

EVACUEE REPORTS:

TRAMMELL,

FRANKLIN J.

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION GENERAL STAFF

APO 500
27 June 1944

Philippine Evacuee Report #330

Subject : MINDANAO
From : Franklin J TRAMMELL, T/Sgt, ASN 6564880

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Name : Franklin J Trammell
Born : 1913 in Prague, Oklahoma
Education : High School
Service : Enlisted November 1936 at March Field,
California
Assignment: Radio operator with 30th Bomb Squadron
since July 1937
In PI : Since October 1941

Interrogated by G-2 GHQ SWPA

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Trammell impressed the interviewer with his sincerity, honesty,
and impartiality. His information is regarded as being reliable.

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CHRONOLOGY

- 27 Oct 41 - Arrived at Clark Field with 30th Bomb Squadron.
- 8 Dec 41 - Lost all planes except 13 which were flown to Del Monte Field, Mindanao.
- 3 Jan 42 - Went by boat to Cagayan, Mindanao.
- 6 Jan 42 - Attached to General SHARPE'S Headquarters in the Signal Corps.
- Jan-May 42 - Served with communications center at General Shappe's Headquarters.
- 10 May 42 - Surrender of USAFFE and General Sharpe. Escaped into mountains with Colonel McGEE and William NEUMAN.
- Jun-Dec 42 - Served with Major PENDATUN'S guerrillas as signal and radio man.
- Jan 43 - Made first radio contact with Colonel FERTIG. Ordered to report to Fertig's Headquarters but could not because of malaria.
- Jan-Nov 43 - With guerrillas under Pendatun.
- 1 Jun 43 - Commissioned 2nd Lt with the guerrillas.
- 15 Nov 43 - Reported to Colonel BOWLER and Colonel GRINSTEAD.
- 15 Nov 43 - Promoted to 1st Lt.
- Nov 43 to Jun 44 - Served as 1st Lt in charge of communications between 19 radio stations in "A" Corps in Western Mindanao.
- 1 June 44 - Evacuated by submarine.

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JAPANESE IN WESTERN MINDANAO : The Japanese garrisons at Misamis, Oroquieta, Malabang, and a few other towns along the western coast

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are composed mostly of young soldiers who have not had any previous military experience. There are not more than two or three hundred Japanese at any of these garrisons. In addition to the Japanese soldiers, there is about an equal number of Filipinos who are members of the Japanese Bureau of Constabulary.

Guerrilla Forces in "A" Corps Lt Col BOWLER is the Commanding Officer of "A" Corps in western Mindanao. He has effected an organization which is well disciplined and controlled. Chain of command has been well established and recognized.

Close communication is maintained at all times between Col Bowler's Headquarters and the Commanding Officers of the various Divisions by use of the nineteen radio stations which are in operation in "A" Corps. In addition to the radio communication, a regular mail service by couriers has been established.

Coast watchers have been placed all along the western coast of Mindanao. Runners are used to take their reports to the nearby radio stations for transmittal to Headquarters.

Most of the men in "A" Corps now are equipped with guns, either carbines or Enfields. It is estimated that there are about 20,000 men under arms.

GUERRILLA AIRFIELD : The field is in the mountains in an inaccessible place in so far as travelling by truck is concerned. It is about two kilometers long, has been rolled so that it has a hard, firm surface, and can be used in landing small planes bringing in supplies. It is not suitable for landing of large planes because one end of the runway extends to the side of a mountain.

FOOD SUPPLIES : Food has never constituted much of a problem for the guerrillas in western Mindanao. There has been an abundance of rice, chickens, vegetables, and bananas. At times there has been some difficulty in transporting food from one section to another, but, as a whole, the guerrillas and the civilians in the free areas have had plenty of food.

COLONEL ROBERT BOWLER : Commanding Officer of "A" Corps, western Mindanao. He is one of the best officers in the Army. He is a good organizer, as well as a good soldier. His men realize that they come first with him and for that reason they give him complete cooperation.

COLONEL GRINSTEAD : Former PC Captain, now he is Commanding Officer of the 109th Division. He is a good man, highly respected by his officers and men. He knows the Philippine Constabulary thoroughly and would make an excellent man to take over that organization after the invasion.

COLONEL McCLISH : Commanding Officer of the 110th Division. His outfit has a good reputation among the other units.

COLONEL HEDGES : Seems to be a good soldier. He has the reputation of being brave and a good leader. He is well liked by the men in his own outfit, but disliked by men in other outfits. He is doing a good job handling the Moros.

