

EVAQUEE REPORTS:

SPENCER, CYRIL L.

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION GENERAL STAFF

AFG 500
12 June 1944

Philippine Evacuee Report #274

Subject : MASBATE and PANAY
From : Mr Cyril L. SPENCER



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Name : Cyril L. Spencer
Born : 1905, at Morrice, Michigan
Education : BS, geology and mining engineering, Michigan
College of Mining and Technology, 1927
In PI : Since 1937
Occupation: General Manager, Nalesbiten Mining Co, 1937-1938
IXL Mining Co, Masbate, 1939-1941
Service : Captain CE, 6th MD, 1942-1944

Interrogated by G-2 GHQ SPWA

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Spencer is quiet by nature and careful in expressing himself, and information from his personal experience is considered reliable. Much of his information concerned the topography of Panay, and was given to Allied Geographical Section.

CHRONOLOGY

- early Jan 1942 : Party of 70 Japanese land at Aroroy, Masbate, stay 24 hours and visit the mines. Spencer and other Americans evacuate to the hills.
- early Feb 1942 : Party of Japanese Marines land on Masbate, occupy the mines and arrest American and English civilians. Spencer and wife leave for Panay.
- Feb - Mar 1942 : In Capiz. Mrs Spencer joins an evacuation camp run by Baptist missionaries at Katapunon barrio on the Panay River above Tapsz.
- 16 Apr 1942 : Japanese land at Capiz, Capiz. Spencer carries messages between Colonel FITZPATRICK, CO 63rd Infantry, in Capiz, and General CHRISTIE on Mt Baloy.
- 6 May 1942 : Spencer sick, joins wife in missionary camp.
- November 1942 : Inspects airfields with Major FERTIG (evacuee #242).
- 9 Dec 1942 : Commissioned Captain CE, IV Philippine Corps, at Sara, Iloilo.
- 17 Dec 1942 : Mission to Antique with Major Fertig to establish a rendezvous area.
- July 1943 : Active in Mapping Section, 6th MD Engineers, under Major Fertig at Sara. Amplification and correction of US Geodetic Survey map 1/50,000 of Panay.
- Aug - Sep 1943 : Taught military mapping at 6th MD Engineering School at Sara.
- 19 Sep 1943 : Japanese penetration in Sara area. Joined wife at Katapunon and continued mapping work.
- 18 Dec 1943 : Japanese penetration at Katapunon.
- 25 Dec 1943 : Evacuated from Katapunon with Mrs Spencer, Major and Mrs Fertig and BEARDEN (evacuee #232).
- Jan - Feb 1944 : With Major and Mrs Fertig. Continues mapping work.
- 18 Feb 1944 : Reported to Colonel PERALTA, given instructions for evacuation.
- March 1944 : Evacuated to Australia.

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Japanese Penetration at Katapunan

In December 1943 Spencer was living with his wife at the evacuation camp run by American Baptist missionaries near Katapunan, on the Pansy river about eight kilometers above Tapaz in Capiz. They, with Major and Mrs Fertig, were living in a house at one end of the area; Mr and Mrs SCHURING and their son (evacuees #265, 266, 267) were living in a house about 1 kilometer away, just across the Pansy River. The following missionaries were living in the camp at the time:

Dr Rose, Professor of Biology at the University in Iloilo
Mrs Rose
Dr Myer, from the Baptist Mission Hospital in Capiz, Capiz
Mrs Myer
Miss Adams, trained nurse from the hospital, about 40 years old
Miss Dowell
Miss Ericson
Mr James Covell
Mrs Covell

The following persons were living in houses situated between the main camp area and Spencer's house:

Mr Earl Rounds, Baptist missionary
Mrs Rounds
Douglas Rounds, aged six
Mr Mark Clardy, American, from Masbate Consolidated Mining Co.
Mrs Clardy
John Clardy, aged nine
Terry Clardy, aged four

On Saturday, 18 Dec 43, a Japanese patrol approached the area. They were thought to be searching for guerrilla presses, which were about 2½ kilometers away.

