

RG-16: WHITNEY PAPERS

PERSONAL

FILES

GUERRILLA

RESISTANCE

MOVEMENT ON LEYTE,

1944

~~SECRET~~

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION, GENERAL STAFF
G-2 INFORMATION BULLETIN

THE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT ON LEYTE ISLAND

NO.: 156
W. D. INDEX:

DATE:
7 October 1944

DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR ON
20 AUG 75



~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~



THE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT ON LEYTE ISLAND
DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR OAS
20 AUG. 75

I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

Guerrilla groups emerged in Leyte shortly after Japanese occupation. Groups of Filipinos with various motives banded together as local police or vigilante groups, motivated by a desire to maintain peace and order to protect the people; or, as bandit groups, motivated by greed, terrorized and preyed upon the people. The various groups maintained separate and distinct organizations and jealousy and strife were rampant. They all possessed the same hatred and contempt for the Jap. Circumstances compelled the groups to band together for their mutual protection. As time passed, the stronger guerrilla units absorbed the weaker either by force or by conciliation, and gradually there developed from this nucleus a relatively orderly and effective organization, which was formalized by GHQ recognition.

All the guerrillas avow that their primary purpose is to help the civilians to maintain peace and order, to check the Japanese from abusing the civilians. The guerrillas have undertaken the restoration of civilian government and have taken steps to place the administration of justice and the government in civilian hands. The guerrilla leaders, as a general policy, only intervene in communal activities, insofar as they relate to military matters in all its phases.

II. HISTORY OF ORIGINAL GUERRILLA GROUPS:

BALDERIAN Group: Organized under the leadership of Bvt. Col. Alejandro BALDERIAN, former 2nd Lieut. who fought in Pangasinan with the 91st Division. Upon the surrender of his unit he fled to Rizal Province and was attached to units there. Later he went to Leyte and joined forces under the command of Col. CORNELL. When Col. CORNELL surrendered, BALDERIAN took supplies from a camp at Jaro and organized guerrillas into a division covering northern Leyte, with himself as division commander. The group was well known for its exploits. BALDERIAN joined forces with Col. KANGLEON in mid-43 and his division formed the 95th Regiment of the Leyte guerrilla forces reorganized by KANGLEON, with BALDERIAN as CO.

CENTINO Group: (Brevet) Majors Ciriaco CENTINO and Isabelo CENTINO are father and son, respectively. Ciriaco CENTINO was formerly a PA soldier in the guerrilla unit commanded by Sgt TERRAZA and Sgt Antonio JUAN. When both

~~SECRET~~

said Sgts were killed in action, CENTINO took some of the unit's men and formed a separate unit. Isabelo CENTINO was formerly a member of Col. Alejandro BALDERIAN's unit. When BALDERIAN reorganized the sector, BALDERIAN assigned the son, Isabelo, as leader of some of his (BALDERIAN's) own soldiers with the soldiers of Ciriaco CENTINO. Both Ciriaco and Isabelo are unschooled civilians. Their area comprises the NE Leyte area towns of Jaro, Pastrana and Palo. The unit has apparently always subordinated itself to the BALDERIAN group.

CINCO Group: Organized by discharged USAFFE soldier, Antonio C. CINCO, who has assumed the rank of Colonel. After the surrender, CINCO worked for the Japs as an informer, and later was discovered as a former USAFFE soldier by the Japs. They were about to execute him when he escaped. He formed a band of guerrillas in the area comprising the towns of Tanauan, Dagami, Tolosa and unoccupied portions of Burauen, Dulag and La Paz. CINCO later joined forces under KANGLEON and the unit became the 1st Battalion, 95th Regiment, with CINCO as CO.

LANG-JAIN Group: Southern Leyte was formerly organized into a "Southern Leyte Guerilla Warfare Unit" under the leadership of Bvt Lt. Gordon A. LANG. LANG was a yeoman in the USN who arrived in Leyte prior to the order of surrender. He went to southern Leyte to join other Americans there and took command of a group of unsurrendered soldier guerrillas. Through his leadership and bravery, he was acclaimed leader of the southern Leyte area.