COLONEL McGEE : Commanding Officer of 106th Division. He is well liked, is a good soldier, and has one of the best units on the island.

COLONEL ANDREWS : American-mestizo. He hates Americans and misses no opportunity to show his hatred. It is rumored that he

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took over one hundred thousand pesos from the people for the Army and kept most of it. He was sent to Negros when Colonel Bowler refused to accept command of "A" Corps unless Andrews was relieved of all authority. This was done at the time that Colonel FERTIG moved his headquarters to "B" Corps.

MAJOR PENDATUN : Commanding Officer of the 118th Regiment, 106th Division. He is a good man and is doing good work with the Moros. His unit has the reputation of being the best in the division. For a while Pendatun was on the wrong track while under the influence of Col Andrews.

CAPTAIN McLAUGHLIN : CO 112th Regiment, 109th Division. He is a good soldier. His unit has probably killed more Japs than any other.

CAPTAIN THOMAS : Air Corps Reserve man now attached to Headquarters, "A" Corps. He is in charge of the airfield which is referred to as Thomas's Farm. He has done a good job and is well liked by the officers and men.

FATHER HAGGERTY : American priest, now in the mountains near Cagayan. Prior to the war he had a Catholic school in Cagayan. It is believed that he formerly taught in some school in New York City. He is doing a wonderful job in helping the people and getting them to cooperate with the army.

FATHER DAIGLER : American priest, now in Simata Barrio. It is believed that he came from New York.

US ENLISTED MEN IN MINDANAO : Trammell supplied the following identification of US military personnel now active in the 10th MD from his best information. Reliability is uncertain.

M/Sgt Alfred FERNANDEZ	- with Col Fertig
M/Sgt Jack HOFFAW	- 109th Division
T/Sgt John F WOOD	- in Misamis Oriental
T/Sgt P W WHITLEY	- with Col Fertig
S/Sgt Lewis C ROYBAL	- 106th Division, Cotabato
S/Sgt Owen P WILSON	- with Col Fertig
Sgt Harold D MARTIN	- with Col Fertig
Sgt Thomas MITSOS	- with Col Fertig
Sgt John D BISS	- with Col Fertig
Sgt Frank R SPEIGHT	- with Col Fertig
Cpl Clayton A MANNERS	- At a watcher station in Mis Or.
Cpl Howard R WATSON	- with 109th Division, Bukidnon
Cpl Timothy C CASEY	- 106th Division, Cotabato
Cpl Alexander BONNER	- 109th Division
Cpl Richard B LANG	- With Col Fertig
Cpl Alma B MILLS	- with Col Fertig
Pfc George O HALL	- "A" Corps, near Zamboanga City
Pfc Fred S FAUST	- with Col Fertig
Pfc Earl G HILLIARD	- 109th Division
Pfc Robert V BALL	- with Col Fertig
Pfc Clyde M ABBOT	- 110th Division
Pfc Erling H JONASSEN	- 109th Division
Pfc James D McNEIL	- With Col Fertig
Pfc Walter W SANDERS	- 109th Division
Pfc Ivan F SHEAHAN	- with Col Fertig
Pfc Carlyle TOWNSEND	- "A" Corps Headquarters
Pfc James L GARLAND	- with Col Fertig
Pvt Homer S CLARK	- with Col Fertig
Pvt Jack R CLARKE	- 109th Division

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Pvt Jack M SOURS	- with Col Fertig
Pvt Richard L THOMAS	- with Col Fertig
Pvt Gerald S CHAPMAN	- with Col Fertig
Pvt Andrew A MANCUSO	- with Col Fertig
Pvt Louis RUBERTON	- with Col Fertig
Pvt Jack L SAMPLES	- 108th Division
Pvt Johnny W STARKEY	- 106th Division
Pvt Lincoln DEPRON	- with Col Fertig
Pvt Lee R RUTHERFORD	- "A" Corps Headquarters
Pvt Forrest A HOWARD	- "A" Corps Headquarters
Pvt John W KORVEINSKI	- 109th Division
Pvt Edward W BROWNING	- 109th Division, Bukidnon
Sgt Edward L BROOKS	- 106th Division
Anthony BUJNOWSKI	- in Bukidnon, in bad health
Vincent K DOUGLAS	- with the 109th Division, Bukidnon

Living Conditions There has been comparatively little change in the living conditions of the civilians in the territory unoccupied by the Japanese.

The most acute shortage has been in clothes, but this is being remedied by the use of abaca.

