

RG-16: WHITNEY PAPERS

PERSONAL FILES

GUERRILLA RESISTANCE

MOVEMENT ON BOHOL,

1944

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION, GENERAL STAFF

G-2 INFORMATION BULLETIN
THE GUERRILLA RESISTANCE MOVEMENT ON DOHOL

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THE GUERRILLA RESISTANCE MOVEMENT ON BOHOL
15 December 1944

I. EARLY HISTORY:

The commander of the small USAFFE garrison on Bohol, Capt. Victoriano BLANCAS, surrendered to the Japanese early in 1942 and his Executive Officer and Adjutant, 1st Lt. Jose M. MANEJA, succeeded to the command. MANEJA moved the remnants of the Bohol force to western Leyte for greater security, and reorganized them into a guerrilla force called "Camp Liberty", after their headquarters.

When the Japanese occupied Tagbilaran, the capitol of Bohol, in May 1942, the Governor of the province, Agapito HONTANOSAS, became puppet Governor. Loyal officials and patriots went to the hills, and a number of informal guerrilla bands arose throughout unoccupied areas of the island. The largest and most active of these groups was the "Behind the Clouds" unit organized in June 1942 in northern Bohol, under the command of 3rd Lt. Ismael P. INGENIERO. The group was active in northern and central Bohol, and may have harassed the Japanese to some extent. Another unit was the "East Bohol Battalion", active in eastern and southern Bohol during mid-1942.

MANEJA returned from Leyte in mid-1942 with the intention of organizing guerrilla resistance on Bohol and found these rival guerrilla groups unable to agree on a unified policy or command because of seniority disputes among the officers. However, all guerrilla leaders met at Batuan in November 1942, and agreed on INGENIERO as commander of a unified Bohol guerrilla force; a free civil government was reestablished in the unoccupied area at the same time. The achievement of this concord may have been due to loyal officials of the former provincial government, who still commanded considerable authority.

II. THE BOHOL AREA COMMAND:

The Japanese occupied Tagbilaran, the capitol, as well as Panglao Island and Guindulman, where they worked the manganese mines. The rest of the island remained comparatively untouched by the enemy, and the guerrillas, well supported by civilian population, were able to operate freely.

INGENIERO assumed the rank of Major, and during 1943 was able to build up a fairly well-organized military unit on Bohol which was called BOFORCE, set up headquarters at Carmen, in the center of the island, and claimed authority over the prewar 8th Military District, Cebu and Bohol. The Bohol unit organized on a regimental basis, with attached battalions, and an intelligence net covering not only Bohol but Cebu City as well. The organization was run in military manner with some formality, and guards and sentry posts were frequent on the highways. Discipline was reported as good. The former Volunteer Guard organized by Executive Order of President QUEZON before the surrender was converted into a Bolo Battalion whose duties included messenger work, transporting supplies, and posting sentries on coasts, roads and trails. A "Women's Auxiliary Service" (WAS) was created as a female counterpart to the Bolo Battalion; their duties were largely the production of clothing and equipment for the soldiers and the raising of funds by entertainments. An official organ, "Bolos and Bullets", edited by attorney G. LAVILLES, regularly circulated news and propaganda.

Despite this outward show the military efficiency of the organization was questionable, and little action was taken against the enemy other than occasional ambushes and the gathering of intelligence. Some arms and ammunition were received from SWPA late in 1943.

The organization was recognized by SWPA as the Bohol Area Command, with authority over the island of Bohol only and under the command of INGENIERO by SWPA (in December 1943). A radio was sent for direct contact with SWPA.

