

EVACUEE

REPORTS:

COMEAUX, CARLE.

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION GENERAL STAFF

APO 500
29 June 44

Philippine Evacuee Report #164

Subject : North PALAWAN and CUYO
From : Sgt Carl E COMEAUX 7060457

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Name : Carl Edmond Comeaux
Born : 1912, in Winnsboro, Louisiana
Education : High School
Service : Enlisted US Air Corps, October 1939.
Arrived Manila in November 1941 as Pvt,
48th Materiel Squadron.
In PI : Since November 1941

Interrogated by G-2 GHQ SWPA

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Sgt Comeaux appeared to be a little older and more mature than other members of the group that was evacuated with him. His background and information were not extensive, but what he said agrees generally with known facts and is believed to be reliable.

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CHRONOLOGY

14 Dec 41 : Left Manila for San Jose, Mindoro, in a detachment of fifty volunteers under Lt BAGGETT.
Jan-Mar 42 : Stationed at San Jose. Serviced planes.
8 Mar 42 : Destroyed supplies and evacuated San Jose.
16 Mar 42 : Japanese take San Jose without opposition.
April 42 : Went to Caticlan, Capiz, joined Major SAYE.
May 42 : Went to Cuyo Island on way to Mindanao.
20 May 42 : Jap cruiser and transport come in at Cuyo. Major Saye, another officer, and 27 enlisted men surrendered. The remaining enlisted men, 23 in number, live with civilians on Cuyo.
August 42 : Two Japanese officers came to Cuyo to recruit labor and were captured.
Sep-Nov 42 : On Palawan. Attempts to organize guerrilla unit failed.
December 42: Returned to Cuyo, appendix removed by Dr MENDOZA.
6 Apr 42 : Left Cuyo, went to Tinitian, Palawan. Further attempts to organize guerrilla failed.
Apr-Nov 43 : Lived on Palawan with other Americans.
December 43: Returned to Cuyo, disarmed by municipal official.
January 44 : Went to Panay with Captain de los REYES.
February 44: Evacuated to Australia.

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Guerrilla on Busuanga

In 1942, a guerrilla band was organized under Captain Carlos AMORES. There were about 400 men, armed with rifles, shotguns, and pistols. The band was about half armed, and supplies of ammunition were low. On 7 September 42 they attacked the few Japanese at the Coron mines and drove them off the island. They also captured what little supplies there were, and 23,000 pesos in Japanese military currency, about 10,000 pesos of which was lost when a house burned down.

On 16 September 42, Captain Amores and a group of his men arrived at Cuyo and picked up several of the Americans, including Comeaux. On arrival at Busuanga they found that the Japanese had returned 350 strong. Amores gave the Americans a Japanese launch he had captured at Coron, and the Americans left for Palawan.

The food situation later became very bad on Busuanga and Amores left with about a hundred of his men. He went to Sibaltan, Palawan.

FOOD SUPPLIES ON CULION : Food very scarce. Lepers were permitted to roam over adjacent islands in an effort to find food.

DR WADE : American doctor, was still at the leper colony on Culion in 1943. Had a short wave receiver and used to distribute the news.

DR HANK : American doctor, was still at the leper colony on Culion in 1943.

Guerrilla on Palawan

The guerrilla forces on Palawan are now under the command of Major MAJICA, who replaced MANIGQUE on the orders of Colonel PERALTA. Manigque had gotten into some trouble, and was disliked by everyone. They are organized into three areas: north of Danlig, including Culion and Busuanga, under Capt Carlos Amores; the area from Caramay to Tinitian, under Capt MENDOZA, a doctor; and southern Palawan, commander not remembered.

The Japanese landed at Caramay in September 1943 when they heard about the reorganization of the guerrillas under Major Majica. They got some ammunition, but not much else.

FOOD SUPPLIES ON PALAWAN : Food very scarce in the north. A dry spell in August 1943 destroyed most of the rice crop. Even when the crops are good, there is not much rice available. There are fish in plenty along the coast, but there is no fishing equipment available and little use is made of fish traps. Almost no meat is to be had. There are several thousand feral cattle from the COBB and RODRIGUEZ ranches on Dumaran Island, and there are many wild pigs, birds, and monkeys in the hills, but none of these are shot for lack of ammunition.

CAPTAIN MENDOZA : A doctor, Captain in the Medical Reserve (Philippine Army?), was at Tinitian, Palawan in April 1943 trying to organize a guerrilla force with GLEW and other Americans.

