

EVACUEE REPORTS:

GRASHIO,

SAMUEL

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REPORT ON INTERROGATION OF CAPT. SAMUEL GRASHIO, O-412503, DAVAO ESCAPEE

Captain Samuel Grashio, A.C., was interrogated in the office of A.C. of S., G-2, G.H.Q., S.W.P.A. (Room 802, AMP Building, Brisbane, Australia), 1st November 1943, by Colonel Babeock, Capt. Temple (USN), Major McVittie, Captain Magruder and Lieut. Williams. Lt. Grashio was formerly with 19th Bomber Group in Luzon and was taken prisoner by the Japanese and held at Davao. After his escape in April 1943, he served with guerrilla forces on Mindanao until his evacuation 29 September 1943. Following is a report of the interview:

- B. When did you escape?  
A. 4th of April 1943.
- B. Can you give any information relative to the Jap troops in Mindanao, their insignias?  
A. The majority wore a triangular insignia made of cloth with some Japanese writing in the center of the triangle.
- B. Have you any idea what that writing looked like, could you draw a picture of it?  
A. No, sir. I wouldn't attempt it, because all I really know is that it was a triangle and with some black thread in the middle. The triangle itself was white and the writing in Japanese embroidered in black thread. I believe I saw some with a green background.
- B. Did you see any Japanese with anchors on their caps?  
A. Yes, sir, they had a Marine outpost about 15 kilometers from the prison camp; they also had a tank there.
- B. Did they also wear this triangular insignia?  
A. I would say so. The only thing I saw was the anchor insignia on their caps.
- B. Did you hear of units being talked about by name or number while you were in Davao?  
A. Sir, I should know all those things because I was supervisor of the Jap kitchen there. In fact, all the Japs knew me by name. They called me by my first name, however, I just couldn't recall any at the moment because of my illness - as a matter of fact, at first I could not even think of my sister's name.
- B. Can you remember any high Japanese officers by name?  
A. Ozumi Uki, 2nd Lt, in this camp I was in. Incidentally, he's a very decent fellow. There was also Lt. Uki and Lt. Chibota.
- B. You don't remember any senior officer who was the commander?  
A. Maeda - he was the Camp Commander.
- B. Was he a Colonel?  
A. I believe he was a Major, sir. There was also a Morimoto.
- B. Do you remember their first names?  
A. No, sir. This Morimoto was in charge of all prisoners in the camp.
- B. When you feel a little better, after you've had a little rest, do you think you would be able to recall some of these names?  
A. Yes, sir. There's an Okamura - a Captain.
- Q. You wouldn't have heard of any General's names or Colonel's?  
A. Sir, if they were mentioned to me, and if I've heard them before, I may be able to recognize them.
- M. (Interposing) In Davao, Ikuta?  
A. No, there's another Morimoto in Davao.



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M. Inoue at Davao?

A. No, sir. I never heard of his name.

B. After you got out of prison camp and were with our people, did you hear them talk about units?

A. Yes, sir. We would get the strength all right but not the units.

B. Did you hear of any units by number?

A. No, sir, only the number of men, 500 to 1000 Japs here, etc.

B. Those strengths, did you bring back any report on that?

A. No, sir. I have no number of strength at all.

M. Sometimes they wore a patch and they'd have a number here (indicating on person); usually they'd have two digits. Do you remember any of these?

A. This might help you. The Japanese I contacted were the soldiers of occupation; they were in Luzon and only saw action in the north; they wore two stars. The ones that saw action in China as well as in the Philippines wore three stars. I was talking to a Japanese Corporal and that's how I received this information. In fact, I have a picture of him that I brought with me.

B. Does it show the insignia he wore?

A. No, sir. Here's a Japanese paper that might give you a name; there's a little stamp on it; it's slightly faded, right at the bottom, somewhere there (hands Col. Babcock the Jap document). I have another picture of a Jap transport that was coming from Japan. I believe it could be reproduced. There are about five Japs sitting on the deck of this transport. I've got these pictures with my other belongings. I'll bring them in if you want them. I've got some pretty straight information on Cebu, sir.

