

EVACUEE REPORTS:

CUNNINGHAM,

EAL
JULIAN, J.

~~SECRET~~

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION GENERAL STAFF



Philippine Evacuee Report #237

15 May 1944

Subject: Dumarao-Passi area in central Panay

From : Julian J Cunningham

.....
Name: Julian J Cunningham
Born: 1883 at St Albans, West Virginia
In Philippine Islands since 1904
Foreman Philippine Railway Company on Panay.

Interrogated by G-2 GHQ SWPA

.....
Mr. Cunningham is an alert independent old man with considerable initiative and decided individual opinions which have evidently made for friction in the past in his dealings with others and may influence his judgment on matters of opinion. The facts of the train ambush are considered reliable and fairly accurate in essentials.

CHRONOLOGY

- May 1942: Just before the surrender on Panay, Colonel "Journals" of the 61st Division gave Cunningham orders to maintain a civil government in the Dumarao area and to raise a guerrilla company there.
- 30 Aug 1942: Ambushed a train near Dumarao.
- Sept 1942: Cunningham's company disarmed by the army.
Cunningham idle until
- Feb 1944: Started for evacuation to Australia.

COLONEL "ASAHI" Japanese Commanding Officer in Capiz Province after the surrender in May 1942. Described by Chinese storekeeper as a big, pompous, portly man with a large black beard. Killed 30 August 1942 in train ambush.

Ambush of Japanese Train In August 1942, Cunningham heard from the Chinese grapevine that a Japanese General was going to Dumarao by railroad on the morning of 30 August 1942 on an inspection trip of the captured provinces.

In order to provide a decisive first victory for the guerrillas, Cunningham took the initiative and got together 40 boxes (250 pounds) of nitro-gelatin, 26 came from Smith (Evacuee #269) and 11 more came from Murphy (Evacuee #262) at Summit. Cunningham had four American mestizo boys of his own company, all of them armed, and borrowed ten more from Sergeant Gallego at Heboura Market in the vicinity. At night on the 29th of August they laid the charge in two deposits on the tracks just south of Tagaybong Creek Bridge, south of Dumarao station. On the morning of the 30th of August, they waited all morning in a bamboo clump east of the line at one end of a prepared firing line. The train did not come and some of the men wandered off to drink tuba. Cunningham went to lunch.



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The train came about 2:30 p.m. and took them by surprise as it was very quiet, being loaded down so that the springs were flat and did not rattle. The first car had all the seats taken out but four or five, evidently for the General and Cunningham could see through the windows that it was crowded with soldiers, all standing and holding their rifles. A second guarded car, heavily sandbagged, had about ten machineguns and 25 Japanese soldiers. As the train came up, one of Gallego's men shot at it. A machinegun replied and the train slowed up, evidently intending to stop and fight. As Cunningham was running up to the firing line, his man, Pablo "Gerald", blew the charge just as the first car passed over it. The explosion deafened everybody and scattered Japs and wreckage all around the area. Cunningham saw a heavy set man blown through the air like a bullfrog for hundreds of yards. As the train was heavy, it was derailed but not blown off the line. Cunningham's men jumped up to the firing line and opened fire. Cunningham had given his rifle to one of the men and stood at one end of the line watching behind Fred "Gerald". Some Japs jumped off the train and fired back, and Cunningham is sure that seven or eight were killed before the rest sheltered in the car. A machinegunner was able to open up but Fred "Gerald" picked him off.

The General was thrown out into the grass by the explosion but was only stunned. He came to and stood up, bleeding from his right ear. As he started to run off, Fred "Gerald" fired and hit him.

Colonel "Asahi's" sword was blown into the firing line by the explosion and recovered.

Sergeant Gallego and some more of his men came up after the explosion. They later claimed to have shot 30 Japs and Cunningham considers this accurate.

About four and one-half minutes later, a second escort train pulled up 60 yards from the firing line. This train was armored and armed with machineguns. It opened fire and all the attackers ran off. Cunningham was the last to go. He was the only man in sight as he made his way for the rendezvous with his men in Tagaybong Creek bed east of the line and was fired on by the armored train. When he mentioned the Japanese General to his men at the rendezvous, Fred "Gerald" turned to him with a grin and said, "I got that son of a bitch." Gallego and his men withdrew to another spot three kilometers away and he left late that night for Peralta's Command Post and later gave him Colonel "Asahi's" samurai sword.

