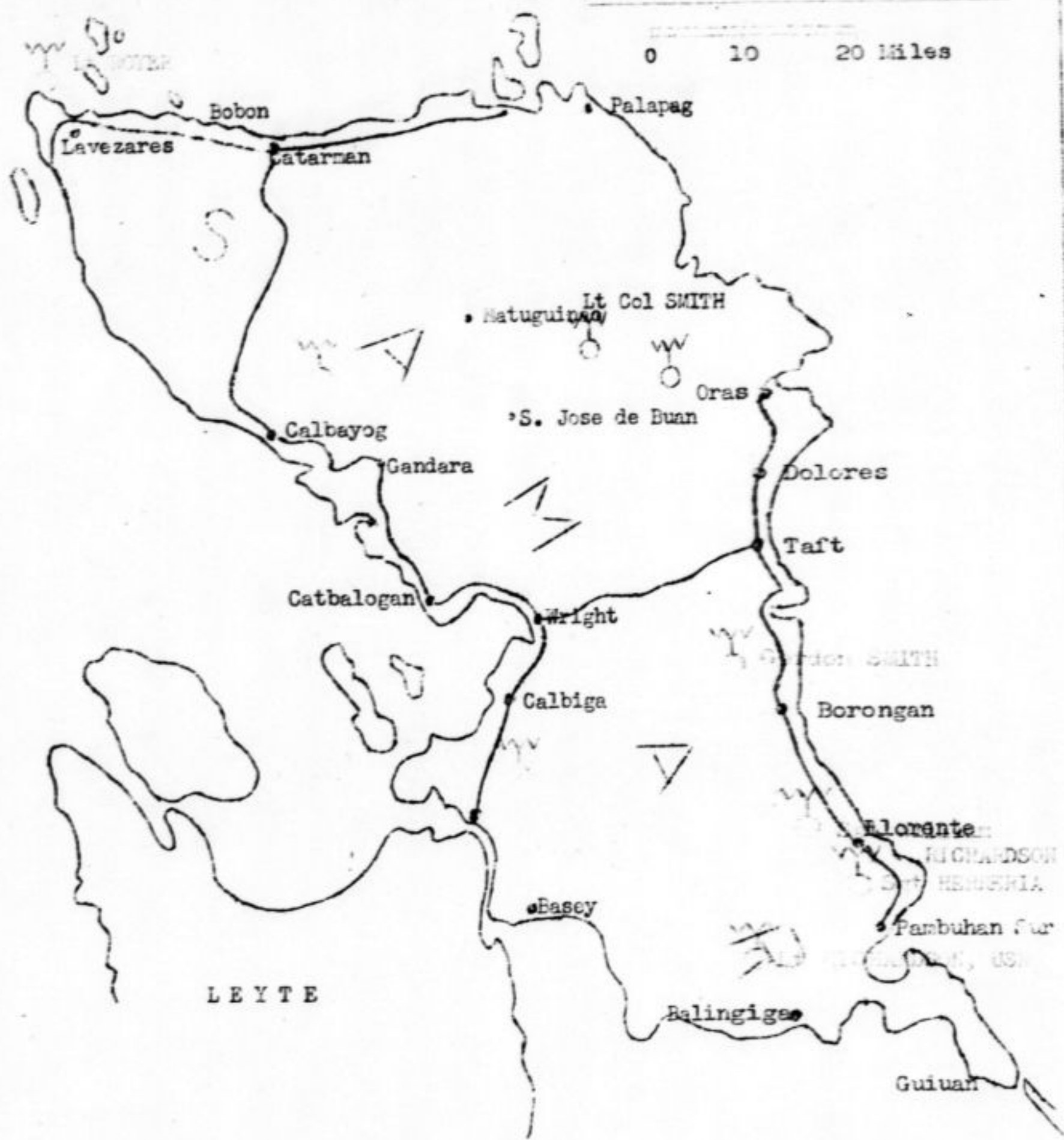


SAMAR

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
Southwest Pacific Area  
Military Intelligence Section  
WYV WAVE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS  
10 October 1944

0 10 20 Miles



WYV Area Contact and Net Control Station

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WYV Net Stations. Names of persons are  
located with radion shown.



