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Authority A/V O/S 3078

74

**Miscellaneous
Informations**

6th MD

*Procurement
file*

Miscellaneous Informations

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*Notes
Industrial
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Authority *NND 85 3078*

PRIORITY CLEAR

TOO : 280920/Z

DAO/VSA/GAH

RECD: AFWESPAC 28 JUNE
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CHANGED

AFWESPAC DIST 15 JULY

ACTION: *PA* CLAIMS SEC

FROM: FRANK BARTON CLAIMS SERV
ILOILO CITY

INFO : G-1
G-3
AG OPNS
6:45 PM
PHIL ARMY
SUSPENSE

TO : HQ AFWESPAC

FILE

CITE: M 281 D

ON 22 MAY 46, MAJOR GAVIN USA REPRESENTATIVE FROM
CG AFWESPAC PROCURED ALL RECORDS OF THE 6TH MIL DIST PA. THESE
RECORDS ARE AT THE CLAIMS OFFICE SERVICE AFWESPAC ILOILO CITY
PANAY. REQUEST DISPOSITION OF SAME.

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UNITED STATES PHILIPPINE ISLANDS FORCES
BALL DIVISION HEADQUARTERS
In the Field

20 January 45/bc

GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES IN LUZON AS RELATED
BY CAPT. ALEJO S. SANTOS, CO, BMA
TO COL. G. ATKINSON

While we were still fighting at Bataan we were informed that certain parties of American Officers were ordered to return in the Japanese occupied areas in Luzon to organize Guerrillas. These parties turned out to be Colonel Thorpe and company. At the fall of Bataan the Officers and men who escaped from the Japanese tried to find out the localities or places where these guerrillas could be located, but unfortunately due to the terror which the Japanese made on the civilians information as to the whereabouts of Colonel Thorpe and company could not be secured. When I arrived at Bulacan, that was on April 1942, after the Fall of Bataan, we tried to get in touch with other Officers who escaped, and among others we talked of running to the mountains and organizing anything to continue the fight against the Japanese. At times, we got information from the local officials under the Japanese that certain Colonel Thorpe, a guerrilla commander was somewhere at Mount Pinatubo, Zambales, and because we were at a loss and we did not know how to organize guerrillas, we just did not know how, so our concern was to contact these officers who are authorized to organize guerrillas. Around the end of 1942, news was spread that Col. Thorpe was caught by a detachment of Constabulary and Japanese soldiers somewhere on the western side of Tarlac Province at the foot of Zambales Mountains. This was verified by other people who actually came from Fort Santiago who saw Col. Thorpe. Now Captain Barker, Executive Officer of Col. Thorpe assumed command of the guerrillas in Luzon. From Pampanga province he went down to Manila and after staying a few days there, he went outside to San Jose del Monte, Bulacan. Around the month of February 1943, Captain Barker was caught by the Japanese. When Captain Barker was caught the rest of the American officers like Capt. Anderson now Major, Major Ramsey, Capt MacGuirre, Major Praeger were practically left without knowing who is the senior officer or who is the next in command to Capt. Barker, so each one of these American officers organized their own unit. Major Praeger was organizing in Nueva Ecija; Anderson in eastern Bulacan and TaYabas; Ramsey was roaming around in Pampanga, Tarlac and Pangasinan and Capt McGuirre was organizing at Zambales. South of Manila was Col. Straughn until he was

caught somewhere in the month of July at Halahala, Rizal. Captain Anderson's organization in eastern Bulacan and southern Nueva Ecija extends around the foothills of the Sierra Madre Mountains from San Rafael, Bulacan to Papaya, Nueva Ecija.

Usaffe officers and other enlisted men who desired to make contact with the guerrillas at first could not believe in the guerrilla organizations of these officers for the following reasons:

- (a) Captain Anderson, Lt. Ramsey and the rest could not be contacted because they were always moving if not hiding;
- (b) The rest of the Usaffe at large must either be sick, shell-shocked or their fighting spirit knocked off for a while;
- (c) Most Usaffe officers and men found their families very destitute and so most of them tried to make a little money with which to make a living for their families.