B. Do you know anything about units there?

A. There's supposed to be 30,000 there. Did they submit that report on Cebu? I talked to the boys that brought it in; that has that information in it. (The report was in Col. Whitney's office, P.R.S., A.I.B.) It has a complete map of the city with every Jap installation there; what they're doing there and the recommendations. It's a beautiful report.

B. What chance would you have up there of taking some Jap soldiers prisoners?

A. Very, very slim. Once a Japanese is wounded, they'll form a circle around him; they've captured some Jap bodies. In fact, the Moros brought heads in with wires through these heads (ear to ear) and when asked why they didn't bring the other heads in, they stated the other heads were not nice looking enough to bring in.

B. We don't care about their heads. Could we get some tags they're carrying or documents?

A. We could have very easily gotten them.

M. When they take these bodies, do they make sure to go through the uniform and take their identification tags, they usually carry a diary. What would be the chance of getting hold of those?

A. I wouldn't say they do one way or another. When I was in Lavo for about three weeks, a Jap plane cracked up, the pilot was killed, and they found a map there with airdromes. I don't know if you received that or not; it's a wonderful map, shows the courses flown, etc.

M. I'm still interested in getting these documents from the Japs. Do the Filipinos souvenir these things or do you suppose there would be any ~~chance~~ in offering rewards for them?

A. Anything the Filipinos have, they'll give it to you. The Filipinos in my opinion are the finest little people in the world.

B. The reason we're not getting documents from these boys is because nobody realizes the importance of them?

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- A. I can't say.
- Q. Did you have any indication that from the 15th of August on there had been an increase of Japanese personnel in the southern islands?
- A. Yes sir, they did increase the personnel in the area I was in. Whether the increase in our area was a general condition throughout the islands, I wouldn't know.
- Q. Have you any idea whether the troops came from Luzon or actually brought from China or Japan?
- A. I had a letter in Japanese translated. In that letter, it said that Camiguin, north of Mindanao, would be invaded and that the troops would be reinforced from Luzon - that's what this letter said.
- Q. Is there anybody there with our people who can speak or write Japanese?
- A. No sir. I, myself, was the only one.
- Q. Where did you learn Japanese?
- A. In the camp. I just picked it up, a few words here and there. I believe the guerrillas have some of these Japanese-English books.
- B. Japanese in three weeks?
- A. Yes, sir.
- B. Could they use a Japanese translator for the documents that are being translated?
- A. Well sir, during my time there, I never had occasion to have a Japanese translator. I wouldn't know whether Fertig could use one or not but he ought to be an asset.
- B. With regards to convoys coming down, did you run into any convoys coming through the Straits? Have they got a pretty good watch there?
- A. Yes, sir. They keep close tab on the movements. Incidentally, in the last month and a half, shipping was very slow. It was worrying the Japs. There were five boats due in and they were two months overdue. The sub I came on got five.
- T. Did they improve the port facilities at Davao?
- A. They've lengthened the airport and started to build a shipyard.
- T. For ship construction or overhauling and repairing ships?
- A. It might possibly be for shipbuilding.
- W. The Jap radio said building of wooden ships of about 200 tons.
- T. Do they use Davao as a base?
- A. I understand about 200 "U" boats have been there - I believe they're torpedo boats. Italked to a Filipino who was from Bataan for about three hours one day. He said right below Jelo at one of the bases there they have these small sub-chasers, and that they usually go out for two or three days and come back right along the Lumbak Straits.
- T. Did you see any warships?
- A. I saw one destroyer that came in and shelled us one day. That's the only warship I've seen. They usually keep one at the San Bernardino Straits. The reason this destroyer came and shelled us that day was because the Japs captured a map from our launch, showing the points where the launch had been. A couple of days later the Jap destroyer came and shelled every point shown on that map.
- B. What about airfields?
- A. They're operating off Cagayan and Davao, few in Cebu.
- B. Have you (Lt Williams) shown Grashio that map showing the airfields we believe are in use? (Lt. Grashio was handed the map).

