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SECRET

INTERROGATION REPORT NO. 128.

I. PERSONAL DATA

NAME	:	NATHAN WILLIAM TALBOT
AGE	:	24
SEX	:	Male
RACE	:	White
CITIZENSHIP	:	United States
BIRTHDATE AND PLACE	:	22 November 1919; Winchester, New Hampshire
EDUCATION	:	1925-1933 Grammar School, Center School, Winchester, New Hampshire. 1933-1937 Thayer High School, Winchester, N. H. 1937-1938 Hemphill Diesel Engineering School, Boston, Mass.
STATUS	:	Evacuee; American soldier evacuated from Philippine Islands.
OCCUPATION	:	Soldier
PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	:	Height 5' 8" Weight 152 lbs Hair Brown Eyes Hazel Comp. Fair Stature Medium
STATE OF HEALTH	:	Fair
MEANS OF IDENT.	:	Identification Tags ASN 11009238

Interrogated 26 July 1944 at 85th Station Hospital, APO 983. WAO/st

ESTIMATE OF INTELLIGENCE AND RELIABILITY:

Above average in intelligence. A keen observer. Training with Guerillas has made him unusually able in giving intelligence information. As TALBOT and Hanson worked together over a year, see Hanson I.R. #109 for further information.

II. CHRONOLOGY

14 Nov. 1940 - Enlisted in Army at Worcester, Massachusetts; assigned to 35th Air Base, Savannah, Georgia
7 Mar. 1941 - Assigned to Radio School, Scott Field, Illinois
27 Aug. 1941 - Graduated from radio school.
21 Nov. 1941 - Arrived at Ft. McKinley, Philippine Islands.
1 Dec. 1941 - On detached service with Air Warning Co., Far Eastern Air Forces Hq, Nielson Field.
25 Dec. 1941 - Arrived at Bataan and set up portable radio set at Cabcaban Air Field, under Captain Mason, Signal Corps.
27 Dec. 1941 - Moved radio equipment to Mariveles Mountain and set up network.
15 Jan. 1942 - Returned to 16th Squadron and placed in charge of control tower on Bataan Air Field.
15 Feb. 1942 - Promoted to private first class and third class specialist.
25 Feb. 1942 - Sent with portable radio to San Jose Air Field, Mindoro Island, because FEAF had not been getting proper reports from Lt. Warren G. Baggett in charge of the field.
5 Mar. 1942 - Established contact with Bataan from San Jose; on same day learned that Japanese planes had reconnoitered the field, and that reports had not gone to FEAF; the 50 men under Lt. Baggett poorly equipped, fed, disciplined; TALBOT reported true situation to Col. George's Hq at Bataan.
8 Mar. 1942 - Heard rifle fire; Japanese reported heading for San Jose; TALBOT loaded portable radio equipment on sled pulled by carabao, took Sgt Kolger, Cpl. Hogshee, and Pvt. Rutberg of the 48th Materiel Squadron moved two miles east of San Jose.
9 Mar. 1942 - Lt. Baggett completed destruction of supplies at San Jose Air Field and with remainder of his men joined TALBOT; sent radio message to Bataan; then received word that Japanese had not landed; resentment high against Lt. Baggett among his men; men suffering from lack of food; Baggett had over 1,000 pesos of ration money in his pocket at this time; entire group moved farther east from San Jose and set up camp and radio.

