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SECRET

INTERROGATION REPORT NO. 116.

## I. PERSONAL DATA

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| NAME | : | IRVING VICTOR JOSEPH (SGT.) |
| AGE | : | 31 |
| SEX | : | Male |
| RACE | : | White |
| CITIZENSHIP | : | U. S. |
| BIRTHDATE AND PLACE | : | 15 October 1912; Los Angeles, California. |
| EDUCATION | : | 1918-1926 Grammar School, Los Angeles, California.<br>1926-1930 High School, San Francisco, California.<br>1934-1936 San Francisco, Law School, San Francisco, California.<br>University of California, Photography 3 months<br>Pilot's School - received pilot's license. |
| STATUS | : | American Soldier |
| OCCUPATION | : | U.S. Soldier; Rank: Sgt. ASN 19000084 |
| PERSONAL DESCRIPTION | : | Height 5' 5½" Weight 136 lbs.<br>Hair Black Eyes Brown<br>Comp. Dark Stature Slight |
| STATE OF HEALTH | : | Good |
| MEANS OF IDENT. | : | Special Order No. 2 - USAFIP<br>Dated - 2 December 1943<br>Re: Commission as 1st Lt. In USAFIP. |

Interrogated 17-19 July 1944 at 85th Station Hospital, APO 923. MT/st

ESTIMATE OF INTELLIGENCE AND RELIABILITY:

Sgt. JOSEPH studied law, photography and later secured a pilot's license. After the surrender of the American troops at Bataan, he was assigned as truck driver to a Japanese truck company and spent fifteen months with them as a Prisoner of War. He is alert, observant and possesses a retentive memory. Sgt. JOSEPH is above average in intelligence and reliability.

## II. CHRONOLOGY

1 Oct. 1940 - Enlisted in U. S. Air Corps, California, U.S.A.
23 Nov. 1940 - Arrived at Manila, P.I. with 20th Pursuit Squadron and was assigned to Nichols Field.
7 July 1941 - Transferred to Clark Field
24 Dec. 1941 - Transferred to Bataan.
9 Apr. 1942 - Surrendered to Japanese at Mariveles Field, Luzon.
11 Apr. 1942 - With other Americans and soldiers was forced to march by Japanese to Mariveles Cut Off road on Bataan.
15 Apr. 1942 - Marched to Balanga, Bataan.
17 Apr. 1942 - Taken to Guagua, Luzon, as truck driver for Japanese.
9 May 1942 - Taken to Olongopo, Luzon, by Japanese.
14 May 1942 - Sailed from Olongopo with Japanese troops.
21 May 1942 - With Japanese occupation troops arrived at Bacolod, Negros; continued working as truck driver for Japanese.
4 July 1943 - Sgt. JOSEPH and six other American soldiers seized a truck, guns and ammunition and escaped to the mountains.
5 July 1943 - Arrived at Co. B - Sub-sector EF, guerrilla forces, Negros.
24 Nov. 1943 - Went to Cebu and contacted Lt. Col. James Cushing, guerrilla Commanding Officer of Cebu area, GHQ at Tejas.
2 Dec. 1943 - Commissioned 1st Lt. and Aide-de-Camp to Lt. Col. James M. Cushing, Commanding Officer of the Cebu Area Forces.
22 Mar. 1944 - Went to Imbage, Bohol, on to GHQ, SWPA to deliver Intelligence reports and a German POW, Reiter.
25 Mar. 1944 - Arrived at Lapinin Island.

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13 Apr. 1944 - Landed at Camiguin Island, and contacted Col. Fertig, District Commanding Officer of 10th M.D., Mindanao.
14 May 1944 - Arrived at Bohol and spent a week at Carmen, GHQ for Bohol Area; wired Col. Cushing and was instructed to return to Cebu.
24 May 1944 - Returned to Cebu.
27 May 1944 - Arrived at Badian Island.
28 May 1944 - Reached Negros, Tolong area.
June 1944 - Evacuated to Australia.

## III. TACTICAL DATA ON ENEMY MILITARY FORCES

Dispositions and Strength of Organizations and Units:

In 1943 the Japanese had about 18,000 troops on Cebu but around May 1944 this amount was increased to 36,000 troops. Nearest concentration being in vicinity of Cebu City.

On 23 May 1944, Japanese had but 400 troops on the island of Bohol, near Cebu.

