

EVACUEE REPORTS:

KRAMER,

ROBERT S.

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION GENERAL STAFF

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APO 500
28 July 44

Philippine Evacuee Report #333

Subject : BATANGAS, MINDORO and PANAY
From : 1st Lt Robert S KRAMER, CE, O-23729



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Name : Robert Sealey Kramer
Born : 1915 at Leesburg, Florida
Education : University of Florida, 1931-1936
US Military Academy 1937-1941
Service : Graduated US Military Academy June 1941.
Arrived Manila October 1941, assigned
to 14th Engineer Battalion, PS. On
Bataan April 1942, escaped to hills
at the surrender.
In PI : Since October 1941

Interrogated by G-2 GHQ SWPA

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Lt Kramer spent most of his time in hiding in the hills of Batangas, and had little information of importance. He was cooperative and his information is considered reliable.

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CHRONOLOGY

- Jun 41 - Graduated from US Military Academy as 2nd Lieutenant, CE.
- Oct 41 - Arrived in Manila, assigned to 14th Engineer Battalion, PS, at Fort McKinley.
- Dec 41 - Promoted to 1st Lt, CE.
- Apr 42 - With his unit on Bataan.
- 9 Apr 42 - 14th Engineer Battalion divebombed and strafed on Bataan as it was moving to Cabeban to surrender. Battalion commander ordered the soldiers to disperse. American officers of B and C Companies, together with the Battalion commander, evacuated to the hills.
- Mid Apr 42 - Kramer, together with nine other American officers, crossed to Cavite Province.
- 28 Apr 42 - Kramer arrived at Bayuyungan, Batangas, with three other American officers.
- 3 Jul 42 - Kramer and two other American officers leave Bayuyungan to avoid capture by Sakdalistas and moved to Subic, Batangas.
- Aug 42 - Kramer and one other American officer escaped from Subic when Japanese raided the barrio.
- Aug 42-Sep 43 - Kramer and his companion, Lt Jorgensen, lived in the hills near Pahulan, Batangas, and started to organize a guerrilla.

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- 7 Sep 43 - Japanese raid on Kramer's camp behind Pahulan.
- Sep 43-Jan 44 - Kramer and Jorgensen lived at various places in the hills behind Pahulan.
- 30 Jan 44 - Arrived in Mindoro with the intention of securing evacuation to Australia.
- Feb 44 - Stayed in north Mindoro.
- 24 Feb 44 - Escaped from Japanese raid on camp near Paluan and started southwards for Panay.
- 28 Mar 44 - Arrived at Libertad, Antique, Panay.
- 5 Apr 44 - Interviewed Colonel Peralta.
- Apr-Jun 44 - Inspected guerrilla units in Antique.
- Jun 44 - Evacuated to Australia.

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Major FREDERICK B SAINT ✓ : CO 14th Engineer Battalion PS, escaped from Bataan with Kramer party. Last seen on about 18 April 1942 near Limit Point, Cavite.

Major CAMPBELL SNYDER ✓ : Executive Officer, 14th Engineer Battalion PS, last seen 9 April 1942 on Bataan.

Captain HOMER JONES ✓ : CO "B" Company, 14th Engineer Battalion PS. Last seen April 1942 on Bataan. Wounded and could not walk easily, believed he surrendered so that he would not be a drawback to his companions.

Captain PAUL R GREGORY : CO "C" Company, 14th Engineer Battalion PS. Escaped from Bataan with Kramer party. Died of pneumonia 13 May 42 at Bayuyungen, Batangas, and was buried there by his companions of whom Kramer was one.

1st Lt ROBERT PIERPONT, 1st Lt EDMUND JENNINGS, 1st Lt KRAUS, 2nd Lt JOSEPH SMITH : Company officers of the 14th Engineer Battalion PS, escaped from Bataan with Kramer party, last seen in May 1942 in Cavite, believed captured at Lipa, Batangas, in May 1942.