"COLONEL" R S WELLS : American, was at Base Bay in northern Palawan in April 1943. Said he was a Colonel in the US Air Corps with 20 years service, but had been put in Naval Intelligence because of his knowledge of the Philippines. Had credentials signed by Commander CHEEK, Chief Naval Intelligence Officer at Cavite.

DE CARBONELL : was in northern Palawan in 1943, told Comeaux he had been superintendent at the mines on Coron for the Luzon Stevedoring Company, was a naval reserve officer, had been with Amores on Coron. He later went to Panay, was commissioned a Lieutenant by Peralta, and returned to Palawan. Family now living with Manuel RAY at Dipnay, Palawan.



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EDWARDS : Old man living on a plantation at Brooke's Point, Palawan.

MANUEL RAY : Spanish mestizo at Dipnay, Palawan. Suspected by the guerrillas because of his Spanish blood. American soldiers stayed with him for some months in 1943, received medical treatment from him, and trusted him.

LINDBLOM : American engineer, volunteered for service and helped maintain a small emergency landing field near San Jose, Mindoro, early in 1942.

MARK HUBBARD : American engineer, volunteered for service and helped maintain a small emergency landing field near San Jose, Mindoro, early in 1942.

CAPTAIN RAVAL : Filipino merchant marine captain, brought the group of American soldiers from the 48th Materiel Squadron from the east coast of Mindoro to Caticlan, Capiz, in April 1942.

F W NAYLOR : Picked up by the Japanese on Cuyo in October 1943 and taken to Manila with his wife and three children.

MAJOR FERNANDEZ : Originally from Cuyo, surrendered on Bataan, later accepted puppet governorship of Palawan under the Japanese and served until mid-1943. His relatives on Cuyo are suspected of pro-Jap activities.

PEDRO PONCE DE LEON : Relative of Fernandez, an official on Cuyo. He furnished American soldiers with food, money and clothing despite the feeling of some civilians.

FRANCISCO PONCE DE LEON : Relative of Fernandez and uncle of Pedro. Worked with the Japanese in Manila, is now a Lieutenant in the guerrilla forces on Cuyo. Disarmed Comeaux and other Americans in December 1943. Worthless.

ANONAS : Operator of postal radio station (?) on Cuyo. Unreliable.

DR MENDOZA : Doctor on Cuyo. Removed the appendices of three Americans from the 48th Materiel Squadron in December 1942.

MISS PONCE DE LEON, AVIOR, SANCHEZ, P GABUA, DUNGAN : Reliable pro-American civilians on Cuyo.

MAJOR BENAFLORES : At Tibiao, Antique. Good man, dependable.

MAJOR MIRAFLORES : At Ibajay, Capiz. A doctor, Good man, dependable.

CAPTAIN CANTOR : Old army man, in the Finance Department (th MD?). Good man, dependable.

CAPTAIN RUIS : Officer of the 6th Military District under Lt Col GARCIA. Gets along well with Americans, good man, dependable.

CAPTAIN WHITEHEAD : Arrived in northern Palawan from Panay on his way to Australia in late 1943.

PFC GALVIN R HOGG : Came to Palawan with Whitehead, stayed behind because of bad health. Returned to Cuyo in December 1943.

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LT GLEW : Former member of the 48th Materiel Squadron. Escaped from a Japanese prison camp together with Captain HARRIS USMC and CHAMBERLIN USMC. They got a launch and sailed for China, the motor broke down off northern Luzon and they drifted for 27 days, landed in southern Palawan, Glew and Harris went up the west coast and across to Caramay, Harris got a boat and left for the south again, was last reported in Tawi Tawi. Glew joined the Americans on Palawan and was shot and killed by municipal officials on Cuyo some time after April 1943.

LEROY A KLEINERT : ASN 6919990, was on Palawan in 1943, died of malaria 21 October 1943 and is buried at Dipnay, Palawan.

CPL M E MEGEHEE, PVT G B MARQUEZ, PVT W N WIGFIELD, CHARLES WATKINS USN : Sailed from Cuyo for Brooke's Point, Palawan, about 18 November 1943, with the intention of reaching Tawi Tawi.

CPL C A KRONEN : On Palawan with Comeaux in 1943. Left with Megehee et al.

PVT C J SHEA, PFC W M HAMMONS, PVT R T JOHNSTON : US soldiers, were on Cuyo in December 1943.

PFC TALBOT : Radio operator from Bataan, joined the detachment from the 48th Materiel Squadron on Mindoro.

ROBERT PRYOR : Sailor in US Navy, escaped from the Japanese at Puerto Princesa and joined the Americans in northern Palawan. Went to Cuyo in April 1943.



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