

EVACUEE REPORTS:

JENSON, JOSEPH R.

~~SECRET~~

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION GENERAL STAFF

APO 500
7 August 44

Philippine Evacuee Report #335

DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR ON
20 AUG. 75



Subject : NEGROS
From : Joseph Richard JENSON, Pvt, ASN 19010625

.....

Name : Joseph Richard Jenson
Born : 9 November 1921 in Ogden, Utah
Education : High School
Service : Enlisted 9 December 1940, assigned to
Medical Corps; sent to Sternberg General
Hospital, PI, October, 1941
Assignment : Surgical technician
In PI : Since 27 October 1941

Interrogated by G-2 GHQ SWPA

.....

Jenson appears to be an irresponsible youth with the happy faculty of making friends easily. His criticisms, as well as his praises of some phases of the guerrilla organization, apparently represented his sincere convictions. The information is considered fairly reliable.

* * *

CHRONOLOGY

- 9 Apr 42 - Surrendered.
- 21 May 42 - Taken to Bacolod, Negros Occidental with the invasion troops. No resistance was encountered.
- May 42-Jul 43 - Drove trucks for Japanese in Negros. Received fairly good treatment.
- 4 Jul 43 - Escaped with six other Americans into mountains.
- Aug 43 - Joined guerrilla unit under Colonel MATA.
- Aug 43-May 44 - Lived in the San Carlos area which was comparatively free of Jap activity.
- 19 Mar 44 - Married the daughter of Pedro ELIZALDE, Acting Treasurer of Free Negros.
- 15 May 44 - Arrived at District Headquarters and met Colonel Salvadore ABCEDE. Temporarily assigned to the 7th Combat Battalion under Major E L TORRES.
- 31 May 44 - Beginning of 5 day Japanese punitive campaign.
- 20 Jun 44 - Ordered by Colonel Abcede to leave by sub. Jenson says that he was opposed to leaving and was sent out only because Abcede did not want any Americans.

* * *



~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED PER AR380-5

~~SECRET~~

Japanese Punitive Campaign

Beginning 31 May 1944, the Japanese started a punitive campaign which

lasted for five days.

Two airplanes, a transport, and four launches were used by the Japanese in the drive. Landings on the southern coast of Negros were made at three places between Tolong and Sipalay. Approximately 1500 Jap troops were in the landings.

The Japanese drove straight into the mountains for a distance of about four kilometers and then started driving toward a central point about midway between Sipalay and Tolong. Civilians, including women and children were killed. Many atrocities in the form of rapings and bayonetting of children took place. Animals were killed and food supplies taken.

In the Command Post of the 7th Philippine Army Air Corps the Japanese captured G-2 records which contained the names of all of the agents operating in the Jap occupied towns as well as maps which showed all of the army bivouac areas of the entire island. The Japs likewise captured some 40,000 rounds of carbine ammunition and a smaller quantity of .45 calibre ammunition.

Company "A" of the 7th Combat Battalion was the only company to offer any resistance to the enemy. All of the other companies retreated into the mountains without firing a shot. The fight between this company and the enemy lasted about two hours, at which time the Japs retreated. This Company's CP was the only one not destroyed by the enemy.

Later reports indicated that there were 90 Jap casualties and one guerrilla casualty. This figure was greatly discounted by Jenson who says that he later inspected the position of the two opposing forces and found that the firing lines were more than 200 yards apart. He doubted that the guerrillas would be able to inflict such losses on the enemy which was armed with machine guns and automatic rifles whereas the guerrillas only had carbines.

No fighting at all took place after the first day. The only firing that could be heard was when the Japs were killing the civilians or the animals.

Guerrilla Organization In spite of the sincere efforts of Col Abcede and Col Mata, the organization is unwieldy, undisciplined, and ineffective. These two officers have done all within their power to improve the organization but have been handicapped by lack of competent officers to carry out their orders.

Because of the scarcity of available competent officers with previous military training, most of the high ranking officers are merely political appointments.

With a few exceptions the officers feel that they are not supposed to do any fighting and subject themselves to the danger of being killed. This attitude has had its effect on the enlisted men who realize that the officers are not interested in leading them in combat against the enemy. As a result, the ambushes are generally ineffective.

PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS : American officers are badly needed although they would be resented by the Filipino officers. The enlisted men would welcome some officers in whom they could have confidence.

General Conditions The civilians have suffered and are still suffering. In many ways they have been imposed upon by the army; however, the abuses are gradually being stopped.

DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR 08
20 AUG. 75



~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

The civil government has been instrumental, with varying success, in protecting the interests of the civilians. In protecting the civilians, the civil government has often incurred the animosity of the army, especially in the northern part of Negros.

The civilians have received comparatively little benefit from the supplies sent to Negros. Indirectly the civilians have benefited by being able to purchase some of them from the officers who kept most of the supplies for their own use.

PEDRO ELIZALDE ✓: Acting Treasurer of Negros. He is Jenson's father-in-law. He is honest and is keeping an accurate record of all the money being printed by the civil government. He frequently gets into trouble with the army for refusing to issue money without an order from the Governor. He was formerly Provincial Treasurer of Cebu.

DR ALBURO ✓: Formerly a resident of Cebu. He is now working in the hospital in Bacolod. He was friendly to Jenson and the other POWs while they were in Bacolod. He is strongly pro-American.

DR RAVIS ✓: Formerly lived in Kabankalan, but he is now working in the hospital in Bacolod. He was friendly and helpful to the American POWs stationed in Bacolod.

DR JARA ✓: Chief surgeon of Bacolod Hospital. He is suspected of being pro-Jap.

DR PRALTA ✓: Doctor living in Bacolod. He is suspected of being pro-Jap.

DR LERANZO ✓: Practices in the Bacolod Hospital. He was pro-American.

DR "VASQUES" ✓: He is presently working for the Japanese at a sugar central near Bacolod, but he is definitely pro-American.

J MARTINEZ GODINEZ ✓: He is the Spanish Consul at Bacolod. He is half Filipino. He cooperates with the guerrillas and was helpful in many ways to Jenson and his companions when they were POWs in Bacolod.

"ZABALJMEYNE" ✓: A Spaniard living in Bacolod. He is connected with the La Carlota Sugar Central. He is pro-American.

VICENTE "GACHERE" ✓: Lives in Bacolod where he operates a cafe. He is a graduate of a university in the United States. His wife is an American. He is pro-American.

F B LAND ✓: An Englishman now living in Bacolod. He was formerly with the Luzon Stevedoring Company. He is helping the guerrillas as an undercover agent.

DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LIR ON
20 AUG. 75



1

~~SECRET~~