The people have been able to follow the progress of the war fairly well. Each division has a radio and issues a news sheet every day. This is circulated widely among the people. However, only the more educated class of people is interested in the news. The average Filipino is not as much concerned about the war news as he is about the question of when the Japanese are going to be driven from his island.

Malaria and dysentery are very common. The army doctors and nurses are doing a wonderful job toward combatting these diseases. The shipments of quinine and atabrine from GHQ have done much toward alleviating the malaria epidemics which have taken a much greater toll of lives than have the Japanese. Bark from cinchona trees is used to supplement the quinine supplies received from GHQ.

The civilians have not suffered from a lack of food because the army has required each division to raise as much food as is possible. As a result of this policy some of the divisions are nearly self-sufficient. Most of the people and many of the units have large quantities of food in reserve to be used if the Japanese should penetrate into the mountains and destroy the crops.

Civil Government A civil government has been established throughout the area unoccupied by the Japanese. The system has been so organized that there are officials for the different provinces, municipalities and barrios.

The civil government encourages the planting of crops, collects taxes, maintains order among the civilian populace, settles land disputes, attempts to keep prices down, and cooperates with the army. In some areas courts have been established for the disposition of civil cases and criminal cases committed against the state.

The civil government has also undertaken the task of setting up a volunteer guard system. Civilians are stationed at different points to observe the activities of the Japanese. When they observe that the Japanese patrols are on their way into the mountains, they notify the army. This service is separate and apart from the regular army.

Concentration Camp at Davao Reports from this camp indicate that the civilians are fairly well treated and are not required to work.

However, reports indicate that the American soldiers are required to work and are very badly treated. They do not get enough to eat.

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have no clothes, and are given no medical treatment. As a result of the treatment received, it is believed that a large per cent of the prisoners have died.

Trammell stated that he had heard that about 20 American soldiers had attempted to escape but he had never met one of them. The escape route from the penal colony leads through a swamp which takes six days to cross. It is believed that because of the weakened condition, few of the prisoners could withstand the hardships of such a trip.

AMERICAN PERSONNEL : The following names are taken from a list found in an abandoned Japanese Concentration Camp at Malaybalay, Bukidnon, dated 26 May 42, apparently compiled by the officers and men of the camp and signed "W T HOLLOWAY - Cook, Lt Col AGD, Adjutant, by command of Major General SHARPE". Comments as to the whereabouts of each man are given as on the list or as modified by Trammell according to his best information, but reliability remains uncertain.

GENERAL SHARPE : Surrendered 10 May 1942.
Lt COL W T HOLLOWAY-COOK : Surrendered 10 May 1942.
JOHN L LEWIS : Lt Col, ASN 0-16222, wounded in action 5 May 1942 and captured by the Japanese.
MARK WEIL : Major, ASN 0-286922, wounded in action 3 May 42 and captured by the Japanese.
CHARLES BUCHER : Captain, ASN 0-344787, killed in action 8 May 1942.
STEVE MARSOERO : Captain, missing in action 9 May 1942.
DUANE COSPER : Captain in US Army, listed as missing in action as of 26 May 1942.
JAMES A LYDA : 2nd Lt, listed as missing in action as of 26 May 1942.
WILLIAM P McFADDEN : 2nd Lt, listed as missing in action as of 26 May 1942.
DWIGHT M HOLMES : Lt in the US Army at the time of the surrender. Escaped into the mountains and in June 42 started out in a sail boat for Australia with TAYLOR. They were captured and killed by the Japanese.
W S TAYLOR : Lt in the US Army at the time of the surrender. Escaped into the mountains and in June 42 started out in a sail boat for Australia with Holmes. They were captured and killed by the Japanese.
LEO A PENTECOST : Pvt, ASN 6750169, wounded in action 5 May 42. He later surrendered.
LARRY D POWERS : Pvt, ASN 1803506, wounded in action and captured by the Japanese.
MILTON L McMULLEN : Pvt, ASN 14042850, wounded in action and captured by the Japanese.
RALPH D BRINDLEY : Sgt, ASN 6564126, wounded in action and captured by the Japanese.
RAYMOND F GAUER : Pvt, ASN 19032425, wounded in action and captured by the Japanese.
THOMAS F GORMAN : Pvt, ASN 190033065, wounded in action 5 May 42 and captured by the Japanese.
NORMAN GRAVOTZ : Cpl, ASN 6577841, wounded in action 10 May 42 and captured by the Japanese.
ELDON M DALE : Pfc, ASN 6577841, wounded in action 10 May 1942 and captured by the Japanese.
ROBERT E DEBORD : Pfc, ASN 6579393, wounded in action 10 May 42 and captured by the Japanese.
KEITH WILLIAMS : 1st Lt, ASN 0-418017, killed in action 8 May 42.