SAMAR

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
Southwest Pacific Area  
Military Intelligence Section

0 10 20 Miles



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IV. UNFRIENDLY GUERRILLA GROUPS:

PULAHANES Group: Organized by BONANG, a woman, and an old man, CUBALAN, who is reported to be mentally unbalanced. The group is active in the areas of Gandara-San Jose de Buan-Matuginao, and Wright, Loquilokon and Corcoran, and was reported to be receiving Japanese assistance and being supplied with ammunition to fight MERRITT and other anti-Japanese guerrilla groups. It has remained under Japanese influence, and has reported strength of 3,000, including women and children.

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2 Incls:

- Incl. 1 - Samar Guerrilla Organizations
- Incl. 2 - Samar Guerrilla Radio Communications





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state and appointed secretaries for the various departments. He refused to submit to MERRITT when approached by him. Reports indicate that ARTECHE either surrendered or was captured by the Japanese at Daran, and that he and some of his men are now in the hands of the Japanese Kempei at Catbalogan and the unit dispersed. Another report, reliability of which is unknown, stated that ARTECHE later spoke on the advantages of surrender to Japanese before an audience in a Church at Catbalogan.

III. LT. COL. CHARLES M. SMITH AND THE SAMAR AREA COMMAND:

As the guerrilla situation in Samar became clearer, it was evident that no local leader was capable of unifying all the guerrillas. MERRITT emerged as the strongest leader in northern Samar, and Lt. Col. CAUSING appeared to be the southern area leader.

On 18 September 1944, Major Charles M. SMITH, a local representative of GHQ, SWPA, reported that the guerrilla leaders of Samar, namely Capt. MERRITT representing the northern area, and Lt. Col. CAUSING with Major ABIA representing the southern area, met at his Samar headquarters for the purpose of unifying all the forces of Samar. The leaders agreed to unify under any commander designated by GHQ, and requested recognition. On 16 September 1944, SMITH was promoted to Lt. Col., and on the 4 October 1944, he was appointed Commander of the Samar area. He is now reorganizing guerrilla units in Samar into one command.

After a survey of the situation Col. SMITH reported recently that personnel were available for 3 or 4 regiments (8-9,000 men, two-thirds with pre-war military training) but lacked training officers. Only 7 regular PA officers are available on the island. He proposes to develop a picked regiment of combat engineers for construction and preparation of materials behind the enemy lines.

Col. SMITH also proposes to set up a civil government for the Samar area, combining the numerous local "Samar" governments. The former senior member of the Provincial Board, Dr. Vicente Dira, has been nominated for Governor by SMITH. It is proposed that DIRA, if appointed, would become chairman of a committee to appoint the other provincial officials.



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KANGLEON in Leyte as his Chief of Staff. KANGLEON sent him into Samar in September 1943 to unify guerrilla organizations there. CAUSING was not successful but only succeeded in bringing the VALLEY guerrillas more closely under KANGLEON's control. While pursuing his task in Samar, CAUSING was notified by KANGLEON that GHQ had appointed KANGLEON as leader of the Leyte area only, and that he was severing all connections with Samar. CAUSING remained in Samar on his own, with the support of VALLEY, and he reorganized the VALLEY unit on the basis of the PA T/O. Today CAUSING appears to be the accepted leader in southern Samar. His headquarters is located 15 Km north of Balingiga. He is weak, stays hidden in the mountains, and apparently possesses none of the attributes of a strong leader. Without VALLEY he would probably have no organization.

ABIA Group: Organized under the leadership of Captain Luciano ABIA former Constabulary officer with a long service career behind him. ABIA was involved in an unsettled administrative report and was discharged from the PC. The exact nature of the charge is unknown.

ABIA was at Basey, Samar, at the time of the surrender and organized a group of approximately 100 guerrillas for local protection of the people. Later ABIA and VALLEY established contact, and the two groups merged under Lt. Col. CAUSING.

SULCI Group: Reports indicate that SULCI, ex-Governor of Samar, controlled areas in or near Borongan, Dolores and Palalag. These appear to have been absorbed by VALLEY, and then CAUSING.

ARTECHE Group: Organized under the direction of Bvt. Brig. Gen. Pedro ARTECHE. ARTECHE was a former governor of Samar, removed from office by President QUEZON as a result of election irregularities but was reelected. Prior to holding office, he was a Manila lawyer. After the surrender he organized a guerrilla group in the Sta Rita-Zumarraga area in western Samar. At one time ARTECHE's unit had a higher percentage of rifles than any other group in Samar. ARTECHE absorbed two small guerrilla groups, one under Bvt. Capt. Emilio RECOTE, and the other under Bvt. Capt. CANON. Both groups were operating in southwest Samar.