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Lt. Grashie (Referring to map of airfields): These you have marked, the Japs are using them. Neilson Field has been improved. We had three fields in Bataan and there are only two shown here.

W. Where was that other field?

A. A little bit north of Cabeaben. They're using those now. I know they're using Neilson, Nichols and Clark Fields.

W. Have you any better information on these Davao fields?

A. The only thing I can tell you in Davao itself is that they're improving that field we had and lengthening it.

B. Any indication at all as to whether or not the Japs are ferrying planes down to the Philippines?

A. The air activity has decreased in the last couple of months up there. The Japs have a wonderful G-2 system there. They knew where I was all the time. They know absolutely everything we are doing.

B. Is that from spies in our ranks?

A. Yes sir, we've got them.

B. Did you notice in your contacts with the Japanese any indications about their morale, that they might have doubts as to the outcome of the war?

A. Two weeks before one of the Japs left he told me he was going to New Guinea - all that time I was observing him, he seemed rather worried. They were all worried; a complete change of attitude; it was very obvious on their faces that they were worrying about it. He was a one bar boy, red background. He had fought on Bataan, told me he was an ex-clothing salesman in his home town. None of them got around to the point of saying that they thought maybe the thing wasn't going as well as they thought. There was one indication as to the general feeling of the Japanese; one of them mentioned one day was that America was very strong, that they could make many airplanes, that the Japanese could make very few, but the Japanese had fighting spirit. They admit as far as material is concerned, we (U.S.) are far superior to them. Then I've had some Japs tell me, "pretty soon you go back to America, we go back to Japan".

T. Do you have any indication as to the attitude that they have towards prisoners after reverses up there? Do you have any impression as to when the bombing of Japan was made whether or not they made use of prisoners as hostages?

A. Well, sir, the only impression I got just about that time, after they bombed Japan, General Doolittle's raid, that they took a lot of Americans to Japan. In one bunch, there were about 1,000, in another about 6/700.

M. Did they make it tougher on the prisoners where you were as a result of that bombing?

A. Sometimes they'd clamp down on us, just a general beating of everybody.

M. You couldn't connect it with any outside event?

A. Unless it could have been the battle of the Solomons, it was just about that time.

B. Now much news are the Japs getting?

A. The average soldier believes they have San Francisco.

B. Why are they worried about New Guinea? Do they know it's bad going in New Guinea?

A. I believe they were afraid of the trip. For a long time, the Japs had no shoes, no clothes and the food was scarce. They attributed it to only one thing and that was that the boats weren't coming in; that the subs were getting them, and with that in mind, they probably worried about the trip to New Guinea. As far as they're concerned, they're in

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submarine infested waters. Actually, I believe there's very little shipping that gets out from there, because they're really knocking hell out of them. In Cotabato, Japanese gasoline is drifting to shore - drum after drum of it - and that's an indication the shipping is being sunk. That's over near the Cotabato coast. If I know Fertig he'll have that stored.

