

" PLANET PARTY "

DATA

1943

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February 23, 1943.

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20 AUG. 75



SUBJECT: Report, "PLANET" Party
TO : Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2.
THROUGH: The Controller, A.I.B.

JB 25/2/43

1. Through the media of personal word brought back by the Captain of the submarine "GUDGEON" and a letter from Major J.A. Villamor, transported by the same means, plus radio communications with the "PLANET" Party, there is now at hand sufficient information to justify a comment upon the operations of this party.

2. Originally it was planned to land one echelon of the party upon the south coast of Mindanao to establish a secret radio station. The remaining members of the party then were to be transported by the same submarine to upper Panay where medicines and ammunition would be landed, conditions permitting. As actually worked out, the operations included only one landing, this on Negros Occidental. No ammunition nor medicines were landed.

3. We have been at a loss to explain the alteration of plans. Our information on hand still does not allow us to make satisfactory statements. It appears, however, that the submarine commander was willing to make the landing on Mindanao and conditions were favorable, but Major J.A. Villamor decided against it. It, likewise, appears that the submarine commander was willing to stand by off Negros for offloading ammunition and medicines, but Major J. A. Villamor decided that only one trip to shore should be made and this meant that ammunition and medicines could not be carried to the Island. Major Villamor has stated in a message that this was "owing to trouble with one of the rubber boats." The boat was not used. The medicines were returned to Australia. According to the submarine commander, Major Villamor seemed concerned because the medicine cases were not water-proofed. I had explained this to him prior to the departure and informed him that the medicines were sealed in glass containers and would not be detrimentally affected by moisture or emersion for reasonable periods.

4. In all other phases, the plan worked well and there were no untoward incidents. Communications have been established on a very satisfactory basis and enough valuable information has passed to enable the formulation of GHQ policy decisions regarding the Philippines. This alone, I feel, fully justifies any effort or expenses of the party.

5. The reasons for Major Villamor's decisions are not clear, but I forward the theory that the long enforced incarceration within the submarine had a very depressing effect on all concerned and resulted in increased

uneasiness and apprehension regarding what was unquestionably a very dangerous mission. Two of the members of the party were ill much of the time, and one, the entire period. Major Villamor in his letter expressed doubt if this man would be of much assistance for some weeks to come.

6. I do not wish to imply this as a criticism of Major Villamor's decisions, but rather an expression of disappointment that all of the objectives were not achieved. It is not believed either desirable or justifiable for me to adopt a critical attitude from this safe distance. I wish to state, however, that lessons learned in this preliminary expedition will be applied to future plannings, and to reiterate that the primary objective -- the obtaining of impartial, carefully evaluated information for this headquarters -- is being achieved by the party with commendable success.

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20 AUG. 75



ALLISON W. IND, Lt. Col.
Deputy Controller,
Allied Intelligence Bureau.
(Chief, Philippine Sub-Section)

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Hand Planet

(Handwritten mark)

1500 H C/C to 330 T. Best spot seems to be on CATMON PT. It has sand beach, uninhabited, and south side is well protected. It is also close enough to JINOBAAN village so that contact can be made with the natives there after landing. Party leader likes this set up and sea is dying down considerably so we will try here tonight. We will try immediately after dark in order to get the jump on the night fishermen who should not appear until later in the evening.

1709 H C/C to 270 T off CATMON PT. to kill time until dark.

1743 H C/C to 250 T to allow for what appears to be a 1 knot current setting in the coast.



1806 H C/C to 100 T to run back into CATMON PT.

1854 H Surfaced and continued toward beach.

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1927 H || Stopped and disembarked landing party 1000 yards south of western tip of CATMON PT. enabling them to take advantage of current to reach the beach. Nice lee here, too.

Location of Landing

1934 H C/C to 270 T in order to cover landing site with the gun as requested by the party leader in case they met any interference

1955 H Received prearranged signal by flashing light ("E" flashed three times at intervals of three seconds) that landing had been effected successfully. Stood out on course 270 T on the motors.

2008 H Went to two engine speed to clear coast.

2044 H C/C to 201 T and slowed to one engine speed.

Landing party did not desire to use our wooden boat. They had their own boats (rubber) with plywood stiffeners for the bottom and systematic loading details worked out for loading their gear. One of their three rubber boats failed to inflate properly so they left medical supplies which they considered unimportant. We had rubber boats as standbys as well as our wooden boat which were ready to replace their defective boat. This offer was refused. The party leader considered it more important to get ashore fast and undetected than to spend the additional time inflating and loading another boat. The Commanding Officer concurred in this decision. The party inflated and loaded the boats. Ship's force handled the gear from below to the topside and held the boats alongside. The gear was all numbered and handed to the Filipinos in the boats in the order desired and they placed it in their prearranged pattern. The submarine was kept trimmed down with about one foot freeboard to facilitate loading. The entire operation went smoothly except for the failure of one boat to properly inflate.

