

EVACUEE REPORTS:

MORGAN,

LOUIS P.

~~SECRET~~ 8 December 1943

SUBJECT : Report on Guerrilla Activities in Mindanao and Visayas.

TO : A. G. of S., G-2, GHQ, SWPA.

1. Introduction: This report covers the period December 28, 1941 to October 14, 1943. Places visited during this period were Lanao, Zamboanga, Misamis Occidental, Misamis Oriental, Agusan, Surigao, Leyte, Bohol, Siguilor, Negros Oriental, and Negros Occidental, covering a distance of 2080 miles. Purpose was to organize guerrilla groups or to unify those already existing under our Headquarters at Misamis Occidental, establish civil government, foster agriculture, preserve peace and order, and defend guerrilla occupied territory against the enemy.

2. Induction into the USAFFE: My first initiation into the USAFFE was on September 29, 1941, the date on which I was promoted temporary Captain. Formal induction did not take place until January 12, 1943. Previous to September 29, 1941, I was First Lieutenant of the Philippine Constabulary.

3. Before and after December 7, 1941: I was in command of the 8th Lanao Co. PC, Kolumbugan, Lanao before December 7, 1941. I was in command of this unit from December 13, 1939 and I had 41 enlisted men under me. I was responsible for peace and order in an area 77 kms square. On January 12, 1942, the 8th Lanao Co. was inducted into the USAFFE, but retained their identity as P.C. We were then under Brig. General Joseph Vachon, Commanding Mindanao Force. Immediately after the hostilities between the United States and Japan, Gen. Vachon sent out orders to organize guerrilla groups to fight the enemy in the event any part of Mindanao should fall into enemy hands. Guerrilla groups were immediately organized in my district, armed with shot-guns, paluintods, pistols, bolos and spears. Instructions and tables of organization were issued to the guerrillas in December 1941, but these instructions were modified in February 1942 when Brigadier Guy O. Fort became Division Sector Commander. Guerrilla groups in my district acted as observers, performed outpost duties, checked passes of civilians and acted as messengers.

4. Fall of Mindanao: On April 29, 1942, the Japanese attacked Parang, Cotabato, and on May 3, 1942, Cagayan, Misamis Oriental. Our forces burned supplies and towns before the advancing enemy, fought a delaying action, and retired into the interior. I burned Kolumbugan and its lumber yard, and retreated to Cebuano Barracks, Zamboanga, to join Major Tesno, where I found Major Clyde C. Childress and his men. When I learned their intention was to lie low, I decided to join Col. Wilson at Zamboanga, but found he had surrendered. Gen. Sharp surrendered on May 10, 1942, and I received orders dropped from plane to surrender, but I ignored them.

5. Reorganization of Guerrillas in Kolumbugan: There being nothing more to do, I returned to Kolumbugan with my men on June 6, 1942. Marauding Moros and Christian Filipinos were preying on the peaceful inhabitants - killing, robbing and raping. To save my district from these marauders and the Japs, I split my men into 8 groups, divided my district into eight sectors and assigned a group to each sector. Arms and ammunition were confiscated from retreating soldiers. Around the sector, commanders grew up the powerful guerrilla forces in Kolumbugan district. This force became powerful in Lanao Province when powerful Datus with their private armies joined our forces.

6. Appearance of Lt. Col. W.W. Fertig and his Companions in my District In August, 1942, Lt. Col. W. W. Fertig, Charles Smith, Charles Hedges, Jordan,



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Hammer, and "Old" Smith, appeared in my district from the interior of Lanao. I later designated Col. Fertig our Commanding General. The Smiths and Mr. Hammer eventually reached Australia. Charles Smith is now Major and Hammer a Captain.

Wonggan said the word a mistake; that "Old" Smith was in a separate party.