ARTECHE is an individualist, ambitious and noted for shifting personal and political loyalties. He organized his unit into a separate

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VALLEY Group: This group was organized by Manuel VALLEY, a former Manila policeman, formerly a bodyguard of President QUEZON. VALLEY claims he was commissioned an officer in the PA, served as 1st Lieutenant in Provost Marshall office, Headquarters Philippine Department (this has never been established), and fought on Bataan. He escaped from Bataan at the time of the surrender and made his way to his home at Guiuan, Samar. Appointing himself a Captain, he organized in October 1942 a force of some 30 rifles in the municipalities of Guiuan, Salcedo, Balangiga, Basey and Pambujan Sur. Capt. RAMOS is VALLEY's CO of the East Coast Battalion. VALLEY has attached his organization to Col. KANGLEON's command on Leyte.

MERRITT approached VALLEY in September 1943 and suggested that VALLEY place his force under MERRITT's control. A conference was held and VALLEY agreed to join MERRITT if, in turn, MERRITT would submit to Col. KANGLEON's command. MERRITT refused and each has not trusted the other since. When Col. KANGLEON dispatched CAUSING to Samar in late 1943, VALLEY readily agreed to submit more closely to KANGLEON's authority. He needed money, arms and ammunition and believed he could obtain supplies from KANGLEON. Soon afterward CAUSING promoted VALLEY to the rank of Major and instructed him to organize a battalion on the east coast of Samar. A February 1944 report states that this unit numbered 1200 men. It may now be more.

VALLEY fancies himself a Filipino Robin Hood. He is good-hearted, fair to the people, and has made serious attempts to improve their lot. He has set in motion army projects to encourage food production, built piers, constructed new buildings, developed new roads and encouraged and supported what industries were in operation. He won the support of the people by permitting as many as desired to join the army, and paying them with the worthless script he printed. As a result the people have given whole-hearted support to him and trust the army implicitly.

Nothing is known of the Civil government operating under VALLEY.

CAUSING Group: Lt. Col. Juan CAUSING graduated from the Philippine Military Academy in 1921 and was then engaged as an instructor and Executive Officer in the General Service School, Baguio, Luzon. He later served as Commanding Officer of the Leyte Provisional Regiment. With the surrender, CAUSING joined the guerrillas in Samar, and later became associated with

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Provincial Board: Dr. Vicente DIRA, Senior Member  
Leonardo SOLIDON, Junior Member  
Mateo C. TAALA, Treasurer  
Valeriano Del VALLE, Fiscal  
Esculastico CHICANO, Auditor  
Rosendo P. BANDAL, Sheriff  
Lopez C. QUIMBO, Judge of First Instance

These officials were appointed by MERRITT in Administrative Order Number Four, dated 1 December 1943. Paragraph two of this order states: "The functions of the Civil Government are vested in officials appointed and supervised by the Division Commander."

Governor ABOGADO and Deputy Governor PEDROSA seem sincere in their efforts to aid the people and are doing their utmost to curb abuses of the people by the army.

MERRITT established contact with Col. Marcario PERALTA, 6th MD Commander, and was ordered by PERALTA to submit his organization for the 93rd Division under PERALTA's 4th Philippine Corps in February 1943. Soon afterward, PERALTA was ordered by GHQ to dissolve the 4th Philippine Corps and to confine his command to the 6th MD.

MERRITT-KANGLEON Negotiations for 9th MD Command: Meanwhile Col. Ruperto K. KANGLEON was unifying guerrilla forces on Leyte, and late in 1943 dispatched Lt. Col. CAUSING, his Chief of Staff, to Samar to contact guerrilla forces there to attempt unification of the guerrilla command of the entire 9th MD (Samar and Leyte). At the dissolution of the 4th Philippine Corps, PERALTA advised MERRITT to work for a Samar command independent of Leyte. MERRITT, therefore, refused to consider CAUSING's proposition, setting forth four reasons for not accepting KANGLEON's authority:

1. That Col. KANGLEON surrendered to the Japanese.
2. That Col. KANGLEON had no authority from Gen. MACARTHUR.
3. That his guerrillas were organized prior to Col. KANGLEON's.
4. That Col. KANGLEON had promoted undeserving people to high ranks.

The differences were aggravated by PERALTA on MERRITT's side and FERTIG on KANGLEON's side and no agreement was reached between KANGLEON and MERRITT. As a result of the dispute, KANGLEON was appointed only Leyte Area Commander, and the Samar command was not established until September 1944 under Lt. Col. SMITH.

