

HEADQUARTERS
 COMMANDER TASK UNIT 94.3.3
 YAP ISLAND
 WESTERN CAROLINES

17 January 1946

Annes Fox:

American captured on Yap Islands, and Allies removed from Yap Island.

- (A) Two U.S. Army men that parachuted from a B-24 and were captured by the enemy.
- (B) Three U.S. service men on an amphibious reconnaissance mission captured by the enemy.
- (C) Three missionaries and one Filipino worker removed from Yap Island.

A. On 10 August 1944 a B-24 plane was shot down by the enemy and crashed outside the reef. Two of the members of the crew parachuted down and were captured, uninjured at the time, inside the reef near the entrance rock, which is between Dera and Tomil Channel entrances, by the Japanese on the same date as the crash. These two men were taken to the Japanese Headquarters at Okau for questioning.

Through investigations and interrogations of Japanese and natives the following information was obtained.

The names of the two men captured were: Sgt Reynold B. MARNE, USAF, and Sgt. Hilary GILBERT Jr. USAAF.

Sgt. MARNE was from Pennsylvania and had graduated from high school. He was twenty years old.

Sgt. GILBERT was from Virginia and had graduated from high school and was also twenty years old.

Both men were from either the 307th Bomb Group (DAI SANBY-AKUNANA GUN) or the 5th Bomb Group (DAI GO GUN). These two groups were both B-24 groups and were stationed in the Admiralty Islands. One of the sergeants was a gunner and the other a photographer.

These men were kept over night at Okau (Japanese Headquarters) and were shipped to the Palau Islands the next day, 11 August 1944, aboard the Jap ship RISE MARU. This ship returned to Yap within a week and claimed that they safely delivered the two prisoner passengers to Japanese Headquarters (14th Division) at Palau.

The Japanese claim that no harm was done to these men. They also claim not to have seen their dog tags, therefore this command is unable to submit serial numbers of the two Americans. The natives claim they do not know of any maltreatment to the Americans that were captured by the Japanese.

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B. On 19 August 1944 three U.S. service men were captured on the east coast of Tomil at the village of LENG. These three men were taken to Okau for questioning. The following information was received from the Japanese, which information is claimed to have been gotten as a result of the questioning of the Americans.

One of the men was Warrant Officer Howard Roder from Leng Beach, Calif. He was thirty seven years old and had graduated from Beuly (?) Technical School. He was a coal miner. It is not known whether he was Navy or Marine.

The second man was a petty officer first class by the name of John Mamyer. He was twenty nine years old, he graduated from Washington-Harvey High School in Terrytown, N.Y., and also his home was in Terrytown. As a civilian he was a baker or a candy maker. (Japs a bit confused as to exactly what he was).

The third man was a petty officer first class by the name of Robert Black. He was thirty-three years old, he graduated from a high school, and was from Grand Rock, New Jersey, and was a fisherman in civilian life.

These men stated they were from the 5th Amphibious Reconnaissance Battalion or from the 5th Amphibious Demolition Corps; the Japanese were not certain of the translation, so the Japanese word spelled in Roman letters is: DAI GO SUIRIKU RYOYO SENTO HAKUHA TAI (or BUTAI). They said that they were stationed on Maui, T.H., and had sailed from Hawaii 4 August 1944 on a submarine. They passed by Midway and then came directly to Yap.

On the night of 18 August 1944 they swam from the submarine to the reef off the east coast on Tomil Island, with the mission of ascertaining the depth of the water inside and at the reef. Their job finished, they swam back to the submarine, but could not find it anywhere. They then swam back to the island and reached the beach just before dawn.

On the morning of the 19th the Japanese captured them while they were walking amongst a grove of coconut trees, near LENG.

The Japanese learned that these men had done similar work prior to the Saipan invasion. These men claimed it was planned in the near future to blast a channel in the reef which they had been sent to reconnoiter.

These men were put aboard the SC 27 (Jap vessel) on 22 August 1944, and sent to the Palau. A message was received from the Palau stating that that the SC 27 had arrived safely.

C. On 20 July 1944 three missionaries and one Filipino were sent by the Japanese military from Yap Island to the Palau Islands.

Two of the missionaries were Catholic (Jesuit) priests and one a (Jesuit) brother. The Filipino was employed in the weather station at Yap.

One of the priests was Father Luis Blance a Spaniard who came here from Spain. The other priest was Father Bernardo Espriella who came to Yap in 1926 from Colombia, South America. The brother was Francisco Hernandez who came from Spain. The Filipino worker was Agabito Hondenere.

All of the above personnel were sent to the Palau Islands on the KISE MARU, which arrived safely. A message was received from this ship stating she had arrived safely.