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RAYMOND C BENHAN	: Sgt., believed to have surrendered or to have been killed after 26 May 42, the time when the list was made. He was never heard of by the guerrillas.
JOHN R FERRY	: Sgt., believed to have been killed or captured after 26 May 42. He was never heard by the guerrillas.
JOE IVEY	: Sgt., was killed shortly after 26 May 42.
ROBERT J AMO	: Cpl., surrendered to the Japs after May 42.
ALFRED L COVE	: Cpl., surrendered to the Japs in May 42.
WILLIAM S DEFOREST	: Cpl., surrendered in June 42.
GRANT O KING	: Cpl., home address-514 E Polk St., Phoenix, Arizona, surrendered in June 42.
KEITH J McEWEN	: Cpl., surrendered in June 42.
ERA F MORRIS	: Cpl., surrendered in June 42.
RICHARD PETERSON	: Cpl., was either killed or captured by Japs.
HAROLD P PHELPS	: Cpl., killed by the Japs in June, 1942.
WARREN L McFADDEN	: Cpl., died in the summer of 42.
NAPOLEON R BALDONADO	: Pvt., surrendered in June 42.
EUGENE L COX	: Pvt., killed by Japs.
EDWIN DUDLEY	: Pvt., killed by Japs.
ROBERT W FOSTER	: Pvt., surrendered to the Japs.
EVAN P HAMPTON	: Pvt., surrendered to the Japs.
JAMES R HUGHES	: Pvt., surrendered to the Japs.
GERALD F KELLY	: Pvt., surrendered to the Japs.
WARREN R KEINES	: Pvt., either captured or killed by the Japs.
JACK R MENARY	: Pvt., either captured or killed by the Japs.
LEO D MERENO	: Pvt., killed by the Japs.
WILLIAM L NEUMAN	: Pvt., died of malaria 1 May 1943.
HAROLD P SETTRINE	: Pvt., surrendered to the Japs.
HAROLD A SOLOSHT	: Pvt., surrendered to the Japs.
ELMER R HAYES	: Pfc., either captured or killed by the Japs.
JOHN MILODIE	: Pvt., either captured or killed by the Japs.
ERNEST N KNIGHT	: Pfc., surrendered to the Japs.
MARVIN W DALTON	: T/Sgt., killed by the Japs.
JOSEPH S CHILEK	: Cpl., killed by the Japs.
ALTON L ARNOLD	: Pfc., either captured or killed by the Japs.
EMORY C CAMPBELL	: Pfc., killed by the Japs.
WALTER L ALEXANDER	: Pvt., either captured or killed by the Japs.
ALBERT G KOVEL	: M/Sgt., either captured or killed by the Japs.
CARL H FLODMANC	: T/Sgt., either captured or killed by the Japs.
LLOYD T LEICHESTER	: T/Sgt., either captured or killed by Japs.
ROBERT FAUST	: S/Sgt., either captured or killed by Japs.
HUBERT E PEACOCK	: Cpl., either captured or killed by the Japs.
HARLAN A BARRETT	: Pfc., either captured or killed by the Japs.
EUGENE L HULL	: Pfc., either captured or killed by the Japs.
WILLIAM F JOHNSON	: S/Sgt., captured or killed by the Japs.
GARDNER G SENEY	: Cpl., either captured or killed by the Japs.
BRUCE CHIPMAN	: Pfc., killed by Japs 30 May 42.
LYNDONN HILLS	: Pfc., either captured or killed by the Japs.
HEYWARD B BATES	: Sgt., died in summer of 1942.
PAUL R FLOWERS	: Pvt., died in summer of 1942.
ALDEN L LACKIE	: S/Sgt., killed by the Japs in summer of 42.
CARL W SHIPLEY	: Sgt., either captured or killed by the Japs.
WILLIAM E HULL	: Cpl., surrendered in June, 1942.
NOEL R CHOTIA	: Pfc., served with guerrillas until his death, caused by pneumonia, on 7 May 1943.
BERNARD B NEMZURA	: Pfc., killed by the Japs.
CHARLES H PITTS	: Pfc., surrendered in June 42.
HENRY P RHATIGAN	: Pfc., surrendered in June, 42.
RICHARD J OSBORN	: Pvt., surrendered in June 1942.
JOHN W GRANT	: Sgt., was with the guerrillas until he was killed by the Japs on 11 February 1943.

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