Bvt Major Porfirio E. JAIN, formerly with the cadre at Catarman, Samar, and Lt. Jose NAZARENO in the meantime organized a group on Panaon Island. JAIN escaped to Panaon Island at the time of the surrender. Bvt Major JAIN later took over LANG's organization and subsequently joined forces with Col. KANGLEON. This combined unit became the 94th Regiment of the Leyte forces reorganized by KANGLEON with Bvt Major JAIN as CO.

MIRANDA Group: These guerrillas originally controlled the area in north-western Leyte, from Palompon south to Baybay, and were under the leadership of Bvt Brigadier General Blas MIRANDA (alias Colonel BRIGUEZ). He was formerly a lieutenant in the USAFFE, PC. He disregarded the order of surrender and escaped to the mountains behind Ormoc where he proceeded to organize a guerrilla unit. MIRANDA refused to join any of the guerrilla forces on Leyte, and furthermore refused to join KANGLEON after the latter was appointed Leyte Area Commander.



DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR OF
20 AUG. 75

SECRET

MIRANDA maintained regular contact with Colonel PERALTA, Commander of the 6th Military District, and was strongly influenced by him. Not long after KANGLEON's appointment as Leyte Area Commander, MIRANDA and Bvt Colonel Marcos SOLIMAN (1st Lieut, 85th Inf, PA), his Chief of Staff, and other leaders fled to Bohol. This was reported in January 1944 and it is believed the group dispersed as a result of heavy Jap reinforcement of the Ormoc area. It appears that MIRANDA's organization has collapsed and that KANGLEON has reorganized the personnel of this area into the 96th Regiment of the Leyte Command. Bvt Brig. Gen. Blas MIRANDA has killed many released prisoners of war on the pretext that they were paid spies of the Japanese, but actually he regarded anyone who surrendered a traitor. This was his principal objection to Col. KANGLEON. In both southern and northern Leyte, surrendered Filipino soldiers captured by the guerrillas have not been killed but interned.

PABILONA Group: Organized under the leadership of Bvt Lt. Col. Filemon PABILONA. PABILONA was formerly a First Sgt with the Leyte Provisional Regiment of Col. CORNELL. At the order of surrender he refused and escaped to the mountains. He then joined a guerrilla unit under the leadership of Sgt TERRAZA, also of the Leyte Provisional Regiment. Sgt TERRAZA was killed in action and another Sgt by name Antonio JUAN assumed leadership. JUAN was also killed in action. Subsequently the unit was divided; part of the men followed Sgt. PABILONA and the other part followed Ciriaco CENTINO. Sgt PABILONA's unit increased in size and he finally became the recognized leader of one sector. The area comprised the towns of San Miguel, Babatngon, Alangalong and unoccupied portions of Tacloban. PABILONA later attached his unit to KANGLEON's forces as the 2nd Battalion of the 95th Regiment and remained CO of the Unit.

PAMANIAN Group: Under the leadership of Bvt Lt. Col. Felix PAMANIAN, formerly a T/Sgt attached to Leyte Provincial Regiment. After the surrender of USAFFE forces he escaped to the Mount Capoccan area in northern Leyte and formed a small band of guerrillas which harassed Japanese land transport in the vicinity. This group was later joined by units from Biliran Island forces under Capt. C. CORPIN. Captain CORPIN, formerly of USAFFE, fought in Pangasinan and Bataan and organized the small groups of guerrillas existing on Biliran. CORPIN was later made Assistant G-3 in KANGLEON's staff. PAMANIAN eventually joined forces under KANGLEON and his unit became the 3rd Battalion of the 95th Regiment; he

DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR 08
20 AUG. 75

- 3 -
SECRET



remained the CO.

III. COL KANGLEON AND THE LEYTE AREA COMMAND:

As guerrilla organizations developed in the Philippines and the commands of the various islands became more firmly entrenched, guerrilla commanders were appointed and area commands designated by GHQ in the Visayas, Mindanao and Sulu. Ruperto K. KANGLEON emerged as the strongest guerrilla leader on Leyte, and on 21 October 1943, KANGLEON was appointed Leyte Area Commander.

Colonel Ruperto K. KANGLEON, ASN 0-1059, is a veteran of 27 years service in the Philippine Army, graduate of the Philippine Academy and General Service School, was District Commander, 3rd MD, 1938, District Commander 9th MD, 1938-41, CO 81st Infantry before outbreak of the war. KANGLEON surrendered in the last week of May 1942 when the order to surrender was given. The Japanese detained him in the Butuan Prison Camp, from which he escaped in December 1942 during a guerrilla raid on the town. He returned to his property in south Leyte and was there contacted and persuaded to unify Leyte-Samar guerrilla units. He succeeded in unifying all units on Leyte except the MIRANDA unit which later dispersed. KANGLEON was promoted from Lt. Col. to Colonel 1 October 1944.