7. The Revolt; In August 1942, Guadalcanal fell into Allied hands. Mistaking it for the fall of the Solomon Islands, I issued orders on Sept. 9, 1942 to all Moro leaders to start immediate operations against the enemy. On Sept. 12, 1942, armed Moros under Major Busran Kalao attacked and annihilated a Jap force of 200 men and butchered them to the last man. On Sept. 15-18, we seized Misamis Occidental and Northern Zamboanga, and killed off the few Japs found there and kept four as prisoners of war. American and Filipino flags were raised, Angel Medina was appointed Military Governor and I ordered the continuation of the Civil Government. To protect the newly won territory, I ordered all retreated officers and men as well as armed civilians to join the militia which I organized on the spot. In four days, Misamis Occidental and Northern Zamboanga were already garrisoned by our boys.

8. Assumption of command by Col. Fertig; To leave me a free hand to organize and unify under one headquarters all the guerrilla forces in Mindanao and Visayas, I requested Col. W. W. Fertig to head our organization while I became his Chief of Staff. I then pushed him up to the rank of Brigadier General. He, in turn, pushed me up to Lieutenant Colonel. Taking a lesson from "Mein Kampf", that a lie will be believed if it is big enough, we spread the news around that a general arrived from Australia to assume command of all the forces in the Philippines. The result was electrifying. Retreated officers and men came out of their hideouts and reported for duty. Negros, Bohol, Cotabato, Misamis Oriental guerrillas sent their representatives to our headquarters for instructions. Japs garrisoned were immediately immobilized in their garrisons. By October 1942, guerrillas in North Zamboanga, Lanao, Misamis Occidental and Misamis Oriental were already under our jurisdiction. At this time, the Japs sent a force of 3,000 to Tamparan, Lanao, to avenge the death of the Japs butchered the previous month. 400 men attacked Kolambugan. Launches and airplanes supported the Jap infantry. Under Major Busran Kalao at Tamparan and Capt. J. Sanguila in Kolambugan, the Japs were driven back with the loss of 300. Japs "tried" to recapture Misamis Occidental with a launch full of soldiers but the Misamis guerrillas under Captain Joaquin Dismal drove them back. When the Japs retreated to Cagayan, Misamis Oriental, guerrilla boys under Majors Angel Limena and Juan K. Teduran, attacked them continuously for one month along the length of the highway from Iligan to Cagayan, distance 135 kms. This was the last time the Japs used the Iligan Cagayan highway.

9. Patrol to Zamboanga City; Having Brigadier General Fertig in charge of General Headquarters in Misamis Occidental, I proceeded toward Zamboanga to organize guerrilla forces therein and Sulu Province. I appointed Lt. Inao Abdurakin, Commanding Officer, Sulu Forces, and Capt. Frank McCarthy, St. Moro (Momu) and Lt. Garcia for Southern Zamboanga. Promotions were made on the spot to persons with guts and leadership. Education was a minor consideration.

10. Encounter at Zamboanga City; At about 5:00 p.m., Nov. 14, 1942, we reached the outskirts of the city. The Japs fired on us once without inflicting any casualties. The next morning, Nov. 15, 1942, the Japs, 450 strong, armed with machineguns, light artillery, stock mortars, chased my small force of 150 men out of Pasonanca and we retreated back to Lanao. Bridges, power plants, reservoirs were destroyed by our boys in Zamboanga City. On the way back, I met Hammer, Charles Smith and "Old Man" Smith at Pagadian, Zamboanga. They wanted to leave for Australia but no Moros would go with them. I helped them out of their difficulties and they left Zamboanga in Dec. 1942. I gave them sketches of Zamboanga City and Malabang.

11. Patrol to Northern Mindanao and Visayas; By January 1943, I was ready for my trip to the Pacific Coast and the Visayan Islands. I gathered

a force of 80 men and designated it as the General Headquarters, Expeditionary Force. I left Misamis Occ. Jan. 12, 1943, visited the guerrilla leaders in Misamis Oriental, Bukidnon, Agusan and Surigao. Guerrilla leaders in Davao were issued orders to join up with our Headquarters. Promotions, inspection reports were made of all guerrilla companies along the way.