Note: This is an extract of the log of U.S.S. GUDGEON

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20 AUG. 75



Lt. Col. G-2 Feb/28/43
Ind Thru:
Col. Roberts

1. Herewith is the report of training of the "PLANET" Party, as requested by A. C. of S., G-2.

2. Particular attention is invited to the section dealing with the use of the Australian Army's P. & R. T. School for training Philippine Sub-section personnel for penetration into the Islands. As will be revealed, complete facilities and personnel exist here in Brisbane. However, unless greater use is made of the school, it may be decided to discontinue some phases of the work. AIB has been invited to make full use of the school not only for occasional parties but for many parties. School officials would appreciate some early indication of the extent to which we may avail ourselves of this opportunity.

3. It is my opinion that the training possibilities of this school for preparation of Filipino parties are exceptional and allow of closest supervision by Philippine Sub-section. The lessons learned by previous attempts are known to Captain Davidson, who has proved very valuable. It is believed that the continued use of this school and its personnel is more to be recommended than the use of unknown facilities at Cairns, so distant as to offer little chance of close contact and supervision. I further believe that Captain Davidson is unusually capable and displays great understanding in the training of Philippine personnel, who universally have indicated their affection and respect for him. Such factors cannot lightly be dismissed when dealing with Filipinos.

A. W. I.

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27 February, 1943.

SUBJECT: "PLANET" Party - Training.

TO : A. C. of S., G-2.

THRU : Colonel C. G. Roberts.

I. General Statement: The training schedule developed for "PLANET" Party was based upon three primary considerations.

- a. The specific nature of the mission.
- b. The absolute necessity for the party to land and maintain itself and equipment under any conditions.
- c. The relatively short time at our disposal.

The program was experimental and changed as the need therefor became evident. Facilities were developed even while training was in progress. Since the program was simultaneously operational and research in nature, deficiencies were certain to appear and recommendations for their correction would be included in future training programs of similar parties.

However, it is desired to emphasize that the training should vary depending upon the mission and, consequently, it is considered unwise to establish a rigid syllabus, particularly since another variable lies in the different types of personnel involved -- some American and some Filipino, ranging from well-educated upper classes to completely illiterate Moros. As can be appreciated, the training problems are varied and do not yield to a definite curriculum.

II. The "PLANET" Party: This was a secret A.I.B. party designed for the purpose of accomplishing the mission suggested in the preliminary proposals submitted through G-2 and approved by the Commander-in-Chief with the word "Excellent". The primary mission was to supply this Headquarters with immediate information enabling the formulation of policy regarding guerilla commands in the Islands. Coincidentally, the party was to establish a secret radio station, completely independent, and to develop cryptographically-secure radio communication with A.I.B. Then the basis of a secret intelligence net was to be laid. On the findings of this preliminary party, plans were to be developed for further parties.

Keeping the missions in mind, it was decided that, despite the short training period available, emphasis must be made upon -

- a. Health.
- b. The ability of the party to land and maintain itself intact.

There were no facilities for this closer than Cairns and it was decided against training the party at Cairns because -

- (1) Transporting the party to and from the school would have occupied more than half of the available time.
- (2) It was desired to train the party under closest supervision, based upon what was thought to be essential in a party headed for the Philippines, and I believed that I could do that better here.

The availability in Brisbane of the Australian Army P. & R. T. School (Physical and Recreational Training School) -- in reality a small, secret commando-type school with complete facilities -- seemed to solve our problem. The Australian Army made its personnel and facilities immediately available and even closed out certain classes that our group might be trained in secrecy. This phase of the training, under the supervision of Captain A. L. Davidson, developed rapidly according to three principle subdivisions. These subdivisions, together with the recommendation for the training of future groups, appear as follows:-



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Training carried out by last

GROUP.

Unarmed Combat
Physical Training
Swimming

) Total 3 hrs.
) daily for
) 4 weeks.

Jungle Training
Personal Camouflage
Subsisting on jungle foods
Finding direction by study
of natural conditions
Personal comfort under
jungle conditions --
Shelters, mattresses, etc.

) Total 3 days
) and 3 nights
) continuous
) training.

Handling of rubber floats.
Paddling in convoy, roped
together. Length of rope
a float's length plus two
feet extra.
Silent placing of floor in
float.
Correct loading and unloading
of gear. (Each box marked
according to correct float
and sequence of loading in
that float).
Moving up beach with gear and
covering of tracks. (All
parties move up beach on
single track).

) Total 2 days
) and 2 nights
) continuous
) training.

Training suggested for future

GROUPS.

Total 6 hrs. daily for weeks.
Remainder of day to be devoted to
the particular Technical Training
necessary for the work to be carried
out.