Early on Sunday morning, 19 Dec 43, Spencer's orderly Pilologo PROXIMO came over from Schuring's house, where he had spent the night, and reported that Schuring had seen Japanese approaching the camp. Spencer went up a small hill near his house and counted thirty Japanese coming along a ridge toward the camp from the far side. He immediately sent a soldier to warn the Clardy and Rounds households, sent Mrs Spencer and Mrs Fertig into hiding places in the woods nearby, and climbed a tree from which he could overlook the camp area.

In about ten minutes two Japanese came to the fork in the trail which led down to the Clardy and Rounds households. Five minutes later they were joined by two more, and then by nine or ten more, armed with rifles and bayonets, and accompanied by about thirty Filipino civilians. There was a short discussion, and the civilians then led the Japanese down the trail to the Rounds house. Spencer could not recognize any of the civilians, as the distance was too great.

Spencer then got Mrs Spencer and Mrs Fertig and started for Major Fertig's Command Post about an hour and a half away. As they left they could see flames and hear the crackling of burning houses.

After arriving at Fertig's CP, BEARDEN (evacuee #232) went back with a patrol of soldiers toward the missionary camp. He returned about 3:30 in the afternoon and reported that there were two Filipino sentries with rifles standing guard at a trail fork just before the missionary camp. Bearden acted as outpost guard that night about twenty minutes down the trail from the CP.

On Monday morning, 20 Dec 43, Bearden reported that the sentries were still there, and that there were other soldiers carefully searching the area. Mrs Spencer and Mrs Fertig then went further up into the mountains, and on Tuesday afternoon, 21 Dec 43, Spencer went up and joined them.

On Thursday, 23 Dec 43, Spencer returned to the camp by another route with a patrol of soldiers. He found a house which he had been using as a headquarters burned down, and was told by the owner that he had seen Clardy lead

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The Japanese to it on Tuesday afternoon and that the Japanese had burned it. Spencer saw some large footprints there which he took to be Clardy's, as the latter went barefoot and had large feet, and almost all Filipino feet are size six or smaller. He followed these footprints, and arrived at dusk at the trail fork where the sentries had been posted on Sunday and Monday.

Spencer walked down the hillside between this trail fork and the nearby missionary camp. The whole area had been thoroughly searched, and the undergrowth was beaten down as though a hundred men had walked through it. A cache at the bottom of the hill had been smashed open and all property hidden there had been taken. He sent two men down to Major Fertig's house, and they reported that it had been burned and looted.

On Friday, 24 December 43, Spencer rejoined the others at the Fertig CP, and arrangements were made to locate a new place to stay.

On Saturday, Christmas Day, Spencer sent his orderly to see Rev DIANALA, the Filipino Baptist minister at Katapunan. He returned with a note from Dianala saying that "all the missionaries, including the Clardys, were brutally murdered" on Tuesday, and that the Japanese had left on Wednesday. His orderly also visited the camp, against Spencer's orders, and reported what he had seen to Spencer: Dr Rose had been beheaded, but the head was not quite severed from the body. Dr Myer, who had been suffering from a hernia and could not stand erect, had been ripped open from abdomen to chest with a bayonet. Mrs Myer and Miss Adams had been bayoneted. Mrs Covell had been stripped and beheaded. Their bodies lay in a group in the center of the camp with other unidentifiable bodies, presumably those of Mrs Rose, Miss Dowell, Miss Ericson, and Mr Covell. On a ridge in front of the Clardy and Rounds houses were more bodies: Mr Clardy, stretched on the ground, ears and nose cut off, and bayoneted. Mrs Clardy, bayoneted. The two Clardy boys, bayoneted in the back. Mr Rounds, stretched out and pinned to the ground with splinters of galvanized iron sheeting, body decayed and almost unrecognizable. Mrs Rounds and son, bayoneted. Fertig's house had been burned, and the kitchen contained the decayed body of a Filipino, (presumably Mrs Fertig's cook) who had been hung in the kitchen before the house was burned. A number of other bodies, unrecognizable but presumably of Filipinos, were on the ground outside the house.