In the case of the organization under this command, I will put now the history:

Somewhere in Bustos, that was, I think, four or five months after I came from Bataan with malaria, I met some officers who have the same notion of continuing the fight against the Japanese and we tried to make a society, because we did not know how to organize guerrillas, to recruit men to fight the Japanese in any way we can do it. Two of my companions were Lt. Lino Natividad of the 31st Motor Pool (he was killed by the Japanese on April 16, 1944, at Bocawe, Bulacan when we were raided) and Lt. Delfin Castro of the Philippine Constabulary. These two officers escaped from captivity. We escaped people met somewhere. We just did not know what we are going to do and how we were going to operate. So we tried to look for escaped soldiers and officers because by this time the rest of the Usaffe were still enjoying their time at Capaz. When we contacted a few men who will work for us, the next thing we did was to look for arms. We started with one (1) rifle and later got a pistol from the municipal building. We tried to live the Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde way, good civilians at day and at night we just went out not knowing what to do. We roamed all over from Pangasinan, Bataan and Manila. We just did not know what to do. We are vainly trying to make contact with the recognized guerrilla units, we must confess that we never realized that General MacArthur will recognize us even if we would not work with other guerrilla units in the mountains. Had we known that before, we should have

not resorted to unnecessary waste of time looking for authorized officers to organize guerrillas.

The first campaign we made was to call on the Ganap leaders who were practically terrorizing the people.

Question by Col. Gwen Atkinson - WHAT IS THE GANAP?

Answer by Capt. A. S. Santos - The Ganap society was organized and directed by Benigno Ramos, better known as "TANDIS" or "SUPREMO". This society was declared an outlaw organization by the Commonwealth Government after its abortive uprising last 1935 when the members of this society revolted and overthrew constituted government at San Ildefonso, Bulacan and Cabuyao and Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Answer by Brevet Major Teofilo Reyes, former Asst. Provincial Fiscal of the Province of Bulacan, Division Finance Officer, this command - From the confidential coded cables that came into my possession at the time when I was prosecuting those "SAKDALISTAS" of Bulacan, we found out that the uprising was directed by Benigno Ramos from Japan, and Paulo Gapa, as his right hand man who is from San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.

The former name of the Ganap Party was SAKDAL. The Ganap organization is composed of their Supremo or Tandis, the highest men in the organization and the town leaders are called TARIK and the rest of the followers are sub-divided into groups under different sub-group leaders. The Ganaps upon the arrival of the Japanese were very cooperative with the Japanese Imperial Army in the following way:

(a) They acted as Spies in the Usaffe ranks giving information as to the location, strength and disposition of the United States Army troops;

(b) They acted as guides to the Japanese in locating Usaffe remnants, Usaffe warehouses, civilian warehouses and stores and other sources of foodstuffs;

(c) They pointed to the Japanese Military Police or any Japanese armed units persons who are pro-American, persons suspected of being pro-American, persons possessing firearms, persons who are supposed army men but who escaped from Japanese concentration camps and escaped soldiers and men. Not all of the Ganaps of course, are doing this job.

(d) They supplied labor for the Japanese Army.

We tried to counteract these terrors made by these peoples on the civilian population. We found the civilians terrorized by the way the Japanese soldiers would torture and kill people on mere suspicion, by the Japanese soldier and by propaganda

threats that people who would feed and shelter escaped soldiers would be killed. Right in my town we were successful in counter-acting Ganaps activities.

Q-by Col. Atkinson - WOULD YOU SAY THAT THE GANAP WERE SUPPORTED AND WERE OPERATIVE OF THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT PRIOR TO THE WAR? IN OTHER WORDS WAS THE GANAP ORGANIZATION BACKED BY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT TO CREATE DISCONTENT AND UPRISING PRIOR TO THIS WAR?