- B. What sort of Jap troops were there?  
A. Just second rate kids - anywhere from 18-27 years of age. All those boys had a triangle and their names right below the triangle.
- B. (Indicating on person) The name was written vertically like this, and then their names below it?  
A. I really can't remember exactly how they were displayed.
- B. Are they treating prisoners generally better than they had before?  
A. A week before I escaped they killed an American Corporal for trying to pass his canteen through the barbed wire fence to one of his friends in order to get some water - got shot for that. Just about three weeks before that they had a general beating of all the Americans there. I happened to be in the jungle at the time and when I came back, I saw some of my buddies lying down in the working area.
- B. Did they beat all the Americans in the camp?  
A. All except the boys that were out working in the fields. They said the boys weren't working hard enough. They forced you to get in the rice paddies naked with mud up to your belt - Catholic Priests and Lt. Cols - there was no distinction. There was no considerable amount of change in treatment for the better. They'd walk up to you and bang you with a stick of bamboo. One knocked my tooth out one day. I was just trying to buy some sugar cane when they got in a circle around me and one got in the middle and he beat the hell out of me for about fifteen minutes. I had to stand there and take it at attention.
- T. How many officers do they have in the colony?  
A. About 7 or 8 - or perhaps about 6. I doubt if there's actually 6 there.
- T. About how many prisoners are there?  
A. When I left there were about 2000. I doubt if there's 2,000 now.
- McV. How much of a Jap force is in the immediate vicinity of the prison camp?  
A. Right in the camp itself about 400 Japs - all guard duty. And all along the road for about 26 km you'll find outposts with 20 to 50 Japs until you get to Davao. When you get to Davao, I heard there's about 30,000 Japs there.  
I am definitely sure that something would have to be done if things got tough. I kind of believe that they would transfer the POW to Japan. When transferring men, they don't mark the boats. I slept in my life-belt during my trip from Luzon to Mindanao - the boat was absolutely not marked - they put about 500 of us in a room not bigger than this room and closed the hatches
- McV. Did you ever find out why they moved you from Luzon to Mindanao?  
A. They told us the conditions would be much better for us there. Also for security reasons. We worked there as farmers, producing food - most of the food was shipped out. In fact, Americans were used in fixing trucks for them, carrying bombs, and work like that. Even that is against International Law.
- B. You were actually used to produce food sustaining the Japanese garrison?  
A. Yes, sir.
- T. Would it be possible to bring in a force and make a surprise attack overtaking the garrison and rescuing these prisoners?

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- A. Well, sir, I've considered that a lot of times. I know definitely I could have gotten in there with about 15 to 20 hand grenades and an automatic rifle and killed every Jap in the camp.
- B. How could you evacuate these prisoners there who were physically unfit to leave?
- A. That's the only reason we never went in. I believe you'd find about 15 prisoners that could actually walk. They're all soldiers - no civilians in the camp.

McV. There is a civilian camp somewhere?

A. In the city of Malita and in Manila at Santo Tomas University.

B. You don't think the Jap troops are aware yet of the setbacks they had?

A. While I was in the prison camp, the only indication was that incident on the day I told you about before they moved those troops out. Before that, they were happy, drinking and enjoying themselves. Just before we left, I heard that 3,000 more Japs were due in Davao. In fact they were moving all Filipinos out of their homes in preparation for these troops.

B. Where were they coming from?

A. Removed from the south - evacuees from the south - I think there were ten transports expected in.

T. We had word of that. Believe they were evacuees from Kolombangara.

B. It's an ideal place for rehabilitation. No word could get to any other troops or to Japan. Are they afraid of passing out any information at all?

A. This one Jap I was talking to told me he was afraid I might tell someone about what he said, cautioning me to that effect - "you no speak, you no speak". I'm rather sure as far as information is concerned, they haven't any true information. Everything to them is a victory. The average Jap is not aware of the situation. Even their junior officers don't know what's going on. We could read between the lines what publications we got from the Philippines, and getting a Jap newspaper with all two sources of information, we could subsequently get a realization of what was going on.

B. Do the guerrillas get any information from the Filipinos who have contact with the Japs?

A. They would be afraid to, sir. I have observed Filipinos while in prison camp; the only thing they say to the Jap is good, because they're deathly afraid of them.

T. Do the Japs have any idea as to the development of our farm projects?

A. Just before I arrived (Lala, Lanao), a Jap observation plane came over and took a good look but it never did come back. The farm project is pretty well camouflaged. Some of it was open but we had to do a lot of cleaning, 700 to 800 feet wide, 400 feet is the narrowest point. It's a beautiful field, beautifully located strategically, nice little high mountains on all sides of it, river on both sides. It's pretty difficult to get in there. You've got to go through a lot of mud.

T. How long would it take to get a road constructed there?

A. I could put a road in there in an hour's time. The Filipinos would do it if they knew ahead of time. Their co-operation is wonderful and you can imagine what they'd do if they knew help was coming.

