

EVACUEE REPORTS:

JOSEPH, IRVING V.

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION GENERAL STAFF

APO 500
7 August 1944

Philippine Evacuee Report #336

Subject : CEBU and BOHOL
From : Irving Victor JOSEPH, ASN 19000084

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Name : Irving Victor Joseph
Born : 15 October 1912 in Los Angeles, California
Education : San Francisco Law School, 1934-36; Pilot's
School, received a pilot's license
Service : Enlisted 1 October 1940; assigned 20th Pursuit
Squadron 25 October 1940; sent to Manila 20 Novem-
ber 1940; Squadron transferred to Clark Field
7 July 1941
Assignment : 20th Pursuit Squadron, 20 November 1940
In PI : Since 23 November 1940

Interrogated by G-2 GHQ SWPA

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Joseph is a person with violent likes and dislikes. He is prone to make snap judgments, which lead him to criticize bitterly the commanding officers of Mindanao and Bohol. His faith in and admiration, to the point of fanaticism, for Colonel CUSHING is unbelievable. Because his story is confirmed by facts already known, the information submitted by him is considered fairly reliable.

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CHRONOLOGY

- 7 Dec 41 - Stationed at Clark Field with the 20th Pursuit Squadron.
- 24 Dec 41 - Retreated to Bataan.
- 9 Apr 42 - Surrendered on Bataan.
- 21 May 42 - Landed at Bacolod, Negros with the Japanese invading forces which were unopposed.
- May 42-Jul 43 - Drove trucks in Negros for Japanese, ambushed many times by guerrillas, few casualties because guerrillas opened fire too soon.
- May 43 - Shot in back during an ambush, received treatment in the Bacolod Hospital.
- 4 Jul 43 - Escaped with six other American POWs, all of whom have been evacuated to Australia.
- 5 Jul 43 - Joined guerrilla forces in north Negros.
- Aug - Nov 43 - Stayed with Colonel MATA, loafed around Headquarters, unable to get permission for Americans to stage ambushes.
- 25 Nov 43 - Went to Cebu with Colonel CUSHING.
- 2 Dec 43 - Commissioned by Cushing as Brevet 1st Lt, Inf.
- Jan - Mar 44 - Participated in several fights against Japanese, and captured some Jap guns and ammunition.
- 20 Mar 44 - Left Cebu to go to Mindanao to meet submarine to bring to GHQ Herbert A RETTER, a German sailor who had escaped from the Japanese in the Cebu City harbor.



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- 25 Mar 44 - Arrived at Lapinin Island, remained there for some time because of heavy Jap air patrol of Mindanao Sea and lack of wind for sail boats.
- 13 Apr 44 - Sailed for Camiguin Island.
- 14 Apr 44 - Arrived at Camiguin Island.
- 15 Apr 44 - Captain GARCIA, who was carrying Retter's papers, arrived at Camiguin Island. Contacted Colonel FERTIG by radio through Lt R THOMAS, one of Fertig's agents. Told to stand by because of heavy Jap patrol until further advised.
- 13 May 44 - Left Camiguin Island to return to Cebu via Bohol after receiving no further word from Fertig. Joseph was disgusted with Fertig's lack of cooperation.
- 16 May 44 - Arrived at Carmen, Bohol, Headquarters for Major INGINIERO, remaining there several days.
- 25 May 44 - Arrived at Cushing's Headquarters on Cebu.
- 26 May 44 - Left Cebu with Retter to meet submarine in Negros.
- 31 May 44 - Arrived in southern Negros and learned the Japs had that morning made an attack and destroyed most of the CPs.
- 20 Jun 44 - Evacuated.

Guerrilla Organization There are four Provisional Regiments on Cebu. Each regiment has a definite area in which to operate, but, when the Japanese make a drive into an area, the regiment in the adjacent area cooperates by making an attack on the flank of the Japs. This coordinated action is possible because of the absolute control that Colonel Cushing and his regimental officers have over their units.

Discipline has been perfected among both the officers and the men. Those who have shown any tendency to disobey orders have been weeded out. Most of the officers and men are former USAFFE men.

All officers and men have been taught that they are in an army which is actively engaged in war with the enemy. They have been taught the Articles of War and the meaning of a violation of these Articles during time of war. Every man has been told a court-martial will be given anyone found asleep at his post or anyone who retreats from the enemy unless ordered to do so by his superior officer. The death penalty has been given in such cases, as a result of which, laxity or disobedience of an order is an unheard of thing on Cebu now.