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15 Mar. 1942 - About 1,000 Japanese landed on Mindoro Island and took over cities and air fields without opposition.
10 Apr. 1942 - TALBOT received radio message from Pvt McAtee, operator at Bataan, "This is my last contact with you. Bataan is surrendering. So long and good luck."
23 Apr. 1942 - Buried radio equipment and started for east coast of Mindoro; met Filipino, Captain Raval, who said he had been sent to evacuate group from Mindoro to Caticlan Landing Field on Panay.
5 May 1942 - Arrived at Caticlan; met Major Say, who took charge of group and said that planes would soon arrive to evacuate them to Del Monte Air Field, Mindanao.
12 May 1942 - As no planes came they left Panay in small boats flying an American flag.
15 May 1942 - Landed on Cuyo Island; made contact with Philippine Army on Bohol Island.
20 May 1942 - About 300 Japanese landed in Cuyo City; took Major Say, Lt. Baggett, and 28 men prisoner; TALBOT and about 20 others went to hills.
22 May 1942 - TALBOT, accompanied by Wilfon, Dean, and Luther from 48th Materiel Squadron went to Manamoc Island and went into hiding.
1 Dec. 1942 - Wilfon returned to Cuyo Island to attempt to establish contact with other Americans.
9 Feb. 1943 - Wilfon returned to Manamoc Island accompanied by Lasher and LeBlanc from the 48th Materiel Squadron and a Filipino Sgt. Ellison, who said that he was sent to recruit for the Guerillas on Panay Island.
12 Feb. 1943 - TALBOT and his group went to Panay, where they were welcomed by Col. Garcia; he gave them pesos and food; assigned TALBOT to work under Captain Hawley.
13 May 1943 - TALBOT applied for a commission as 2nd Lt. and was approved.
15 May 1943 - Went with Captain Guarina for Tablas Island to build and set up radio station for reporting on enemy ships and aircraft.
25 June 1943 - Joined by Kenneth Hanson, who was in charge of engineering in Romblon Province.
30 Aug. 1943 - First radio sending set completed and put in operation.
12 Oct. 1943 - TALBOT took a 50 watt transmitter he had built to Sibuyan Island to avoid the Japanese punitive drive then in progress.
4 Apr. 1944 - Returned to Panay by way of Tablas Island; assigned to work with Col. Garcia.
June 1944 - Evacuated.

III. TACTICAL DATA ON ENEMY FORCES

Japanese Intelligence: The Japanese are using merchants and surrendered Philippine Constabulary soldiers for spying. Wherever possible they are employing women. Some of the women who serve as Nippongo teachers in the provinces are suspected of spying. A few Filipina women who own sailboats are used as spies because they have means of gathering and transmitting information. A Mrs. Mendez took her sailboat to most of the harbors in Romblon Province trying to buy food supplies with Japanese currency. The Guerillas suspected her of spying but were unable to prove any charges. Kalibapi apparently serves as an intelligence collecting agency.

Prisoner of War Camps: Carlotta Diez of Romblon City reported that the civilian camp at Santo Tomas had been closed to all visitors since April 1944. Her sister is interned in the camp. She reported that the camp was closed because of increase in pregnancies among young girls in the camp and also an increase in abortions. She did not know if Japanese or Filipino men were involved. She reported that the Japanese have now segregated all pregnant women and are giving them special medical attention.

Radar Stations: TALBOT has positive information that there is a radar station in Manila and another in Iloilo City. Exact locations within the cities are unknown. Col. Francia knows locations of others in the Philippines. Bureau of Communications personnel reportedly operate the radar and radio locator stations.

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Radio Stations: Japanese radio communication is excellent. Every Garrison has a station. There are many portable sets in use.

IV. SUMMARY OF NAVAL INFORMATION

TALBOT worked six months in 1943 on a ship watching station on Tablas Island. The Japanese prefer to use San Bernardino Pass, but when the weather is bad they use Romblon Pass. They seem to be short of shipping. A cruiser was the largest vessel he saw during his stay on Tablas. He also saw patrol boats and submarine chasers. The convoys were small. Ships were in bad condition and much in need of paint except for the superstructure, which was usually camouflaged. The rigging was frequently patched.

The Japanese are building boats and barges of green lumber at Pinamalayan on Mindoro Island, which they load with rice and take to Manila. They have also removed the superstructure from a number of large sailboats and converted them into barges. These are towed by tugs and used for transporting rice, troops, copper and iron ore.

Lighthouses in use in the Romblon-Panay area before the war are no longer in use. They have been ransacked and everything of value taken away. The Japanese sailors, apparently well acquainted with Philippines waterways, follow the channels at night with only natural landmarks.

The coasts near Japanese garrisons are guarded by Filipino members of the Coast Defense Command. No information on equipment or methods of patrol available.

V. BASIC AIR INFORMATION

Planes that have crashed in Panay during the past year had the instrument panels removed and no radio equipment. The pilots had to use wings for signaling.