A-by Major Teofilo Reyes, USPIF- At the time when the Sakdal uprising took place in 1935 we had not the least idea that they were being used as spies by the Japanese Government, but recent development has shown that they must have been, or at least Benigno Ramos, the leader, and Paulo Capa must have been used as Agents, because these people were made to believe at the time of the uprising that a Japanese plane would fly and would drop arms.

PERSONAL OPINION OF CAPT. SANTOS - When I was still at the Manila Secret Service we rated the sakdal as a subversive and seditious organization and operated by unscrupulous, discontented Filipinos to overthrow the Commonwealth Government and at that they became a fertile ground for German and Japanese espionage activity. As a matter of fact, in the Secret Archives of Intelligence of the Philippine Constabulary the Ganaps are better known as "SAKURA RAMOSO".

Counteracting the Ganap terrorism to start with I met the Ganap leader of my own hometown whom I learned to be looking for firearms from possessors. I told him it would be futile on the part of the Ganaps to terrorize our people because they should reckon that the war is not yet over and one of these days when the American Army would return they are going to pay heavily for acts committed against the loyal people of the Philippines. I told him further that if they would not stop terrorizing the people they will find people fighting them with or without the help of the American Army. Through his influence the rest of the Ganaps of course paid attention to our orders and their activities were reduced to the minimum although we were planning to kill them all. Were it not for the request of some cool headed people, we decided to stop them in a cool way and it worked.

I found the Mayor of Bustos a good instrument in organizing guerrillas he being very close to the Japanese Military Police. I learned so much about other guerrilla operations in Luzon and elsewhere through him. With the assistance of this Mayor (Atty. Alfredo Cruz Erana) I contacted the rest of Bulacan Mayors somewhere in the Capital of Bulacan. In this connection, I want to

state that I think it was the most foolish step I have done, talking with Mayors with Col. Makino (a Japanese officer) right there. I was surprised to find that 99 per cent of the mayors are still loyal in spite of their jittery and fear that they might be placed in garrisons or killed by the Japanese. Most mayors in Bulacan assured me full cooperation except the mayor in San Rafael who was killed last December 1943 and Adriano Capa, Mayor of San Jose del Monte.

Now I and the mayor of Bustos, Atty. Alfredo Cruz Erana, decided to name this society the Philippine Legion but luckily one day that was June of 1943, my wife who went to Baliuag stumbled on a certain fellow by the name of Fausto S. Alberto, who was supposed representative of Col. Thorpe and from him I learned that certain American officer by the name of Ramsey, Major-Cavalry is commanding Luzon Guerrilla Forces so I spared no effort in contacting him and I met him at San Carlos, Pangasinan, a few days later. Before I met Major Ramsey, Major Anderson then Captain, through Lt. Lino Natividad, sent me a letter identifying him as his personal representative although I did not have a chance to meet him because he was then hiding in the Sierra Madre mountains, so I was armed with two letters one from Major Ramsey who claims to be the highest commander and another from Major Anderson who also claimed to be the highest commander. Then I went on organizing what the Japanese called the Misguided Elements, Bandits or "Dorobos". In going around the province of Bulacan, I came across gentlemen who have been already in the game long before I started, because according to them they started their guerrillas upon the arrival of the Japanese here on January 2, 1942, while we were still fighting at Bataan: (1) Sebastian S. Tomacruz, Lt. QMC, Res-National Guard, now a Lt. Col. in the guerrilla and assigned in the QMS, this command; he was former Commanding Officer, of one of the fighting regiments, the 3d Regt. of the BALL MILITARY AREA. (2) Lt. Col. Maximo Abano, formerly CO of the 1st Regiment but now the Judge Advocate General of this command (3) Col. Pedro Viudez, 1st Lt. FA-Res, now Chief of Staff Ball Military Area. Col. Viudez and the rest of Anderson's own guerrillas in Bulacan were incorporated into the Bulacan Military Area.