Colonel KANGLEON has maintained close liaison with Colonel Wendell W. FERTIG, District Commander of the 10th MD. The two leaders exchange information and personnel. Colonel FERTIG dispatched 10th MD officers, Lt. (JG) J. D. RICHARDSON, as liaison officer to the Leyte area command, Lt. St. John and Lt. Truman HEMINGWAY to assist in the development of Leyte radio communications.

Colonel KANGLEON's guerrilla force includes all Leyte guerrilla units and numbers approximately 3,200, organized and known as the 92nd Division (See Map 1). The Leyte area command forces have established a well developed radio network (See Map 2) and supplies have been dispatched to this force regularly.

DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR OF
20 AUG. 75

IV. ORGANIZATION AND PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS OF THE LEYTE AREA COMMAND:

LEYTE AREA COMMANDER (92nd Div):

CO - Colonel Ruperto K. KANGLEON. Headquarters is located in the mountains west of barricade Bulac on the east coast of Leyte, north of Hingatungan Point (125°09' E, 10°36' N).



~~SECRET~~

LEYTE AREA HQ STAFF (organized 1943):

HQ strength: 23 officers and 107 enlisted men

G-1 : Lt. Loreto MICABEL

G-2 : Capt. Ralph J. POSONCUY, a Chinese mestizo of Carigara, Leyte. Possesses knowledge of radio and photography, and reported as practising dentistry in March 1944.

Asst G-2 : Lt. Domingo RADAZA

Bvt Capt. Higinio M. CABILING, AC, attached to G-2.

G-3 : Alfonso JAYME (Major)

Asst G-3 : Capt. Cresencio CORPIN

G-4 : Major Martin JABELOSA

Insp. Gen. : Lt. Col. Louis QUINTERO. Retired member of the Philippine Constabulary. Suffering from infirmities of old age. In March 1944 it was reported that he surrendered to the Japanese in order to gain freedom for his family.

Judge Advocate: Capt. F. FERNANDES

94TH REGIMENT (Mid-1943 report):

Strength Oct '44: 71 officers and 1,210 enlisted men

CO : Major JAIN, Hq Sogod

1st Bn, CO : Major FRANCISCO, Hq Malitbog

Company A : Hq Sogod

Company B : Hq Liloan

Company C : Hq Malitbog

2nd Bn, CO : Major DEGRACIA, Hq Bato

Company E : Hq Bato

Company F : Hq Baybay

Company G : Hq Abuyog

DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR OI
20 AUG. 75

95th REGIMENT (Mid-1943 report):

Strength Oct '44: 78 officers and 954 enlisted men

CO : Col. BALDEARLAN, Hq Dagami

1st Bn, CO : Major Antonio CINCO, Hq Dagami

Company A : Hq Jaro

Company B : Hq Alangalang



~~SECRET~~

Company C : Hq Pastrana
2nd Bn, CO : Col. PABILONA (alias Sgt Filemon PABILONA),
Hq San Miguel
Company A : Hq San Miguel
Company B : Hq Pastrana
Company C : Hq La Paz
3rd Bn, CO : Lt. Col. PAMANIAN, Hq Capoccan
Company I :
Company K :
Company L :

96TH REGIMENT:

Strength Oct '44 : 37 officers and 710 enlisted men

A recent report indicates that the Leyte Area Command has activated a 96th Regiment in northwestern Leyte. It is believed that this force was organized from remnants of the MIRANDA guerrilla unit. No further information has been received.

TOTAL STRENGTH LEYTE AREA GUERRILLAS:

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>EM</u>
Hq Leyte Area Command	23	107
94th Regiment	71	1,210
95th Regiment	78	954
96th Regiment	37	710
Total	<u>209</u>	<u>2,981</u>
Grand Total		3,190

NOTE: Lt. BARKILLIAN (alias Col. FLORES) was reported early in 1943 as leading a band of guerrillas which worked closely with the PAMANIAN, PABILONA and MIRANDA Groups. Nothing has been heard of him since that time.