VI. INFORMATION REGARDING GUERILLA FORCES

The Guerilla Forces in Romblon Province were entirely broken up by the Japanese in the punitive drive of November 1943. Efforts are now under way to re-establish a Guerilla Force in Romblon. The Guerillas on Panay Island claim about 7,000 officers and men. They probably have about 7,000 weapons --rifles, carbines, Tommy guns, BAR's, and pistols--but figures on number of soldiers probably exaggerated. The organization is still loose, and various Guerilla factions still war among themselves.

Discipline: Discipline in the Guerilla army is difficult to achieve. It is an army of the people with no military tradition on which to build military discipline. Filipinos as a race have never been disciplined and the soldiers resent regimentation. Most of the Guerilla officers serve in their home areas and have under them relatives, business clients, and political constituents. As a result, it is difficult for them to maintain discipline. Officers and men alike strive for special privileges, resulting in a breakdown of discipline. The general order for the Guerillas has been "lie low", an order which they have followed too literally. During the Japanese drives, discipline disappears and the Guerilla soldiers take to the hills.

Training: The army formerly held a troop training school for pre-inductees in the vicinity of Patria, Antique. These schools were devoted to drill and military tactics. The graduates of the school were taken into the army as rapidly as they could be assimilated. Most troops were required to pass a probationary period before enlistment was confirmed. Not more than five percent of any platoon could be probationary at a time. In recent months each Combat Team is responsible for training its own troops. The training is inefficient. Not more than ten percent of the officers have had any military training. A few of the men trained by USAFFE before the war man the BAR's and Tommy guns.

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Supplies: The Guerilla army is short on all types of supplies. They have difficulty securing enough rice, which is the main item of food. Clothing supplies are limited, but there is little need for clothing except for vanity. Fuel oil is badly needed. At present all diesel equipment is being operated on coconut oil.

Communications: Under Col. Francia, formerly an Instructor at Philippine Military Academy, the Guerillas have worked out a fairly good system of communication. Radio is the chief means, though couriers are also used. They need signal equipment. All radio equipment available has been commandeered from the public.

Japanese Opposition: At present the Japanese hold the upper hand in Romblon Province and Panay Island. They are well acquainted with terrain and people. They have an excellent spy system for determining locations of Americans and Guerilla Forces. In recent months, however, the Japanese have started to show some respect for the Guerillas. For several months the Guerillas have killed from 200 to 300 Japanese each month on Panay. The Japanese have set a price on the heads of Guerilla leaders. The list for June 1944 contained the following names and prices:

Col. Peralta	1,500	Pesos
Col. Gasperal	1,500	"
Lt. Col. Relunia	1,000	"
Lt. Col. Chavets	1,000	"
Lt. Col. Garcia	1,000	"
Capt. Garucho	500	"

The same lists offered soldiers surrendering from 5 to 25 pesos, according to how much intelligence information they had.

VII. GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

TALBOT was interrogated by a representative of Allied Geographic Section, APO 500.

VIII. POLITICAL AND SOCIAL INFORMATION

Prostitution: Captain Guarina reported in April 1944 that because of increased prostitution in Manila venereal diseases have become a serious problem. The Japanese have set up many houses, employing both Japanese and Filipina girls. Some of these houses are solely for Japanese soldiers. Many prostitutes are operating on their own. Some of these are attractive and well dressed. Many girls have come to Manila from the provinces because they consider living safer there.

Hundreds of Filipina girls are giving birth to babies fathered by Japanese soldiers. Most of these babies are legitimized by conscientious young Filipino men.

Political organizations: Kalibapi is the only Japanese sponsored political organization functioning at present. It apparently is influential in Manila but the influence has not permeated the provinces. Some of the old pre-war political organizations are still functioning under cover.

Civil Service: Until the middle of 1943 a form of civil service was maintained in the larger cities of Romblon Province and Panay Island by the Laurel government. Since then this service has been largely disrupted by Guerilla and Japanese activities.

Filipino Attitude toward Japanese: In Pandan in December 1943 the Guerillas ambushed a group of Japanese and killed about 40. The Japanese buried their dead under a building in the town. After they were gone Filipino civilians unearthed the bodies, hacked them to pieces with bolos, and in other ways desecrated them. This was a result of intense hatred of the Japanese.