Cunningham was told by witnesses that the Japanese spent that night on the spot. Fragments of bodies were burned in two piles near the wreck. Whole bodies were piled on the track in three piles, each of which was waist high, and the next morning loaded on a pushcart and sent to Dao.

Cunningham returned to the spot on the morning of 2 September 1942 with his men and inspected the area closely. 15 bodies were found which were 400 yards or more from the wreck and had not been removed by the Japanese. Debris and fragments of flesh were found as far as 500 yards away.

Cunningham estimated 200 Japanese were on the train and claims 130 were killed, of which his men shot 20 and Gallego's men, 30. He lost no men and Gallego lost only one.

A report later reached Cunningham from a man in Iloilo stating that 200 men had left on that train. After the ambush the General's body was brought back to Iloilo and laid in state for two days with a mourning ceremony and afterwards left by special plane.

The Chinese grapevine later told Cunningham that the General had arrived in Iloilo on the morning of the 28th and had met Colonel "Asahi" at Pototan. His body was brought back to Iloilo and later taken away by plane. A few days after this, General "Usaka", Japanese Commanding Officer in Iloilo committed suicide by shooting himself in the head with a revolver.

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SERGEANT JESUS GALLEGO ✓ Leader of 30 armed men in the Dumarao area in the months after the surrender. After the train ambush he went to Peralta and entered the Catholic Church. Peralta made him a lieutenant. Described as a bloodthirsty killer with no scruples about killing the Japanese or "fifth columnists".

First Dumarao Provisional Company Guerrilla company raised by Cunningham around Dumarao after the surrender. Included 10 American mestizo boys, including Fred and Pablo "Gerald", all armed. In September 1942, the company was disarmed by the army, who needed the rifles for their men, and Cunningham's authority was not recognized. Cunningham sent his papers to the District Commander requesting that they be reissued under his authority, but got no answer. He subsequently twice sent requests by army officers to have his papers returned but received no answer.

"TAN TIK HO" Chinese storekeeper near Summit. Japanese from the Passi Garrison, including Colonel "Asahi", would visit him and talk to him. He would pass on any information obtained to Cunningham.

"PABLO DE LA TORRE" ✓ A Spaniard from Seville, formerly of the Asturias Sugar Center. Now puppet mayor of "Porquero".

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17

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PRELUDE

April 7, 1944.

Due to a state of complete confusion existing on PANAY at that time and the predominance of these forces which are detrimental to our Army, this report was not made out formerly; my superior Officers had all surrendered to the enemy, due to jealousies and false rumors, and there was no use trying to make this report to proper authority; I had no contact with them and they could not be depended on. I sent verbal word through an officer to South, but got no answer. Therefore, I could only delay this report till there would be no chance it would go through improper hands.

Previous Service U.S. Army: Excellent.

Sergeant TROOP G, 14th U.S. Cav.: 1904-5-6-

3 years Co. "F" 1st Inf.: Character excellent.



On or about June 12th, 1942, I was duly ordered by the Commanding Officer of the 61st Division to raise and equip one Company of soldiers in the municipality of DUMARAO, CAPIZ. Such company of soldiers - or 1st Provisional Company of DUMARAO - was to be used under the direct orders of the district Commanding Officer, who was at that time Captain DUMLAO; he could not furnish me any funds at that time, but I managed to get together 10 armed men up to August 30th.

I was ordered to do what I could to establish a Civil Government or good understanding among the people, to support the soldiers when the fight start, to apprehend and keep under surveillance all fifth columnists (Pro-Japs of that locality).

These duties were all performed by me with excellent results.

