

EVACUEE REPORTS:

SCHURING,

HENRY G.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

CHECK SHEET

(Do not remove from attached sheets)

File No.:

Subject:

From: G-3 PSD

To: G-1 (RP) USAFFE

Date: 19 April 1945

Reference Henry G. Schuring, complete file on his case is attached for your information.

Request these papers be returned.

Incls:

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION GENERAL STAFF

A.P.O. 500,
7 June 1944.

Philippine Evacuee Report #265

Subject : Conditions on Panay.

From : Mr. Henry G. SCHURING

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Name : Henry G. Schuring
Born : 1903 at Salt Lake City
Education : Metallurgy and Mechanical Engineering
Occupation : Mill Superintendent at Masbate Consolidated
Mining Company
In P.I. : Since 1935.

Interrogated by G-2 GHQ SWPA

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Schuring is quiet and not aggressive by nature. His experiences on Panay were limited and much of his information concerned topography and airfields, for which he was sent to Allied Geographical Section. Information given below is considered reliable.

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CHRONOLOGY

12 Feb 42 : Japanese occupation of Masbate. Evacuated to Panay.
Feb 42 : Civilian employees of 61st Division, USAFFE, on Panay, worked under G-2 procuring machinery and manufacturing ordnance.
30 May 42 : Surrender of 61st Division. Evacuated to Missionary Camp near Tapaz in Capiz.
Nov 42 : Toured airfields in Panay with SPENCER and Maj. FERTIG.
28 May 43 : Commissioned 1st Lieutenant, CE, in Sixth Military District. Inspected airfields for equipment, armament and supplies.
Jul 43 : Established shops and supervised the manufacture of bolos, extractors for Enfield rifles and other ordnance.
Sep 43 : Japanese penetration at Sara. Evacuated to the Missionary Camp near Tapaz.
Oct 43 : Moved his family across the Panay River from the Missionary Camp for greater security.
19 Dec 43 : Japanese massacred seventeen (17) Americans at the Missionary Camp.
Feb 44 : Left for evacuation to Australia.

POWER AT HCM : A refugee from Masbate told SCHURING in August 1943 that the Japanese had erected power lines from the generators at Masbate Consolidated Mining Company to Aroroy and to Masbate town. They were using the power to light these towns.

Japanese Penetration at Missionary Camp

In December 1943, SCHURING was living with his family just across the Panay River from an evacuation camp, 8 miles above Tapaz, maintained by members of the Baptist Board of Foreign Missions. At that time the following Baptist Missionaries were living in the main camp:

Dr. and Mrs. Francis H. ROSE
Rev. and Mrs. Earl F. ROUNDS
Douglas ROUNDS, age 10
Miss Signe A. Erickson
Rev. and Mrs. James H. COVELL
Dr. and Mrs. Frederick M. MEYER
Miss Jennie C. ADAMS
Mrs. Dorothy A. DOWELL

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The main camp also contained the following civilians:

Mr. and Mrs. Mark CLARDY
John CLARDY, child
Terry CLARDY, child

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In January and February, 1943, Japanese patrols once or twice approached the camp, but did not molest any of the people.

On Sunday, 19 December 1943, SCHURING was with his wife and son and SPENCER's Filipino orderly at his house on the west side of the Panay River. Early in the morning Spencer's orderly saw about 200 Japanese coming along a ridge on the other side of the river, and moving towards the Missionary Camp, which he judges to be about one hour's walking time away from the Japanese. SCHURING send Spencer's orderly to warn SPENCER, who was living in Major FERTIG's house at the south end of the Missionary Camp. SCHURING and his family then moved north onto a hilltop and watched the camp until noon through field glasses. He saw the missionaries disperse and the Japanese begin to round them up.

On Monday the Japanese crossed over to the west bank of the river where the SCHURING's were. In the afternoon they burned SCHURING's house and killed two people there. SCHURING and his family drew back further into the mountains. On Wednesday, SCHURING received a note from Delfino DIANALA, the Filipino priest at nearby Katabunan. The note said that all sixteen Americans (named above) had been captured on Sunday and were brutally murdered a few days later. Lieut. KING, an American officer of the Sixth Military District, had been brought to the camp by the Japanese and was murdered at the same time as the others.

DIANALA also told a Filipino boy, who later told SCHURING, that the Japanese had lined up all the men on one side and all the women on the other side, their hands tied behind their backs, and they were told that they would be killed. Mr. COVELL could speak Japanese and pleaded for mercy to the Japanese commander, but with no effect. The Japanese cut their heads off with a large two-handed sword. The Japanese were big men, bearded and some wore white helmets. DIANALA afterwards buried all the Americans.

GUERRILLA ARMAMENT : The Sixth Military District is armed with 3,850 Enfield rifles which had been rejected by the Chinese government and were later purchased by President Quezon. The extractors on these rifles have been wearing out rapidly and SCHURING was kept busy making new ones on small lathes in the hills run by manpower.

GUERRILLA FINANCE : The emergency money issued by USAFFE has been counterfeited but not to any great extent. Emergency money is always accepted. The army now pays cash for most of its food supplies. Some taxes are collected by the civilian government, and Governor CONFESOR makes sizable loans to farmers against their future crops.

OWN PROPAGANDA: The chocolate candy sent up to Panay from SWPA does not circulate much and most of it does not get beyond the rendezvous point or higher headquarters. The "Free Philippines" magazine does not circulate much either. The best propaganda would be something tangible which the civilians could hold in their hands and could use continuously, for example, a shipment of bolos such as the one SCHURING saw which had "Melbourne" stamped on the blade and which was strongly effective as a morale builder.

CAPTURED JAPANESE MISSIONARIES : When the Baptist Mission Hospital at Capiz, Capiz, was seized by the Japanese when they landed early in 1942, the following missionaries were captured:

Dr. and Mrs. WATERS, and child.
Rev. and Mrs. CHAMBERS, and child
Miss ERNST
Miss BUCKNER

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