12. The Attack on Butuan, Agusan: On March 1-11, 1943, we attacked the Jap garrison at Butuan. My forces joined up with the force of Lieut. Colonel McClish and after three days, we had the Japs surrounded in their last defensive position in a stone school house. If we could have burned the wooden floor of the school house, we could have captured the place. Over confident, McClish's men did not burn the school house sooner. Jap reinforcements arrived and we abandoned the siege. In this attack, our boys were armed with automatic rifles, Enfield rifles, Springfield rifles, a few hand grenades, Molotov cocktails and one improvised cannon. The Japs were armed with American and Jap rifles, machineguns, automatic rifles, stock mortars and grenades. They were supported by one plane which caused some casualties. In this attack, we captured shoes, khaki cloth, rifles, helmets, launchers, Jap flags, foodstuff and everything of value to the Jap was destroyed.

13. Trip to the Visayas: After an encounter with the Japs in Anawan, 12 kms. from Surigao town on Mar. 28, 1943, and several vain attempts to cross to Leyte, we finally reached Cabalian, Leyte on April 17, 1942. Jap transports were sighted on April 13 near Surigao which we were able to avoid.

14. Conditions in Samar and Leyte: There were several guerrilla groups operating in these islands at the time I arrived. Twice I was surrounded by armed guerrillas and I was able to convince them that my mission was good. By the time I left Leyte only Capt. P.V. Merritt of Samar and Lt. B. Miranda of Leyte have not joined up. Colonel Ruperto Kangleon, C.O. Samar and Leyte, controls most of the two islands.

15. Conditions in Bohol: Bohol Province is efficiently controlled by Major Ismael Inginiero. The Japs are in Guindulman and Tagbilaran. Two Jap planes fell in Bohol and two pilots captured prisoners. The people I interviewed along the way praised Major Inginiero. A newspaper is in circulation for the benefit of the people. Orders were issued to Major Inginiero to reorganize the shattered forces of Major H. Fenton. Japs attacked Fenton in April 1942 and dispersed his forces who fled to Bohol and Negros.

16. Activities in Siquijor: Major Benito Cansan was in charge of the Siquijor guerrillas up to June 25, 1943, when a Jap invasion force drove him and his men from the island. Japs are now mining manganese in Larina. Before they came, I ordered the remnants of the Fenton forces to submit to our Hqrs. Major Cansan was made C.O. 8th Military District with instructions to reorganize Cebu and Bohol guerrillas under one Headquarters. To convince the Cebu guerrillas that we have authority from Gen. MacArthur, I pushed up Major Cansan to Lt. Colonel and many others in the presence of the Cebu guerrillas. Reorganization then went smoothly. When I arrived at Major J. Villamor's Headquarters, I revoked all the orders issued to Cansan as the 10th M.D. had lost jurisdiction over Negros.

17. Conference with Major J. Villamor: I visited Major Villamor in his headquarters and discussed organization, leaving him copies of my activities. Conference was held at Jinabuan, Negros Occidental on June 14, 1943.

18. Return to Mindanao: We left Negros Island on June 16, 1943, and arrived at Dipolog, Zamboanga, on June 17, 1943. Interviewed Col. Fertig in his Headquarters on June 23, 1943, left for my station the next day. On June 15, 1943, half of my men went on leave, leaving me about 30 men for duty.

19. Japanese Invasion of Misamis Occidental and Kolambagan, June 26-29/43
On June 26th the Japs simultaneously attacked Zamboanga, Misamis Occ. and



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Kolambugan, Lanao. The Jap forces were supported by bombers. There was little resistance on Misamis Occ. The forces there were led by officers with no prior experience, who retreated faster than the men. These officers entered the service for pay, bonus and pension. Not to fight and die for their country. Many of these worthless officers came from the teaching profession. The Japs occupied Dipolog, Pagadian, Tukuran, Cebuano. Barracks in Zamboanga Province, Misamis, Oroquieta, Tangub, Bolaoan in Misamis Occ. After shelling and dropping a few bombs in Kolambugan District from June 26-29 1943, a force of 150 Japs succeeded in marching toward my C.P. but the boys drove them back. That was the last time Kolambugan was attacked.