By July, all my superior officers had disappeared and could not be found. So, I continued to proceed the best I could with those duties which I was to do. There were many armed soldiers, running through the country who had no responsible head or authority. The situation was desperate; a clash was imminent and if it went against us, it would have been entirely bad; but if it went our way, then the loose soldiers would crystallize into companies and be good soldiers. They were disheartened and believed in the superiority of the Japs that was being spread by the fifth columnists; if they won the fight and saw that they were better soldiers than the enemy, they could all be depended on to carry on. Therefore, in my anxiety to throw the first fight the way we wanted, the following events occurred:

Having managed to salvage forty boxes of dynamite, I talked it over with Captain DUMLAO to blow up a train load of enemy soldiers, not desiring to do so on my own responsibility alone. Then on August 29th, 1942, there came to my house a first sergeant GALIEGO, who was a stranger to me. He said that he was instructed to tell me that I could go ahead. I did not have time to notify all of my men, but he loaned me ten of his men. With four of mine making a total of fourteen men, I set the 500 lbs of nitro-gelatin that night and waited. Sergeant



Galiego took the twenty-five of his remaining men and went away. No Jap train passed for a week, but we knew they would pass that day. We waited in ambush till 2:30 in the afternoon of August 30th, 1942.

Despite orders, some of my men got drunk. Through PANAY, there is some kind of wireless system; just how they manage it, I do not know, but it is efficient and dependable.

On the morning of August 28th, there arrived in ILOILO a very high Jap Officer on a tour of inspection of the captured Provinces. There was no fighting on PANAY to speak of at that time and a body guard of 200 soldiers was considered all sufficient for His Highness. From August 28th to 29th, he inspected ILOILO Province and boarded the newest and best auto-train for CAPIZ on morning of August 30th.

According to Jap customs and rules of etiquette, an escort of 200 shall not be seated in the presence of a so great personality; therefore, the seats were all removed from the train except four or five for him and his staff, therefore making room for all of them in the first car and only about twenty in the second car with the machine guns and other armaments. There were 200 Japs on this train, counted in POTOTAN.

At 2:30, I went to a near-by house to get some food and the train arrived; it was so heavily loaded that the springs were all down and it did not make but little noise. I ran as hard as I could to get to the battery, but one of my men saw the situation and ran there and blew the train up while I was 200 yards away. I ran and stopped just behind the firing line that had already formed. But 60 yards from the wreck, the four Mestizo-American boys were on the left end of the line in front of me; all of us were deafened and more or less stunned by being so close to the explosion.

In the last car or fortified car, there were at least twenty Japs yet in fighting trim who got down behind the car and were shooting. One of them even got his machine gun in action, but made the sad mistake of bobbing up his head to see where his bullets were hitting. The very high officer, who had been near the center of the front car, had been



near the center of the front car, had been only thrown out on the ground and stunned. He jumped up just at the time I arrived at the firing line and ran, right straight to our firing line 60 yards away. The Mestizo-American boy in front of me put three bullets in him and he tumbled. The boy looked around with a grin on his face and said: "I got that son-of-bitch". I had a good look at this man; his shirt and clothing were torn half off, he had no hat, his ear or something was cut; there was blood on the side of his head. Everyone else in that car was certainly blown all to pieces. Fifteen bodies were later counted by me 500 yards distant. We stood up and shot it out with them till someone got the Japs with the trench mortar. Then, the three left jumped in the high grass and got away. There was no more movement about the wreck; we were advancing when the second train or armored car came up behind us and opened up all machine guns at only 60 yards range. We were caught in the open and by all the rules of the game should have been killed. There was no use trying to fight those Jap gunners behind armour plate; so I yelled, rushed and we all ran. One of my men instead of jumping in creek, ran up the hill side and was killed. We ran up the creek and stopped at the place appointed to reassemble, but I only had four men with me. GALIEGO's men did not stop here. There were Japs coming from all directions, so we went back home. Thirty minutes after we left, Sargeant GALIEGO's men, altogether thirty, arrived and caught the Japs from behind, killing about thirty of the second train, who had gotten off their car. They were down in the open where we had been. GALIEGO's men shot them, killing about thirty before the other Japs arrived, and then, they retreated losing one man.

When the Japs from DUMARAO-BUNTOG arrived, they found this high officer who was shot, but not dead. They put him on the train and backed the train up to SUMIT, 5 kilometers South; sixteen of them walked by the side of the train with the guard; at SUMIT, they were twenty. They operated on His Highness there that night, trying to stop the flow of blood. They left there at daylight next morning, but



all of the living Japs walked on the outside of the train. They arrived at PASSI and took the fourteen Japs of the guard there and went to CALINOG; from there they put the body of this very high officer on a truck with guard and sent it to ILOILO; they had taken the forty Japs at CALINOG and tired to get to POTOTAN but were surrounded by soldiers at PANG-PANG GRANDE and all wiped out.

This very high officer and his staff escort and all were wiped out at the village of TAJGAJBUNG, near DUMARAO railway station on August 30th 1942.

His trip being a secret, there has been no accurate verification of just who he was, but the report of the Secret Service man does throw some light on the subject - he said "I was in ILOILO on September 2nd and I heard a great commotion over at Jap Headquarters. I went over there to see what I could find out. The Japs were crying their ceremonial cry and I soon learned that a very high official's body had arrived from CALINOG on a truck, having been killed in a fight in the interior of PANAY. I stayed around there and in just two hours time that body was put on an aeroplane with great ceremony and sent to TOKIO. " The Chinese Secret Service verifies all of this with the following addition - "and three days after this General USAKI committed suicide in ILOILO by blowing out his brains."

It could not have been Colonel OSIE, the Jap Commanding Officer of CAPIZ who went to POTOTAN to meet and conduct this high person through his Province, for we know that he was not all in one piece and he was not the high personage that I saw shot at the place of the fight. These things related here show that the high officer killed at this place was probably YAMASITA himself as he disappeared at that time and nothing has been said of him since. The Japs say he was killed by plane accident while returning from MANILA to JAPAN.

Some sentimental poet said he was stabbed by a Filipino woman. I am confident that time will prove he was killed by this American boy



on August 30, 1942. Even yet, the Japs have the greatest reverence and fear for that spot any time they pass there in large numbers; they fire a salute and go through their heathenish rites. If not in large numbers, they go around that place. All those things show that it was YAMASITA, their war god, that was killed in that spot.

"What I desire ."

I was shoved aside and most plainly let to know that I was not wanted; my life was threatened and I was compelled by circumstances to write a letter of resignation. I told my men to join other units and that I could not continue with the present chiefs. The fourteen men who were with me on August 30th 1942 were soon after that date all disarmed and have not been able to get their guns back to the time I left there. The Mestizo-American boys on PANAY of a total of probably forty wanted all to form one company and make out the full number with Mestizo-Spanish and Chinese boys. When I left there I promised them that I would try my very best to put the matter up to high authority here and get their guns and equipment and return to them. When I received the order to evacuate, I brought four children out with me whom I can leave here in safety for a time. I do not wish to return to America right now, but I have a very great obligation to return to complete my duty to these American boys; most of them have known me all their life and have placed their confidence in me.

These facts as herein related are, as time will prove, all true as well as many more things which I will not relate here. I do not desire or ask to be advanced in rank or given any honors for same. I only ask that I be re-instated as Captain of the "1st DUMARAO Provisional Company" and sent back to PANAY with the guns and equipment to arm my company. I have this desire because these young men have placed their confidence in me and I cannot default in my promise to them.

JULIAN J. CUNNINGHAM



April 9th ^{no 7} 1944 (Prelude)
due to a state of complete confusion
existing on Panay at that time and
the Predominance of those forces which
are detrimental to our Army, this report
was not made out formerly; as my Superior
Officers had all Surrendered to the enemy
due to Jealousies and False rumors ^{and they} it was
of no use to try to make this report to
Proper authority, as I have had no contact
with ^{any} ~~some~~ ^{that} ~~could~~ ^{be} ~~depended~~ ^{on}
I sent verbal word by an Officer to South
but got no answer. - therefore I could only
delay this report till there could be
no chance of it going through improper
hands _{would go -}

Previous Service U.S. Army excellent
Sargent Troop G 14th US Cavalry 1904-5-6
3rd Co "F" 15th Inf Character excellent

No 2



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 and equip one Company of Soldiers
 in the municipality of Dumarao ^{Dumarao} ^{Capiz}
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 Co of Dumarao was to be used under ^{the} ^{direct} ^{orders} ^{of} ^{the} ^{district} ^{Co} ^{of} ^{Dumarao}
 direct orders of the district ^{Co} ^{of} ^{Dumarao} ^{who}
 was at that time Capt "Dumlar";
 he could not furnish me any ^{fund} ^{at} ^{that}
 time but I managed to get together
 10 armed men up to ^{July} ^{30th}
 I was ordered to do what I could to
 establish a Civil Government or good
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 support the Soldiers when the fight started
 to apprehend and keep under surveillance
 all 5 Columnists & (Propag of that locality)
 these duties were all performed by me
 with excellent results. By July all of
 my Superior Officers had disappeared and
 could not be found - So I continued to

to Proceed the best I could with
those duties which I was to do.
There were many armed Soldiers
running through the country who
had no responsible head or authority.
The situation was desperate, a clash
was imminent and if it went against
us it would have been entirely
but if it went our way then the
local Soldiers would be ^{by} Christianized into
Companies and be good Soldiers, for
they were disheartened and believed in
the superiority of the Japs that was
being spread by the 5th "Colonists",
but if they won the fight and saw
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the enemy they could all be depended
on to carry on. Therefore in my
anxiety to throw the first fight
our way, the following events
occurred:

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 up a train load of enemy soldiers
 but ^{did not} ~~did not~~ like to do so on my own
 responsibility alone. Then ^{on} Aug 29th 1944
 there came to my house ^{an} ~~an~~ first Sgt ^{of}
 Galigo, who was a stranger to me. ^{He}
¹¹⁰ told me that he had ^{been} ~~been~~ told to ^{and}
 me to go ahead. I did not have
 time to notify all of my men, but
 he loaned me 10 of his men, but
 4 of mine making a total of 14 men
 I set the 500 lbs of nitro ⁱⁿ ~~in~~
 and waited. Sgt Galigo took the ^{right}
 his remaining men and went away
 there had been ^{no} ~~no~~ Jap train ^{pass}
 for a week but we ^{had} ~~had~~ ^{to}
 Pass that day. We waited in ambush
 till 2:30 in ^{the} ~~the~~ afternoon of Aug 30th 1944.
 Despite orders, some of my men got drunk.

all of them in the first car and only
about 20 in the second car with the
Machine guns and other armaments.
~~these japs on this train were all~~
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arrived; it being ^{was} so heavily loaded
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it did not make but little noise.
I ran as hard as I could to get to the
Battery, but one of my men saw the
situation and ran there and blew
the train up while I was yet 200 yds
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the firing line that had already
formed. But 60 yds from the track
the 4 Nestigs American Boys were on
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or less Stunned by Being so Close to
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Car there was at least 20 Japs yet in
fighting trim who got down behind the
Car and were shooting. One of them
even got his machine gun in action
but made the sad mistake of Bobbing
up his head to see where his Bullets were
hitting. Then there was the very high
Officer, who had been near the center of
the Front Car. He had been only
thrown out on the ground and Stunned
he jumped up just at the time I arrived
at the firing line ~~and~~ ^{and} ran right
straight to our firing line 60 yds
away. The Mestizo American
Boy in front of me put 5 Bullets in him
and he tumbled. The Boy looked
around at me and

8



with a grimace on his face and
said "I got that ~~by a shot~~
"Son of a Bitch." I had a good look
at this man: his shirt and clothing
were torn half off; he had no hat
his ear or something was cut, there
was blood on the side of his head.
Every one else in that car was ^{certainly}
blown all to pieces. 5 bodies were
later counted by me 500 yds distant.
~~these~~ ^{the} 4 men stood up and shot it out
with them till some one got the ant
with the trench mortar. Then the Japs
jumped in the high grass and left
away. There was no more movement
about the wreck we were advancing
when the 2nd train or armored car
came up behind us and opened up
all machine guns at an 800 yds range.

We were caught in the open and
 by all the rules of the game should
 have been all killed. There was no
 use trying to fight those Jap gunners
 behind Ironore Plate, so I yelled, run
 and we all ran - one of my men
~~was~~ instead of jumping in creek
 ran up the hill side and was killed.
 We ran up the creek and stopped
 at the place appointed to reassemble
 but I only had 4 men with me. ~~The~~
 men of Galiegs' ^{1st} did not stop there.
 there was Japs coming from all
 directions, so we went back home.
~~but~~ 30 minutes after we left Seung
 Galiegs arrived with 30 men ^{plus}
 and caught the Japs from behind
 killing about 30 of the Second ^{train}
 who had gotten off of this train, ^{plus} and

and were blown in the open
 where we had been. He shot them
 up killing about 50 before the
 other Japs arrived ~~then~~ ^{then} he
 retreated losing one man.

When the Japs from Lumarao Puntog arrived
 they found this high officer who was shot but
 not dead. They put him on the train and
 backed the train up to Summit 5 kilometers
 South, but they walked by the side of
 train ~~he~~ about 16 of them only with the
 guard at Summit they were 20 - they operated
 on his highways there that night trying to
 stop the flow of blood. They left there
 at daylight next morning but all of
 the ~~burning~~ ^{burning} Japs walked on the outside of
 train. They arrived at Passy and took the
 14 Jap guard there and went to Cahing;
 from there they put the body of this very
 high officer on truck with guard and sent
 it to Hoily, but they ^{lost} taken the 40 Japs at Cahing
 and tried to get to Pototan but were
 surrounded by soldiers at Bong Bong grande
 and all wiped out.





this very high Officer and his Staff
 escort and all were wiped out at
 the village of [Tagaybung] near Dumaras
 railway Station Aug "30th" 1945. This trip
 being a Secret, there has been no
 actual verification of just who he was
 but the report of the Secret Service man
 do throw some light on the Subject ^{he said}
 I was in Iloilo Sept 2 and and I heard a great
 commotion over at Jap head quarters I
 went over there to see what I could find
 out. The Japs were crying their ceremonial
 crying and I soon learned that a very
 high official body had arrived from
 Calinao on a truck he having been killed
 in a fight in the interior of Panay.
 I stayed around there and in just 2 hours
 time that body was put on and airplane
 with great ceremony and sent to Tokyo
 the Chino Secret Service verifies all of this
 with the ^{full} addition - and 3 days after this
 General U Sakai in Iloilo committed suicide
 by blowing out his brains -
 it could not have been Col" ^{one} ~~the~~ Jap Col
 of Capiz who went to ~~pototan~~ Pototan to
 meet and conduct this high person through



his Province, for we know that he was not all in one Piece and he was not the high personage that I saw shot at the Place of the fight - these things ~~are~~ related show that the high officer killed at this Place was probably Yamashita himself as he disappeared at that time and nothing has been said of him since - The Japs say he was killed by plane accident while returning from Manila to Japan - Some Sentimental Poet said he was Stabbed by a Philippine woman - I am confident that time will prove he was killed by this American Boy Aug '50 - 1942. Even yet the Japs have the greatest reverence and fear for that spot any time they pass there in large numbers; they fire a Salute and go through their heathenish rites. If they are not in large numbers they go around that Place. All these things go to show that it was Yamashita this war god that was killed in that spot.



What I desire "

I was immediately ^{U.S.} Showed aside and most plainly let to know that I was not wanted; my life was threatened and I was compelled by Circumstances to write a letter of resignation. So I told my men to join other units ^{and} that I could not continue with the Present Chief. The men who were with me Aug 30th 1944 these 14 men were soon after that date all disarmed and have not been able to get their guns back to the time I left there. The Mistiga American Boys there on Panay to a total of probably 40 all wanted to form one company and make out the full number with Mistiga Spanish - Chinese. When I left there I promised them that I would do my very best to put the matter up to high authority here and get their guns and equipment and return to them. When I received the order to evacuate I brought 4 children out with me who I have here in safety for a time - I do not ^{can} return to America just now - but I have a very great obligation to return to complete my duty to these American Boys

who most of them have known me
 all of their life and have placed their
 confidence in me - ~~the thing~~ ^{fact} as herein
 related ~~as~~ time will prove all true
~~and many~~ ^{and} more things which I will not
 [here in relate] I do not desire or ask that
 I be advanced in rank or given any
 honors for same" I only ask that I be
 re-instated as Capt "of 1st Dumarao
 Provisional Co" and sent back to Pany
 with the guns and equipment to arm
 my company". This desire is because
 these young men have placed their confidence
 in me and I cannot default in my
 Promise to them

I am Most respectfully
 waiting action on this my report

Julian J. Cunningham



PRELUDE

April 7, 1944.

Due to a state of complete confusion existing on PANAY at that time and the predominance of these forces which are detrimental to our Army, this report was not made out formerly; my superior Officers had all surrendered to the enemy, due to jealousies and false rumors, and there was no use trying to make this report to proper authority; I had no contact with them and they could not be depended on. I sent verbal word through an officer to South, but got no answer. Therefore, I could only delay this report till there would be no chance it would go through improper hands.

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These duties were all performed by me with excellent results.

By July, all my superior officers had disappeared and could not be found. So, I continued to proceed the best I could with those duties which I was to do. There were many armed soldiers, running through the country who had no responsible head or authority. The situation was desperate; a clash was imminent and if it went against us, it would have been entirely bad; but if it went our way, then the loose soldiers would crystallize into companies and be good soldiers. They were disheartened and believed in the superiority of the Japs that was being spread by the fifth columnists; if they won the fight and saw that they were better soldiers than the enemy, they could all be depended on to carry on. Therefore, in my anxiety to throw the first fight the way we wanted, the following events occurred:

Having managed to salvage forty boxes of dynamite, I talked it over with Captain DUMLAO to blow up a train load of enemy soldiers, not desiring to do so on my own responsibility alone. Then on August 29th, 1942, there came to my house a first sergeant GALIEGO, who was a stranger to me. He said that he was instructed to tell me that I could go ahead. I did not have time to notify all of my men, but he loaned me ten of his men. With four of mine making a total of fourteen men, I set the 500 lbs of nitro-gelatin that night and waited. Sergeant



Galiego took the twenty-five of his remaining men and went away. No Jap train passed for a week, but we knew they would pass that day. We waited in ambush till 2:30 in the afternoon of August 30th, 1942.

Despite orders, some of my men got drunk. Through PANAY, there is some kind of wireless system; just how they manage it, I do not know, but it is efficient and dependable.

On the morning of August 28th, there arrived in ILOILO a very high Jap Officer on a tour of inspection of the captured Provinces. There was no fighting on PANAY to speak of at that time and a body guard of 200 soldiers was considered all sufficient for His Highness. From August 28th to 29th, he inspected ILOILO Province and boarded the newest and best auto-train for CAPIZ on morning of August 30th.

According to Jap customs and rules of etiquette, an escort of 200 shall not be seated in the presence of a so great personality; therefore, the seats were all removed from the train except four or five for him and his staff, therefore making room for all of them in the first car and only about twenty in the second car with the machine guns and other armaments. There were 200 Japs on this train, counted in POTOTAN.

At 2:30, I went to a near-by house to get some food and the train arrived; it was so heavily loaded that the springs were all down and it did not make but little noise. I ran as hard as I could to get to the battery, but one of my men saw the situation and ran there and blew the train up while I was 200 yards away. I ran and stopped just behind the firing line that had already formed. But 60 yards from the wreck, the four Mestizo-American boys were on the left end of the line in front of me; all of us were deafened and more or less stunned by being so close to the explosion.

In the last car or fortified car, there were at least twenty Japs yet in fighting trim who got down behind the car and were shooting. One of them even got his machine gun in action, but made the sad mistake of bobbing up his head to see where his bullets were hitting. The very high officer, who had been near the center of the front car, had been