A minimum of eight days and eight
nights continuous training. This
would allow a truer insight into
each man's reactions under these
conditions.

Two days and two nights satisfactory
for this training, but one night each
week should be spent in practice after
the continuous training has finished.

Practice in embarking in float from
actual type of vessels to be used in
operation is considered most essential.

This schedule outlines only the formal periods of training. Informal training, particularly in the stowage of loads, was carried on under the party leader's direction at most unexpected intervals and under the most trying conditions, such as complete darkness, during high winds and violent rainstorms, when neither lights nor spoken directions were permitted.

It was decided, as a part of the P. & R.T. training, to instruct the party members in proper methods of packing in watertight containers and in rendering these containers easy to handle and inconspicuous. Nearly a week was devoted to this work, mostly during evening hours. It is believed that the insistence upon rigid training in these matters was largely responsible for the expeditious manner in which the group off-loaded itself.

The more academic phase of the training included instruction in -

- (1) Identification of Japanese insignias -- lectures and illustrations by Captain Kendall, R.A.N. and Lt. Colonel Ind.
- (2) Identification of Japanese naval units -- lectures and illustrations by Captain Kendall, R.A.N. and Lt. Colonel Ind.
- (3) Identification of Japanese aircraft -- lectures and illustrations by Captain Kendall, R.A.N., Lt. Colonel Ind and Major Villamor.
- (4) Security communications -- five lectures and demonstrations by Lieut. Holmes, Central Bureau.
- (5) Cryptography -- ten lectures, demonstrations and laboratory classes by Captain Clark, Signal Corps.
- (6) Morse Code training -- four weeks training by Lt. Colonel Ind, assisted by Major Villamor.
- (7) Essentials of intelligence observation -- lectures and demonstrations by Lt. Colonel Ind and Major Villamor.



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- (8) Secret service methods -- text assignments, Corps of Intelligence Police Manual.
- (9) Resume Philippine political, economic, social and military conditions -- informal lectures by Major Villamor based upon intelligence summaries.
- (10) Preliminary instruction in navigation -- lectures by Major Villamor.
- (11) Fundamentals of small boat marine engine operation -- demonstrations at Army Transport Service Wharf.

In addition to these subjects undertaken in Brisbane, it was Major Villamor's plan to give instruction aboard the submarine upon such matters as First Aid, elementary map and photo reading and sketching.

It is considered most important that future parties be organized in time to allow considerably more training than was made available to the initial group. Included in the list of courses to be introduced or expanded would be -

- (1) Secret service and G-2 work.
- (2) Importance of secrecy and security measures.
- (3) Methods of observation and reporting.
- (4) Passive resistance and simple sabotage.
- (5) Handling of small boats (sailing, paddling, etc.)
- (6) Guerilla tactics.
- (7) First Aid.
- (8) Elementary map and photo reading and sketching.

During the early part of the training period, officers and men lived in their assigned billets in Brisbane and Camp Doomben, reporting for duty direct to the school at 8 o'clock in the morning. Breakfast meal was obtained before reporting to the school, midday meal had at school, as well as evening meal if exercises were carried on. On some occasions, to facilitate early morning training, the personnel lived at the school. It has been recommended that, in the case of future parties, all personnel live at the school, not only to facilitate training, but to enable close observation of individual characteristics.

The academic aspects of training were conducted in a class room at Allied Intelligence Bureau and many of the packing operations were completed there. Later experiments, however, have shown that these operations can be carried on expeditiously at the school.

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ALLISON W. IND,
Lt. Colonel, M.I.
Deputy Controller.

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N-10's SUPPLY LIST.

Following most urgently needed:

Quinine,
Sulfathiazole,
Sulfanilamide Powder,
Medical Officers' Field Kits,
Ammo.,
Garands,
.38 Cal. Tommy Guns,
Grenades,
Dutch Sets with Chargers,
Gas,
Extra Batteries,
Small extremely portable sets for local use.

Also need:

Good maps NEGROS,
Latest pamphlets re Intelligence and Jap ships, etc.

Personally need:

Shoes,
Clothes,
Socks,
Field jackets,
Toothbrushes & paste,
Flashlights with plenty of extra batteries,
Code and Bond paper, e
Portable typewriter,
Pencils,



Chemicals for Secret Inks and developers.

For emergency:

Heavy duty out-board motor with muffler and gas,
Rations similar to that of party.

Following useful:

Hallirafters Binoculars,
Movie Cameras with telephoto lens and films.

Re money:

Suggest you print in small denominations and mark for use
in unoccupied areas for distribution to all Districts.

Recommend:

At least one Jap interpreter be sent, as much valuable
info now lost.

FURTHER SUPPLIES:

Shotguns with lots of ammunition for ambush
Filter Condensers fairly high voltage,
8 - 66 tubes, crystals and Band C Batteries.
2 Rifles, .22 Cal with lots of ammunition.

