

7TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, 49TH FIGHTER GROUP
ARMY AIR FORCES
APO 321

TS 280

1 February 1945.

Statement by Lieutenant Albert J. Meschino 7th Fighter Squadron, 49th Fighter Group who returned from Negros Islands on 31 January 1945.

While staying with Lt. Rexford, CO of the ARW station on Negros Islands, from 27 January 1945 to 31 January 1945, I became acquainted with his supply problem. When I left his station he was short of many food stuff and other items such as soap, tooth-past, and articles of clothing. He was completely out of tobacco. 13th A.F. "Cats" have dropped off some supplies for him, but he has reasons to believe that some of the Philippine Officers have been short-stopping equipment meant for him.

Petty thievery also has taken its toll on his supplies. During the night of his arrival on Negros, quantities of supplies were lost in unloading and moving. On one Occasion, a Filipino Lieutenant admitted the theft of certain articles after this equipment was discovered in the hands of his orderly.

At the time of my stay with Lieutenant Rexford, one of his party was on Leyte trying to get supplies. I have no knowledge of what supplies he was able to obtain, if any.

Lt Rexford also states that other ARW men on Panay are in a similar predicament.

The above information was related to me by Lt Rexford, and seems to be a true picture of his predicament. However Lt Rexford feels that his presence on the Island besides doing his scheduled job has helped the civilians in his area. Civilians told him, that since his arrival the Filipino Army (Guerillas) authorities have ceased most of their gangster tactics in dealing with them.

On the 17th of January, I met Lt Schmaltz, an American Cavalry Officer in central Negros. His buisness required his presence at the ARW station, so I took my party with him.

Lt Schmaltz and another officer, Lt Halby, and 4 enlisted men came on the Island of Negros at the same time as Lt Rexford. Their mission requires that they be moving constantly, so food is not one of their supply problems. Their main shortages are drugs, articles of clothes, shoes, soap, razor blades, cigarettes, etc.

I was also informed of some weather abservers that were on the Island for approx 5 months. According to reports from Lt Rexford and Lt Schmaltz, they haven't been recieving any supplies whatsoever.

On the way back from Negros, the "Cat" stopped at Panay and picked up an enlisted man (Sgt Brady) who was attached to a radar unit on Panay. During the course of our conversation Brady mentioned a few brawls that accured when some of the Guerillas attempted to draw arms on some of our troops stationed there. However, the incidents may have occured over some personnel matters and I did not inquire futher.

Albert J. Meschino
ALBERT J. MESCHINO,
2nd Lt., Air Corps.



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OFFICE OF THE SIGNAL OFFICER
V FIGHTER COMMAND
APO 710

4 February 1945

MEMORANDUM)

TO) Lt. West, V Fighter Command Liaison Officer, General
Headquarters, G-3, Philippine Sub-division.

1. The inclosed statement of one of our pilots recently with Lt. Rexford, is forwarded for your information.
2. You are already aware of the supply situation of the stations of Lt. Rexfords platoon and I understand you are preparing a shipment to Control Station 14. At the present time, suggest that all of your shipments to Lt. Rexford and his stations be accompanied by personnel competent to insure that the supplies are delivered to the person for whom they are intended.
3. The other information contained in the attached statement should also be of some interest to you. A large part of the information is heresay and therefore not too reliable, however it is sufficient basis for an investigation by you and Major Telesco with the view of clearing up some of the difficulties which now exist.
4. The weather people referred to are assigned to Fifth Air Force but are under the operational control of GHQ G-3, Philippine Sub-division. ~~Fifth Air Force~~ weather office was under the impression that the people were supplied automatically and had therefore taken no action on their supply.

For the Signal Officer:

Floyd A. Lambert

FLOYD A. LAMBERT
Lt. Col., Signal Corps
Asst Signal Officer

1 Incl: Statement by Lt. Meschino



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