On 17 January 1944 Spencer returned to Schuring's house across the river from the main camp. One badly decomposed body lay in front of the house and not far away were ten skeletons, three of which were children. All were presumably Filipino civilians. He also saw the burned remains of the Clardy and Rounds houses.

PILOLOGO PROXIMO ✓ : Spencer's Filipino orderly from September 1943 until the day Spencer left Panay. A good boy, not easily scared. Well acquainted with all the people living in the missionary camp.

MAJOR THOMAS POWELL ✓ : Was in charge of airfield construction on Panay for 61st Division USAFFE. In March 1942 he was transferred to Cebu. Reported he surrendered there to the Japanese.

GLEW ✓ : Private, US Air Corps. Was with the 63rd Infantry in Capiz in April 1942. Escaped from POW camp at Fort San Pedro around August 1942.

AIR BASE SQUADRON : Was at Sare under the command of Capt MEIDER. Some friction existed between Meider and Major Fertig, commanding 6th MD Engineers, which included most of the white officers on Panay. Meider went to Negros and was replaced in June 1943 by Capt GRUNDT.

Guerrilla Finances Spencer reports that when he saw Colonel PERALTA at his command post in February 1944, Peralta was evidently worried about finances and gave Spencer the following information for relay to GHQ SWPA when Spencer arrived in Australia.

Much money is being spent by 6th MD, and Peralta knows that one day he must answer for it. It is all going for the army, and for intelligence. Food is expensive, and prices vary from place to place. The enemy penetrates into many of our areas, and seizes our records when they can; the expenditures thus cannot be all accounted for. Peralta is making every effort to spend wisely for our forces.

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Much money is also being spent for intelligence, and these funds are not audited at 6th MD headquarters. The only men who know the intelligence setup are Peralta (for outside intelligence), Lt Col RELUNIA (for intelligence on Panay) and the G-2, Lt Col SERRAN. Peralta has freely given these men all the money they have asked for, in order to get results; he knows nothing of its expenditure, and is holding his men responsible for spending it wisely.

COLONEL MACARIO PERALTA JR ✓ District Commander, formerly G-3 61st Division USAFFE under General CHRISTIE. Spends almost all his time at his command post deep in the forest around Mt Baloy, and few people see him. A good organizer, he has eliminated much of the nepotism formerly rife in the army, whereby appointments and promotions were given primarily to "parientes" or political friends.

LT COL RELUNIA ✓: Secretary and Executive Officer, 6th MD; has been CO 61st Division since the guerrilla reorganization. Stands next to Peralta, and acts for him in the field. Handles everything for Peralta except intelligence outside of Panay. Not a Visayan, a disciplinarian, and a good man.

LT COL JULIAN C CHAVES ✓: Chief of Staff 61st Division in June 1943, was at one time CO 63rd Infantry. Always close to Relunia, and gets around a good deal in various jobs. A short man, open and frank. A former protege of General Christie, he was brought up by Americans, and likes and admires them.

LT COL SERRAN ✓: Formerly of 61st Division USAFFE, was promoted from Major in August 1943. Tagalog, a former lawyer. Helps Peralta on intelligence outside of Panay.

LT COL GRASPARI ✓: Retired Philippine Scouts non-com. Organized guerrilla in Antique, now commands 66th Infantry. Bluff and hearty.

LT COL VILLASIS ✓: Former Philippine Constabulary officer, now commands 65th Infantry. About 45 years old, sickly. A hard worker, fair, and likeable.

LT COL GARCIA ✓: Former Philippine Constabulary officer, now commands the rendezvous area on the Antique coast with about 800 men. Tagalog, he is strict, unafraid, and tactless, and not generally liked by Filipinos. He is jealous of his authority and will not cooperate with Americans. Peralta supports him because he gets results.

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Government on Panay There is some ill feeling between the army and the civil government under Governor CONFESOR, who did not want the army to print money. However civil government was well under way by the beginning of 1943. Town officers were appointed for each municipality, and by April 1943 government was largely in the hands of civilians. The Japanese campaign starting in the summer of 1943 then disorganized the island completely.

