

EVACUEE REPORTS:

HANSON,

KENNETH H.

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA  
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION GENERAL STAFF

APD 500  
5 August 1944

Philippine Evacuee Report #351

SUBJECT : ROMBLON and PANAY  
From : Kenneth Harold HANSON

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Name : Kenneth Harold Hanson  
Born : 3 February 1910 in Clackamas, Oregon.  
Education : Pacific University, Oregon, 1929-1931;  
Colorado School of Mines, 1931 to 1933;  
University of Washington, 1933 to 1935,  
Mining and Civil Engineering.  
Occupation : Mining and Civil Engineering.  
Service : Served with the guerrilla forces on Panay  
and in Romblon Province.  
Assignment : Corps of Engineers.  
In P.I. : Since 1935.

Interrogated by C-2, GHQ SWPA

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Mr Hanson is well educated and his frank and open discussion of his experiences and the existing conditions in the Philippines indicated that the information submitted by him is reliable.

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CHRONOLOGY

- 8 Dec 41 - In charge of underground operations of a mine on Masbate.
- Dec 41 - Jan 42 - Continued operation of the mine, shipped explosives to USAFFE on Panay.
- 6 Jan 42 - Japanese came to Masbate and left the next day, taking with them the Japanese and German civilians who had been placed in a concentration camp at the outbreak of war.
- 6 Feb 42 - Japanese returned to Masbate for the purpose of capturing the American civilians, most of whom were able to escape to Panay, including Hanson.
- Feb - Apr 42 - Worked for USAFFE as civilian employee in charge of construction work at the airfield located in Santa Barbara, Panay.
- 16 Apr 42 - Japanese invasion of Panay. USAFFE retreated into the mountains. Demolition of main installations was carried out.
- Apr - Jun 42 - In evacuation in the mountains on Panay.
- 29 Jun 42 - Went by sailboat to Tablas.
- Jun 42 - Feb 43 - Lived on Tablas Island near the town of Looc.
- 6 Feb 43 - Moved to Romblon, Romblon Island.
- Feb - Jun 43 - Lived with Spanish family in Romblon town. During this period the Japanese made several trips to the town but caused no trouble and would leave in a few days.
- 1 June 43 - Moved to Tablas.



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- Jun - Sep 43 - At request of Major Jurado, secured equipment and made a battery charging set as well as two radios with the help of Nathan W. TALBOT and Charles H. HICKOK, two American soldiers.
- 1 Sep 43 - Inducted into the guerrilla operation and commissioned a 1st Lt by Major Jurado, sent to Sibuyan with a radio to set up a coast-watcher station.
- Sep 43 - Apr 44 - Lived on Sibuyan Island. Built two radios.
- 15 Nov 43 - Japanese drive captured radio station.
- 20 Mar 44 - Received word from Major Jurado that he could go to Panay and be evacuated.
- 11 Apr 44 - Arrived in Panay and contacted Colonel Peralta who confirmed his commission as 1st Lt and made it retroactive as of 1 July 1943.
- 20 Jun 44 - Arrival of submarine.
- 21 Jun 44 - Evacuated.
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Guerrilla Organization in Romblon Province

The guerrillas were first organized as an independent unit under Captain Raval in November, 1942. Shortly thereafter it was made a part of the 6th Military District under Colonel Peralta.

During the latter part of February, 1943, Captain Raval because he had made such a mess of things and aroused the enmity of the people, was removed and replaced by Major E. Jurado who has been the Commanding Officer in the Province since that time.

The guerrillas have been poorly organized in this area. Few supplies and practically no guns or ammunition had been received there from Panay.

As a fighting unit, the guerrillas in this area have been notoriously weak. This has been partly due to lack of adequate arms and partly due to lack of proper leadership. This was amply demonstrated in November, 1943, when the Japanese made a drive against the guerrillas. Major Jurado ordered most of his men to go to Mindoro, especially those with arms. Before the Japanese drive was over most of the guerrillas, including those who had originally escaped to Mindoro, surrendered. Major Jurado and a few others were the only exceptions.

About the only good accomplished by the guerrillas in Romblon Province has been some intelligence work, which was mostly done by American soldiers prior to their capture by the Japanese in November of 1943.

Civilian Attitude Toward the Guerrillas

The civilians of Romblon Province are definitely unsympathetic to the guerrillas.

The guerrillas have been rather high handed in their treatment of the civilians. Food, clothing, and equipment have been taken without regard to the welfare of the people.

The people, of Romblon in particular, have wanted to trade with the Japanese and the guerrillas wouldn't let them. Because there has been a shortage of food on the islands, it has been necessary for the people to engage in a certain amount of trading with the Japanese in order to get by.

The guerrillas have never been able to afford any protection to the civilians from the Japanese. They have always dispersed and headed for the hills when it was learned that the Japanese were headed for the Islands.

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**E JURADO** : Major, CO of guerrilla forces in Romblon. Although he is a graduate of Annapolis and was the CO of the Philippine P T boats at the outbreak of war, he is not capable of handling the job. He would make a good peace time officer. He is interested in rank than anything else. He was unable to get any cooperation or equipment from Panay. It is believed that he would be alright if he were given a definite plan to carry out.

**CAPTAIN GUARINA** : He is evidently playing politics and using his position in the army to further his own interests. Recently he persuaded Lt Col Garcia of the 6th Military District to release some political leaders who had been incarcerated by Major Jurado because of their cooperation with the Japanese. Included in the group was the Mayor of Romblon City who had been made a prisoner because he had requested the Japanese to station some troops in Romblon.

**CAPTAIN RAVAL** : Former CO of the guerrillas in Tablas. He was replaced by Jurado on the probable recommendation of Captain WHITEHEAD. He was then sent by Peralta to Manila as an intelligence agent but was reported to have been run out by the Japanese.

**CAPTAIN RIZALES** : He is an intelligence agent for Peralta. He is supposed to operate in Luzon, but he spends a large part of his time in Tablas in going to and from Luzon and Panay.

Japanese Treatment of Civilians

Prior to November, 1943, the Japanese had been fairly lenient in their treatment of the civilians. This resulted in the people wanting to cooperate with them to the extent of trading and buying from them.

On the 15th of November, 1943, in order to capture the Americans and to destroy the radio that was in operation on Tablas, the Japanese made a drive on all three islands of the Province. During this drive approximately 20 civilians on Sibuyan, 50 on Romblon, and 200 on Tablas were killed. This was the first time the Japanese had resorted to terror tactics.

During this drive, the Japanese killed an American soldier by the name of NICHOLS and captured Mark HUBBARD, Henry LINDBLOOM, Pfc YOUNG, Pfc PALMER, Pfc COOPER, and Pfc LEAR, all American soldiers, and carried them to Panay. Later reports indicated that they were shot in Iloilo City.

Before leaving the Province, the Japanese ordered the people to capture any remaining Americans. Bob PRYOR, USN, was killed by the inhabitants of Barrio Concepcion, Tablas immediately after the departure of the Japanese. His head was cut off and pickled in vinegar.

**PERALTA INTELLIGENCE IN LUZON** : Peralta's agents from Luzon used to come to Tablas and have their reports sent by radio to Peralta. Mark Hubbard worked in Major Jurado's message center and handled the reports. He said that they were mostly trash, that the men were untrained, and that they sat around and spent their money.

Submarine Incident in Panay

When the submarine surfaced about 6 P M, 20 June 1944, Lt Col GARCIA went on board and remained for about an hour, after which time he left and was not seen again. Some of the other officers were supposed to be in charge of unloading the supplies.

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