Around the month of September 1943, we were at a loss to determine as to who is the highest commander in Luzon. Major Ramsey claims to be the highest commander here in Luzon and Major Anderson claims the same. So at one time I told Major Ramsey during a conference somewhere in Pangasinan that due to his misunderstanding with Major Anderson, our common enemy the Huk-balabap is gaining strength in telling the people that we are not really authorized guerrillas, otherwise if we really are we will know who is who in the organization thus we are branded as impos-

tors and tulisafes. Major Ramsey told me that he is the right leader because he is a cavalry man and that for operations Major Anderson should take orders from him, he being in the Air Corps. By that time Maj or Ramsey was at Pangasinan and Major Anderson was at Southern Tayabas. Our efforts to bring about an understanding between these two officers failed due to the hardships of travel and the physical distance between their headquarters; couriers at times would take weeks if not months to bring messages from one party to another. Finally, Major Anderson sent Lt. Ramsey a nice letter advising him that if his contention was that he is an air corps man and he would not command guerrillas Major Ramsey must be wrong because Major Anderson claims that before he joined the air corps he was an infantry man, at Bataan he was with the infantry.

Around the month of October 1943, Major Ramsey sent me an order recognizing Anderson as the senior guerrilla commander at Luzon and advised this command to recognize him as such. About December 1943, Major Ramsey went to Bulacan and from Bulacan he went to Mindoro to contact certain intelligence operatives operating a radio station with direct contact to GHQ, SWPA, and much to our astonishment in his return, he advised us not to recognize Major Anderson again. So in short the District Commanders, in Luzon were practically at a loss that they did not know where they were going. Some claims to be under Major Ramsey and some under Major Anderson, and we just could not determine who of the two should be followed. Of course, we did our duty as we see fit and obeyed every order that was for the good of the service. All over Luzon we got information that there are guerrillas in northern Luzon operating under Enriquez, Nakar (these officers were both caught by the Japanese) Volckmann, Lapham, Putnam for Pangasinan, MacKensie for Nueva Ecija, Boone for Bataan, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija and southern Tarlac were then over-ridden by Hukbalahap guerrillas better known to the people as Huks with no affiliation whatsoever with any of the then Usaffe commanders. As a matter of fact, many lives and ammunitions were spent in the between Hukbalahaps and Usaffe guerrillas in southern Nueva Ecija, northern Bataan, with Boone, with Ramsey's outfit and Usaffe organization in southern Bulacan under Col. Mohamed. About June 1944, I was called by Major Ramsey to a conference again at San Mateo, Rizal but because I was then too busy going around this province, I told him frankly that it would be the last time I will see him whether he likes it or not because I cannot lose much time conferring with people whose intention is not to serve the cause but more for personal aggrandizement. I might state here that Major Ramsey told me not to worry disregarding Anderson and that he will take charge of everything in case I will be court-martialed after the war. I answered him that I am supposed to be a responsible man and I do not like to join him in

their controversy. I told him even if I do not like to join him in their controversy. I told him even if I secede from him I will remain and stick to the cause. About August 1944 I was called to Tayabas by Major Anderson. The physical distance between Bulacan and Tayabas is already an accomplishment for an ordinary man and right there at his headquarters some of his followers called me pro-Ramsey because I could not help but be fair to Major Ramsey, for despite Major Anderson's opinion about Major Ramsey, I considered him a good man for he is still fighting the Japanese to the best of his ability. So in short, Major Ramsey and Major Anderson claim Bulacan organization both under their command and on the other side they would brand us disloyal.

By the grace of God, Capt. Cabangbang and party blew up in the Pacific and on October 15, 1944, Capt. Cabangbang himself arrived at Victory Hill. We learned that his mission is to secure intelligence information for the GHQ, SWPA. The whole command of the BMA was just too glad to offer Capt. Cabangbang any kind of service to that end. Upon the arrival of Capt. Cabangbang, we learned that General MacArthur's policy was not to appoint area commanders in Luzon for the present time.

Q-by Col. Atkinson - WHAT IS BMA?

