

EVACUEE REPORTS:

HULME, JOHN F.

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION GENERAL STAFF

APO 500
1 July 44

Philippine Evacuee Report #161

Subject : PANAY
From : John Frederick HULME

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Name : John Frederick Hulme
Born : 1914 in London, England
Education : High School and London University
Occupation : Accountant and banker, Hongkong and
Shanghai Banking Corporation at Iloilo
Service : 9 January 1942 commissioned as 1st
Lieutenant in USAFFE, assigned to Finance.
Served with guerrillas as a Captain
inspecting troops.
In PI : Since 1941.

Interrogated by G-2 GHQ SWPA

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Hulme acted as Inspector for Col PERALTA, traveled extensively over the island of Panay, and was able to furnish considerable information. He is levelheaded and appeared to have no axe to grind. His information is regarded as reliable.

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CHRONOLOGY

- April 41 - Arrived in Iloilo city from Shanghai. Employed as accountant in the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation at Iloilo.
- 18 Dec 41 - 1st air raid on Iloilo City. 34 twin-motored bombers destroyed hangars, commercial planes, 3 oil tanks, and large sugar bodegas. 64 civilians and soldiers killed and 300 wounded.
- 5 Jan 42 - 4 planes strafed troops at Fort Delgado.
- 9 Jan 42 - Inducted into USAFFE by General CHENOWYTH as 1st Lieutenant. Assigned to Finance Service as 61st Division Auditor.
- Jan-Apr 42 - Audited and countersigned checks amounting to 8,000,000 pesos, for purchase of food which was stored in vicinity of Mount Baloy.
- March 42 - Received one million pesos in old Philippine National Bank money through Lt Col OLSEN and Captain UNDERWOOD from Corregidor. Money was sent to Mt Baloy.
- 16 Apr 42 - Enemy landings at Oton, San Jose, and Capiz.
- 18 Apr 42 - Accompanied General CHRISTIE to CP at Baloy.
- 22 May 42 - General Christie and other American officers surrendered. Hulme did not

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- 23 May 42 - Hulme, Lt Col Underwood and others burned 1,000,000 pesos old Philippine National Bank currency and about 500,000 pesos of Iloilo emergency money at Mount Baloy.
- Jul-Oct 42 - Stayed with non-Christians in Panipiason barrio, Libacao. Mayor GUAVARRA and others were pro-American.
- 23 Oct 42 - Joined others at CP in Baloy.
- 4 Apr 43 - Appointed Field Inspector by Col PERALTA, went to Antique to check on military and civilian morale, supplies of arms and food.
- Apr-Dec 43 - Made inspection trips over Panay.
- Oct-Nov 43 - Japanese mopping up campaign in Aklan region. Kalibapi was working well as spies and fifth columnists for Japanese.
- Nov-Dec 43 - Jap drive to wipe out guerrillas. Supported by strafing and reconnaissance planes. Japs, assisted by fifth columnists, penetrated to Col Peralta's headquarters.
- 3 Dec 43 - Hulme and HAWLEY left Tubungan with two receiving sets for Col CHAVES at Calinog.
- 1 Jan 44 - Promoted to rank of Captain by Col Peralta.
- Feb 44 - Evacuated to Australia.

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Surrender of American Officers

After the occupation of Iloilo city by the Japanese, General CHRISTIE and his forces retreated to the previously prepared areas in the Mt Baloy region. On 18 May 42, Lt Col THAYER, General SHARPE's envoy from Mindanao, reached Baloy with the surrender orders. General Christie thought that since General WAINWRIGHT and General Sharpe were prisoners of war, they did not have authority to order him to surrender. He was determined to remain in the mountains and fight.

After two days he was persuaded to surrender because of the story of a Jap threat to suffocate the 11,000 American and Filipino troops trapped in the tunnels of Corregidor. Christie called Col PERALTA, Lt Col RELUNIA and Major CHAVES and arranged for them to commence guerrilla warfare two months later. Each was given P50,000 and supplies to be hidden in the forest.

The following white men surrendered on Panay: General CHRISTIE; Colonels BRITTON, PLENEAU, UNDERWOOD, FITZPATRICK; Majors BICKERTON, HARDING; Captains ASHDOWNE, HORNIE, LASHER, HORNSTEIN, ILLER and WHITEHEAD; Lieutenants GOUDIE, HAY, KENNEDY, CREIGHTON, MAXWELL, GAIRDNER, and BELINKOFF; and enlisted men GLEW, MACKIE, and COCHRANE.

