

EVACUEE REPORTS :

RUZIECKI,

JOHN E.

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION GENERAL STAFF

APD 500
30 June 44

Philippine Evacuee Report #331

Subject : MINDANAO
From : John Edward RUZIECKI, Pfc 2/sp, ASN 19002677

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Name : John Edward Ruziecki
Born : 1921 at Richmond, California
Education : two years high school
Service : Enlisted at Los Angeles in June 1941.
Crew Chief, Ordnance, 19th Bomb Group.
2nd Lt, guerrilla 10th Military District;
ordnance technician, machine gun instructor,
procurement of supplies, combat
platoon leader, and cryptographer.

Interrogated by G-2 GHQ SWPA

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Ruziecki is quite young, but his native intelligence and adaptability have apparently been of considerable value to his superiors. He is sincere and accurate, but much of his information is hearsay and must be evaluated with this in mind. He collaborated with TRAMBELL in the listing of identifications in the latter's report.

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CHRONOLOGY

26 Jun 41 - Enlisted at March Field; assigned to 440th Ordnance Co, att to 19th Bomb Group
23 Oct 41 - Arrived in PI, sent to Clark Field
4 Dec 41 - Transferred to Del Monte Field, Mindanao
15 Jan 42 - Promoted to Pfc 4/sp
15 Feb 42 - Promoted to Pfc 2/sp
6 Mar 42 - Transferred with unit to Maramag Field, Mindanao
26 Apr 42 - Transferred with unit to Valencia Field, Mindanao
10 May 42 - Order for surrender issued by General SHARPE.
Left for the mountains to escape capture. Lived in various places and under difficult conditions in northern Mindanao until December, 1942.
22 Dec 42 - Joined guerrilla forces under PENDATUN
1 Jun 43 - Promoted to rank of 2nd Lt on orders of Col FERTIG
30 Oct 43 - Transferred to 109th Division under Col GRINSTAD
13 Mar 44 - Transferred to "A" Corps Hq under Col BOWLER
-4 May 44 - Promoted to rank of 1st Lt on orders of Col Bowler
1 Jun 44 - Evacuated to Australia

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Japanese Garrisons in Mindanao

The Japanese forces at Croquieta, Misamis, Dapitan, and Dipolog are frequently changed. The Jap brings in fresh troops from Japan proper, sends them out on a few raids against the guerrilla forces, and then moves them on to more forward areas. They usually spend about a month or six weeks in Mindanao before moving on.

On 15 April 44, the Japs landed 200 Infantry troops at Dipolog, and they have since been engaged in mining both Dipolog and Murcielagos Bays. There is a small force of Navy Air Force personnel at Zamboanga City for servicing two pursuit seaplanes stationed there. A constant patrol is maintained from this base, as it is a water stop for all southbound shipping.

Malaybalay is the principal Japanese garrison in Bukidnon. A radio station is located in the Normal School on the west side of town, defended by about 50 Japs and 25 BCs armed with mortars and machine guns. They are well dug in and have both barbed wire and mines around the area. The Capital building to the north of town is used as headquarters. Trenches are dug around the building, and there is one 60 cal machine gun in front.

GUERRILLA FORCES : Lt Col Robert V BOWLER is the commander of "A" Corps with headquarters at Parasan, Zamboanga.

105th Division is commanded by Lt Col Hipolito GARMA with headquarters at Bonifacio, Misamis Occidental. Strength approximately 1200 men and officers, armament approximately 700 carbines, Springfields, Enfields, Thompsons and BARS. Major MEDINA commands the 115th Regiment with headquarters at Pagadian, Zamboanga. Two other regiments have headquarters at Zamboanga City and Misamis Occidental.

106th Division is commanded by Lt Col McGEE with headquarters at Lebak, Cotabato. Strength approximately 1800 men and officers, armament approximately 800 carbines, Springfields, Enfields, Thompsons and BARS. Major PENDATUN commands the 118th Regiment, the 1st Battalion of which is commanded by Major PAGE.

108th Division is commanded by Lt Col Charles HEDGES with headquarters at Liangan, Lanao. Strength approximately 5000 men and officers, armament approximately 3500 .30 cal rifles, 1 81mm mortar, 1 .50 cal machine gun, 2 .30 cal machine guns, 1 Bren Gun Carrier, Jap type. The Division includes the 120th Regiment commanded by Major ANDRES with headquarters at Filomena, Lanao. There are also two other regiments, one commanded by Major BUSHRON, and a unit of "Beach Commandos" commanded by Lt McCLAREN on Lake Lanao. There is also the 1st Battalion, Maranao Military Forces, equipped with bolos, rifles, and two gasoline launches on Lake Lanao.

109th Division is commanded by Lt Col James GRINSTEAD. Strength approximately 1800 men and officers, armament approximately 1000 .30 cal rifles, 1 81mm mortar, 3 .50 cal machine guns, and 6 .30 cal machine guns. This division includes the 112th Regiment commanded by Capt McLAUGHLIN with headquarters at Sunilao, Bukidnon; the 109th Regiment commanded by Major LAPLAP with headquarters at Bolisong, Misamis Oriental; the 117th Regiment commanded by Major DECASTRO with headquarters at Alanib, Bukidnon; and the 111th Battalion with headquarters at Libona, Bukidnon.

The 1st Independant Battalion is commanded by Lt Don LeCOUVRE with headquarters at Zamboanga City. Strength approximately 350 men and officers, armament approximately 225 carbines and Springfields.

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