Names of Unit Commanders:

Lt. Gen. Konu, Commander-in-Chief of Japanese Imperial Forces at Mindanao and Dutch East Indies. He came to Cebu City, Cebu, for General Staff meetings. Cebu City has a large Japanese Headquarters.

Capt. Watanobe, Commanding Officer of Japanese Naval Garrison at Cebu City, Cebu.

Insignia:

As a prisoner of war, Sgt. JOSEPH spent fifteen months as a truck driver attached to a Japanese truck company which was stationed at Guagua, Luzon, and Bacolod, Negros. This company was formerly a cavalry unit and later transferred to the Infantry under the Command of Lt. Col. Ota. JOSEPH observed that all soldiers attached to Lt. Col. Ota's division were wearing the following insignia on the left side of their chest. The insignia was referred to as "Ota Butai" . (Ota's Unit).

All soldiers attached to the truck company were wearing the following additional insignia.

All soldiers attached to the Quartermaster Corps were wearing the following insignia.

Native troops:

In Cebu and Negros, Japanese civilians were used as reservists. The Bureau of Constabulary was cooperating with the Japanese troops by accompanying them on patrols and on raids against guerrilla forces.

Enemy Tactics and Methods:

Japanese troops in Cebu, when advancing towards the guerrilla forces, deploy several columns converging from various places to one or two points. This tactical method was generally performed during the night and they would attempt to approach in a surprise attack. These Japanese troops were usually led by members of the Bureau of Constabulary or spies who were familiar with the roads. Troops in the rear would leave white paper or rice on the ground as a guide should a hurried retreat be necessary.

Japanese employ Filipinos, old and young, as spies to secure information concerning Guerrilla Forces or anyone who is pro-American. After

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receiving the information the Japanese would required about two weeks before they were able to evaluate it and take action.

While searching for guerrilla troops at night, Japanese soldiers wear civilian clothes. They conceal their rifles and ammunition in burlap bags. In this manner they were able to approach market places and guerrilla hangouts without being detected.

Japanese employ carrier pigeons to carry messages from one unit to another. Pigeons are equipped with aluminum tubes which are clamped tightly on their legs. Messages are written on a very thin sheet of paper. While in Cebu, two carrier pigeons were brought to Headquarters. Only one of the pigeons was carrying a message at the time. He recalled that the message read, "We are on a high ridge, firing in back of us and in front of us, cannot see the enemy, will advance in the morning."

In Negros, the Japanese have used German Police dogs to carry messages from one patrol to another. The messages were placed underneath their collars. These dogs were also used for the purpose of detecting enemy forces at night.

During the battle of Bataan, Japanese troops employed many German Police dogs to carry messages frkm behind the American lines to their front lines. The American 31st Infantry Regiment, unaware of these tactics, permitted a number of these dogs to sneak across their lines before discovering their purpose. As soon as their purpose was discovered, orders were issued by American Officers to shoot all dogs.

Japanese troops use firecrackers to simulate actual firing and in this manner attempt to seek out enemy positions. From an American soldier on Bataan JOSEPH heard that Japanese were using a foot pedaled device which simulated automatic firing. Japanese troops on patrols have used .25 Calibre explosive bullets for the purpose of confusing the enemy.

Biological Warfare:

In the Tolong area in Negros, the Japanese dismembered dead bodies and concealed them in various places throughout the barrios, apparently in an effort to start a plague. Some of these dismembered pieces were dropped into wells and as a result the water became contaminated. (See Wooster's report I.R. #131).

Enemy Materiel and Equipment:

Japanese troops when on patrols, have been observed using a body camouflage net which offers excellent concealment when lying in the bush.

Sgt. JOSEPH observed that the rank of a Japanese officer can be determined by the colors of the cord on his sword. Officers of the three highest ranks: General, Lt. General, and Major General, wear brown and gold colored cords on their swords. Officers of the next three ranks: Colonel, Lt. Colonel, and Major, wear brown and red colored cords on their swords. Officers of the last three ranks wear brown and blue colored cords on their swords.

Training:

Twice a week the Infantry units would hold bayonet drills. They would practice foot work and thrusts, using a long wooden gun in driving at a dummy. Some of the soldiers wore padding on their chests. The soldiers were taught to scream when bayoneting. No butt strokes were observed in their practice drills. They did, however, practice camouflaging, scouting, and patrolling. Their camouflaging was done very well. Gas drills were held in Cebu and Negros.