2 Incls:

Map 1 - Leyte Guerrilla Organization, 7 Oct 44
Map 2 - Leyte Guerrilla Radio Communication, 7 Oct 44

DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR ON
20 AUG. 75



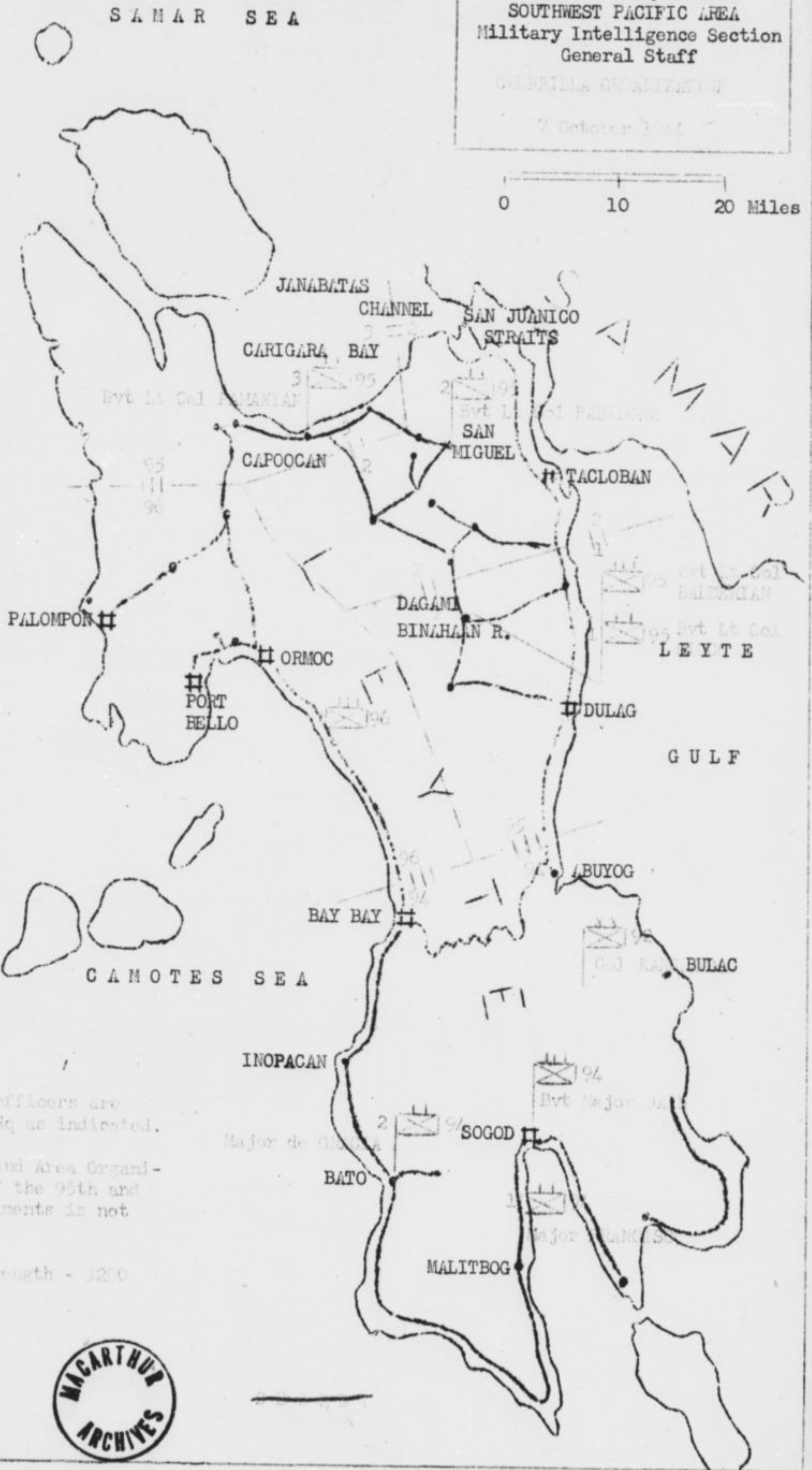
LEYTE

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
Military Intelligence Section
General Staff

GERILLA ORGANIZATION

7 October 1944

0 10 20 Miles



DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR OF
20 AUG. 75

NOTE:
Names of officers are
CO's of Hq as indicated.
The Command Area Organi-
zation of the 95th and
96th Regiments is not
known.