Guerrilla Organization

Panay is divided into four regimental areas. The 63rd Regiment in southwestern Iloilo is under the command of Lt Col Julian C Chaves who is also Regimental Chief of Staff. Major OFFEMARIA is his Executive Officer and one of the best fighters on the Island. The strength of the regiment is about 5000. The 64th Regiment in northeast Capiz and Iloilo is under the command of Lt Col B C HERNANDO, with Major Tomas C LOPEZ as Executive Officer. Strength of the regiment is unknown, probably about 3000. The 65th Regiment in Antique and Palawan is commanded by Lt Col Barulio VILLASIS, formerly a Lieutenant PC in the Balabac Bay area. The strength of this regiment is about 3500. The 66th Regiment in northwestern Capiz is commanded by Lt Col V P GRASPARIL, formerly a PC sergeant. Evacuees report he is a tough fighter. In January, 1944, his headquarters were in Altaves. Strength of this regiment is about 3500.

Total strength on Panay is about 14,000.

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ARMS : Consist of approximately 3000 Enfields and Springfields, 50 BARs, 20 Thompson sub machine guns, 100 side arms of assorted types, 100 shot guns of various types, 30 .25 caliber rifles. This does not include arms received from SWPA in February 1944. The 63rd Regiment has a large proportion of armed men than the other regiments.

Training Schools Held periodically to instruct officers in guerrilla warfare, sabotage, intelligence, procurement of supplies, and relationship with the civilians. Senior officers of each Regiment give lectures for the junior officers for a period of about 10 days. There is no set time for these training schools, and they are held usually as a time killer or morale builder.

The troops are taught guerrilla tactics and drilled. There is no rifle practice due to shortage of ammunition. About half a dozen men per regiment have been picked and trained in use of the "tommy" guns since these have been received from SWPA.

FUEL SUPPLIES : Supplies of kerosene and gasoline are nearly exhausted. Coconut oil is procured in small quantities for civilian and Army use. Sufficient alcohol is produced to run generator motors for transmitters. The scarcity of lubricating oil is acute.

Communications The regiments on Panay have regular radio communication with the District Commander. Two days are required for a regiment to send a message and receive a reply from the Commander. Three days are required for answers between regiments. All radio traffic has been cut to a minimum. Routine and administrative messages are usually sent by messenger on foot relay. The speed of this varies according to weather conditions and enemy dispositions. From Northern Antique to Central Antique, it takes about 3½ days. From Northern Antique to Sara via the mountain, 7 or 8 days are required. There are no walkie-talkie radios on Panay. They would speed up communications. Peralta took everything, including the radio, to his new headquarters when he moved to the mountains in central Antique.

There are almost no receiving sets on the island. Only Governor Confesor and the regiments have them.

PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS : There is a shortage of radio technicians and operators. Instructors in the use of new receiving equipment are needed. In some areas, unbiased inspectors are needed to stop abuse of civilians and misappropriation of funds by some guerrilla personnel. American officers would be welcome to give advice, but not to take authority over local officers. Arrival of American officers would boost morale tremendously.

GENERAL QUIMBO : Former PC officer, with General Christie at Mount Baloy in April 1942. Faint heart, encouraged Filipino soldiers to surrender. Now reported training BCs for the Japanese in Manila.

LT COL JULIAN C CHAVES : Commander of 63rd Infantry Regiment, and also Chief of Staff of that regiment. In peace time was instructor in school. He is blunt, outspoken, and one of the best officers in Panay.

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MAJOR OFFEMARIA : Executive Officer, 63rd Infantry Regiment. Was 2nd Lt in USAFFE motor pool. Was one of the original organizers of the Iloilo guerrillas, probably one of the toughest line officers in Panay.

LT COL BARULIO VILLASIS : Commander 65th Infantry Regiment. Was Lt in PC. He is good organizer and soldier but believed by his subordinates to be jittery. He thinks the Japs are supermen.

LT COL V P GRASPARIL : Pre-war sergeant PC, organized an independent guerrilla band in Antique in August 1942, joined Peralta's command and is now CO 66th Infantry Regiment. Brave, tough, a good fighter, pro-American, and friendly.

LT COL C GARCIA : Commander of Pandan Bay area, a special area for protection and contact of submarines coming near there; was 2nd Lt PC before the war. He is a good soldier and organizer. Many say he is anti-white and was responsible for the murder of Privates MACKIE and OAKLEY near Malay, Capiz.

