

EVACUEE REPORTS:

MUSOLF, LOUIS H.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA  
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION GENERAL STAFF

APD 500  
7 August 1944

Philippine Evacuee Report #349

Subject : NEGROS  
From : Louis H MUSOLF

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Name : Louis H Musolf ✓  
Born : 19 December 1902 in Yale, South Dakota  
Education : High School  
Occupation : Employed by the Philippine Islands Commonwealth Government as Superintendent of Petroleum Exploration in the Philippines  
Service : Served with the guerrilla army in Negros from June 1942 to June 1944  
Assignment : 72nd Engineering Battalion  
In PI : Since June 1941

Interrogated by G-2 GHQ SWPA

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Mr Musolf appears to be a very level headed individual. His information, given in an unprejudiced manner, is considered reliable.

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CHRONOLOGY

- 7 Dec 41 - Attached to the army in Cebu as a civilian.
- Jan-Apr 42 - Engaged in demolition work for the army in Cebu.
- June 42 - Went to Negros and joined the guerrilla forces being organized by Major MORGA.
- Jun 42-May 44 - With various units in north Negros, including the 72nd Engineering Battalion, performing various duties around the Command Posts and Division Headquarters.
- 19 July 43 - Commissioned as 3rd Lieutenant.
- 15 Jan 44 - Promoted to 2nd Lieutenant.
- 19 May 44 - Arrived at District Headquarters.
- 31 May 44 - Beginning of Japanese drive along the southern coast of Negros.
- 21 June 44 - Evacuated to Australia.

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Guerrilla Organization Though Colonel ABCEDE is a good man and has done a good job in organizing the guerrilla forces on Negros, he seems to be unable to find competent officers that can make good soldiers out of the men. This has probably been due to the absence of officer material.

The result has been that the organization is very poor. None of the units can be depended upon to perform the duties imposed on them. This condition generally exists throughout the island. In some units conditions are much better than in others. This is due to the fact that the commanding officers vary greatly in ability.

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Because the average Filipino in the army holding any rank at all is hungry for power and promotion, getting it any way he can, the officers are jealous of one another and make little effort to cooperate with each other. This attitude, together with the practice of passing the buck, accounts for the organization being so poor. This has likewise had its effect on the enlisted men who realize that their leaders are incompetent to train or lead them against the Japanese.

Because of the poor organization and the lack of real leaders, the word "Jap" to the Filipino soldier on Negros means to disperse and run to the mountains and hide. In many instances a patrol of only a few Japanese has caused an entire company of Filipino soldiers to disperse without firing a shot.

**PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS** : There is no doubt but that the Filipino soldiers could be trained and developed into competent soldiers, but the only way this can be accomplished is by sending several American officers and non-commissioned officers who have had combat experience into Negros to take charge of the training of the soldiers. While this may be resented by some of the officers, it is believed that the soldiers would be glad to have some competent leaders.

**COLONEL ABCEDE** ✓ : He is a good man, doing the best he can under the circumstances. He is handicapped by lack of competent officers upon whom he can depend.

**COLONEL MATA** ✓ : Commanding Officer of the 72nd Division. He is a good organizer, but he seems to be unable to find any officers to carry out his orders. In an effort to increase the efficiency of his organization he has been making many changes among his officers. Colonel Mata is a difficult man to get acquainted with, but he does not appear to be anti-American. It is believed that he would welcome American officers who were really capable.

**MAJOR MORGA** ✓ : He was in the Medical Corps and is presently building the District Hospital in central Negros. He is the only officer in that branch of the service who is worthy of his rank.

**MAJOR ZARAGOSO** ✓ : Medical Corps. It is thought by Musolf that when the war is over, Major Zaragoso will have a large part of the medical supplies sent from SWPA saved up for his own personal use in private practice.

**MAJOR JALANDO-ON** ✓ : CO of the 72nd Engineering Corps. He is very military in his actions, active, and hard working. He is a capable man and is doing his best to get his unit in good shape.

**MAJOR CORTEZ** ✓ He is very conscientious and is fairly capable.

**CAPTAIN "NONOY" ANTONIO** ✓ : Former Mayor of San Carlos. In December 1942, he had his men fire on another group of guerrillas, killing three of them. He has never been punished and is now at District Headquarters being protected by some of his friends who are high ranking officers. Lt NOLEDO is familiar with the facts concerning this case.

**LT GAMBOA** ✓ : He is one of the most unworthy Medical Officers on the island.

**COURT-MARTIALS** : The army has recently started court-martial proceedings against some of the guerrilla looters and offenders. Though sentences of imprisonment are being given, they are not being carried out. In many instances the offenders are giving themselves up to the Japanese and later act as guides and agents. This has resulted in the Japanese knowing everything that is to be known about the guerrillas. There has not been a single execution since the beginning of the present organization. S

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INDEPENDENCE : Even though the majority of the people do not realize the full significance of independence, they want it but only with the backing and full support of the United States. Never before have the people appreciated the United States as much as they now do.

QUEZON : While Quezon is not well liked by the people in Negros, he represents the symbol of independence and for that reason the people are interested in his activities and plans.

COLONEL EDMONDS ✓ Commanding Officer of the M.P. Regiment on Cebu at the time of the Japanese invasion. Musolf was high in his praise of Colonel Edmonds and stated that his unit was the only one that made any showing against the Japanese. Before the invasion his men could be seen training every day and preparing for the fighting that was to come. He was the most respected American officer on Cebu.

COLONEL JAMES CUSHING ✓ : Commanding Officer of the guerrilla forces on Cebu. In December 1941, he was attached to the army as a civilian worker. He performed such heroic and dangerous work in putting out fires and carrying out hazardous demolition assignments that he was referred to as "Suicide Cushing". As a reward for the work that he had done, he was commissioned as a 1st Lt three days before the Japanese landed on Cebu.

ERNEST WEBER ✓ : Lives in San Carlos. He has been helpful to the guerrillas by sending them information concerning the Japanese.

De MENCHACA ✓ He is a Spaniard living in San Carlos. His wife is an American. They have helped the guerrillas by giving them money and food.



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