The army has the real power, and Peralta and Relunia really run the island. They are both forceful men, and have done a good job where a strong hand was needed - they have put down banditry, have maintained order, and have largely eliminated the "parientes" system of political spoils and favoritism. Mistakes have been made, especially in the early days when many civilians were shot as "fifth columnists", but the job on the whole has been good. Americans, including women, can now travel anywhere in free territory with comparative safety.

MAJOR CASTILLION ✓: Civil Affairs Officer for Panay in January 1943.

"MARAKITA" ✓: Japanese storekeeper at Aroroy, Masbate. Interned at the outbreak of war and released by the Japanese when they landed on Masbate early in January 1942. "Marakita" came back to Masbate with the Jap occupation force in February 1942 and set up a civil administration. He is believed to be responsible for the capture of many European civilians at that time.

GEORGE "ZEIMER" ✓: A German, former radio operator on a German ship, worked at IXL Mines on Masbate. Interned at the outbreak of war and released by the Japs in January 1942. Believed went to Luzon with the Japanese at that time.

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BERNSTEIN ✓: German, mastermechanic at Capsay Mining Company on Masbate. Interned, and released by the Japanese in January 1942.

BEFLANGA ✓: Mestizo, mill hand at IXL Mines mill. Thoroughly unreliable. Believed to have stolen blasting caps from IXL Mines when the Americans evacuated in January 1942.

Evacuation of Americans from Panay In February 1944 Spencer reported to Col Peralta and was told that GHQ SWPA had sent instructions for all Americans to be evacuated from Panay. Spencer was to carry the date, hour, and place of rendezvous to Major Fertig, who, being the senior American officer, was to be responsible for the evacuation.

Secrecy discipline was good - other than Peralta, the time and place of rendezvous was known only to Belunia, Chavez, and Gumperle. The evacuees were not to be told where they were going or why, but were to be guided by different routes to the spot, to arrive shortly before the hour of rendezvous. Peralta arranged this not only for reasons of security, but for morale reasons - he did not want the evacuation to be common knowledge among Filipino civilians, as it might have an adverse influence on their morale.

Civilians Captured on Masbate In early February 1942 Spencer and his wife left for Panay when the Japanese occupation force landed on Masbate. They were still on the island when the Japanese began to pick up American and English civilians, and according to residents who carried the news to them, the following people were captured at this time:

Mr and Mrs Meadows
Mr Spaulding
Mr and Mrs William Rowe, English, from IXL Mines
Mr Rutherford, English, from IXL Mines
Mr Benting, American, from IXL Mines
Mr Barney Faust, American, General Superintendent at MCM
Mrs Bertha Faust
Mr Reese, American, from Capsay Mining Company
Mr Kirkley, American, from Capsay Mining Company
Mr Morrison, American, from Masbate Goldfields
Mrs Morrison, and a child about one year old
Mr Wilson, an old time resident on Masbate

ARMSTRONG ✓: American, from MCM, was at Capiz, Capiz in February 1942, and was later a civilian employee of USAFFE on Panay.

COOK ✓: Formerly worked at the airport at MCM. Evacuated to Sibuyan Island, and was still there in September 1943.

Mr and Mrs CHARLES DAKIN ✓: American, from MCM, were at Capiz, Capiz in February 1942.

EDWARD and NINA DA SILVA ✓: English, from MCM, believed still free on Masbate.

FREDERICKS ✓: Civilian employee of USAFFE on Panay, believed surrendered.

JACK GHIDIOTTI ✓: American, mining superintendent at IXL Mines, believed surrendered.

WILLIAM HAIGHT ✓: American mestizo, from Capsay Mining Company, was on Panay with his wife and acting as Captain QMC in 6th MD early in 1944.

KEN HANSON ✓: American, from MCM, was at Capiz, Capiz in February 1942, and was later a civilian employee of USAFFE on Panay.

JOE HERMAN ✓: American, from MCM, was a civilian employee of USAFFE on Panay and later Captain CE under Major Fertig in 6th MD. Killed 25 Sep 43 with his Filipino wife and small child by the Japanese at Kinabunglan near Sara.