LT COL AMOS FRANCO : District Signal Officer of 6th MD. A fine gentleman, pro-White, frank and honest.

Panay - Geographical The barrier range along the west coast of Panay is covered with dense forest. The hills on the northeastern part of the island are rolling and covered, for the most part, with tigbao grass, something like cogon grass, and grows as high as 10 feet. Leaches are the only worry to travelers in the mountains.

Iloilo city has the only good harbor in Panay. It is entered through the narrow and deep Guimaras Strait. In Antique, the Pandan Bay area offers good landing beaches from February to the end of July (northeast monsoon). On the northern coast, the beaches at Ibayay, Nabas, and Calivo are calmest from August to January (southwestern monsoon).

The most common map of Panay is the coastal and geographical survey map of 1931. This is fairly accurate in the lowlands and coast areas. The mountain ranges and sources of rivers are generally not accurate and the heights of peaks unreliable.

RAILROAD : Is not used between Capiz and Iloilo. Some of the track has been taken up. Locomotives are out of order. Some of the bridges are out. The road bed is used by Japanese for movement of troops by foot, usually accompanied by slow patrol planes.

TRAILS : There are about 6 trails from Antique to the Aklan region. These are single file trails over the high range in Panay, most of the way through dense forests. The principle trails are: (1) from Sebaste to Bulibid, Malinao; (2) from Alegre to Maria Christina; (3) from Panigayan, Culasi via Totocan and Timbaban Rivers; (4) from Caryawan, Culasi, via Mount Madiois and the Dumalalay River; (5) from Dalanas, Tibao; and (6) from Valderrama to the source of the Aklan by way of Mount Baloy.

Jap patrols have used the Alegre and Dalanas trails once. Most of the trails are single file. North from Baloy to Lambunao there is a trail 6 feet wide. Trails in the west are mostly through mountains and forests and, except for crossing rivers, are not affected by heavy rains. In other parts, where the trails go through grass country, trails are under two to three feet of mud in the rainy season.

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BRIDGES : Many of the road bridges, mostly in central and eastern Panay and along the west coast, are out. The long bridges at Ibaja and Calivo are still in order. In Antique, trucks can ford most of the rivers when bridges are out, except for periods of about three hours after floods and after heavy rains.

Health Conditions Most Americans are in fairly good shape but have lost weight. There are no malaria mosquitoes in Panay and there is no malaria except among people who come from other islands. With the exception of a few coastal towns a traveler can pass comfortably without a mosquito bar.

Travelers in the hills carry iodine and sulfathiazol as small cuts from grass and underbrush frequently form tropical ulcers. Most people in the lowlands are not bothered by these.

There is dysentery.

Chronic colds are rare.

Many people in the north mountains suffer from what they call "double skin"-the skin peels off the entire body. This affliction is not communicable but looks very unpleasant. Might be caused by poor diet.

There are many lepers free in Panay. Most of them escaped from Culion leper colony.

The government provincial hospitals in Iloilo, San Jose, and Capiz towns are operating under Japanese control. Most of them lack medicines and equipment. There are no civilian hospitals in Free Panay. A few civilian doctors continue to practice at enormous fees. Most doctors have joined the guerrillas.

Ether and other anaesthetics for surgical operations are urgently needed. Local anaesthetics are required for dental work. There is a shortage of cotton bandages, iodine, sulfa drugs, quinine, aspirin, and adhesive tape. Civilian doctors have secured some supplies from Manila through inter-island traders at exorbitant costs. There has also been a big leakage of medical supplies recently brought in by submarine. Quinine and aspirin tablets from these supplies are selling at \$1.00 to \$2.00 each, sulfathiazol for as much as \$3.50.

FOOD SUPPLIES : Rice is the principal article of food, but half of the year most northern people depend on root crops such as camotes and cassava. In parts of Capiz and Iloilo there is a surplus of rice. In Antique the rice shortage is acute. Salt is scarce, especially in the coast areas. Meat is scarce. There are plenty of carabaos, but the farmer needs them to work in the fields. Good fish supply in Antique from February to the end of July and in Capiz from August to January. The Army takes the best part of the catch. Food supplies decreasing rapidly due to Japanese efforts to starve out guerrillas and the burning of food in harvest time. People are afraid to work fields near Japanese garrisons and will not attempt to harvest during a Jap penetration for fear of being shot. Partial payments in emergency currency are made for food taken by the Army.

