

RESTRICTED

ALLIED TRANSLATOR AND INTERPRETER SECTION  
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS

RESEARCH REPORT

**SUBJECT:** THE PALAWAN MASSACRE

I. G. No. 6951

**DATE OF ISSUE** 15 May 1946

No. 133

**SUMMARY:**

1. The Philippines Campaign was an extremely tortuous one, replete with stories of bravery and cowardice. None of them exceeds this one, the story of the PALAWAN Massacre, for brutal savagery and unleashing of primitive emotions by the Japanese forces.
2. This report is a complete collation of facts concerning that incident, with ample documentation from ATIS files. Appropriate introductory and background material is also introduced.
3. Evidence is given to show where the responsibility for the occurrence lies. This report is intended to establish that evidence beyond any doubt.

SRD/BBB/RHP/rhp

Distribution H

*D Walker*  
COLONEL, CAVALRY  
COMMANDING

**SOURCES:** Captured Documents  
Statements of Prisoners of War

[INFORMATION SHOULD BE ASSESSED ACCORDINGLY]

RESTRICTED

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Section I. SITUATION . . . . .	1
A. Background . . . . .	1
B. Relevant Extracts . . . . .	1
II. EVENT . . . . .	3
A. Documents Concerning Execution . . . . .	3
B. Treatment of Prisoners . . . . .	4
C. Attitude of Prisoners . . . . .	4
III. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND . . . . .	7
A. Introduction . . . . .	7
B. Responsibility for Defense of PALAWAN . . . . .	7
C. Responsibility for Construction of Airfield at PUERTO PRINCESA, PALAWAN . . . . .	9
D. Organization of 131 Airfield Battalion . . . . .	11
E. Chain of Command Involving 131 Airfield Battalion . . . . .	13
IV. CONCLUSIONS . . . . .	14
A. General . . . . .	14

## Section I. SITUATION

### A. BACKGROUND

Early in 1943 the 111 Land Duty Company, commanded by Captain MANABE, Akira, was charged with the responsibility of constructing an airstrip at PUERTO PRINCESA, PALAWAN Island. The task was originally expected to take only a few months, but because of a lack of materials and equipment they had not completed the construction by 14 December 1944 when the unit then in charge, the 131 Airfield Battalion, was alerted against an American attack which seemed imminent. Throughout this time the bulk of the labor was supplied by American prisoners of war, and the hardships and privations which they suffered there are partially reconstructed in captured documents as published by ATIS, GHQ.

By 14 December 1944 the Japanese had realized that their plight on LEYTE Island was hopeless. They were well-acquainted with General MacARTHUR's surprise attacks and their devastating effects. A study of the captured documents which follow clearly indicates the panic and confusion which must have seized the Japanese forces on PALAWAN when, on 13-15 December 1944, reports of enemy concentrations in that sector reached their headquarters. Actually this American task force was directed against MINDORO Island, a fact which the Japanese did not realize until after they had slaughtered 150 American prisoners of war. It was then, in this panic and confusion, that these prisoners were slain in cold blood. That this act was premeditated in the case of such an emergency is not unlikely, and documentary evidence substantiates such an assumption.

### B. RELEVANT EXTRACTS

A study of seven relevant extracts from captured Japanese documents divulges the fact that from 13-15 December 1944 the Japanese forces in the southern PHILIPPINES were alerted against the threat of an American task force which was sighted by one of their own air units. The Japanese were unable to cope with the new situation

and failed to calculate the destination of this task force. They themselves predicted PALAWAN Island as being a logical landing place for the task force but later realized that the Americans had intended to land on MINDORO Island. The following extracts from captured documents describe the situation confronting the Japanese forces in the southern PHILIPPINES which undoubtedly precipitated a Japanese decision on the disposition of the American prisoners of war at PUERTO PRINCESA, PALAWAN in December 1944.

1. Operation Order issued by MOROZUMI, Gyosaku, CG of HYO Group (30 Div) belonging to 3 Battalion, 41 Infantry and Ord Duty Unit, dated 13 Dec 44. Op Order A 78, IMPALUTO.

"The enemy task force today, the 13th, passed to the southwest, 60 meters [*sic*: Probably kilometers] north of CAGAYAN and anchored in MURCIELAGOS Bay (about 60 meters [*sic*: Apparently kilometers] northwest of MISAMIS). They appear to be landing one element. Our air force is attacking this task force, composed of three battleships, six cruisers, and 30 transports."

(8 Army ATIS Advanced Echelon Translation No. 75, Batch 9257, Item 1)

2. Handwritten diary belonging to ONIZUKA, Toyoki, of BATSU 7085 Force (174 Ind Inf Bn, 102 Div) OUCHI Force, MAEDA Unit, dated 7 Dec 43-28 Dec 44.

"26 Jul 44: Arrived CEBU. Joined my former company. The unit became the OBAYASHI Unit.

3 Sep 44: Arrived at PUERTO PRINCESA.

14 Dec 44: According to intelligence reports, an enemy mobile force is preparing to land in this sector. We occupied our positions."

(ADVATIS Bulletin No. 473, Document No. 603505, Page 2)

3. Handwritten diary belonging to NAGATA, Kaoru, of the OBAYASHI Unit (4 Co, 174 Ind Inf Bn, 102 Div).

"3 Sep 44: Arrived at PUERTO PRINCESA.

14 Dec 44: Received orders to prepare

THE PALAWAN MASSACRE

to evacuate PUERTO PRINCESA. Unit commander stressed that all documents pertaining to military matters should be destroyed by burning."

(*ATIS Bulletin No. 2043, Document No. 18639, Page 10*)

4. Handwritten diary, dated 4 Nov 44—22 Feb 45, presumably belonging to a member of a construction unit (probably 131 Airfield Battalion). Owner and unit not stated.

"14 Dec 44: Last night there was an assembly of company officers from each unit at 2400 hours. According to an intelligence report, a great enemy convoy, consisting of battleships, aircraft carriers and troop ships, was sighted heading toward PALAWAN. Accordingly, every member was awakened at 0030 hours and departed to repair the airfield runway. At 0800 hours the relieving personnel arrived. Prisoners of war were also used in this work. Early in the morning we arrived at CANIGARAN Beach. Company officers and all personnel are determined to defend this airstrip with their lives. According to an intelligence report, the enemy is likely to reach PALAWAN after 1600 hours."

(*ATIS Bulletin No. 2011, Document No. 18492, Page 16*)

5. Handwritten diary dated 10 Sep 44—3 Feb 45, presumably belonging to a member of OKU, 7260 Force (120 Fishing Bn).

"14 Dec 44: According to the garrison unit (KEIBI) commanding officer order, an Allied task force of three aircraft

carriers, three cruisers, 25 transport ships and over 80 landing barges was off the southwest coast of MINDORO. