

EVACUEE      REPORTS:

GILL, PAUL A.

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA  
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION GENERAL STAFF

APD 500,  
13 June 1944

Philippine Evacuee Report #208

Subject : AGUSAN and SURIGAO  
From : PFC PAUL A GILL 6570724

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Name : Paul A Gill  
Born : 1912, at Montrose, Kansas  
Education : High School  
Service : enlisted US Army in November, 1937.  
Pfc 2/sp, 2nd Signal Service Company.  
Assignment : radio operator.  
In PI : since February 1941.

Interrogated by G-2 GHQ SWPA

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Gill is quiet and volunteered little information when he was interviewed. He thought carefully before answering questions, and his information is considered reliable.

CHRONOLOGY

- early 1942 : Radio operator, 2nd Signal Service Company, on Bataan and Corregidor.
- 27 Mar 42 : Evacuated to Del Monte, Mindanao, for transportation to Australia. Waited at Del Monte for transportation.
- 1 May 42 : Moved down to Valencia at approach of the Japanese.
- late May 1942 : Moved to Gomoso Goldmines in Agusan, lived with civilian evacuees there for a month.
- 1 July 42 : Moved to Prosperidad, Agusan. Lived there two months.
- late August 42 : Moved to Lianga, Surigao. Lived four months in the school house. Mayor ALVASO helped him considerably.
- late December 42 : Moved to Salvacion, Surigao. Lived with ORCULIO family. Caught malaria. In bed for months, nursed by the Orculios. Married.
- October 1943 : Went to 10th Military District Headquarters at Butuan, Agusan, with Major CHILDRESS and Captain BALL, who had stopped off at Salvacion. Worked three weeks as a radio operator. Sick with dysentery.
- Nov-Dec 43 (?) : Operated a coastwatcher station at Point Lason, Surigao. Radio equipment would not function, due to trouble with supply of electricity. No Japanese naval traffic but occasional launches. Many two-engine bombers flying south.
- January 1944 : Carried out, sick, for evacuation to Australia.
- February 1944 : Evacuated to Australia.

10th MD RADIO : There were about six operators, including Gill, at the radio station at Headquarters 10th MD in October 1943. There was no interception of Japanese traffic, as Gill was the only operator who could copy it and he was sick. Major EVANS arrived from SWPA before Gill left. He is an old radio amateur and immediately busied himself trying out new aerials, making new contacts, and repairing equipment which had arrived from SWPA in a damaged condition.

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MITCHELL ✓; one of the radio operators at Headquarters 10th MD in October 1943.

Pfc J BRADBURY ✓; American soldier on Mindanao at the time of the surrender. Surrendered to the Japanese.

Pfc STANLEY KAPP, Pfc NEIL MASLAK, Cpl IRVING STEIN ✓; American soldiers on Mindanao at the time of the surrender. Made for the east coast and reported left for Australia in a banca on 10 July 42.

S/Sgt CARL FLOODMAN ✓; from the 19th Bomb Group. At Gomoco with Gill in June 1942. Died of dysentery and fever 28 Jan 43 at Bahbah, Agusan.

REHM ✓ American soldier, was at Gomoco with Gill in June 1942. Shot with a pistol and killed in August 1942 at Prosperidad, Agusan, by WHITESIDE.

WHITESIDE ✓; American soldier, believed originally from the Quartermaster and jumped ship at Cebu. A hard character. Once shot a Filipino prisoner, saying he was pro-Jap. Tried to hold up Captain MARTIN as the latter was leaving in a banca from the coast of Surigao for Australia - due to a rumor that there was a lot of gold aboard the banca. Later imprisoned by USFIP and shot and killed by four Filipino prison guards, two of whom later turned in to the Japanese.

TURNER ✓; American soldier, somehow mixed up in the shooting of Rehm. Reported he was later jailed in Leyte and probably caught by the Japanese.

SMITH ✓; American civilian refugee from Davao, at Gomoco in June 1942. His wife had gone to Manila for Christmas shopping and was caught there by the Japanese and interned. Smith had three small children with him at Gomoco, and later surrendered to the Japanese at Surigao on the children's account.

MALARIA : is bad on the Surigao coast. Bislig and Lianga are the worst places.

DYSENTERY : Not bad on the Surigao coast, but a difficult problem in the Agusan valley. Guerilla cooks boil the drinking water, but then add cold unboiled water to bring the temperature down. Filipinos drink from wells. Gill could not do this on account of the mineral taste. He drank rain water when he could get it, and tuba.

CURRENCY : prewar currency is generally worth a third more than emergency currency, in Gill's experience.



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