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Annex George: Explosives Disposed of.

- (A) Sea Mines.
- (B) Butterfly Bombs.
- (C) General Status of Explosives.

A. The following is a record of sea mines laid and destroyed from the time laid until the present date.

1. Tomil Channel and Harbor and Dora Channel. All mines laid in this area between the 13th and the 15th of August 1944 by Japanese Dachsatsu, (a landing barge similar to our LGM).

a. Laid	31
b. Disposed of	14
c. Remaining or Unaccounted for	17

2. Area just outside of reef on southern tip of Gorrer. All these mines were laid on 2 July 1944 by the mine layer SOKUTEN, which came up to Yap from the Palaus and returned to the Palaus immediately after laying the mines.

a. Laid	41
b. Disposed of	37
c. Remaining or Unaccounted for	4

28 June 1944.

3. Oatsug Channel Entrance. Mines laid here by SOKUTEN on

a. Laid	21
b. Disposed of	1
c. Remaining or Unaccounted for	20

28 July 1944.

4. Nimpel Channel Entrance. Mines laid here by SOKUTEN on

a. Laid	31
b. Disposed of	2
c. Remaining or Unaccounted for	29

ANNEX GEORGE: EXPLOSIVES DISPOSED OF

5. Mil Channel Entrance and Harbor. Mines laid here by
Dachatsu on 10-11 July 1944.

a. Laid	12
b. Disposed of	7
c. Unaccounted for or Remaining	5

6. Gafenu Channel Entrance and Harbor. Mines laid by
Daihatsu on 12-14 July 1944.

a. Laid	21
b. Disposed of	21
c. Remaining or Unaccounted for	0

7. Pelak Channel Entrance. Mines laid by Daihatsu,
15-18 July 1944.

a. Laid	21
b. Disposed of	14
c. Remaining or Unaccounted for	7

8. All beach mines (planted in two feet of water just
off beaches) have been taken up and dumped at sea. See report of 20 December 1945
from Commander Task Unit 94.3.3 to Island Command Peleliu.

9. It will be noted that Gatsug and Nimpol entrances have
the most number of mines remaining. There is an abrupt drop of 300 meters on
the seaward side of the reef here, and the mines were laid about midway between
this reef and this underwater cliff. It is believed that because of the direc-
tion of the prevailing winds, especially between the months of October and May,
that these mines have been carried over this cliff and are now at a depth of
200 or 300 feet, an unable to be cut or destroyed in position. It is possible
that they will break loose from time to time and this area should be checked
frequently. The YMS 165 has thoroughly swept all waters around Yap and a report
showing exact sweeps made is on the files of this command, a copy of which was
sent directly to Island Commander Peleliu by the YMS 165.

B. Butterfly Bombs.

During the time Commanding Task Unit 94.3.3 was on Yap
Islands a known total of sixty-one (61) butterfly bombs were destroyed; all of
these were destroyed by the bomb disposal team sent from Guam. The area was
repeatedly searched for butterfly bombs, and after an inspection of the area
by myself and the bomb disposal officer, Ens. Ratin, it is the opinion that all
known butterfly bombs have been disposed of, and as through a search as possible
has been made.

ANNEX GEORGE: EXPLOSIVES DISPOSED OF

As nearly as could be ascertained, two (2) butterfly bomb clusters were dropped. Each cluster contains ninety-six (96) butterfly bombs. There are two definite areas where the butterfly bombs fell, and this is one of the reasons why it is said that two clusters were dropped. The other reason is that a Jap Naval officer claims he saw the two bombs burst in air, this being the method of scattering the small butterfly bombs. There are approximately twenty (20) butterfly bombs in a deep crater filled with water; this crater has been covered up completely with dirt and rock. The Japanese claim to have disposed of fourteen (14) butterfly bombs. It is believed that the remainder of the bombs detonated on impact or shortly thereafter as it is normal to vary the fuses on individual butterfly bombs so that a portion exploded on hitting the ground, a portion is set for exploding 30 minutes after hitting the ground, and a third portion set to act as anti-personnel mines to be detonated when moved or touched (anti-disturbance fuse). If it is true that the Japanese disposed of fourteen (14) of these bombs, the only proof being available being the word of the Japanese, then a total of ninety-five (95) butterfly bombs have been accounted for.

C.

General Status of Explosives.

All known bombs, mines (land and sea), duds, booby traps, ammunition, etc. have been disposed of on Yap Islands. Reports come in occasionally by natives and other personnel as to the location of a dud or bomb. These are being disposed of as found. Natives now claim they are not aware of the presence of any explosives. It is believed that bombs, mines and duds will be found from time to time that have not been found previously. These can be disposed of as they are found.

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