A-by Capt. A. S. Santos- At first the guerrilla under my command here in Bulacan has got no territory nor name. But when I contacted Major Ramsey he told me that the policy of Col. Thorpe is to organize military districts in every province so according to him I must use BULACAN MILITARY DISTRICT. Later, Major Anderson changed this into Bulacan Military Area and then this BMA is sometimes known as LYNN (this is how we call Lt. Lino Natividad). A subsequent order of Major Anderson designated this command BALL MILITARY AREA. We are now using the BMA and BALL which means just the same.

Q-by Col. Atkinson - WHERE DOES COL. MERRILL FIT INTO THE OVER ALL PICTURE?

A-by Capt. A.S. Santos - When the controversy between Major Ramsey and Major Anderson was starting sometime in the middle part of 1943, we tried to find out if there are other ranking army officers at large. We came across Col. Moses and Noble but unluckily these two old men were killed by the Japanese. We came across Col. Wright but this old man declared himself unfit for service and now he is an adviser to Capt. Boone. We came across Col. Merrill who was half blind and too old and who according to information is hiding in the mountains of Zambales with three Americans to wit: Capt. Crane, Col. Calyer and Roy C. Tuggle. From information received from Zambales Guerrillas we learned that the organization in Zambales was started by Capt. MacGuirre and the following Filipinos helped him: Jose B. Corpus, Magsaysay, Guaberto Sia, Francisco Candoleta, Nomeriano

Flores and Capt. Johnson. The name of Col. Merrill was never in the scene.

At Bataan I learned when I was going around that the organization was operated and controlled by John Boone, Corporal of 31st Inf. now better known as Col. Boone and the following Filipinos helped him: Lt. Malibiran, Lt. Quezon, Lt. Espina and Eddie Kieth. I have not come across any organization operated by Col. Merrill in Bataan. The first letter I received from Col. Merrill was last October 1944 signed by Col. Calyer that letter was addressed to Major Anderson directing him to report to Col. Merrill for a conference. The letter was sent by this Hq to Major Anderson and Major Anderson sent him a letter in return advising the old man that he could leave his Hq because he is preoccupied and that he has direct contact with GHQ, SWPA. Capt. Cabangbang advised me that he would like to send a radio set to Col. Merrill's place. So I sent for Commander Sia through Lt. Col. S. S. Tomacruz and the party of Commander Sia with AIBs from the outfit of Capt. Cabangbang reached Col. Merrill's place sometime in November 1944. In this connection, according to information from Capt. Cabangbang, Col. Merrill would not believe that they are genuine. Our G-2 operative ran across a collaboration agreement between the Hukbalahap on the one hand and Luzon Usaffe Guerrilla Forces under Col. Merrill on the other hand. The agreement is dated Dec. 1, 1944. (see attached).

In this connection we just regret very much why Col. Merrill made an agreement with the Hukbalahap all by himself without notifying other Usaffe Guerrilla Organization. When Col. Merrill fully knows that there is a Usaffe organization here in Bulacan and as a matter of act, he has written letters to me requesting me to relay same to Major Anderson. The Hukbalahap may think that the BMA is not a Usaffe Organization.

(Further information concerning Col. Merrill and Capt. Bruce by Cpl. Gerlad G. Wade, Serial No. 19046013, captured at Bataan where he was a member of the 19th Bombardmen Group).

At the time Bataan was falling and Col. Thorpe and party was sent out by Gen. MacArthur for the purpose of organizing guerrilla units, Col. Merrill escaped from the Death March and hid in the mountains. Little was heard of him and his activities. Col. Thorpe was captured and he assumed command stating that he was doing so because of being the ranking officer in the area. What Americans could be round up withdrew with Col. Merrill into the mountains to secured position for safety. Little or no activity was carried on by Col. Merrill's group because of fear for those Americans in the area. Several persons contacted him recognizing him as the senior officer in the area for permission to organizing guerrilla units. Col. Merrill sanctioned this organization but he would not be affiliated once again because of

his fear for the Americans. In the fall of 1944, just prior to the resumption of bombing by the Americans Col. Merrill dispatched Col. Calyer from the mountains to organize activities. At this time Capt. Bruce, a former member of Col. Thorpe's unit who had continued after Col. Thorpe was captured recognized Col. Merrill and joined force with him. Col. Merrill through Col. Calyer and without coordinating the activities of existing Usaaffe Guerrilla organizations made alliance or agreement with the Hukbalahap even though he had positive proof through communications that other Usaaffe guerrilla organizations were in existence.

