

EVACUEE REPORTS -

BOYLAND, JOSEPH H.

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION GENERAL STAFF



APD 500
30 June 44

Philippine Evacuee Report #162

Subject : Japanese Treatment of PWs, and Conditions on NEGROS
From : Cpl Joseph H BOYLAND 6922820

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Name : Joseph H Boyland
Service : Corporal, Hq Squadron 5th Bomber Command
at Clark Field, Luzon; clerk.
2nd Lt Inf, 71st Philippine Division.

Interrogated by G-2 GHQ SWPA

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Boyland was nervous when interviewed, and could not concentrate easily on any one line of thought. He expressed himself loosely, and some details were contradictory. The information is considered reliable in essentials, but details may not be accurate.

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CHRONOLOGY

8 Dec 41 : Cpl, 5th Bomber Command, at Clark Field, Luzon.
Dec 41-Jan 42 : Trained six weeks as a tank gunner with the 92nd Tank Battalion on Bataan.
Feb-Mar 42 : Infantry training, one week.
Stationed on .50 MG anti-aircraft at Cabcaban Airfield. Later on patrol duty around Mariveles.
20 Mar 42 : Commissioned 2nd Lt Inf by Major MILLER, 31st Inf. Fought with 71st Philippine Division on Bataan.
Late Mar 42 : Out of action with malaria and dysentery.
8 Apr 42 : Instructed to go to Corregidor and surrender.
Apr-May 42 : Repeated attempts to reach Corregidor failed. Captured by the Japanese near Mariveles. Drove trucks for the Japanese, with 20 other American PWs, for several weeks at Guegua, Pampanga. Sailed from Olongapo on a Japanese transport with 13 other American PWs.
20 May 42 : Landed at Bacolod with the Japanese invasion of Negros.
May-Oct 42 : Drove trucks out of Bacolod for a Japanese company under a Lt SAITO.
Oct 42 : Company replaced by a new unit under a Major OSHIYAMA.
Oct-Dec 42 : Did mostly repair work on trucks.
Jan 43 : Unit replaced by a new unit under a Colonel YAMAGUCHI.
Jan-Apr 43 : Drove trucks again around northern Negros.
21 Apr 43 : Escaped at Bago, Negros Occidental. Joined guerrillas in the hills.

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- 4 Jul 43 : Seven other American PWs escaped in a truck, leaving two still with the Japanese at Bacolod.
- Oct 43 : West to Headquarters 7th Military District in southern Negros, assigned Inspecting Officer by Col ABCEDE. Inspected troops in southern Negros.
- Feb 44 : Evacuated to Australia.

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KEMPEI : The Kempei, Japanese Military Police, wear armbands, and some wear civilian clothes. They have wide powers, and a Kempei private can give orders to officers. The Japanese troops are afraid of them. The Kempei 1st Lt in Bacolod carried a pistol everywhere to "shoot people with".

Japanese Treatment of PWs While Boyland was driving trucks for the Japanese out of Guagua in April and May 1942, the American prisoners were treated comparatively well. When they were on jobs in Manila the Japanese would allow them to go into bars and buy their own food and drink.

In Bacolod between May and October, 1942, the Americans were attached to a Japanese company under a Lt SAITO. These troops were part of a Colonel CHITA's command, and were young men, excellent troops, veterans of China and Bataan. Treatment varied from rotten to good; the Americans were beaten frequently, and flesh wounds were inflicted, but they usually had fair quarters and were given fair food and medicine and a wage of 25 pesos per month. They were also allowed to go around the town two at a time and buy anything they needed.

In October 1942, the Japanese unit was replaced by a new unit under Major OSHIYAMA. These were poor troops, too old for combat duty. The Americans were treated more strictly, and were either guarded or kept behind barbed wire or barred windows. They were restricted mostly to repair work on the trucks, and were often beaten.

In January 1944, this unit was replaced by a new unit under a Colonel YAMAGUCHI. Treatment varied as before; the Americans could expect either a pass or a beating "every day".

After Boyland's escape on 21 April 43, the nine remaining Americans were not harmed, but were made to sign a pledge that they would not attempt to escape. When seven more escaped on 4 July 43, the two remaining were chained up for a time.

Japanese Treatment of Civilians While Boyland was with the Japanese on Negros he often saw innocent Filipinos killed in an attempt to force the guerrillas back into the mountains. In "dangerous" areas, the Japanese would machine gun the towns indiscriminately. Civilians were bayoneted because they were found in guerrilla areas; sometimes the Japanese would capture a group of men, torture them for as long as three days, then bayonet them and cut them up. All civilians suspected of guerrilla activities were so treated, from age 11 to 60. Torture methods varied, but usually involved scissors, cigarette butts, burning, or exposure to the sun. Boyland and his companions were usually detailed to bury the victims.