McV. How long would it take to get the field in shape?

A. I could land in there now. If you give a half hour's notice, or even fifteen minute's notice to clear it, you can go right in there. You could get a B-29 in there, very little indentation there, you've only got one runway, but the wind is negligible, you could come in from any direction.

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McV. What Types of ordnance - guns, etc. are most necessary for your organization?

A. Do you have any of these grenade throwers? The boys going in ambushing the Nips need the grenade rifle. We've got hand grenades, but we don't have the rifle itself. If you could get some small guns- about 20mm to face these invasions that come in on these small launches, a 20mm would put that small transport out. We've got to keep moving. That's why their nerves are shot. You never get a good night's rest because you have that thought on your mind that they're coming in. These guns will come in handy to stem the attacks.

McV. We've been reluctant to send anything bigger than that (20mm) because we're afraid they'd start a major offensive.

A. A 20mm would be fine. Actually these carbine rifles, for jungle fighting, would be perfect. If we gave them those rifles, I don't think you could do anything better for them.

McV. One thousand of them are on the way.

A. That's wonderful

McV. These questions which we talked over the Gen. Willoughby about whether any of these Filipino commando units should be sent in; we thought that they'd do more harm than good.

A. If you send a white man, good, but I wouldn't send a Filipino. Any Filipino that's educated, he sure rubs it into the underdog. I know definitely that wouldn't go over regardless of what anyone says. I had a little boy as a body guard who had a year and a half of college education, and just judging from his attitude and ways, I know by that the little amount of good that they'd do would not counteract the bad.

McV. How about trained specialists, for instance, Filipino radio, operators, things of that sort?

A. They've got those Americans up there now, but they can't last forever.

McV. Would it be bad business to send Filipinos to replace them or would you send Americans?

A. I am of the firm belief if they send anyone up there they should send Americans.

McV. What general types do you think they need most? Do you think they need radio personnel?

A. Radio technicians and operators. They have a machine shop up there. A good mechanic probably would be a good thing.

W. How many launches do they have left there? They had two taken and burned recently. That was before 29 September.

A. Well, they have about five launches in the whole area - or something like that.

McV. How about sending officers up there for commanding these various units as assistants to Fertig?

A. It would be very good, providing they were told what they were going into. It would be better to have volunteers, as it's pretty tough. Some days you go without food; the conditions are very bad.

McV. Your thought is that the fellows up there are in pretty bad shape?

A. Everyone of them. Fertig, himself, is. I actually feel sorry for him, Col. Hedges and also Col. Wilson. The boys in the submarine felt the same way. I wanted to stay until the next fish came in but they wouldn't let me stay there in that shape. I don't believe anyone of them should be left there much longer.

W. Is that due to the constant movement of Japanese or poor medical conditions?

A. It's medical conditions. You don't see bread, you don't see any butter, you don't see electric lights or bed springs and things like that.

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McV. Do you have doctors in there?

A. Filipino doctors. My opinion of the general Filipino doctor is that he has no principles; he hasn't any heart. I visited one hospital that was absolutely filthy - I saw these poor little Filipinos lying around with no medicine. They were using these little cinchona bars at times. You will find some Filipino doctors fine, but the majority make a racket out of it.

McV. Do you think Army medical men would be useful up there?

A. Undoubtedly they would be, but what a job they'd have - it would take a division of medicals to straighten things out up there.

M. Would there be any language difficulties in sending Americans there?

A. An American that is able to speak Filipino can get along very well there - they get a big kick out of it. The thing is you would have to accustom yourself to the living conditions there. Actually that is very important there - he would have to gradually work himself into those conditions - things there aren't like they are here.

(Lt. Grashio then remarked on Fertig's qualities; that he was a wonderful man, honest and very sincere in his work; that he is responsible for maintaining American loyalty among the Filipinos. Then Lt. Grashio went on to explain about four Naval men that came out with him; that they were in a Naval hospital. He was assured that the men would be attended to relative to release from the hospital and passage home to the States, etc.)