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E J JOHNS ✓: American, from MCM, surrendered to "Marakita" in February 1942.

LEANNEY ✓: Accountant from Manila, worked for the Civil Administration in Iloilo in the Alien Property Custodian office, was discharged from this position.

LUDWIG ✓: Old time resident on Masbate, was free on Panay in January 1943.

CHARLES MOAT ✓: English, from MCM, was at Capiz, Capiz in February 1942.

GRAHAM NELSON ✓: American, from MCM, was at Capiz, Capiz in February 1942, and was later a civilian employee of USAFFE on Panay.

NEWTON ✓: From MCM, a civilian employee of USAFFE on Panay, died of dysentery at Lumbunao, Iloilo, in August 1943.

ROSE PREISER ✓: From MCM, surrendered to the Japanese at Iloilo in February 1943.

THOMAS SAWYER ✓: American, from MCM, was at Capiz, Capiz in February 1942, and was later a civilian employee of USAFFE.

JACK TREAT ✓: American, from MCM, was a Lieutenant 6th MD. Spencer got a letter from him on 8 January 1944 saying that he was sick and needed a doctor. On 16 January 1944 Spencer arrived at his place west of Katapunan near Tapaz, and was told by his sergeant that Treat had died of dysentery on 12 January 1944 and had been buried there the day before. Spender saw his grave and took some of his papers with him.

REGINALD VERNEY ✓: English, from MCM, worked for the Civil Administration in Iloilo in the Alien Property Custodian office.

HARVEY WEIDMAN ✓: American, from MCM, was at Capiz, Capiz in February 1942, and was later a Captain in 61st Division USAFFE.

RICHARD WISNER ✓: American, from one of the mines on Masbate, evacuated to Ticao Island early in 1942, and was reported still there and all right on 4 July 1943.

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION GENERAL STAFF

AFPO 500
16 June 1944

Philippine Evacuee Report # 274b

Subject : Death of US Air Corps Enlisted Men MACKIE and OAKLEY

From : Mr Cyril L SPENCER

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20 AUG. 75



.....
Name : Cyril L Spencer
Born : 1905, at Morrica, Michigan
Education : EM, geology and mining engineering, Michigan
College of Mining and Technology, 1927
In PI : Since 1937
Occupation: General Manager, Nalesbitan Mining Co, 1937-1938
IXL Mining Co, Masbate, 1939-1941
Service : Captain CE, 6th MD, 1942-1944
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Spencer is quiet by nature and careful in expressing himself, and information from his personal experience is considered reliable. He sat on the Board of Officers of the guerrilla forces on Panay which investigated the deaths of two US Army enlisted men on Panay, and has submitted the following notes on the subject.

* * *
A military board of inquiry investigated the deaths and a report was sent to the CO of the VI Military District, PI.

The deaths occurred in the latter part of March 1943 at Barrio Malay, Province of Capiz, Island of Panay, PI.

The men were shot by soldiers of the guerrilla organization (AUSA) while allegedly resisting arrest by these soldiers.

My information concerning the affair was obtained at the Board of Inquiry meeting held at Patria, Prov. of Antique, in early April 1943. The Board was appointed by the CO, Vith MD, and consisted of Major GARCIA, Captain RUIZ and Major FERTIG. I took notes for Major Fertig.

The soldiers involved were led by Lt ---- from the company commanded by Captain Ruiz, Major Garcia was in charge of operations of that district.

Private DURHAM (48th Material Squadron, Air Corps. Still in Panay or Cuyo), the surviving member of the trio was present at the meeting and gave evidence of events leading up to the shooting. He was not a witness to the shooting.

The only witnesses to the shooting called by the Board were the officer and enlisted men concerned. Major Fertig reported to CO, Vith MD, that further inquiries should be made, and disinterested civilian witnesses briefed.

Private Durham later told me in the presence of other American enlisted men, that he was afraid to tell all the truth at the Board hearing. He said he feared retaliation by Major Garcia.

Oakley and Mackie were buried in Malay by the parish priest.