The Bataan organization organized and operated by John Boone is the biggest guerrilla organization in Bataan. Major Ramsey claims Boone to be under his command, so with Major Anderson. At time Major Ramsey rebuked me for advising Boone not to pay so much attention to the hypocrisy of Major Ramsey and I told Boone to pay more attention to his organization and less to the quarrel of the two, because such will demoralize him and his command. For a while Boone was operating under his own, and Major Ramsey notified him that he is the senior commander, Boone voluntarily informed Major Ramsey that he would go under his command and the same thing happened when Major Anderson notified Boone, about he being the senior commander. About three months ago, Col. Merrill notified him that he is the senior commander in Luzon and that he had got contact with GHQ, SWPA through Capt. Cabangbang who is somewhere in Bulacan and Boone again went with Merrill. When a liaison officer was sent here, he learned that the policy of GHQ, SWPA, is not to appoint area commander. The liaison officer then informed that Col. Merrill again pulled a trick on them.

The rest of the Usaaffe guerrillas in Luzon are better coordinated with the presence of Capt. Cabangbang in this area, Capt. Miller in Rizal and Major Vanderpool who is in Batangas and Cavite. The last two officers are members of the staff, GHQ, SWPA.

Q-by Col. ATKINSON - WHAT ARE THE REASONS FOR THE MISUNDERSTANDING, DISAGREEMENT AND CLASHES BETWEEN THE ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS THE HUKBALAHAPS AND THE USAFFE ORGANIZATIONS NAMELY: BMA, NUEVA ECIJA GUERRILLA, RIZAL GUERRILLA, LAGUNA AND BATAAN?

A-by Capt. Santos - They are the following:

(1) The Hukbalahap leaders claims that they are the Peoples' Army against the Japanese (HUKBO NG BAYAN LABAN SA HAPON) and that all other guerrillas will have to function under them in as much as the United States has left and abandoned us and that they are being fed by the people hence, we must go with the peoples army.

(2) The Hukbalahap leaders considered themselves an army not only organized to fight the Japanese but also an army ready to fight the American Army when they return here to the Philippines.

(3) The Pampango leaders of the Hukbalahap who are mostly communists and socialist has a different version in organizing guerrillas and fighting this war. One of their versions is to fight the rich man and get their properties and to give them to the poor people.

(4) The Hukbalahap leaders claims that at the fall of Bataan we officers have lost our right of command and according to them we have no business leading this organization.

(5) The Hukbalahap claims that at the surrender of the American Army all the Usaffe soldiers must surrender their arms to the Hukbalahap per supposed order of Col. Thorpe.

(6) Here at Bulacan I personally have tried my best to meet Hukbalahap commander to get into agreement. But in spite of the agreement that they will not molest the Usaffe guerrilla officers and men, they have treacherously murdered the following persons:

(a) Brevet Col. Luis Maccam, CO, DPR, this command and his staff. These officers tricked them to attend the conference with the Hukbalahap and they were all murdered in February 1944.

(b) Lt. Col. Gregorio Panganiban, successor of Col. Maccam. The Hukbalahap then drew up an agreement of mutual understanding with the DPR but up to the present the said regiment cannot return to its bivouac area because of the presence there of Pampango Squadron of the Huks who have killed and looted the properties of officers and men of the Usaffe.

/s/ ALEJO S. SANTOS
Capt. Inf-USAFFE
Commanding

WITNESSES:

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.....

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

DOUGLAS C. MURRAY
Major, Infantry
(9 Oct 47)

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