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Chief officers of the organization are believed to have been as follows:

INGENIERO, Maj Ismael P.	Commanding Officer
BERNIDO, Capt Estoban	Executive Officer
ALANO, Capt H. J. (O-1666 OSP Inf)	A C of S, G-2
GALLA (?) Capt Juan	Adjutant
MANEJA, 1st Lt Jose M.	Inspector
JAMILA, Capt Sergio	Finance Officer
LAPURA, Capt Gavino	Signal Officer
LIGAN, Lt Melanio	Engineer
ABELLANA, Lt	Liaison Officer to Cebu
PATIGDAS, 1st Lt Primo O.	Liaison Officer to Mindanao
NUNAG (?) Capt Vicente K.	Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion
MALIWANAG, Capt Martin A.	Executive Officer and Adjutant, 1st Battalion
PONCE, Capt Washington	S-2, 1st Battalion
MORALES, Capt Pedro	S-3, 1st Battalion
HAGONOS, Capt Zoilo	Commanding Officer, 2nd Battalion
DAROSIN (?) Lt Alberto D.	Commanding Officer, 1st MP Battalion
MANIGQUE, Capt Anastacio	Commanding Officer, 2nd MP Battalion
ZAFRA, Capt Filomeno	Commanding Officer, Dolo Battalion

III. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS:

When INGENIERO assumed command of the Bohol forces with the rank of Major, in November 1942, he was put in a position of authority over several officers whose official ranks were superior to his. This may have caused friction within the command, and there are indications that INGENIERO maintained a close surveillance of these men lest they attempt to assume command.

Reports have indicated the probability that INGENIERO's regime maintained its authority by virtue of its close connection with the free civil government reconstituted in late 1942. There have been difficulties in the distribution of supplies from SWPA through Bohol to Cebu, and fairly reliable indications that the Bohol regime is concerned less with fighting the enemy than with aggrandizement of their political power, renown and economic well-being, even at the expense of the civilian population. Relations with CUSHING's Cebu Area Command were further strained, due to differences on points of policy and early conflicting claims to authority over the prowar 8th Military District.

INGENIERO formerly served under Lt. Col. Gabriel R. GADOR, who after the surrender organized and led an independent and uncooperative guerrilla group on the eastern coast of Negros. INGENIERO is described as a weak character, and inclined to take orders from GADOR, whom he alone recognized as commander of Negros Oriental. When GADOR was driven from Negros in January 1944, he fled to Bohol and took refuge with INGENIERO, together with the remnants of his group, including Capt. KAYANAN, described as an undisciplined opportunist and unreliable.

Due probably to some or all of these factors, a plot to kill INGENIERO and replace him with a new commander arose among the officers of the command in June 1944, and was frustrated only by the timely arrival at headquarters of Senator Carlos P. GARCIA, the backbone of the civil government on Bohol. INGENIERO's movements during this month are not clear. He has been reported on Panay at Hq 6th Military District early in the month, and he himself claimed he was in Mindanao in July, both reports unverified. It does seem certain that he left Bohol before the middle of June 1944.

On 23 June 1944 strong Japanese forces landed at several points on Bohol. There was little or no guerrilla resistance, and the Japanese were in all of the larger towns by noon of the first day. Their patrols pene-

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trated all parts of the island during the following month, looting and killing, and thoroughly disorganized the guerrilla forces. The radio transmitter was captured, and possibly intelligence papers, but most of the arms were hidden and escaped capture by the Japanese.

Secrecy discipline of the organization had been reported as bad, and it is known that the Japanese had obtained complete rosters of the Bohol guerrilla forces before their invasion through Senior Inspector MUEGO of the puppet Constabulary. Shortly before their invasion many Japanese undercover agents from Cebu moved to Bohol, and at the same time PC's (members of the puppet Bureau of Constabulary forces) surrendered and joined the guerrilla forces on Bohol. These factors, as well as the unexplained absence of Maj. INGENIERO, may have had something to do with the ease and swiftness of the Japanese penetration.

The body of the Japanese troops left the island at the end of July, and the guerrilla forces started to reorganize under Capt. Esteban BERNIDO, INGENIERO's second in command. INGENIERO himself returned during August or early September. Negotiations were started with guerrilla commanders in Cebu, Negros, and Leyte to obtain arms and ammunition and a radio transmitter, and at the end of September INGENIERO reported his organization intact and was resuming "resistance" against the small Japanese garrison left on the island.