LIGHT : There are no light plants in Free Panay. Lamps burn coconut oil and resin. In Iloilo city, the Japs are operating the Panay Electric Plant.

WATER : Iloilo city gets its water from the Iloilo water shed in the hills behind Maasin. The reservoirs are guarded by Jap garrisons. The rest of the island has a plentiful water supply from rivers and creeks. Small water holes are made close to the creeks and people get the water they need in bamboo tubes.

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CLOTHING : Most areas have sufficient old clothing to last them another year. Guerrillas are extremely short of clothing, but this does not hurt morale.

Means of Exchange Pre-war currency is being hoarded and is selling at a premium: ₱160 of emergency money for ₱100 of genuine money. In open markets in Manila, pre-war currency is par with Jap currency, but Jap money secretly sells at a big discount. American money is not seen in Panay.

Current emergency currency is generally in use and accepted by all, including the Japanese. Philippine agents from Manila offer sizeable discounts for Panay emergency currency. Emergency notes authorized by Quezon in 1941 are still in circulation. Most of the issue is being hoarded.

Japanese currency is not accepted by civilians outside of Japanese controlled zones.

Municipal authorities in free Panay issue small quantities of token money in small denominations. This is backed by deposits of Panay emergency notes. There is very little bartering in Panay.

CIVIL GOVERNMENT : Governor Confesor has a fairly complete organization operating in the three provinces of Panay, with governors and deputy governors in each district. Courts of First Instance are functioning. Municipal authorities are carrying on their normal functions in free localities. Pre-war taxes are collected where possible. Food stuffs are inspected in most areas, but the inspection is not of a high calibre. Schools are not in operation.

Puppet and municipal governments function in Japanese occupied areas.

GOVERNOR TOMAS CONFESOR : He and the civil government give the guerrillas all the cooperation possible.

FERMIN CARAM : Puppet governor of Iloilo, helping the guerrillas under cover.

FONIER : Puppet governor of Antique. His loyalty is questionable.

PUPPET OFFICIALS : The educated Filipino wants all puppet officials to have a fair trial after the war, and think many may be just victims of circumstances. The average guerrilla wants them all liquidated on sight without trial.

INDEPENDENCE : The majority of Filipinos Hulme spoke to did not want independence. They have found how brutal the Japanese are and miss the many advantages given to them by the Americans—good living, schools, and medical attention. Hulme estimated that 90% of the people in Panay do not want complete independence. Many fear an internal revolution should they have complete freedom.

QUEZON : Except for the disappointment of most Filipinos over the early evacuation of President Quezon to the U S, he is no longer referred to in general conversation. It is not known in Panay that Quezon is bedridden.

ROXAS : General Roxas, if alive, will probably be the first President of the Free Philippines. Osmena will probably be second choice. The educated Filipino says "Quezon is a politician, Osmena a statesman, whilst Roxas is a bit of both".

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JOHN HAY : American employee of Visayan Stevedores, Iloilo. Inducted into the USAFFE by General Chenoweth on 9 January 1942, in Misi, Lambunao, Panay. Later surrendered to the Japanese.

BOB GOULDIE : American employee of Socony Company, Iloilo City. Inducted into service by General Chenoweth on 9 January 1942 at his CP in Misi, Lambunao, Panay. Surrendered to the Japs.

JIMMIE GAIRDNER and STANLEY MAXWELL : English employees of Ker & Co, Iloilo. Inducted into USAFFE with Hay and Gouldie.

RICHARD KENNEDY and ALEX CREIGHTON : Former civilians of Iloilo city. Inducted into USAFFE on 9 January 1942 by General Chenoweth at his CP in Misi, Lambunao, Panay. Later surrendered to Japs.

PAUL MENG : American Chief Pilot of Iloilo-Negros Air Express. On 16 April 42 the Japanese caught him burning his auto, cut his hands off, and shot him a few days later.

CAPTAIN GRUNDT : American Chief mechanic of the INAE at Iloilo city. Now CO of guerrilla air corps.

GUY W GARRETT : English, manager of Hongkong Bank at Iloilo city. Hanged by the Japs. Wife and family in North Island, New Zealand.

JIMMY LEES : Acting British Consul, and manager of Smith Bell & Co at Iloilo City. Hanged by the Japs.



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