20. Transfer of Col. Fertig Headquarters to my District: After the fall of Misamis Occidental, Col. W. Fertig transferred his headquarters in my district. This action lost him the respect of the people in Lanao, Misamis Occ and Zamboanga, but they tolerated him because he is a SWPA appointee.

21. Attack on Jap Garrison in Misamis Occ.: After the General Headquarters of the 10th Military District was transferred to Kolambugan, I ordered an attack on Jap garrisons. After a few days' attack, the Japs concentrated in Misamis and Oroquieta. Small garrisons in outlying places were abandoned by the Japs. Misamis guerrillas who could not fight and were disarmed by my men. Guerrillas all over Misamis and Zamboanga fought with intense vigor. They have now acquired the actual practice and are no longer afraid. The Japs, hard pressed, finally abandoned Pagadian and Diplog, Zamboanga Province.

22. Difficulties with Col. Fertig: When I arrived from my trip I learned that the guerrillas and civilians in Misamis Occ. and Lanao bitterly resented the action of Col. Fertig who designated Lt. Col. Robert V. Bowler of Talskag, Bukidnon as his second in command and disregarded me. People who know Col. Fertig came to my district for protection and I helped him out by making him our General. Other complaints were against Col. Hedges and Lt. Clover; insulting and mistreating the men; unequal rations between American and Filipino officers. People murmured, speeches were uttered in public denouncing his ungrateful behavior. I resigned as his Chief of Staff and worked independently from July 4th through September 1943. While this friction was going on, I received information that I was needed in Australia to explain the needs of our organization. After ordering my men to take orders from Col. Fertig, I left Kolambugan, Lanao, on Sept. 29, 1943. On Oct. 14, 1943, I arrived at Brisbane and was stationed in Tabragalba for two months.

23. Life in Unoccupied Territory: In most guerrilla occupied territory at the present time, life is orderly. People plant more rice, corn, raise chickens, pigs, cows, vegetables, make their own clothes from abaca and bark; make alcohol from tuba and nipa to run trucks and cars; soap is made from coconut oil; cigarettes are made locally and take the place of the Camels and Chesterfields. Cassava is planted in large quantities to guard against famine should rice or corn be eaten by locusts. Commerce takes place within guerrilla-occupied territory. Passes are necessary. Transportation is hard - sailboats, cars, trucks, horses, carabao, cows are the means of transportation being employed. Communication by telephone if available, telegraph messengers or pony express. Among guerrilla divisions and regiments correspondence and communication are routine matters.

24. The Guerrilla Forces: The guerrillas are organized along Army lines with a General Headquarters and the different branches of the Army. All Divisions and Regiments have army designation and sections are assigned to divisions or regiments to garrison. These divisions or regiments are responsible for peace and order, food production, civil government and defense of their sector. A medical division takes care of the sick soldiers. Doctors and nurses were commissioned for this purpose. Medicine formerly was unobtainable but conditions since have improved.

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25. General Service Schools: To supply officers in guerrilla forces, several leaders opened general service schools. There are two such schools in Leyte where candidate officers are trained for one month on basic infantry minor tactics, discipline, courtesy, and graduated with the rank of Second Lieutenant at the rate of 100 a month for each school. In Lanao, a Commando school trains men to be physically fit. The men acquire their training in their respective camp where they drill and take field exercises. The firing line is the usual test of training for a guerrilla soldier. One or two raids on a Jap outposts makes a fighter out of the recruit.

26. Society: In spite of the war, dances, fiestas, gambling, picnics are still carried on in guerrilla country. Officers and soldiers are aimed to the teeth when they go to dances. No officer or man would part with his arm while dancing. All the saints are remembered on holidays and we celebrate Occupation Day, Fourth of July, Commonwealth Day are days of merriment. Marriages are at present performed either before priest, Justice of the Peace, barrio lieutenants or any guerrilla officer. Women auxiliary service members help entertain guerrilla big shots. The men and civilians also.

27. Japanese Propaganda: Japanese propaganda has no effect on guerrilla occupied territory. Their promise of Philippine Independence, Co-prosperity, etc., are taken with amusement. The Filipinos do not believe any Japanese can give independence to the Philippines unless they removed all independence from the Islands. With respect to America granting Phil^{ip} place in practically all guerrilla territory. People talk of coming aid, how to attack the Japs, how to raise more food, dances, listen to the progress of the war in Europe and South Pacific.