Lt TIROL (?) (M C AUSA) exhumed the bodies of Oakley and Mackie in the early part of April. He testified at the hearing that the wounds received by both would cause immediate death. Oakley was hit in three places, one shot penetrating the arm, one the chest, and one carrying away the top part of the skull. Mackie was hit more than once, the most severe ripping open the entire front of the abdomen.

Major Garcia admitted issuing an order of arrest for Mackie, Oakley, and Durham to Captain Ruiz. He said the order contained the information that the men were armed and might resist arrest and that no chances were to be taken.

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Captain Ruiz had lost the order. He confirmed Major Garcia's verbal explanation of the order.

The arrest order was issued because the men were alleged to have forced the municipal treasurer of Buruanga to give them money, plus the fact they were going about Buruanga making a nuisance of themselves, such as playfully jabbing at civilians with bayonets fixed on Springfield rifles.

Oakley and Durham had lived in the vicinity of Buruanga for over a year and were favorably known by most everyone in the district.

The treasurer of Buruanga testified the three men had demanded and gotten seventy-five pesos on two different occasions. However, he had signed receipts for the P150.00. If I remember correctly, Oakley signed. The treasurer knew Oakley and Durham. The demand for the first seventy-five pesos was based on a forged order from Major Garcia to Oakley. The order directed the treasurer to pay Oakley the named amount. Later Oakley demanded and got from the treasurer the return of the order. Then Oakley personally signed a receipt for the money. The order was allegedly found among Oakley's effects after his death, along with 80 pesos.

The Lt ---- leading nine (?) enlisted men testified that he knew Oakley and that they had been good friends. (True) He and his men went to Buruanga to locate the three men. He heard the trio were eight to ten kilometers north at barrio Malay and proceeded to that point. He disposed his men under cover and surrounding the house where the three Americans were staying. He stationed himself fifty yards down the street from the house to wait for the men to come out.

Oakley and Mackie came out and turned up the street, walked around the town square and came back to a point nearly opposite the house. At this point Lt. ---- stepped into the center of the street and cried, "Oakley, put down that rifle, you are under arrest". Oakley fired at him. (100' range, plus or minus) He repeated the order and Oakley fired a second time. Both misses. Thereupon the Lt. fired his .45 in the air as the agreed upon signal to his men to open fire. Their volley dropped Oakley and Mackie. Mackie raised himself on an elbow and fired his .45 at Lt ---- advancing up the street. The first shot went wild, the second cartridge did not fire. Oakley was dead when Lt ---- reached him and Mackie died in a few seconds. The party then left to hunt Durham and did not return until 10:00 a m the following day. The shooting took place about 5:00 p m.

The bodies of Oakley and Mackie remained as they fell until early the next day when the parish priest removed them for burial.

Oakley was said to have had a Springfield rifle and Mackie a .45 Army pistol. Both arms were exhibits. The .45 had one empty cartridge and one misfire cartridge plus three unfired cartridges. The rifle had three cartridges in the magazine. Both arms had been recently fired. The rifle stock was splintered.

Durham testified he was being shaved and Oakley and Mackie were reading magazines in the central room of this house in Malay when civilians came in and said the soldiers were looking for them. Oakley and Mackie immediately went out while he got out of the chair and wiped the lather from his face. He then left the house in the opposite direction from that taken by the other two. He was shot at and ran dodging behind houses until clear of the village. He was not apprehended by the soldiers.

Mackie was known in Buruanga as Captain Jones.

Durham had around fifty pesos on him.

Durham was released on Major Fertig's guarantee that Durham would be taken out of the area and placed in a camp at Daha with other American enlisted men.

These notes are from memory and contain inaccuracies in the details.

Civilians reported other versions of the shooting to me at later dates. None of these versions were reported by eyewitnesses.

Oakley's home was New York City, Mackie's somewhere in Tennessee.

I knew all three participants well, (Oakley, Mackie, and Durham).

Captain Hawley had put out an arrest order for Mackie and Oakley a few weeks previous to the killing. It was alleged Oakley and Mackie had stolen clothing and a small pistol from soldiers at Daha.

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