Nothing further is known of the situation on Bohol, and the staff and personnel of the reorganized command have not been reported.

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IV. INDEX AND LIST OF PERSONALITIES

		<u>Page</u>
ABARITO, Lt Francisco	Assistant Engineer, Bohol Area Command.	
ABELLANA, Lt	Bohol Liaison officer to Cebu.	2
ACHACOSO, Capt Eutiquiano O.	PA Inf Res, was on active duty as CO Cebu training camp before the surrender; now with Hq Bohol Force.	
ALANO, Capt H. J.	G-2, Bohol Command, June 44.	2
DAYRON, Capt Sofio I.	On duty with Bohol Force.	
BERNALDEZ, 3rd Lt C. A.	On duty with G-2, Bohol Force.	
BERNIDO, Capt Esteban	Ex O to INGENIERO, began to reorganize guerrillas after Japanese campaign, June 44.	2,3
BLANCAS, Capt Victoriano	USAFFE garrison commander on Bohol; surrendered to the Japanese.	1
BORJA, 1st Lt Teogenes	Assistant G-2, Bohol Force.	
CABAGNOT, Lt	Intelligence chief, Cebu City, captured August 44.	
CLARIN, Capt Luis T.	Assistant Signal Officer, Bohol Force.	
CUSHING, Lt Col James	CO Cebu Area Command.	2
DARCSIN, Lt Alberto D.	CO, 1st MP Bn, Bohol, June 44.	2
GADOR, Lt Col Gabriel	Recaleitrant guerrilla leader on Negros; fled to Bohol in late 43.	2
GALLA, Capt Juan	Adjutant, Bohol Command, June 44.	2
GALLARDO, Capt Lotero	A C of S, G-4, Bohol Command, June 44	2
GARCIA, Senator Carlos P.	Pre-war Bohol Senator, loyal and with guerrillas.	2
HAGONOS, Capt Zeilo	CO, 2nd Bn, Bohol Force, June 44.	2
HONTANOSAS, Gov Agapito	Pre-war governor and puppet governor of Bohol.	1
INGENIERO, Maj Ismael P.	Commander, Bohol Area Command.	1,2,3
JAMILA, Capt Sergio	Finance Officer, Bohol Command, June 44.	2
LAFURA, Capt Gavino	Signal Officer, Bohol Command, June 44.	2
LAVILLES, Atty G.	Edited guerrilla newspaper on Bohol.	1
LIGAN, Lt Melanio	Engineer, Bohol Command, June 44.	2
MLIWANAG, Capt Martin A.	Ex O, 1st Bn, Bohol Command, June 44.	2
MANALANG, Lt Olimpio	Ex O and Adj, 1st MP Bn, Bohol Command, June 44.	
MANEJA, 1st Lt Jose M.	Adj to BLANCAS, escaped to Leyte and formed a guerrilla; was an inspector in Bohol Command, June 44.	1,2
MANIQUE, Capt Anastacio	CO, 2nd MP Bn, Bohol Command, June 44.	2
MORALES, Capt Pedro	S-3, 1st Bn, Bohol Command, June 44.	2
MUEGO,	Senior Inspector; Puppet Constabulary CO in Tagbilaran, Bohol.	3
NUNAG, Capt Vicente K.	CO, 1st Bn, Bohol Command, June 44.	2
PATIGRAS, 1st Lt Primo G.	Bohol liaison officer to Mindanao.	2
FONCE, Capt Washington	S-2, 1st Bn, Bohol Command, June 44.	2
SUAREZ, Maj	On duty, Hq Bohol Command, June 44.	
TORRES, Capt Leonardo C.	Pre-war Provincial Inspector PC, Bohol, on duty with Bohol Command, June 44.	
ZAFRA, Capt Filemono	CO, Bolo Bn, Bohol, June 44.	2



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