28. Filipino Loyalty: Filipino loyalty to the United States has appeared in ~~the~~ color during these hard times. In practically all guerrilla occupied territory (except Moro provinces for a few months after the fall of the Philippines) Americans were treated with respect. This notwithstanding that a few ill-bred Americans have maltreated or insulted Filipinos. Some Filipinos may have a personal ill-feeling against a few Americans but not against the majority of Americans and the United States.

29. Leading Figures in the Philippines: General MacArthur is the most popular man in the Philippines today. The Japanese respect him and information received from Manila is to the effect that Japanese soldiers are guarding his suite in the Manila Hotel. President M. L. Quezon became the subject of harsh criticism after Pearl Harbor, but at present that he is in Washington, his popularity is returning. If he could return to Manila with an American force he will again be very popular. Brig. General Manuel Roxas is always remembered because he defends the right of prisoners of war in the concentration camp. His refusal to be released from prison until all prisoners are released gained him popularity. Most of the members of Congress who are now with the Jap Government were immediately repudiated by the people. Generals Wainwright and Sharp are very unpopular with Filipino guerrillas because of the surrender of the Mindanao and Visayan forces instead of continuing the resistance on a guerrilla basis. When General MacArthur's orders to Sharp to start guerrilla fighting was discovered in Bukidnon, Wainwright and Sharp became more unpopular.

30. Dignity Among Guerrilla Groups: In Samar, Leyte, Negros, guerrilla groups are independent of each other. They refused to join because they lost their identity as guerrilla leaders or pioneers in the guerrillas. If a federation of all guerrilla groups is established, united to the District Commander of each district for intelligence networks only, in return for ammunition, but leaving each guerrilla leader to follow his own policy within the law the unifications of these various forces in the islands will be solved. Prestige and personal feeling enter into the matter. As a guerrilla leader

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20 AUG. 75



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29. Leading Figures in the Philippines: General MacArthur is the most popular man in the Philippines today. The Japanese respect him and information received from Manila is to the effect that Japanese soldiers are guarding his suite in the Manila Hotel. President M. L. Quezon became the subject of harsh criticism after Pearl Harbor, but at present that he is in Washington, his popularity is returning. If he could return to Manila with an American force he will again be very popular. Brig. General Manuel Roxas is always remembered because he defends the right of prisoners of war in the concentration camp. His refusal to be released from prison until all prisoners are released gained him popularity. Most of the members of Congress who are now with the Jap Government were immediately repudiated by the people. Generals Wainwright and Sharp are very unpopular with Filipino guerrillas because of the surrender of the Mindanao and Visayan forces instead of continuing the resistance on a guerrilla basis. When General MacArthur's orders to Sharp to start guerrilla fighting was discovered in Bukidnon, Wainwright and Sharp became more unpopular.

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has pride it hurts him if he is relieved from command and replaced by another officer. The injury becomes an insult if the officer relieving a pioneer guerrilla leader is an evacuee officer or an escaped prisoner of war. In the eyes of the people, credit should be given to a pioneer guerrilla leader and not to evacuee officers who come out of their hide-out and assume command after the forces have been functioning smoothly. His only right is his being the highest ranking officer, though he may not be the highest fighting one. In Leyte and Samar, two guerrilla leaders refused to submit to Col. Kangleon because they were the pioneers and Col. Kangleon has already disgraced himself by being a prisoner of war. Yet in spite of all, this, if the District Commander will follow strictly Army Regulations and as an Intelligence Officer for the district, and unification is easy.

31. Things needed by the guerrillas: To keep the Japs bottled up in their garrison, the following necessity is essential: ammunition, hand grenades, automatic rifles, carbine, tommy guns, medicine, quinine, Philippine currency for Intelligence work, 20 mm. guns for our launches for protection against Jap launches.

Attached are records of my activities from my recorded trip to the Visayas.

LOUIS P. MORGAN,
Captain.

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