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In April 1944 a Japanese aviator was forced down on the emergency landing strip at Caticlan, Panay. He left the plane to ask for directions. Before he could get back to his plane two Guerillas shot and wounded him. The civilians carried him to Libertad and Patria as an exhibit. Along the way civilians hacked off his toes and fingers for souvenirs. One Guerilla claimed 500 pesos and the aviator's cap as a reward. TALBOT saw him wearing the cap later.

IX. ECONOMIC INFORMATION

Agricultural Commodities:

Rice: Though there has been an increase of acreage in rice up to one hundred percent in some areas, the supply is still not enough to supply the Japanese, Guerilla Forces, and civilian population.

Corn: Since the Japanese occupation more acreage has been devoted to corn. Enough corn is produced to augment the rice shortage, but not enough to insure sufficient food supply for civilians.

Peanuts: Since the war more acreage has been devoted to peanuts, which the Filipinos use both as food and candy.

Labor: In 1942 the Japanese sent propaganda sheets to Cuyo Island requesting laborers and setting forth rates of wages. The rates were from 40 centavos to 1.50 pesos a person per day. Each sheet had a coupon in the corner good for one ganta of salt if the person accepted employment. At least fifty percent of the labor is impressed. Residents in the mining areas have no choice but to work for the Japanese.

Coal: The coal mine on Caluya Island is in operation; the coal is taken to Capiz, Panay, by sailboat. It is a small mine.

Medical Supplies: TALBOT gave information on health situation and medical supplies for Romblon Province for the past six months. This area is fairly close to Manila and medical supplies were available in reduced quantities as late as early 1943. Since then trade from Manila has ceased and it has become increasingly difficult to obtain medical supplies. The malaria rate has gone up rapidly during the past year. Filipinos have resorted to homemade remedies, which have allayed fever somewhat but which do not serve as a permanent cure. Cervero, a prominent merchant in Romblon Town, stated that gonnorhea has increased considerably since the surrender. He stated also that Japanese soldiers coming to Romblon always went to the drugstores in search of contraceptives and medicine for venereal disease.

National Rice and Corn Corporation: A neighborhood association in most of Luzon and in larger cities on other islands. It is always to be found where there are Japanese garrisons. NARIC was originally started for the conservation of rice, but now practically all commodities are controlled by it. NARIC offers special prices to its members. A box of matches, for instance, which sells for 2 pesos on the blackmarket can be bought through NARIC for 2 centavos. Families registered with NARIC are allowed 250 grams of rice per person per day. Any member of the family working for the government is entitled to an additional 350 grams per day. NARIC serves as a means for recruiting labor for the Japanese, who give transportation to and from work for those employed on government jobs. NARIC is not necessarily a political organization. Many respected Filipinos belong to it because of pressure.

Utilities: Electric power is available at present in Manila at comparatively low rates. The prices are somewhat higher than pre-war, but not prohibitive. Utilities are reportedly owned and operated by the Nippon-Taiwan Electric Company.

Gas service is still available in parts of Manila, according to rumors, but supply is going down and prices going up.

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Communications: In Manila subscribers pay their telephone bills, then buy telephones and wire at exorbitant rates on the blackmarket and have their own telephones installed. Radio telephone service is maintained between Iloilo City and Manila and between almost all cities garrisoned by Japanese soldiers and Manila. TALBOT listened in on much of the traffic when he was an operator on Tablas Island.

X. PROPAGANDA AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE INFORMATION

See Report on Hanson, I.R. #109.

XI. ATROCITIES

On 17 November 1943 Japanese soldiers arrived in Romblon Town looking for Lt. Morales of the Guerilla Army. The went to his home and captured his wife and father and demanded information on his location. The father refused to give the information. They hung him up by his feet and poured water in his nose and mouth. Then they beat him. He still refused to talk. Then they poured boiling water in his nose and scrubbed the inside with a tooth-brush. The old man said that his son was on Sibuyan Island. The Japanese started toward Sibuyan Island and captured Lt. Morales on his way to Romblon. They took him to Iloilo City, gave him a course in spiritual training, and released him two weeks later as a Japanese citizen. The father recovered from the torture. Lt. Morales has not been re-accepted by the Guerillas. TALBOT heard this story from reliable Filipinos names unknown in Romblon Town.

XII. PERSONALITIES

See Report on HANSON, I.R. #109.