The officers and men share the same food, are subjected to the same dangers, and suffer the same deprivations. This has resulted in a feeling of comradeship between the officers and men.

COMMANDO SCHOOLS : Officers and men attend schools where courses in combat tactics, mapping, trail finding, use of all weapons, court-martial procedure, and intelligence courses are taught. The training is strenuous and exacting. Actual combat conditions are simulated as much as possible.

Intelligence Organization Special emphasis has been placed on the training of intelligence agents. The Philippines Intelligence Guide has been used extensively in stressing what information to obtain. The Guide has been a great help to G-2.

Agents, posing as civilians, live in every Japanese occupied town on Cebu. Agents have likewise been planted in most of the Japanese offices where civilian employees are used. Regular contact is maintained between these agents and the army so that the intelligence information can be expeditiously transmitted.

Court-Martial Trials The civilians, as well as the members of the army, have been told that they are amenable to the Articles of War. Every one has been advised that he or she will be shot if found guilty of acting as a spy for the enemy. Many spies have been caught and their executions have been widely publicized.

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Complete hearings have been held in every trial. The accused are represented by competent counsel. In most instances, confessions have been obtained. Usually the offenses are either leading the Japanese to the army CPs or pointing out guerrilla agents operating in the towns.

All the testimony is taken down by court reporters. Three copies of the record are made.

Bureau of Constabulary Members Colonel Cushing has issued an order, which has been circulated among the Constabulary men, to the effect that they will be taken into the guerrilla army if they surrender with their guns; otherwise, they will be shot or captured on sight. At one time, 30 of them surrendered with their guns.

Those who are captured are investigated, and, if it is discovered that they have committed any atrocities or have been unusually active in helping the Japanese, they are court-martialled and shot upon conviction. Those who have a clean record are kept in the area under observation for a short period and then taken into the organization.

Equipment Requirements Blasting devices are badly needed to carry on effective sabotage work. The cement plant in Cebu is working at full blast in turning out tons of cement. Cebu soldiers could sabotage this plant with the proper equipment. Full instructions should be sent.

Devices used to blow up ships would be invaluable. Cebu harbor always has ships in it. With the proper equipment some of these ships could be sunk or disabled. It would be an easy matter for Cushing's men to swim or paddle out to the ships and attach explosives to the ships.

Blasting materials which would not be easily detectable in coal could be effectively used to sabotage the plants on Cebu. Coal is used by many of the plants.

Pistols equipped with silencers could be of great assistance by undercover agents in Cebu City in disposing of collaborators and spies.

Rifles with telescopic sights are needed for sniping at Jap outposts.

Several thousand extractors and bayonets for Enfield rifles are badly needed.

The bolos now being made by U. S. ordnance are worthless because they are not being made according to the Philippine style. They are too long.

Carbines are not much good on Cebu, their range being too short.

Hand grenades, "Tommy guns", land mines, booby traps, field glasses for coast watching, and light anti-aircraft weapons to be used against strafing planes are needed.

Release of Japanese Prisoners Joseph was on his trip to Mindanao at the time that the Japanese officers and men were captured after the plane crashed on Cebu.

The information set forth here is alleged to be the story as told by Colonel Cushing to Joseph.

When it was discovered that there was a General and an Admiral among the prisoners, an attempt was made to contact GHQ through the 10th Military District. Each time the Cebu operator contacted Fertig's Headquarters, he was told to stand by. For four days an effort was made to make contact and each time the result was the same.

The day after the plane crashed, the Japs made a drive to rescue the prisoners. The utmost secrecy was used in concealing the whereabouts of the prisoners. As a result, the civilians did not know where they were. Nevertheless, the Japs started killing every civilian after he was unable to tell where the prisoners were.

It was necessary to carry the prisoners from place to place because they were unable to walk. On the fourth day it became apparent to Cushing

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that he was not going to be able to hold out. His forces were nearly surrounded. The Japs were using planes to locate their positions. Many innocent people, who had been loyal to Cushing, were needlessly being killed.

In order to avoid the wanton killing of civilians, and because he realized he was eventually going to lose the prisoners, Cushing decided to negotiate with the Japs.