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Captured Materiel and Interrogation of POW:

On 10 April 1942 about 200 Japanese soldiers with fixed bayonets marched to the bivouac area of the 20th Pursuit Squadron, near Mariveles Field, Bataan, and surrounded the American soldiers. After trading cigarettes with them, the Japanese marched them to Mariveles Field. That night while all the American soldiers were asleep, the Japanese searched their clothes and stole fountain pens, watches, jewelry, money and other articles.

The following day a Japanese officer drove up to Mariveles Field in a truck and ordered all American soldiers to surrender their money, jewelry, cigarettes, clothes, arms, ammunition, food and anything else of value. Each American was required to drop his possessions in large boxes which were held by Japanese soldiers. The Japanese seized practically everything except the clothes which the Americans wore. All the boxes were loaded on the truck. So much equipment was seized that it was necessary for the truck to make two trips.

## IV. SUMMARY OF NAVAL INFORMATION.

Ship Movements and Ships in Port:

Cebu Harbor is a refueling and distribution center for all ships bound for the Dutch East Indies and New Guinea. Convoys are also assembled here. The Japanese repaired all wharves and it is estiamted that 500 ships can be accommodated here.

Slow convoys hug the coast in Bohol Strait. They move during the day and anchor at night. From a German POW, it was ascertained that Japanese float planes came from Borneo about every two hours to escort the convoys.

Samarinda, Borneo, is another refueling center and assembly point for convoys. Many Japanese warships were seen here.

Ship Building and Repair Facilities:

Opan on Mactan Island has a dry-dock for transports and small warships up to 5,000 tons.

## V. BASIC AIR INFORMATION

Airfields and Installations:

Lahaug Field is equipped to handle bombers, fighters and all types of aircraft. It is probably the most important air-field in that entire area.

The Japanese built an emergency landing field on Mactan Island in case Lahaug Field is bombed.

Aircraft Observed:

At Lahaug Field near Cebu Harbor a new type of zero was observed which appeared to be maneuverable and fast.

In Cebu JOSEPH observed a Japanese 2-engined attack bomber built like our A 20 A.

Japanese are using many American designed DC Douglas transports around Cebu and Negros.

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Air-Ground, Ground-Air Signals:

Japanese were observed using cloth panel boards when signaling from the ground to planes. Planes dropped messages in bamboo tubes with a streamer attached.

## VIII. POLITICAL AND SOCIAL INFORMATION

Relation Between Japanese and Local Population:

When the Japanese first came to Negros, the natives hid in the mountains through fear. Ninety-nine percent of them were opposed to the Japanese. It took a long time to get these natives to come down from the mountains and work with the Japanese. Some of the natives had intentions of staying up in the mountains until the American Army would return to liberate them. The natives purposely worked unusually slow and it became necessary for the Japanese to hire twice as many natives.

Education:

When the Japanese occupied Negros in May 1942 all schools were closed. They examined all school books and pasted stickers on any reference to the Allied nations. In the latter part of 1942 a few public schools were opened. Not until 1944 were any high schools opened. It is estimated that less than one percent of the schools in Negros were allowed to open by the Japanese. These schools were used mainly for propaganda purposes. The Japanese printed a magazine in Japanese language called "Hippongo" and circulated it in schools and among the public. Actually "Hippongo" was to be sold for 50 centavos a copy but in view of the lack of subscriptions by the public, the Japanese decided to give them away free of charge.

At the beginning, the Japanese army supervised the school system and supplied their own teachers who taught in conjunction with the Filipino teachers. During 1943, however, Japanese civilians took over the administration of the schools and retained many of the Filipino teachers. Children were taught the Japanese language, as well as lessons on the glory of Japan, and the new order of Greater East Asia.

Treatment of Prisoners of War and Internees:

Type of Custody: At Mariveles Field the Americans were guarded at all times by Japanese soldiers with fixed bayonets who were bivouaced nearby. The Americans were required to sleep on the ground without blankets.

At Guagua, while working as truck drivers for Japanese, American soldiers received better food and were allowed to visit the town frequently.

Labor: The Japanese selected some American soldiers to drive and repair trucks, some to load and unload boats, and others to work in a sugar refinery at San Fernando. Japanese are under the impression that all Americans can drive and repair trucks, cars, radios, etc. At the beginning, the Japanese paid the Americans 80 centavos per day but later reduced it to 40 centavos. From January 1943, it was 10 centavos a day.

Food: Upon the surrender of Bataan, the Japanese confiscated all food from American soldiers. During the march that followed, from Bataan to Bolonga, approximately 50 miles, the American soldiers were fed once in 6 days. So many of the Americans were weak with hunger that many fainted and others died during this march.