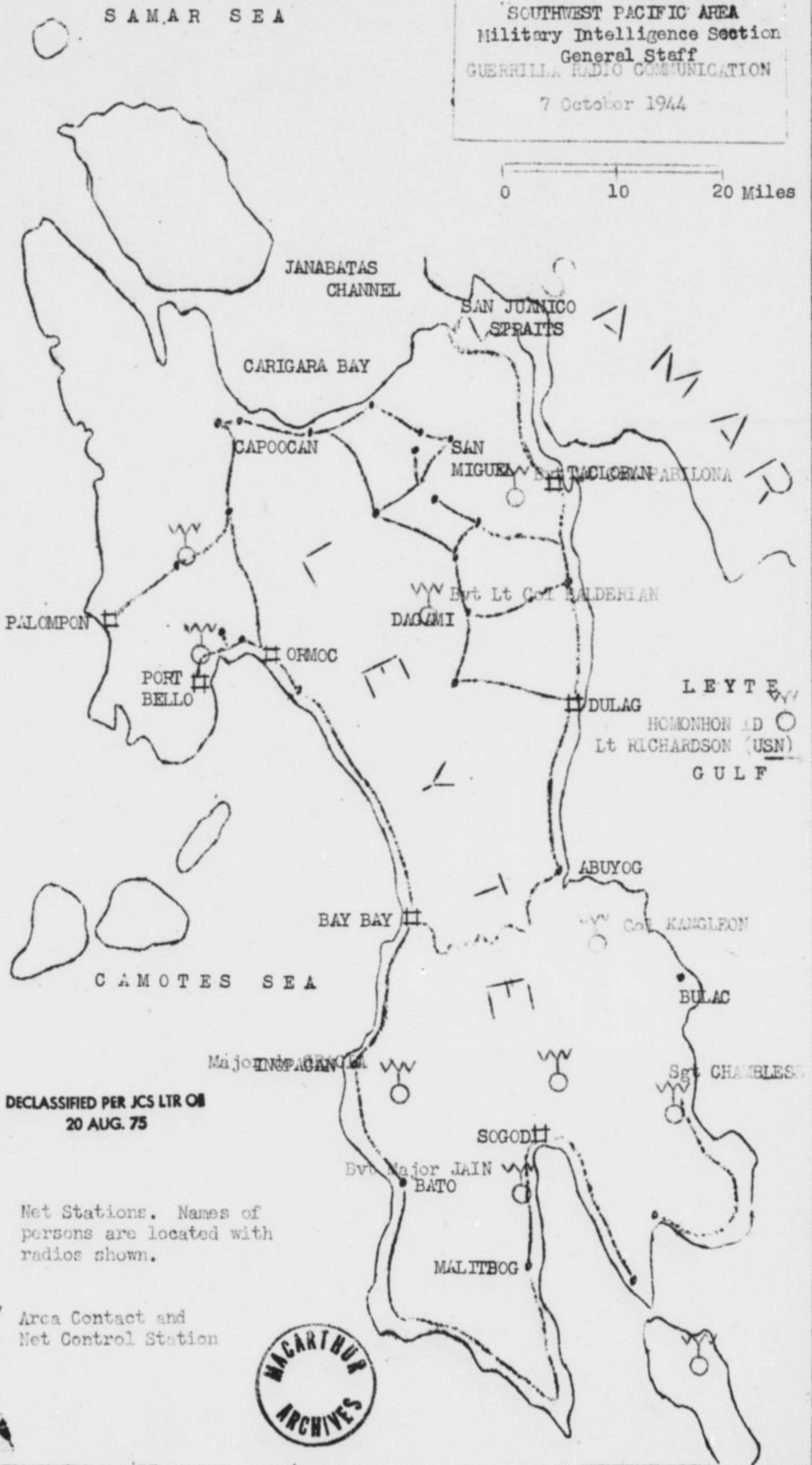
Total Strength - 3200




LEYTE


GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
Military Intelligence Section
General Staff
GUERRILLA RADIO COMMUNICATION
7 October 1944

0 10 20 Miles



DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR ON
20 AUG. 75

 Net Stations. Names of persons are located with radios shown.

 Area Contact and Net Control Station