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MERRITT now controls northwest Samar from Calbiga north, with the exception of the Jap occupied towns of Calbayog and Catbelogan. Per an early 1944 report, his force constituted the 93rd Division of four regiments: 93rd "FA" in northern Samar, CO Lt. Tiburcio JONSON (former constabulary officer); the 97th Infantry in eastern Samar, CO Major Alfonso JALME (former constabulary officer); the 98th Infantry in northwestern Samar, CO Capt. Mariano LIM, former school teacher; and the 99th Infantry in eastern Samar, CO Capt. Elpidio ARSENO, former school teacher. Actual strength as of 28 January 1944 report: 322 officers, 1408 enlisted men.

In addition, MERRITT has established training schools for officers and enlisted men and is believed to have a well trained reserve. He has organized a Volunteer Home Guard, a Woman's Auxiliary Service, hospitals, ordnance works, and transportation and communication facilities.

MERRITT's relations with the civilian population under his control leave much to be desired. Reports indicate that the people have been exploited by high ranking army officers and politicians, who have made huge personal profits at the expense of the people. The people are held under control by terror tactics and anyone opposing the army has been eliminated. The result has been that the army is feared and disliked by the people. Intelligence parties in MERRITT's area have also had trouble with some of MERRITT's officers several times. In one instance a radio location was betrayed to a Jap patrol by personnel formerly attached to MERRITT.

MERRITT, himself, is reported to be a likeable person and an excellent fighter. Those who have known him personally say that he is not responsible for the abuse of the people but that he is weak and controlled by some of his officers and politicians. Nevertheless, MERRITT has some fine people in his organization who are sincere in their efforts. The only questionable elements are a small handful at the top. MERRITT was awarded the Silver Star of the PI by President QUEZON on 15 November 1943.

The civil government in the area of Samar controlled by MERRITT and appointed by MERRITT, was reported on 28 March 1944 as follows:

Governor : Gregorio B. ABOGADO, ex-Representative (Major SABARBE had been appointed previously but was retired to perform special missions.)  
Deputy Governor : Lorenzo K. PEDROSA

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## THE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT ON SAMAR ISLAND

### I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

There was no organized opposition to the Japanese occupation of Samar Island. The only resistance came from scattered parties, consisting mostly of Constabulary troops supported by civilian volunteers, banded together, sniping and ambushing the Japs as opportunity offered. Since Samar was not of operational importance, the Japanese occupied the province only lightly, and guerrilla bands established themselves in large unoccupied areas. Several groups established themselves strongly but never cooperated. The command was unified only by an outside leader, a GHQ representative.

Means of obtaining civilian support varied. Some bands used terror tactics, and support was made compulsory. Other bands used more subtle means, courting the civilian by appointing civil government officials and establishing civilian agencies. Although the civil government was under the control of the guerrilla army, in most cases the guerrilla officers concerned themselves with organizing their units and have left the civil government administration to appointed officials.

### II. HISTORY OF ORIGINAL GUERRILLA GROUPS:

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MERRITT Group: These guerrillas were organized under the leadership of temporary Captain Pedro V. MERRITT, ASN O-1456, Philippine Army. MERRITT was attached to the Leyte Provisional Regiment stationed at Ormoc. When the order to surrender was given, MERRITT went to the mountains of northern Samar and organized a guerrilla unit with Lt. E. SOLIMAN. The unit headquarters has been reported at Malaga and Tinambacan but "usually at large." MERRITT assumed the rank of Colonel and soon after began to absorb other small guerrilla groups in northern Samar. One such group was organized by Bvt. Captain NACARIO, who was reported to be mayor of Calbiga about the time of surrender. The Japanese sponsored "Pulahanes" (see page 7), a bandit group in north central Samar, were recruiting citizens of Calbiga, and NACARIO organized his guerrilla band to counter the activities of the Pulahanes. He was last reported in April 1943 as mayor of Calbiga. The circumstances of the NACARIO guerrillas becoming a part of the MERRITT organization are not known.

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA  
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION, GENERAL STAFF

G-2 INFORMATION BULLETIN

THE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT ON SAMAR ISLAND

Copy No. 162

DATE

10 October 1944

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ACCOMPANYING INCLOSURES

- Incl. 1 - Samar Guerrilla Organizations
- Incl. 2 - Samar Guerrilla Radio Communications

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PERSONAL

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GUERRILLA

RESISTANCE

MOVEMENT ON SAMAR

1944

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