At Guagua, Sgt. JOSEPH was treated the same as a Japanese soldier and received the same rations. He was given sufficient quantities of rice and also food which the Japanese captured from the Americans. During his trips to the village, the natives usually supplied him with good food.

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Clothing: All clothing belonging to the American soldiers except that which they were wearing was confiscated by the Japanese at the surrender of Bataan. The Japanese issued no other clothing. However, if any of the Americans were fortunate enough to find clothes, they were permitted to keep them.

Medical: While Sgt. JOSEPH was working for the Japanese at Guagua, he received a sufficient amount of quinine and atabrine. Furthermore, he received the regular medical treatments available to the Japanese soldiers.

Maltreatment: The Japanese are cruel and brutal in inflicting punishment on the American soldier, the civilian population, and even on their own soldiers. From time to time Sgt. JOSEPH was beaten by the Japanese for some minor irregularity. Quite often, the Japanese themselves committed the mistake but blamed the Americans for it. The Japanese used their hands, guns, bayonets, clubs, or anything else within reach on the Americans. If there was no weapon available then they used their feet in inflicting punishment.

Once, while an American soldier was backing a truck into the garage, a Japanese soldier picked an arguement with him. When the American answered, this Japanese beat him with the butt of his rifle and then threw a crank handle at him.

On another occasion while an American soldier was engaged in his duties, he was asked by a Japanese soldier to do something else. The American told him to wait, whereupon this Japanese seised a large belt and began to whip the American, leaving large welts on his back.

## IX. ECONOMIC INFORMATION

General Economic Situation in Japan and Occupied Areas:

Through a German Prisoner of War who was recently in Japan, Sgt. JOSEPH learned that almost everything is rationed in Japan. Inflation is sweeping the country and blackmarkets are rampant. There is no soap, sugar and other commodities. Shoes are made of fish-skin. The Japanese people are discriminating against all Europeans. It is the consensus of opinion in Japan that the Germans were losing the war.

Inter Service Relations:

Japanese units rarely cooperate with each other. Instances were observed where one truck company refused to lend parts to another truck company. They seemed to hate and mistrust each other. Garrison commanders find it difficult to get along with each other. Even the Japanese civilian administration was continually quarreling with Japanese Army Commanders. The Civilian Administration refused to permit army vehicles to park in certain areas.

Propaganda and Pacification Missions:

The Japanese employed still another means of propaganda which they call "The Peace and Relief Mission". This mission consisted of a 6 piece Filipino band, 2 Filipino nurses, 1 Filipino doctor, 1 Filipino interpreter, 1 Japanese interpreter and 5 armed Japanese soldiers. Two trucks were generally used to transport this mission to the barrios. In Negros W. O. Namba or Capt. Namba was in charge of this mission. Their method of operation would be to proceed to some barrio, and the armed soldiers with fixed bayonets would then round up all the civilians in the nearby barrios. After all civilians were gathered, Capt. Namba spoke to them in Japanese while the Filipino interpreter translated it into Visayan. The band played a few numbers after which the doctor and nurses would commence treating some of the children in the crowd. Then cigarettes and candy would be distributed with the mission praising the Japanese.

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In large towns the "Peace and Relief Mission" would hold market days for the purpose of granting civilians an opportunity to purchase prime commodities at cheaper prices. Then the same procedure as outlined above would be followed. During this performance, the people would be persuaded to turn in their pre-war currency for Japanese invasion money.

Movies:

The Japanese utilized motion pictures, newspapers, magazines, posters, leaflets, etc. in disseminating propaganda to the natives.

In the theatres the natives would see pictures of the Japanese fleet destroying the American Navy at Pearl Harbor. They were also shown movies of 6 Japanese soldiers with bayonets charging 30 British machine gunners at Singapore and finally the British surrendering to these 6 Japanese. Another picture quite frequently shown was the one about Bataan, where Japanese soldiers were shooting and blasting the American tanks. Americans were compelled to pose driving tanks while the Japanese were photographing these scenes.

Morale of Enemy Forces:

Attitude toward War: About eighty percent of approximately 2,000 Japanese troops that Sgt. JOSEPH came in contact with appeared to be "disgusted" with the war. A large majority of them often told him that they would like to go home to their families. The Japanese soldiers were told that this war will last 100 years.