2nd Lt JAMES LYNCH : Company officer of 14th Engineer Battalion PS, escaped from Bataan with Kramer party, last seen on or about 18 April 42 near Limit Point, Cavite.

1st Lt EUGENE LYLE JORGENSEN : Company officer of "C" Company, 14th Engineer Battalion PS, escaped from Bataan with Kramer party, was with Kramer until 24 February 44 when the Japanese raided their camp near Pahulan, Mindoro. Reported captured by the Japanese and brought to Batangas.

Captain WILLIAM EDWIN WILSON FARRELL : Former MP officer in Manila, joined 31st Infantry at the outbreak of the war, escaped from Bataan with Kramer party, was captured by the Japanese at Subic, Batangas, on the first Monday in August 1942. Stripped to his underwear and led away by the Japanese, reported taken to Batangas.

Pfc PATRICK J MELLODY : Lived in Batangas west of Pahulan and joined Kramer in November 1943. Now evacuated to Australia.

Pvt HAROLD GUNTNER : Private, 59th Coast Artillery, lived in hiding in Batangas, came to Mindoro with Kramer and was captured by the Japanese Pahulan on 20 February 44.

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"Colonel" DABEGA : Former prisoner at Bilibid, was leader of a bandit group of about 300 men around Amadeo, Cavite, in December 1943.

"General" VILLANUEVA : Leader of another bandit group in Cavite. Surrendered to the Japanese in August or September 1943.

"General" TIJO : Leader of another bandit group in Cavite. Surrendered to the Japanese in August or September 1943.

BUCK : American old timer, about 70 years old, has had three Filipina wives; lives west of Tagaytay; was interned by the Japanese and later released as harmless.

MALVAR : Governor of Batangas. Pro Jap.

CALINGASAN : Mayor of Tuy, Batangas. Hypocritical and unreliable.

Don SIXTO LOPEZ : Wealthy Spaniard, lives on large estate near Balayan, Batangas.

JOSE LOPEZ-MANZANO : Brother of Colonel Narciso MANZANO, married into don Sixto's family and lived with them there in 1943. Had been to Manila just before Kramer saw him in January 1944 and had helped his brother get to Mindanao. Gave Kramer and his companions money and a boat in which to go to Mindoro in January 1944. Trustworthy. Reported killed by the Japanese in March 1944.

VICENTE MALAGAYA : Resident of Subic, Batangas. Cooperated with Kramer in organizing guerrilla there in July 1942. Informed the Japanese of the presence of Kramer, Jorgensen and Farrell and led the Japanese to their house resulting in the capture of Captain Farrell. Untrustworthy.

LUIS LICOPA : Sergeant PC, 7 years service, resident of Pahulan. Acting "Captain" in a small guerrilla group around Pahulan. Reported killed in March 1944.

FILOMENO GEGALAC : Corporal PC, 15 years service, acting "Captain" of a guerrilla band of about 30 men, less than half armed, in the Pahulan area, trained and advised by Kramer and Jorgensen, September-December 1943. Reliable man.

ELIAS MALAGAYA : Resident of Pahulan, trustworthy.

GREGORIO BROTNELL : Resident of Pahulan, trustworthy, knows the Licopa and Gegalac organizations.

LYCARGOS BANKS : American negro mestizo, former radio operator for Pan American Airways at Infanta, Tayabas, called "Bebe". Now at Pamiga, Batangas. Reliable man.

PASIA : Former principal of the high school in Batangas City. Trustworthy.

Lt UMALI : Acting captain in command of a guerrilla company under Major JURADO on Mindoro. Company covers Pahulan, Abra de Ilog, Mamburao and Sablayan with one platoon each. Estimated 15 to 20 Enfield rifles per platoon, supplemented with a few Thompson guns and carbines recently received from SWPA. Company does police duty largely. Lt NATURA and Lt JAMILIA are company officers; one of these may have replaced Umali.

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Lt COOPER : American mestizo, former employee of the San Jose Sugar Central, commands a guerrilla company around San Jose under Major Jurado.

