

EVACUEE REPORTS:

MANN, HOMER A.

~~SECRET~~

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION GENERAL STAFF

Philippine Evacuee Report #261

22 May 1944

Subject: MASBATE and PANAY

From : Mr Homer A MANN

.....

Name: Homer A Mann
Born: 1910 at Durango, Mexico, of American parents
Education: BS in Mining Engineering, University of California
Civilian
Occupation: Chief engineer, Masbate Consolidated Mining Company
Service: 1st Lt CE 6th Military District, 1943 - 1944
In PI: Since 1937

Interrogated by G-2 GHQ SWPA

.....

Mann's experience with the 6th Military District was limited. He possessed topographical information for which he was referred to the Allied Geographical Section. His information is considered reliable.

CHRONOLOGY

1 Jan 1942: At MCM on Masbate.
10 Feb 1942: Japanese occupation of Masbate. Left for Panay.
Feb - May 1942: Supervised construction of Dumarao airfield as civilian employee USAFFE under Major POWELL, 61st Division.
late May 1942: Surrender of 61st Division. Evacuated to Tapaz in Capiz.
21 Apr 1943: Commissioned 1st Lt CE, 6th MD.
May - Jul 1943: Set up and operated blacksmith shops, obtaining engineering supplies, and made road and trail reconnaissances.
Aug - Sep 1943: Taught demolition and construction at 6th MD Engineering School at Sara.
Sep 1943: Built a water wheel from salvaged materials at Sara, to run 1 kw generator for 6th MD radio station.
18 Sep 1943: Japanese penetration at Sara. Evacuated to the mountains and subsequently to Dumarao.
Oct - Nov 1943: Ran engineering CP with Major FERTIG (evacuee #242) in evacuation near Tapaz.
Dec 1943: Japanese penetration in Tapaz area. Evacuated into the mountains.
Jan - Feb 1944: Built a water wheel from improvised materials in the Mt Baloy area, to run 2 kw generator for 6th MD radio station.
March 1944: In charge of assembling Americans for evacuation to Australia.

Release of Masbate Internees On 5 January 1943 about 60 Japanese landed on Masbate near Aroroy, stayed over night, and released about 40 internees from a compound near MCM. The internees were brought away in ships by the Japanese, probably to Luzon. They included about 40 civilians, Japanese, mostly carpenters at the mines; also approximately 5 Germans, including "RADTKE", a harmless beachcomber, and "GOLDBANNER", a Jewish anti-Nazi. Americans at Masbate were not molested.

DECLASSIFIED PER AR386-5

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED PER JOJ LTR OF
20 AUG. 75



~~SECRET~~

JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF MASBATE Early in February 1942 a detachment of Japanese Marines landed near the mines and occupied the area. Some of the Japanese carpenters, formerly released from internment, accompanied them as soldiers in uniform.

JAPANESE PENETRATION AT SARA On 18 September 1943 the Japanese approached 6th MD Headquarters in the Sara area, and all of the staff, including Mann, evacuated on the morning of the 19th. Mann watched about 45 Japanese burn the school houses which had been used by the army. He saw them go into the barrio of San Luis, heard about 200 shots fired, and saw the barrio burning. On the night of the 19th Mann went back and slept in the school house which he had formerly occupied. He saw bodies of three men, a woman and a child, all Filipino civilians, murdered by the Japanese. On the 20th, as he left for the mountains, he could see many fires burning in the area.

Massacre of the Missionary Camp There was an evacuation camp of missionaries situated approximately five hours above Tapes on a small tributary of the Panay River. In October 1943, the Japanese penetration campaign approached the area, and the camp broke up and expanded somewhat for greater security. At this time the following people were left in the original camp:

Doctor Rose: American Baptist Missionary, President of the Central Philippine College.
Mrs Rose: American.
Mr James Covell: Teacher at Central Philippine College. Had been 17 years in Japan as a missionary, spoke Japanese; would sometimes translate documents for 6th MD, but would give them no other assistance because of his pacifist beliefs.
Mrs Covell:
Miss Ericson: Teacher at Central Philippine College.
Miss Dowell: Teacher at Central Philippine College. Had arrived at the camp on the day before the massacre.

At a new camp about 10 minutes away from the original camp were the following Americans from the Baptist Mission Hospital in Capiz, Capiz:

Doctor Meyers: Distributer of medicines sent from the SWPA for 6th MD. Afflicted with a hernia which kept him bent over so that he could not leave the house.
Mrs. Meyers:
Miss Adams: Nurse in the Mission Hospital.

At another camp about 20 minutes away from the original camp were the following:

Mr Earl Rounds: From Capiz Mission, Chaplain for 6th MD.
Mrs Rounds:
Douglas Rounds: (7 years)
Mr Mark Clardy: Assistant Mill Superintendent for MCM.
Mrs Clardy:
Johnny Clardy: (7 years)
Terry Clardy: (4 years)

In December 1943 a mobile unit of about 200 Japs, accompanied by approximately 50 Filipino civilians, suddenly appeared in the camp and massacred the entire party. Inhabitants of the area told Mann that Rounds and Clardy at first escaped, but when they saw that their wives and children had been captured, they gave themselves up. Mr DIANALA, Filipino pastor of the Baptist Church at nearby Catapunan, stated in a letter written later to Major Fertig and Mr. SCHURING (evacuee #265) that he had gone to the camp on the 20th of December 1943 and had seen that the entire party had been brutally murdered. Dianala buried them all.

DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR 04
20 AUG. 75

~~SECRET~~



ALBERT KING, American Lieutenant of the guerrilla army had been captured by the Japanese in the Aklan area early in December and was brought to the missionary camp, and killed there at the same time as the others.

Rounds has discharged a Filipino servant a few days before and there were reports that he had led the Japanese in.

Major Fertig, Mr. Schuring and Mr. Spencer (evacuee #274) and their families were also living nearby but escaped in time to avoid capture.

"**MARAKITA**" Japanese civilian interned on Masbate, released by the Japanese on 5 January 1942. He returned in civilian clothes with the Japanese and subsequently organized a puppet government in the area. He is believed to have been instrumental in the capture of Mr. and Mrs. Barney Faust.

Coastal Defense Corps Mann heard in December 1943 of the organization of a Coastal Defense Corps, composed of Filipino soldiers working for the Japanese. They wore Japanese uniforms and were armed with Japanese .25 rifles which were considered better than the .30 Enfields with which the BC were equipped, and they were trusted more than the BC by the Japanese.

Officers of the 6th Military District The 6th MD is run by Filipino officers. They are "old timers", competent, and supported by the civilian population. There is little politics among the higher command forces; Lt Col CHAVES' son is a sergeant and Lt Col RELUNIA's brother-in-law still holds the pre-war rank of Major.

In the earliest days of the guerrilla organization, American civilians were not encouraged to join, and in July of 1942 when Mann volunteered for service with Col Peralta, he was instructed to stay in evacuation for the time being. Major Fertig was the only reserve officer among the Americans on Panay. He was called to active duty as district engineer and subsequently had command of most of the Americans given commissions. Americans served in advisory capacities since they were better technicians than Filipinos.

6th MD Engineering School The engineering school of the 6th MD ran for six weeks at 6th MD Headquarters in the Sara area in August and September 1943. Clardy ran the school as executive officer, Spencer taught military mapping in the field and Mann taught a course on demolition and construction. 22 Filipino officers from combat units attended Mann's course. They built truss bridges of bamboo and improvised materials in the field, and practiced demolition as far as limited quantities of explosives would allow. As pupils they showed good aptitude but were weak in mathematics.

MAJOR "ALVIER" Formerly of the Philippine Constabulary. About 45 years old. Was Provost Marshall 6th MD in April 1943. Believed to have surrendered in December 1943.

CAPTAIN EDWARD GRUNDY American, Commanding Officer of the Air Base Squadron at Sara. Carries several machine gun slugs in his back, acquired in the air raids on Iloilo. Was in bad health in February 1944 and should be evacuated.

Looting at Masbate Mines On New Years Day 1942, Captain REYES, PC, came to MCM with 20 men and told Barney Faust, superintendent, that the Japanese had landed and that the Americans should evacuate. Although the Japanese did not actually land until 5 January 1943, the Americans did evacuate at this time, and when they returned 2 days later all houses at MCM had been looted. Blasting caps, dynamite, bullion and precipitate to the value of 200,000 pesos had been stolen. With the assistance of the police, some of this property was recovered.

It was reported that local civilians had done this looting under Reyes, SANTA ANA, (Filipino clerk at MCM) and GONZALES (French mestizo, chief of police at the internment compound). Later in January a Lieutenant and twelve soldiers arrived from Panay, and with their help parts of two bars of bullion were recovered.

DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR 08
20 AUG. 75



Script Issued by MCM Due to lack of transportation, there was a pressing need for money at MCM at the end of December 1941. With the authorization of Governor Pessen of Masbate, 10,000 pesos worth of script was mimeographed and used to pay workers in the mines. Each piece was signed by Barney Faust, superintendent of MCM. It is believed that no records of this issue now exist.

PELSEN ✓ Governor of Masbate. Captured by the Japanese early in February 1942 when he refused to leave his wife, who was sick in the hospital.

PIO CORPUZ ✓ Puppet Governor of Masbate under the Japanese. His brother-in-law, Mr Bayot, was staying at Mr Ford's camp in Panay with his two children, but is now believed to have returned to Masbate.

"ZEIMER" ✓ A German, interned at MCM at the outbreak of the war and released by the Japanese on 5 January 1942. Believed to have been brought to Luzon.

SAY ✓ An American from Cepsay Mining Company near MCM. At the outbreak of the war, he called himself "Captain" and later "Colonel" and even "General".

MR AND MRS BARNEY FAUST ✓ Mine superintendent at MCM. Both captured by the Japanese in February 1942.

EKLINE An American from Salina, Kansas, went into evacuation near Tapoz in April 1942. Died there of dysentery in November of the same year.

MRS HELEN MARIE (JONES) MANN ✓ Mrs Mann went to Baguio early in December 1941. On Christmas Day, Mann heard from Manila that she was interned at Baguio. She was to have borne a child at the end of April 1942.

DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR OF
20 AUG. 75