McV. Could you take Fertig out without destroying the spirit there?

A. It all depends how it was done - if you just jerk him out, it wouldn't be very good.

B. If new officers were sent in there, would there be any difficulty in working in with men who are there? Would there be any trouble?

A. No, sir. Actually when the submarine came in for the first time, they actually bawled; I wasn't there myself at the time. Fertig told me the boys gave them their watches and their personal belongings, their morale went up 100%.

T. Do they have an especially good counter-espionage system that they're able to ferret out people that might cause serious lack of security?

A. Fertig has established a wonderful system. Actually, the Jap spies have not affected us very much.

B. Except that they do know when the subs come in?

A. Evidently they were looking for it that day and came right in that same day.

T. This question of submarine, how do you think they got word about the submarine from that end?

A. They may have had an inkling of it. Fertig is very careful in these things. He's very clever in that respect. However, the information is bound to get out after it comes in. They definitely know practically everything we are doing; however, they can't do anything about it because that's right in Moro country.

T. What time of the day did the sub arrive?

A. It surfaced right between Iligan and Misamis about 5:30 P.M. This Captain on the boat, he's exceptional. I don't think he's afraid of the General himself.

(When questioned about the Commander of the submarine, Lt. Grashio stated the Commander had received two Navy crosses prior to this trip - that he would undoubtedly receive another cross for this trip - that he was on the bridge at the time a small transport containing troops on board was sunk - that the sub in shooting up the survivors actually did them a favor as they would have definitely been butchered by the Moros.)

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- B. Did that happen to any other submarine that came in that you know of?  
A. I think that was the first one.
- T. I was wondering if there would be any points where they would have any Naval officers up there. We may be able to get a better appraisal of shipping and dock facilities?  
A. The day before I left, two Jap boats came in. I did not see it myself and was unable to secure enough information to give a report on the tonnage and what types of boats they were. As far as information relative to identification of boats, their sizes, etc., if you consider that valuable information, I would say yes, because there are very few people that could identify a boat. Even pilots I've talked to could not do that. I believe Naval personnel would be able to do that very readily.
- T. You speak about the submarine not knowing about the Jap plane. Do you think there should be any change; do you think that twenty-four hours' notice would be sufficient time in contacting your people?  
A. Well, sir, personally I don't think any boat should go barging in anywhere unless they get the information beforehand.
- T. In other words, they should get a positive clearance from here that the area is safe to go in, as a security measure?  
A. Yes, sir. That's a very good point they should know.
- McV. I think they are trying very hard to do that.
- B. There is no direct communication between the guerrillas and any submarine coming in?  
A. We could contact them; we got a set to contact them. But, sir, actually I don't know much about naval operations, but I believe the code should be changed when sending these submarines - when notifying the headquarters in the Philippines - I think they should change them every trip.
- W. They use a key for each trip and then it is discarded.

(Lt. Grashio then expressed his opinion about sending a submarine into Camiguin Island; that he'd never allow a submarine to go in there; that it is only 63 kilometers around the island; that as far as unloading supplies there it would be the most foolish thing in the world to do; that the Japs would hear about it; that if they didn't kill the personnel immediately that it would be hopeless for them to hide in the mountains.)

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GRASHIO, Samuel C.

1st Lieut. A. C. O-412503

STATEMENT TO DR. J. R. HAYDEN, 29 OCTOBER 1943.

Lt. GRASHIO, a pilot in the 21st Pursuit Squadron in the 5th Interceptor Group, was captured by the Japanese when the American forces on Bataan surrendered. He wears the Bataan Medal, with three oak clusters, was awarded the Silver Star with one oak cluster.

He was with the party that escaped from the Japanese Prison Camp at Davao in April, 1943. After his escape he spent about two and one half weeks in the area north of the camp, during which time he visited most of the area. The party then traveled north through the forest to the head of the Agusan Valley and then down the valley, at first on foot, then in boats reaching Medina, west of Butuan on May 3. Lt. GRASHIO spent three months, (May, June and July 1943) in the area around Ginoog Bay and was G-4 for the 110th Division at Camiguin Island. From about 6 August until 29 September he was in Lanao in the country around Iligan and Panguil Bays.

