

EVACUEE REPORTS:

MENDIOLA, RENATO

AYONG, BONIFACIO

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General Headquarters
Southwest Pacific Area
Military Intelligence Section, General Staff

10 January 1945

SUBJECT: Interview with Renato Mendiola, 21 of Catarman, Samar, and Bonifacio Ayong, 21, of Oquendo, Samar, both claiming to be members of the guerrilla organization headed by Major Merritt.

1. Mendiola and Ayong came by sailboat to Tacloban, Leyte from Allen, Samar, arriving here 8 January 1945. They had three sketches showing the locations of enemy installations in Biri Island, Barrio Mauo, and Capul Island. These sketches have been turned over to the Operations Section of G-2, GHQ. It was their intention to give the sketches to their commanding officer, Capt. Bartolome Melbano, Signal Corps, 93rd Division, who is believed to be somewhere on the east-central coast of Samar.
2. Mendiola had an identification card issued in February 1944 and signed by Capt. Melbano. Neither he nor Ayong had received instructions from their officers to report to GHQ in Tacloban. They stated that they came to Tacloban to obtain transportation to eastern Samar. The sailboat in which they traveled to Leyte, they said, had returned to Allen. Enroute here they stopped at Villareal, Samar, where they saw the wife of Capt. Melbano. She was unable to give them the exact location of Capt. Melbano at this time.
3. While in Allen, Mendiola and Ayong were attached to a guerrilla intelligence unit commanded by a Lt. Villalino but apparently this officer had little control over their movements and operations as intelligence agents. The information contained in the sketches mentioned above were obtained through personal observation and with the aid of other intelligence agents in northern Samar. The locations of enemy installations on Capul Island were obtained from Sgt. Florencio Paseo, a resident of that island.
4. Upon their arrival in Leyte, Mendiola and Ayong went to see a Maj. Sabare, who referred them to Lt. Col. Juan Causing, guerrilla leader of southern Samar, who is at present in Tacloban. Col. Causing made copies of their sketches with the explanation that he would transmit them to the proper authorities. Ayong and Mendiola, however, went ahead and reported to G-2, GHQ.
5. It is deemed advisable to detain these two individuals in Tacloban until their positions are clarified by an officer of the Merritt organization.



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Military Intelligence Section, General Staff
Southern Pacific Area
General Headquarters

10 January 1952

REMARKS: Interview with Renato Mendola, 31 of Oatman, Guam, and Capt. Fido Wong, 31 of Oatman, Guam, both claiming to be members of the Guerrilla organization headed by Major Martin.

1. Mendola and Wong came by airplane to Saipan, Leyte from Manila, Guam, arriving here 2 January 1952. They had three sketches showing the locations of enemy installations in Hill Island, Saipan Island. These sketches have been turned over to the Operations Section of G-3, G-2. It was their intention to give the sketches to their commanding officer, Capt. Ben-igno Delano, 31st Division, who is believed to be commander on the east-central coast of Saipan.

2. Mendola had an identification card issued in February 1951 and signed by Capt. Delano. Mendola had received instructions from Capt. Delano to report to G-3 in Saipan. They stated that they came to Saipan to obtain transportation to eastern Guam. The airplane in which they traveled to Saipan, they said, had returned to Manila. Mendola has the wife of Major Martin, Capt. Delano, who was unable to give them the exact location of Capt. Delano at this time.

3. While in Manila, Mendola and Wong were attached to a Guerrilla intelligence group unit commanded by a Lt. Villalino but apparently this officer had little control over their movements and operations as intelligence agents. The information contained in the sketches mentioned above were obtained through personal observation and with the aid of other intelligence agents in northern Saipan. The locations of enemy installations on Saipan Island were obtained from Sgt. Francisco Baez, a resident of that island.

4. Upon their arrival in Saipan, Mendola and Wong went to see a Sgt. Baez who referred them to Lt. Col. Juan Canang, guerrilla leader of southern Saipan, who is at present in Saipan. Col. Canang made copies of their sketches with the explanation that he would transmit them to the proper authorities. Wong and Mendola, however, sent ahead and reported to G-3.

5. It is deemed advisable to detain these two individuals in Saipan until their positions are clarified by an officer of the Guerrilla organization.



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