

EVACUEE REPORTS:

SMITH,

WILLIAM E.

~~SECRET~~

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA  
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION GENERAL STAFF

Philippine Evacuee Report #269

16 May 1944

Subject: Railroad on Panay

From : Mr William E Smith

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Name: William E Smith  
Born: 1881 at Rochester, New York  
In Philippine Islands since 1899  
Construction supervisor on Philippine Railway on Panay

Interrogated by G-2 GHQ SWPA

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Mr. Smith spent almost all of his time in evacuation and has little information of value except his details of the railroad line and rolling stock on Panay. Referred to Allied Geographical Section.

CHRONOLOGY

April 1942: At the Japanese invasion evacuated 20 boxes of dynamite to Summit and 11 cars of gasoline and oil. Evacuated with wife and three children to Summit-Passi area.

4 Nov 1942 to  
11 Jan 1943: Smith got together his line crew of laborers and inspected the railroad line from Pototan to Dumarao. The track was cleaned up, bridges were repaired and put in condition, and the line was subsequently used by the army for the transportation of food supplies. Hand cars and a Ford auto car were used for this purpose.

29 Feb 1944: Started with his family for evacuation to Australia.

"SCHUBERT" At Rizal in early March 1944 Smith waited three days for an American family named "Schubert" who were to join them for evacuation. They never came and Smith believes they have surrendered.

DOCTOR PORRAS ✓ Syrian, educated in South Dakota where he was stationed for a time at the Rosebud Indian Agency. Was temporary head of the Mission Hospital in Iloilo at the time of the invasion and evacuated to Calinog. From here he returned to Iloilo and surrendered to the Japanese. He is described as a dangerous pro-Jap, who attempted to persuade many Americans to surrender to the Japanese.

THEODORE SMITH ✓ American mestizo, 21 years old, son of Mr. Smith. Was at Central College in Jaro and was inducted into the army with his entire class in 1942. He was in Tapaz at the surrender and was told to go home and wait to be called again for guerrilla warfare. He was called in August 1942 and is now a sergeant in the Pototan area. He makes contact with the puppet mayor of Pototan for information gathered from the Japanese.

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