions escaped into the mountains.
May-Sep 42 - Lived with Moros in mountains of Mindanao.
Sep-Nov 42 - Lived with guerrillas under Lt ANDREWS.
Nov 42 - Commissioned 2nd Lt by FERTIG along with other Americans.

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- 18 Dec 42 - Landed at Zamboanquita, Negros Oriental. Went to Malabo and met Roy BELL and Major AUSEJO, the commander of Negros guerrilla forces.
- 30 Dec 42 - Left Malabo with message from Major Ausejo to Col GADOR.
- Jan-Jun 43 - Acted as Liaison Officer for Col Gador and made inspection trips to various units. Made one trip to the island of Cebu.
- Jul 43 - Joined Col ABCEDE's forces.
- 4 July 43 - Jap landing at Asia, Negros Oriental.
- 9 July 43 - Submarine delivered ammunition, guns, and supplies to Col Abcede and Major VILLAMOR.
- 12 July 43 - Jap penetration and capture of part of ammunition.
- July 43 - Col Abcede given command of the 7th MD.
- Aug 43 - Appointed Liaison Officer by Col Abcede.
- Sep-Dec 43 - Inspection trip for Col Abcede.
- Jan 44 - Ill with malaria.
- 9 Feb 44 - Evacuated.

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Japanese at Rendezvous Area On 4 July 1943, the Japs landed at Asia, about 5 kilometers down the coast from Col ABCEDE's Headquarters. They left that same day.

On 8 July 1943, when a submarine was expected, a Japanese plane appeared and flew over the area where contact was to be made. Later in the afternoon a Jap destroyer circled the same area. Both the plane and the destroyer left about four o'clock in the afternoon.

Major VILLAMOR left the shore about five o'clock to make contact, but, due to the roughness of the sea, this was not accomplished.

The following afternoon contact was made and the supplies and ammunition were delivered. These were taken into the jungle and hidden.

On 12 July 1943, a landing was made by 300 Japs at Nabulao. About 150 went into the jungle, following the trail which had been used in carrying some of the ammunition, part of which was found by the Japanese.

Though a thorough investigation was made, no evidence was found which would indicate that the Japanese had been informed of the contact with the submarine.

Lieutenant Colonel Gador After the surrender of the USAFFE forces in 1942, GADOR hid in the hills of central Negros Oriental. MERCADO was the first of the guerrilla leaders in this area and he asked Gador to come down from the hills to take over the organization, since he was the ranking officer on the island. Gador accepted, and held this position until November 1943.

In 1942, Col Abcede asked Gador to take command of all the Negros guerrillas. Gador refused, on the grounds that he did not want to be responsible for things which had previously happened in Negros.

About the first of January 1943, Col Abcede asked Gador to come to his Headquarters and again offered Gador command of all Negros guerrillas. This offer was also declined by Gador, for the same reason.

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On 25 December 1942, a letter arrived at AUSEJO's Headquarters from Col FERTIG, addressed to Gador and asking him to report to Mindanao, and stating that he, Fertig, had been appointed Commander of Mindanao and the Visayas. This letter was delivered to Gador by Halkyard early in January 1943. As a result of reading the letter Gador appointed himself Commanding General of the Philippines, with rank of Major General.

Gador informed Fertig and all guerrilla leaders on Negros that he was assuming this command. He also sent Halkyard to FENTON on Cebu to try to persuade the loyalties of the Cebu guerrillas. All leaders refused to recognize him.

When Halkyard arrived at Gador's Headquarters, he was impressed by the discipline and organization of the unit. He found what appeared to be an efficient training school for officers and enlisted men. He had some good officers and was training others. Defenses and communications were well organized. All people in the area were loyal.

About the time Gador assumed command of the Philippines, he began to place relatives and close friends with little or no training in positions above his good officers. As a result, a feeling of resentment began to grow among many of his officers.

In the first part of May 1943, the Commander in Chief's message urging the Negros guerrilla leaders to cooperate was delivered to Gador. To check the authenticity of the message, Gador sent his Signal Officer, SALAZAR, and his Chief of Staff, ASPILLA, to Villamor's headquarters. When they returned and assured him of the genuineness of the message, Gador sent word that he was coming to see Villamor.

Villamor waited until the middle of June and then sent Lt SANTA CRUZ with another message asking Gador to come immediately to straighten out the island command. Gador did not want to go, and gave his officers no reason for his decision.