near the center of the front car, had been only thrown out on the ground and stunned. He jumped up just at the time I arrived at the firing line and ran right straight to our firing line 60 yards away. The Mestizo-American boy in front of me put three bullets in him and he tumbled. The boy looked around with a grin on his face and said: "I got that son-of-bitch". I had a good look at this man; his shirt and clothing were torn half off, he had no hat, his ear or something was cut; there was blood on the side of his head. Everyone else in that car was certainly blown all to pieces. Fifteen bodies were later counted by me 500 yards distant. We stood up and shot it out with them till someone got the Japs with the trench mortar. Then, the three left jumped in the high grass and got away. There was no more movement about the wreck; we were advancing when the second train or armored car came up behind us and opened up all machine guns at only 60 yards range. We were caught in the open and by all the rules of the game should have been killed. There was no use trying to fight these Jap gunners behind armour plate; so I yelled, rushed and we all ran. One of my men instead of jumping in creek, ran up the hill side and was killed. We ran up the creek and stopped at the place appointed to reassemble, but I only had four men with me. GALIEGO's men did not stop here. There were Japs coming from all directions, so we went back home. Thirty minutes after we left, Sergeant GALIEGO's men, altogether thirty, arrived and caught the Japs from behind, killing about thirty of the second train, who had gotten off their car. They were down in the open where we had been. GALIEGO's men shot them, killing about thirty before the other Japs arrived, and then, they retreated losing one man.

When the Japs from DUMARAO-BUNTOG arrived, they found this high officer who was shot, but not dead. They put him on the train and backed the train up to SUMIT, 5 kilometers South; sixteen of them walked by the side of the train with the guard; at SUMIT, they were twenty. They operated on His Highness there that night, trying to stop the flow of blood. They left there at daylight next morning, but



all of the living Japs walked on the outside of the train. They arrived at PASSI and took the fourteen Japs of the guard there and went to CALINOG; from there they put the body of this very high officer on a truck with guard and sent it to ILOILO; they had taken the forty Japs at CALINOG and tried to get to POTOTAN but were surrounded by soldiers at PANG-PANG GRANDE and all wiped out.

This very high officer and his staff escort and all were wiped out at the village of TAJGAJBUNG, near DITMARAQ railway station on August 30th 1942.

His trip being a secret, there has been no accurate verification of just who he was, but the report of the Secret Service man does throw some light on the subject - he said "I was in ILOILO on September 2nd and I heard a great commotion over at Jap Headquarters. I went over there to see what I could find out. The Japs were crying their ceremonial cry and I soon learned that a very high official's body had arrived from CALINOG on a truck, having been killed in a fight in the interior of PANAY. I stayed around there and in just two hours time that body was put on an aeroplane with great ceremony and sent to TOKIO." The Chinese Secret Service verifies all of this with the following addition - "and three days after this General USAKI committed suicide in ILOILO by blowing out his brains."

It could not have been Colonel OSIE, the Jap Commanding Officer of CAPIZ who went to POTOTAN to meet and conduct this high person through his Province, for we know that he was not all in one piece and he was not the high personage that I saw shot at the place of the fight. These things related here show that the high officer killed at this place was probably YAMASITA himself as he disappeared at that time and nothing has been said of him since. The Japs say he was killed by plane accident while returning from MANILA to JAPAN.

Some sentimental poet said he was stabbed by a Filipino woman. I am confident that time will prove he was killed by this American boy



on August 30, 1942. Even yet, the Japs have the greatest reverence and fear for that spot any time they pass there in large numbers; they fire a salute and go through their heathenish rites. If not in large numbers, they go around that place. All these things show that it was YAMASITA, their war god, that was killed in that spot.

"What I desire ."

I was shoved aside and most plainly let to know that I was not wanted; my life was threatened and I was compelled by circumstances to write a letter of resignation. I told my men to join other units and that I could not continue with the present chiefs. The fourteen men who were with me on August 30th 1942 were soon after that date all disarmed and have not been able to get their guns back to the time I left there. The Mestizo-American boys on PANAY of a total of probably forty wanted all to form one company and make out the full number with Mestizo-Spanish and Chinese boys. When I left there I promised them that I would try my very best to put the matter up to high authority here and get their guns and equipment and return to them. When I received the order to evacuate, I brought four children out with me whom I can leave here in safety for a time. I do not wish to return to America right now, but I have a very great obligation to return to complete my duty to these American boys; most of them have known me all their life and have placed their confidence in me.

These facts as herein related are, as time will prove, all true as well as many more things which I will not relate here. I do not desire or ask to be advanced in rank or given any honors for same. I only ask that I be re-instated as Captain of the "1st DUMARAO Provisional Company" and sent back to PANAY with the guns and equipment to arm my company. I have this desire because these young men have placed their confidence in me and I cannot default in my promise to them.

JULIAN J. CUNNINGHAM

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