In return for the surrender of the prisoners, the Japs agreed to call off their troops and stop molesting the civilians. The Japs carried out their end of the bargain.

Cushing said that this was the hardest decision he ever had to make in his life. He was considerably upset over it and realized that GHQ probably censured him for the action taken, which was the only course open to him under the circumstances.

PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS : Cushing would appreciate some good combat officers who were fearless and wanted to fight. They would be helpful in giving the men training in the most effective tactics now being used. Only men who are willing to undergo the toughest kinds of deprivations should be sent. In addition to combat officers, Cushing also wants some good intelligence officers.

COLONEL JAMES CUSHING : CO of Cebu. Besides being a fearless fighter, he is a leader of men. He has complete control of his organization. His word is final. His men, as well as the civilians, practically worship him. Any man in the army found guilty of abusing the civilians is severely punished. Though he is exacting in his demands, he asks no man to do anything that he is not willing to do. In personally planning and leading attacks against the enemy, he asks for no quarters and gives none. To him, the word "Jap" means fight, not run and hide as is done in some of the nearby islands.

LT COLONEL ESTRELLA : He executed FENTON during Cushing's visit to Cebu. In a court-martial trial, Estrella was convicted of planning to get control of the Cebu forces and surrendering them to the Japs. He was executed.

MAJOR ESPERTO : CO of the 85th Provisional Regiment. He is 29 years old, a good fighter, afraid of nothing, and is well liked by his men.

MAJOR ALBENDA : CO of the 86th Provisional Regiment. He is one of the best military men in the Islands. He was a 2nd Lt in USAFFE in command of a machine gun at the time of the invasion of Cebu.

MAJOR TRAZO : CO of the 87th Provisional Regiment. He is a veteran of Corregidor where he surrendered. After being released from the concentration camp, he came to Cebu and joined Cushing. He is a good man.

MAJOR HALE : CO of the 88th Provisional Regiment. He is an American Mestizo, about 29 years old. He is a good leader of men and is well liked.

MAJOR JESUS YBANEZ : G-2 on Cushing's Staff. He was on Bataan. After joining the Bureau of Constabulary, he was sent to Cebu where he escaped the Japs and joined Cushing. He is a capable man.

MAJOR VILLAMOR : He is the G-3. He is a PMA graduate. He is a good fighter.

MAJOR BAURA : He is Cushing's Executive Officer. He was a 1st Lt in the USAFFE.

MAJOR SANCHEZ : Civil Affairs Officer. He was a 1st Lt in USAFFE.

MAJOR SEGURA : Adjutant General. He was a 2nd Lt in USAFFE.

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MAJOR INGINIERO : CO of Bohol Area Command. He is a weak character, has had no combat experience, and is afraid to punish the spies who escape from Cebu to Bohol. While Joseph was in Bohol in April and May of 1944, Inginiero said that he had a half million pesos and orders from General MacARTHUR to cover Cebu with an intelligence net.

Civilian Attitude Towards the Army Cushing has done an excellent job of selling the civilians on the idea of supporting the army. Anyone guilty of abusing the people is severely punished. Cushing has become known as the champion of the rights of the people.

Probably the most persuasive factor has been the willingness of the army to fight. Nothing makes the people any happier than to hear that the army is engaging in a hard fight and inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy.

Such action on the part of the army has resulted in the people willingly sharing their food, clothing, and other commodities with the army. During the fights which have lasted for a period of time the people would crawl up to the front lines with food for "their" soldiers.

There has been no resentment on the part of the civilians towards Cushing or the Army because of the executions which have occurred on Cebu. It was well known that most, if not all, of them were deserved. In many instances the civilians have been instrumental in the arrest of the offenders.

VOLUNTEER GUARDS : The civilians have voluntarily formed a guard system that acts as an outpost for the army. Their services have been invaluable in warning the army of enemy activities. They have also been used extensively as undercover agents in the occupied towns.

CONDITIONS ON BOHOL : Joseph said that when he was in Carmen, Bohol, in April and May, 1944, he found the town running wide open. The people were having fiestas and life was generally the same as before the war. It was known all over the island that Major Inginiero had his headquarters and a radio station located in Carmen. Although there were good roads from the Jap garrisons to Carmen, there had been no attacks. Large food reserves had been built up. Major Inginiero is quoted as having said that he had contacts with the BCs and the Japs and did not fear an attack.

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