

EVACUEE REPORTS:

SPALDING,

HERMON A.

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION GENERAL STAFF

DECLASSIFIED PER AR 380-5

APO 500
10 August 44

Philippine Evacuee Report #343

Subject : PALAWAN and CUYO
From : Hermon A SPALDING, ASN 19054510

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Name : Hermon A Spalding
Born : 26 February 1911 in Nashville Tennessee
Education : Grammar School, 1917-25
Service : Enlisted in Missoula, Montana, 25 March 1941; arrived at Clark Field, PI, 8 May 1941; assigned to Medical Detachment; transferred to 28th Bomber Squadron 24 December 1941; attached to 48th Materiel Squadron, San Jose, Mindoro, 2 January 1942.
Assignment : Medical Corps
In PI : Since 8 May 1941

Interrogated by G-2 GHQ SWPA

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Spalding is the reserved, quiet type of fellow who makes a statement only after deliberate consideration. His information is considered reliable.

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CHRONOLOGY

- 29 Dec 41 - Mayon Inter-Island Transport was bombed with some 600 troops aboard. Separated from group on Island of Ambulong.
- 2 Jan 42 - Reported to and was attached to 48th Materiel Squadron, San Jose, Mindoro.
- Apr 42 - 48th Materiel Squadron disbanded after receiving message from Bataan that the group was on its own.
- May-Jun 42 - Short trips to Culion and Busuanga Islands.
- 1 Jun 42 - Spalding went to Palawan.
- Jun 42-Aug 43 - Lived with natives on Palawan. Received friendly treatment.
- Nov-Dec 42 - Formation of several guerrilla groups which fought among themselves, abused the civilians, and were little more than bandits.
- 25 Aug 43 - Went to Cuyo to get treatment for severe case of malaria.
- 1 Oct 43 - Met Major MUYCO on Cuyo Island. He was on his way to Palawan to take over the guerrilla forces. Returned to Palawan with Major Muyco.
- Oct 43-Apr 44 - Served with guerrilla forces on Palawan.
- 12 Apr 44 - Went to Panay to be evacuated to Australia.
- 21 Jun 44 - Evacuated by sub.

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LANDING SITE ON PALAWAN : On the northern end of Palawan is a large plain about ten miles long and five miles wide that would be an excellent place to land planes. The name of the place is Guinlo. This plain is so level and flat that it could be used without a great deal of work being done.

Guerrilla Organization on Palawan Since the beginning of the guerrilla forces on Palawan during the latter part of 1942, there has been strife between the leaders. It was during this period that Major MARAMBA was shot by Alfred COBB because of his alleged intentions of turning some guns over to the Japanese.

After Major MUYCO arrived on Palawan in October, 1943, trouble has existed between him and Major MANIGQUE and Lt GARCIA. At one time Major Manigque and his followers were disarmed.

Though Major MUYCO is supposed to be the Commanding Officer, Lt Garcia, a cousin of Lt Col C B GARCIA, is actually the one who is running the organization.

There are approximately 1000 men in the organization. There is little discipline or control over the separate units. There has been no coordination of the various units in a concerted action against the enemy.

PABLO MUYCO : Major, CO of Palawan troops. He is a good man but is only 27 years old and seems to be too young to handle the job. He is influenced too much by Lt Garcia.

MANIGQUE : Major, former CO of Palawan troops. He is a weak character. During the time that he was the Commanding Officer, his wife was the one who actually made the decisions.

MARAMBA : Major, killed by Alfred Cobb on Cuyo Island. His wife later told Spalding that the killing occurred as a result of a dispute over some guns. She did not seem to know for sure what provoked the killing.

CIRILO GARCIA : Lt with guerrilla forces on Palawan. He exercises considerable influence over Major MUYCO. He is a cousin of Lt Col C B Garcia who is on Panay.

DR MENDOZA : Formerly one of the guerrilla leaders on Palawan. He is a good man and was well liked by the American soldiers.

General Conditions The civilians as well as the guerrillas are having a difficult time getting by. There is an acute shortage of food in this area. There is an abundance of fish but a shortage of vegetables. Occasional trips are made to Dumarán Island to kill some of the cattle running wild there.

Health conditions in these islands are bad. Practically everyone has malaria. The doctors at the Leper Colony have been more than generous in giving medicines and medical attention to the people in this area.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT : It has been helpful to the guerrillas. It prints the script, secures food for the army, attempts to collect taxes, and passes out the pensions to the pensionados.

MORALE : The people have never lost faith in the United States. This has best been demonstrated by the friendly reception the American soldiers received by the natives. The one notable

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exception being the killing of Lt Glew by the Mayor of Cuyo. Though the people have suffered many hardships and deprivations, they still believe that it will be only a question of time until the Japanese are driven out.

GOVERNOR ABORDO : Governor of Free Palawan. He lives in evacuation in the hills. Spalding lived with him for three weeks. He is strongly pro-American, conscientious, and cooperates to the fullest extent with the guerrillas.

PONCE DE LEON : Mayor of Cuyo. He had two of his policemen kill Lt Glew. He is suspected of cooperating with the Japanese. He has been protected by Lt Garcia from the other American soldiers and civilians who resented the killing of Lt Glew.

DR H W WADE : Employed by the Leper Colony on Culion Island. He has helped many American soldiers, giving Spalding a sailboat and loaning him P100.00.

DR JOHN HANKE : He and his family are at the Leper Colony. He has been furnishing medicines to soldiers and civilians to such an extent that his life is in danger from the Japanese.

DR JOSE O NOLASCO : Formerly in charge of the Leper Colony. He was also helping soldiers and civilians until he fled to Manila after being accused of being pro-Jap.

MR BEEBEE : Was an American civilian working for the manganese mines on Busuanga when he was captured by the Japanese in May 1942.

MR DE CARBONELL : Lives in Bantulan, Balawan. Reliable and dependable. He has helped Americans.

JACINTO H ALLI : Lives in Bantulan, Palawan. Spalding lived with him for a year. He is strongly pro-American. An old pensionado. He is influential in this area and would be a good contact.

MR EDWARDS : He and his family are living in Brooke's Point, Palawan.

MISS HOWE : American missionary, living in Brooke's Pt, Palawan.

SAMUEL W STAGG : Alias Colonel WELLS, living in Bacuit, N. Palawan.

GEORGE V MARQUEZ : ASN 14002191, living in Brocke's Pt, Palawan.

WM N WIGFIELD : ASN 14026320, living in Brooke's Pt, Palawan.

CLAYTON H DRONEN : ASN 6914239, living in Brocke's Pt, Palawan.

LEROY A KLIENERT : ASN 6919990, died of malaria, Dipnay, N. Palawan.

MORRIS E McGEHRE : ASN 6384350, died of malaria in January 1944.

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