Halkyard believed he wanted to sit in the hills with his unit, to be recognized when the American forces arrived. His officers were against this course, and were anxious that the unit should be officially recognized at once. They held a meeting and literally forced Gador to go to Villamor's headquarters. He arrived about the end of June, with fifty five officers and men.

The party had been in the area about three days when the Japs made a landing at Tolong. Gador became uncomfortable and left shortly after midnight with his officers and men. Halkyard was the only member of the party who remained.

About a week later Salazar returned and stayed.

Colonel Fenton On a visit to Cebu during the first part of 1943, Halkyard met Colonel Fenton, who was formerly a radio announcer in Cebu City. Fenton claimed to have been commissioned a 1st Lieutenant before the surrender of Cebu. He was co-commander of Cebu with Colonel CUSHING, who was said to have been a Captain before the surrender.

Fenton showed Halkyard a list of over 200 names of people, most of whom had been killed under his orders. From what was said, Cushing had not had much to do with these killings. Fenton handled the administrative duties, while Cushing handled the combat end of the command.

Cushing seemed to be well liked while Fenton was disliked and feared by everyone.

Fenton said that he did not want to cooperate with the other islands, that Cebu had been and would continue to be entirely independent, and that he would never take orders from any of the other island commanders.

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LT ANDREWS : Was CO 72nd Inf at Iligan, Lanao, before the war. He is now a captain with the guerrillas in the Iligan area. Good combat man, hardheaded and knows how to get what he wants.

GEORGE GENT : Mestizo, now Negros-Mindanao Liaison Officer.

MORGAN : Former PC Captain, Had requested Fertig to take command while he organized the guerrillas in Mindanao. Feared more than he was respected. Often drunk.

TATE : Negro mestizo assisting Morgan. Formerly a civilian living in Momungan, Lanao. Feared by the Moros.

DON LeCOUVRE : Escaped with Halkyard into the mountains when Japs landed at Malabang in April 1942.

LEONARD LeCOUVRE : Also escaped with Halkyard in April 1942. Was living with guerrillas in Mindanao in 1942.

BILL KONKO : A sailor living with the guerrillas in Mindanao, 1942.

JOHN LEWIS : Escaped from Japs in Iligan, was with guerrillas, 1942.

OWENS : Escaped with Halkyard, was living in the mountains in 1942.

McGUIRE : Cpl MC, attached to 14th Bomb Group. Was living in the mountains of Mindanao in 1942.

DASHER : An old American civilian on Mindanao. Operated a camp in the mountains in Mindanao in 1942, where Col FERTIG, Capt HEDGES, OFFRET, DEWITT GLOVER, ROURKE, Paul OWENS, JOHNSON, SMITH, and several other soldiers and sailors were staying.

WEAVER : An old American civilian on Mindanao. Supplied Halkyard with supplies and a guide.

McMICHAELS : American mestizo running a camp in the mountains in Mindanao in 1942. Several American soldiers there then.

MURPHY : American mestizo living in the mountains in Mindanao in 1942.

CAPTAIN TORRES : CO 7th MD Headquarters Company, former civilian, had organized a guerrilla unit of good fighters at Binalbagan.

KAYANAN : Originally with Abcede in Kabankalan. He was disgusted for not getting recognition for his work. He was at Villamor's Headquarters when Gador was there, and left with Gador.

ANTONIO : Formerly mayor of San Carlos. Organized guerrilla unit near there. Later had trouble and came to pitched battle with MATA, who sent out orders for his arrest. Antonio then moved south to Gador's Headquarters. Civilians claimed in Gador's area that Mata was responsible for the fight and that Antonio was ok.

W W WILSON : Was on the Don Estaban when she sank. Rumored that he had something to do with the disappearance of \$12,000

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from the ship. Wilson claims he gave the money to General CHENOWYTH, but lost the receipt. Couldn't get along with Gador. Now taking no active part in anything.

CHINESE ON NEGROS : In October 1943, a Chinaman appeared in Negros, claiming he was sent by Chiang Kai Shek. Had a list of names connected with Chinese underground movement. Governor MONTELIBANO was connected with bringing him from Manila. There is a group of Chinese interested in intelligence work in Manila but Halkyard did not know any of the details.

The Chinese are not well treated by the Japanese. They have been bringing supplies of quinine to the Negros guerrillas. Halkyard thought that they were engaged in bringing quinine supplies from the south for the Japanese and were milking off some for the guerrillas. The Chinese have been lavish with their generosity to the guerrillas.

PETER CY SIP : Living in the Manjuyod area with about 300 refugee Chinese. Cooperated wholeheartedly with guerrillas.

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