Change in Morale: In the Early part of 1942, the morale of the Japanese soldier was high. He talked about conquering the world. But lately he had given up all hope of that and repeats quite often that he wants to go home.

## XI. ATROCITIES

Military Personnel:

Immediately after the surrender at Bataan, the American soldiers were compelled to march to San Fernando, a distance of about 100 miles. During the three days at Mariveles Field the Americans received neither food nor water. In their weakened condition they were forced to march in the blazing sun. During the next three days, they received food once and a little water occasionally. Although thousands of American Soldiers were in this march, the Japanese allowed but a few minutes for drinking purposes. As a result, a great majority of the soldiers did not get an opportunity to take a drink. If anyone stepped out of line to take a drink, after the Japanese gave the command to fall in, he was immediately bayoneted or shot to death. The food distribution consisted of a Japanese soldier throwing some rice into the palm of your hand and a Filipino soldier dishing out the salt. The Japanese selected open areas where the sun's rays were the strongest as resting places for their prisoners and carefully avoided shady places. Due to the weakened condition of the men, many fainted and died. Those that were unable to continue were buried alive. The Japanese displayed their bestiality on this march by indiscriminately running their trucks over the American soldiers. Often, the Japanese guards would delight in throwing some of the weakened and half starved prisoners in the paths of the trucks.

While they were marching through Limay, a Filipino soldier ran out of line and was immediately shot to death by a Japanese. The decapitated bodies of some American soldiers were seen lying along the road. Upon arrival at San Fernando, the survivors were packed into box cars and were taken to Camp O'Donnell. When they reached Camp O'Donnell many died from suffocation, hunger and disease. This is known as "The Death March".

Natives:

In Negros, when guerrilla forces fired upon Japanese troops, the latter

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would take revenge by machine gunning and killing all civilians in their path. They would also machine gun dogs, pigs and cattle that happened to be along the route of their retreat.

In the Tolong area, the Japanese cut the breasts off the women and stabbed bayonets into their vaginas. They burned the natives' homes and killed their children. The Japanese cut up pieces of dead bodies and hid them in various places throughout the barrios, apparently in an effort to start a plague. Some of these places were dropped into wells and the water became contaminated. As further revenge on the populace they seized young girls and raped them.

In Cebu, during January 1944, seven girls were captured by the Japanese constabulary who raped them and then turned them over to the Japanese troops. The latter then criminally assaulted them.

During February 1944, the Japanese entered Babag, burned approximately 1,000 homes and killed a large quantity of livestock.

## XII. PERSONALITIES

Army Personnel:

Lt. Gen. Konu, Commander-in-Chief of Mindanao and Dutch East Indies. Came to Cebu City for General Staff meetings. Large headquarters at Cubu City.

Naval Personnel:

Capt. Watanabe, Commander of Japanese Naval Garrison at Cebu City.

Military Police (Kempei):

They wore white bands with red letters written in Japanese and MP written in English. Kempeis would accompany troops as observers only in large battles. They submit reports of the battle to headquarters and their reports are rated higher than the regimental or divisional reports. Theirs were the official reports. Kempeis have authority over Japanese officers. They can also wear civilian clothes whenever they deem it appropriate. Another important function of the Kempei is espionage. All Kempei officers and non-commissioned officers carry swords. They are permitted to wear their hair long instead of the regulation short hair cut.

Civil Officials:

Paulino Gullas, Commissioner of all Visayans, resides in Cebu City, was cooperating with Japanese officials at the beginning but is presently reported to be changing to the pro-American side.

Napolean Dejaures; assistant to Gullas, is also editor of the Cebu Tribune, is definitely anti-American and pro-Japanese.

Laput, Senior Inspector of Constabulary in Cebu, is definitely pro-Japanese. He is #1 on the black list of the Cebu guerrilla forces. His wife is also pro-Japanese.

Civilian Japanese:

Ishimata, employed by the Japanese Military Civilian Administration, resides in Bacolod, Negros.

## XIII. GENERAL

Court Martials: On Cebu, legal violations committed by the military or

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civilian population are administered by the Judge Advocate of the Cebu Area Command. Immediately proceeding the court martial, a defense counsel is appointed from among the officers. A deposition and the court minutes are then taken by a court reporter. All dispositions and sentences are signed by Lt. Col. James M. Cushing, Cebu Area Command.

All minor violations of a civil nature are tried by regimental or battalion headquarters.

All major violations of a civil nature and military offenses are tried by GHQ Judge Advocate.