

EVACUEE REPORTS:

OSSORIO, EARL K.

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION GENERAL STAFF

AFO 500
14 June 1944

Philippine Evacuee Report #318

Subject: Guerrilla Activities and General Conditions in NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

From : Earl K. OSSORIO

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Name : Earl Kenneth Ossorio
Born : 21 March 1928, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Education : one year grade school in U S
In FI since : 1928

Interrogated by G-2, GHQ

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Ossorio is sixteen years old and spent all of the past two years in the mountains in evacuation. During the past six months he served as clerk to the Deputy Governor of Negros Occidental, T. H. VALDERRAMA, near Cadiz, and was able to get some information which is passed on for what it is worth. The information is confined to Sub-Sector "C" near Cadiz, which is in the northern end of Negros.

ORGANIZATION OF GUERRILLAS: Discipline has been poor. There has been, until recently, no effort to train the men or officers. Prior to March 1944, the morale of the soldiers, as well as the civilians, was bad. After the arrival of carbines and other supplies from SWPA in February, there was an improvement in the efficiency of the Army. Strenuous efforts are being made to train the soldiers and a school is being conducted for officers. Discipline is much stricter now than formerly.

GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES: Prior to the arrival of the guns, there was little attempt made to stop the Japanese on their forays into the mountains for food. Occasionally, a few shots would be fired and then the guerrillas would run and hide, afterwards reporting that they had killed several Japs. As a result, the Japanese were driving the guerrillas deeper and deeper into the mountains and were making trips farther into the mountains. Since the arrival of the guns, the guerrillas have made several determined stands which have resulted in the Japs refraining from going so far into the mountains.

USPFI SUPPLIES: Prior to the arrival of the guns, the soldiers were really suffering. The people had lost faith in them and felt that the soldiers were taking their crops without giving anything in return. This feeling existed because the soldiers had failed to protect the civilians when the Japanese penetrated into the mountains. The arrival of the guns and other supplies, few of which ever fell into the hands of the civilians themselves, convinced them that the Army actually did have contact with the United States Army. This resulted in more active cooperation on the part of the people.

CIVIL GOVERNMENT: Conflict is reported to have developed between the Army Forces and the Civil Government. This is supposed to be due to the fact that the Government collects 30% of the crops from the planters and then fails or refuses to turn over a fair share to the Army or an amount sufficient for the Army needs. This has resulted in the Army going back to the planters and demanding more food.



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Economic and Psychological Information In order to live in the occupied territory, it is necessary to have passes which are in the following form:

Residence Certificate

No _____ Date _____

Nationality _____

Occupation _____

Address _____

The above is living in the municipality of _____

(Signed) _____
Municipal Mayor

Approved _____
Garrison Commander

Passes in the above form are carried by all civilians. They are easily obtainable. It is reported that from time to time the Japanese stop the people on the street and ask them for their pass. If any one is caught without his pass, he is taken to the garrison headquarters for questioning. If the Japs are convinced that he is a soldier from the mountains, it is reported that he is shot.

JAPANESE PROPAGANDA: Propaganda used by the Japanese consists of pamphlets, posters, leaflets, comics, speeches purported to have been made by ex-USAFVE soldiers and political leaders, and proclamations of different kinds guaranteeing a pardon to the guerrillas upon surrender by a certain date. This date line was extended from time to time in an effort to entice the soldiers to surrender. In order to encourage them to turn over their guns, the proclamation stated that the Japanese would pay seven pesos for a pistol and 15 pesos for a rifle.

One pamphlet, in pointing out to the mountain people that their efforts of resistance were in vain and contrary to the principles taught by Rizal, contained statements of alleged Allied losses during the month of November 1943 which were said to be: 6 warships, 8 carriers, 28 cruisers, 24 destroyers, numberless ships and about 600 planes which were instantly sent to the bottom of the sea.

It is thought that the most effective propaganda used by the Japanese was the issuance of the "bandit zone" order in October, 1943. This order stated that any one found in this area would be treated as a bandit and shot on sight. This resulted in a large number of civilians leaving the free territory and moving into the occupied areas. There were a few soldiers who went in.

EFFECT OF JAPANESE PROPAGANDA: Immediately after the granting of Independence to the Philippines and the intensive propaganda campaigns conducted in connection therewith, the morale of the people reached a new low. It is believed that this was overcome by the arrival of the supplies and carbines from SWPA.



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