

EVACUEE REPORTS:

HAMMONS,

WILLIAM M.

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION GENERAL STAFF

APO 500
8 August 44

Philippine Evacuee Report #338

Subject : PALAWAN and CUYO
From : William M HAMMONS, Pfc, 3rd Class Specialist,
ASN 14017211

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Name : William Marvin Hammons
Born : 22 January 1918 in Boyle, Mississippi
Education : High School
Service : Enlisted in Jackson, Mississippi, 13
September 1940; assigned to Air Corps,
Barksdale Field; transferred to 48th
Materiel Squadron, Savannah, Georgia, in
October 1940; 48th Materiel Squadron
arrived Ft McKinley, PI, 20 November
1941.
Assignment : Special mission with volunteers from 48th
Materiel Squadron to go to San Jose,
Mindoro.
In PI : Since 20 November 1941

Interrogated by G-2 GHQ SWPA

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Hammons travelled extensively between the islands in the Palawan area. He, along with some other Americans, seemed to be unable to get along with some of the guerrilla leaders and the Mayor of Cuyo. For that reason, most of his time was spent living with the natives on the different islands. He had little information to give.

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CHRONOLOGY

- 20 Nov 41 - Arrived with the 48th Materiel Squadron at Ft McKinley, PI.
- 15 Dec 41 - Sent to San Jose, Mindoro, with a group of 50 volunteers under Lt BAGGET to operate the emergency field located there.
- 8 Mar 42 - Because of report that the Japanese had landed a large force nearby, the gasoline was burned and demolition of main installations was carried out.
- 9 Mar 42 - All American soldiers and Lt Bagget evacuated to the hills.
- 11 Apr 42 - Received a radiogram from Corregidor that the group was on its own.
- 2 May 42 - Went with Lt Bagget's group to Panay to meet planes that were supposed to carry them to Mindanao. Met Major SAYE.



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- 15 May 42 - Reached Cuyo on way to Mindanao. Group was composed of Major Saye, Lt Bagget, and some 50 American soldiers.
- 20 May 42 - Jap cruiser and transport came to Cuyo. Major Saye, Lt Bagget, and 28 enlisted men surrendered. Some 20 Americans escaped into the mountains.
- Jun 42-Apr 44 - Lived for short periods of time on different parts of Cuyo and Palawan. Had several run-ins with the guerrilla leaders, especially Lt GARCIA. Treated very well by the civilians.
- 27 Feb 43 - Appendectomy performed by Dr MENDOZA.
- 20 May 43 - Lt GLEW killed by Pedro Ponce de LEON, Mayor of Cuyo.
- 23 Apr 44 - Arrived in Panay to meet the sub from Australia.
- 21 June 44 - Evacuated.

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Killing of Lieutenant Glew

Hard feelings between Pedro Ponce De Leon and the American soldiers developed during the summer of 1942. The soldiers left on Cuyo did not have any money, but it was discovered that there was a large stock of supplies stranded in Cuyo which had been destined for Corregidor. It was presumed that these supplies belonged to USAFFE. The soldiers felt that they were entitled to take what they needed.

De Leon, the Mayor of Cuyo, said that he was tired of having the Americans there and refused to give them any of the supplies. He was forced to do so by Hammons and others at the point of a gun. After this incident, the Mayor never lost an opportunity to express his feelings towards the soldiers.

In May 1943, Lt Glew went to the Mayor's office and accused him of helping the Japs. There were rumors that De Leon was going to have his policemen disarm the American soldiers and turn the guns, together with some he had, over to the Japs. Lt-Glew told the Mayor what he had heard and demanded that he be given the guns. De Leon asked Lt Glew to return to his office the next day and they would discuss the matter.

When Glew returned the following day, De Leon, without any warning, had his two policemen commence firing on Glew. He was killed without any chance of defending himself.

De Leon has been protected by Lt Garcia and a relative of his, Francisco Ponce De Leon, who is a 1st Lt with the guerrillas.

COLUMBUS "SANDAVAL" ✓: Lives in Cuyo. He has several affidavits concerning the death of Lt Glew which show that it was cold blooded murder.

DR MENDOZA ✓: Lives at Puerto Princesa, Palawan. He has been helpful to the American soldiers on Palawan and would be a good man to contact concerning loyalty of various individuals on Palawan.

FRANCISCO PONCE DE LEON ✓: 1st Lt in the guerrilla army. He is a relative of Mayor Pedro Ponce De Leon and has been protecting him.

GARCIA ✓: Lt in the guerrilla army in Palawan. He is anti-white. He never missed an opportunity to impose on the Americans. At one time he disarmed all of them.

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