PEACE AND RELIEF MISSION : A Japanese propaganda stunt used to get the people back into the towns where they could be exploited and could not support the guerrillas started in Negros Occidental in April 1943. Boyland drove one of two trucks which carried a brass band, two Filipino nurses, three singers, two doctors, and

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ten soldiers to Bago. The mission was under the command of a Warrant Officer MIINA, and the Kempei Lieutenant from Bacolod came along too. The mission would visit towns, give away candy, cigarettes, and clothing, doctor the sick, play music and hold dances, and hold race meetings with prizes.

CIVILIAN MORALE : was high on northern Negros in Boyland's experience and the people are strongly pro-American. Once a truck he was driving on a Peace and Relief Mission broke down at Ponte Vedra. The mayor of the town pressed money on him, and the civilians filled the truck with fruit and eggs.

JAPANESE CIVILIANS : were coming into Bacolod during the first half of 1943, and by the time Boyland left had gotten control of much of the business there.

ESCAPE FROM THE JAPANESE : On 20 April 43, Boyland was slapped by one of the Japanese and was so enraged that he planned to escape the next day. He told his companions, and they wished him luck. At noon the next day he was in the market place at Bago, Negros Occidental, when the Japanese soldier he was with went across the street to get some cigarettes. Boyland then dashed out of another door (?) and met a guerrilla soldier who was waiting for him there and who led him to his unit in the mountains - "A" Company under MATA.

Guerrilla on Negros Guerrilla activity started on Negros in August 1942, with untrained men and under ineffectual direction. They often ambushed Japanese trucks, including the ones driven by Boyland and his companions, but sustained heavy losses. They killed more of their own men than the Japs did. After Colonel ABCEDE started organizing the guerrilla improved greatly. Boyland stayed for some time after his escape with "A" Company in northern Negros, fought the Japanese several times and inflicted some casualties on them.

ABCEDE : Commander of the 7th Military District. Boyland met him and describes him as A-1, 100% pro-American, and a strict disciplinarian.

AUSEJO : G-1 for Abcede.

MAJOR REYES : G-2 for Abcede, and second only to him in power. A former lawyer, very efficient, and does a good job.

MUSOLF : American oil engineer from Cebu, now 3rd Lt on Negros. A good engineer, hard worker, and deserving.

JOHN WOOSTER : American writer, about 42 years old, formerly "propaganda officer" on Cebu and now an officer of the 7th MD. Comes from a wealthy San Francisco family, is a "bum and a high class beach comber", owes Boyland money. He adopts Chinese and Filipino boys and sends them to school. Congenial, and good at propaganda.

MATA : Guerrilla commander in northern Negros, good man. Was disappointed at not being decorated or promoted by Major VILLAMOR (?) and held aloof from him.

NOLAN : G-2 for Mata in northern Negros.

PURING : Formerly commander of a separate guerrilla band near San Carlos. Ignorant, could not write his own name. Caught Dr SMITH, an old American, tortured and killed him and stole 8000

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pesos prewar currency from him (?). Col Abcede then went to eliminate him(?). Now dead, his brother carries on for him.

DE ASIS : Filipino, former PC sgt, now under GADOR in a separate guerrilla band on Negros. A killer, and anti-American - would shoot an American "any time". Reported to have killed 27 Filipinos on personal grudges. Boyland tried to find him in January 1944 but with no success.

WEBER : A German in Bacolod working for the Japanese, would walk around town in shorts with a pistol and arrest civilians he suspected of guerrilla activities, who would then be turned in to the Japanese for investigation.

REYES : The mother of Major Reyes, ran a cafe in Bacolod while Boyland was there and helped the Americans as well as she could. Gave them food and whisky.

MARTINEZ GODINEZ : Spaniard in Bacolod, Spanish Consul for Negros. Helped the American prisoners a good deal - gave them beds, food, coffee, and whisky. He was on the guerrilla black list, and sent his family to Manila at Boyland's advice. Boyland stood up for him when he joined the guerrillas, but some units are still gunning for him.

SPANIARDS : The Spaniards of Negros are generally rich and are resented by the Filipino guerrillas, who often shoot them. Almost all of them have moved into Bacolod, and many are leaving for Manila.

SOLEDA : Pro-Jap in Dumaguete, Negros Oriental. Claims that the guerrilla forces are not authorized, and that when the US Army arrives he will cooperate with them. Thoroughly unreliable.

LAJATO : Pro-Jap in Dumaguete. Thoroughly unreliable.

ROBERT YOUNG, HOWARD CHRISCO, RUSSELL SNELL, JAMES DYER : were among the seven Americans who escaped from the Japanese on 4 July 1943. (G-2 note: and have since been evacuated to Australia)

IRVING JOSEPH : Sgt, 3rd Pursuit. One of the seven escapees of 4 July 43. Boyland saw him at Nambacol after the escape.

FLOYD REYNOLDS : Cpl, 200th Coast Artillery. One of the seven escapees of 4 July 43.

RICHARD JENSON : Pvt, Medical Corps. One of the seven escapees of 4 July 43. Reported to be "in trouble".

GAVIN WHITE, RAMON CORONA : The two American prisoners remaining with the Japanese in Bacolod after the escape of 4 July 43. White is from the Signal Corps, and Corona from the 200th Coast Artillery.



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