

EVACUEE REPORTS:

PEREZ, JOSÉ T.

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General Headquarters  
Southwest Pacific Area  
Military Intelligence Section, General Staff

10 January 1945

**SUBJECT:** Interview with Jose T. Perez, civilian operative, working for Major Merritt, guerrilla leader in Northern Samar.

1. Subject is 34 years of age and a native of Calbayog, Samar. He attended the Philippine Law School in Manila for a year and then went into business as dancing instructor. His Manila establishment, called Holly-York Studio, was located at 405 Padre Faura Street, Ermita, Manila. Subject was in Manila when the city was occupied by the enemy in 1941-1942. Three months later, he went to his home in Calbayog.

2. Subject had no information about the enemy which would be of value to G-2, GHQ. He was interested mostly in giving information about Filipinos in Calbayog whom he accused having collaborated with the enemy and in obtaining some sort of reward for his work "for the cause."

3. Subject had an identification card signed by 2nd Lt. Ramon D. Dorillo, Inf., A. C. of S., G-2, 93rd Division, Samar. He also had an identification note obtained in Tacloban, Leyte, from Lt. Col. Rosales, Office of the Chief of Staff, Philippine Army.

4. He came to Tacloban from Calbayog, arriving here on or about 5 January 1945. He crossed the channel in a native sailboat. Among the passengers was Lt. Pedro Arsenas, described by subject as liaison officer in Samar for Col. Macario Peralta, commanding officer of the guerrillas in Panay.

5. Subject gave the following information about the guerrilla organization in Northern Samar.

1) He last saw Maj. Merritt in October 1944 at his mountain hideout near Bobon.

2) Capt Marciano Lim is a regimental commander with headquarters in the Malaga area. Subject was unable to identify the regiment commanded by Capt. Lim.

3) Provisional Lt. Ramon Perez, brother of subject, is Judge Advocate of Merritt's organization. He is a graduate of the Philippine Law School.

4) Lt. Eduardo Soliman is another member of Maj. Merritt's staff.

6. Subject accused the following individuals of being pro-Jap and of having collaborated with the enemy during the period of occupation in Calbayog:

1) Claudio Matias, about 28 years of age, now residing and working in Tacloban, exact address unknown. Matias, a surgeon, joined the Bureau of Constabulary in Calbayog and led Jap patrols against the guerrillas.

2) Proceso Tubal, schoolteacher, made speeches for the Japanese Propaganda Corps in which he told the people that the Americans would not return to the Philippines and, therefore, they should cooperate with the Japanese administration.

3) Judge Fernando de los Santos of Calbayog took part in Jap propaganda programs designed to "pacify" the people and obtain their cooperation under the Japanese administration.

7. Subject is a shrewd charlatan whose primary motive in coming to Tacloban appeared to be a desire to promote his personal welfare on the basis of his alleged sacrifices and services in the struggle against the enemy. His trip to Leyte was not expressly authorized by Maj. Merritt or any other officer of the Merritt organization.



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