

EVACUEE REPORTS:

KING, MARGIT

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION GENERAL STAFF



DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR OF
20 AUG. 75

AFO 500,
12 June 1944

Philippine Evacuee Report #257

Subject : Evacuation in the Mountains of Central PANAY
From : Mrs Albert W KING

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Name : Margit King (nee GANS)
Born : 1913, at Nagykanizsa, Hungary, of Austrian parents
Married : 1939, at Manila, to Albert Washington KING Jr
In PI : Since 1938

Interrogated by G-2 GHQ SWPA

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Mrs King has been in evacuation in the mountains above the Aklan and Panay Rivers since the first bombings of Iloilo in December 1941, and has little information. She is high strung and moody and has been hospitalized since her arrival in SWPA. She is intelligent but strongly imaginative and an emotional thinker, which colors her judgments on personalities and motives. Details of chronology and locations were difficult to develop, and may not be accurate. The information is given here for what it may be worth.

CHRONOLOGY

- 1936 : Living in Vienna, pupil at the Art Academy, and wrote for newspapers. Made trips to Italy as a student.
- 1938 : Came to Siam as companion for an elderly Italian lady.
- 1938 : Arrived in the Philippines.
- April 1939 : Married to Albert Washington King Jr, American citizen, sales manager for Goodyear Tire Company in Negros and Cebu. Lost Austrian citizenship on marriage.
- 1941 : Husband employed by G-2 US Army, through Colonel LYNCH. Made reports on Negros and Panay to Major EVANS and Major RAYMOND in Manila. Mrs King translated German, Italian and Slavic languages for them.
- early Dec 1941 : At outbreak of the war husband volunteered for duty.
- late Dec 1941 : Evacuated with husband and child to the mountains.
- 1942 : Husband made repeated efforts to join the guerrilla army, but was not accepted.
- June 1943 : Husband received letter from Lt LOOT, G-2 officer under Lt Col CHAVEZ, saying that General MacArthur wanted all Americans to join the guerrilla army. Husband wrote to PERALTA applying for a commission and was told he was not qualified.
- 25 Aug 1943 : Husband commissioned 2nd Lt Inf at 6th MD headquarters at Sara, and assigned to District Engineers under Major FERTIG.
- September 1943 : Japanese penetration at Sara. Major Fertig sent husband on a mission to the Malinao-Banga area in the Aklan.
- 17 Oct 1943 : Met husband at Malinao. Japanese raiders in the area. Evacuated with husband and child to the mountains.
- November 1943 : In the mountains behind Calinog. Captain MIJARES (mestizo) and family joined them.
- late Nov 1943 : In evacuation in a barrico in the Malinao area with Captain GOMEZ and his wife. Captain Gomez hospitable and friendly.
- December 1943 : Captain Gomez suggested King go to Capataga to get a list of men surrendered to the Japanese there - of whom one was Lt Pedro GOMEZ.



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- 3 Dec 1943 : Husband left for Capataga to find out about rifles which Lt Pedro Gomez had come back to claim after his surrender to the Japanese.
- 5 Dec 1943 : Gomez suggested Mrs King go away. Became inhospitable.
- 6 Dec 1943 : TOMI, the barrio teniente, said he had seen 36 Japanese approaching and that they were in Capataga. Gomez prevented Mrs King from sending a note to her husband.
- 7 Dec 1943 : Husband captured by the Japanese at Capataga.
- 18 Dec 1943 : Husband killed by the Japanese at Tapaz. Mrs King mistreated by Gomez and in ignorance of her husband's whereabouts.
- 15 Jan 1944 : Gomez called to Malinao by the army.
- 28 Feb 1944 : A Lieutenant brought Mrs King and her boy to other Americans for evacuation to Australia.

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Captain Aurelio Gomez ✓ Medical Corps officer, about 34 years of age, the organizer of guerrilla resistance in the Malinao area. Ambitious, sensitive, and cruel. Systematically mistreated Mrs King in December 1943 and January 1944 while she was staying in his barrio. He allowed her and her child only a starvation diet, and terrorized the civilians who wanted to help her. Told the civilians that she was a thief and anti-Filipino. Would not let them carry her child when they were forced to move. Took over an excellent rifle her husband had left with her for protection, and would not return it, falsely saying that it was his on a trade he had made with King. When she demanded a receipt, gave her one with a falsified serial number. On his departure he told the civilians of the barrio to work Mrs King hard and give her only enough food to keep alive.

Has a reputation for cruelty to children and animals and double dealing. Living above Malinao with a "wife" from Iloilo although he had a wife already in Manila.

Ford's Camp near Tapaz Politics and personality clashes were rife in the camp maintained by Mr FORD (evacuee #245) on the Panay River above Tapaz. Many people in the camp seemed to be of doubtful loyalty. Although Manuel GARCIA, Ford's brother-in-law, had been under Japanese control and was on the guerrilla black list, he was not molested by the army at the Ford camp. LORING (evacuee #259) and ARONSON (evacuee #236) were friends who stayed at the Ford camp; they had once been investigated in Iloilo for running an unauthorized radio station.

When the Japanese penetrated to the missionary camp on the Panay River in December 1943, they passed within 100 yards of the Ford camp but never molested it.

Dr CULLEN / : An old man, ran the Custom House in Iloilo, believed captured.

ISMAEL / : Lawyer in Iloilo, decidedly pro-Japanese. Believed now in Iloilo under the Japanese.

GALATA ✓ : Foremost pro-Jap in Iloilo. Gave shelter to a sister of Loring, when she left the Ford camp and surrendered during 1943.



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