GUERRILLA ON PANAY : There are too many officers in the guerrilla units in Antique and not more than five or six out of more than a hundred officers whom Kramer met seemed to him to be competent. The guerrilla officers have a good livelihood with better food and clothes and more money than would otherwise be obtainable. The vast majority of guerrilla officers seem to be in it for reasons of personal gain rather than patriotic motives, and the enlisted personnel are little better. The soldiers do little work and take what they want from the civilians whether or not the latter are willing to sell. Many members of the guerrilla forces are not friendly to Americans and definitely do not want American advice, assistance or cooperation.

SUBMARINE RENDEZVOUS : The rendezvous of June 1944 in Antique seemed to Kramer to demonstrate the typical laziness and inefficiency of the guerrillas. Lt CRESPO and Lt AMIS, in charge of off-loading the ship, would not restrain their men from trading souvenirs to members of the crew for cigarettes. The men were more interested in breaking open the boxes to get cigarettes and candy than in loading the boxes into the boats, and the last 20 tons of supplies had to be dumped overboard when daylight approached. Captain RUIZ, in charge of operations on the beach, similarly was more interested in rifling the boxes than in moving them to safety in the forest.

Colonel PERALTA : Is energetic and capable, and seemed to Kramer to be jealous of the aid and publicity received by Colonel Fertig.

Lt Colonel GEMPERLE : Swiss citizen, has Filipina wife and four children, now doing an excellent job as Finance Officer and Quartermaster for the 6th MD. He wants to be evacuated, and Kramer was of the opinion that although he is doing a good job on Panay, Peralta would like to see him evacuated because he is not a Filipino.

Lt Colonel FRANZIA : PMA graduate, Signal Officer, 6th MD. Stays close to the radio station at Peralta's CP, able officer, does a good job.

Captain YAP : PMA graduate, now acting as S-3, First Combat Team, able officer and a good man.

Captain CADIAO : CO "K" Company, First Combat Team, has about 115 men armed with 70 carbines on the Antique coast. A patriot and a fighter, has no personal ambitions, and runs a good outfit.

Lt LUNA : CO First Combat Company, First Combat Team. A good man.

BARRAQUITA : Finance Officer, First Combat Team. Hotheaded and unreliable.

EVACUEES : The people brought to the rendezvous area to be evacuated were dispersed for some kilometers up and down the coast by Lt Col GARCIA, commander of the rendezvous area, when a Japanese raid became imminent. Some of these were subsequently

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evacuated, but many who could have made the contact were left behind. The reasons for this are not clear. At one time an order came down from Lt Col Garcia that only servicemen were to be evacuated, yet actually some civilians did go aboard the ship. Many of the old American residents among the civilians are sick and badly need food and medicine which is not easily available in the rendezvous area. Among those left behind were:

Captain HAIGHT, of 6th MD, and Mrs Haight (Russian).

Lt VOLODKIN, Russian Lt of 6th MD, and Mrs Volodkin.

Lt SIBELIUS, Russian who had served as a lieutenant under General CHRISTIE, but had not been active in the guerrilla.

Captain GRUNDT, 6th MD officer, in bad health, was sent away on a mission to get small boats for unloading two or three days before the rendezvous, and consequently missed the ship.

Lt Colonel GEMPERLE, cut off by a Japanese move and was unable to reach the ship.

Mrs MURPHY, wife of a recent evacuee, accompanied by two sons.

Mrs LASHER, Spanish-American lady accompanied by her young daughter.

WILLIAM ALLEN. Sick and has to be moved on a litter. Accompanied by his Filipina wife and two boys.

YEATOR ALLEN, brother of William Allen.

BARNES. In bad health. Accompanied by his Filipina wife and one granddaughter.

LUDWIG, accompanied by his Filipina wife, 8 or 9 children, and two adopted Filipino children about 15 years old.

One American mestizo, name not remembered, with his wife.

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