I rate Lt. GRASHIO highly both on his opportunities to observe at first hand the matters concerning which he made statements, and on his credibility. He is intelligent, his answers were carefully thought out, and he differentiated between knowledge that had come to him first hand and matters which had reached him by hearsay. Lt. GRASHIO is 26 years of age. He attended Gonzaga University for two years and received his air training at Randolph and Kelly Fields, being graduated from the latter in April, 1941. ('41-C class)

FOOD

Davao area. Plenty of food, - chickens, pigs, carabao, rice, corn, camotes, and fruits. Lunag was the headquarters of the main body of Filipinos under command of Major Claro L. LAURETA, who had been commander of Constabulary company at Camp Victor. Captain RIVERA, his second. Lunag, a small barrio. Most Filipino refugee houses scattered through the back country. Food plentiful because Major LAURETA made his people plant. Soldiers spent about half of their time with the armed force, the rest of the time in the hills or elsewhere growing crops. Major LAURETA said that in his area he could feed the 2,000 prisoners in Davao.



Agusan Valley. At Amparo the food situation is "terrible." About eight months previously the Japs advanced into the area and looted food. There had been no forced planting and people were in bad shape. The water came from a small stream and was bad. Black water fever prevalent.

Ginoog Bay Area. Food conditions good. Buenavista and Tubay, plenty of food. Food also procured from Surigao, where it was plentiful, - Lt. GRASHIO was the supply officer. A good deal of land ordinarily under cultivation had been abandoned by Filipinos who had been scared farther back in the country by the Japs, who had often raided their crops while in the district. Flour was made from camotes and cassava. Some sugar from Tuba. Prices were controlled by the guerillas. No canned goods.

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The puppet officials are regarded by some as traitors; by others as loyal and doing the best that they can for the country under the circumstances.





GRASHIO, Samuel C. 1st Lieut. A.C. O-412503



STATEMENT TO DR. J. B. HAYDEN, 29 OCTOBER 1943.

Lt. GRASHIO, a pilot in the 21st Pursuit Squadron in the 5th Interceptor Group, was captured by the Japanese when the American forces on Bataan surrendered. He wears the Bataan Medal, with three oak clusters, was awarded the Silver Star with one oak cluster.

He was with the party that escaped from the Japanese Prison Camp at Davao in April, 1943. After his escape he spent about two and one half weeks in the area north of the camp, during which time he visited most of the area. The party then traveled north through the forest to the head of the Agusan Valley and then down the valley, at first on foot, then in boats reaching Medina, west of Butuan on May, 3. Lt. GRASHIO spent three months, (May, June and July 1943) in the area around Ginoog Bay and was G-4 for the 110th Division at Camiguin Island. From about 6 August until 29 September he was in Lanao in the country around Iligan and Panguil Bays.

I rate Lt. GRASHIO highly both on his opportunities to observe at first hand the matters concerning which he made statements, and on his credibility. He is intelligent, his answers were carefully thought out, and he differentiated between knowledge that had come to him first hand and matters which had reached him by hearsay. Lt. GRASHIO is 26 years of age. He attended Gonzaga University for two years and received his air training at Randolph and Kelly Fields, being graduated from the latter in April, 1941. ('41-C class)

#### FOOD

Davao area. Plenty of food, - chickens, pigs, carabao, rice, corn, camotes, and fruits. Lunag was the headquarters of the main body of Filipinos under command of Major Claro L. LAURETA, who had been commander of Constabulary company at Camp Victor. Captain RIVERA, his second. Lunag, a small barrie. Most Filipino refugee houses scattered through the back country. Food plentiful because Major LAURETA made his people plant. Soldiers spent about half of their time with the armed force, the rest of the time in the hills or elsewhere growing crops. Major LAURETA said that in his area he could feed the 2,000 prisoners in Davao.

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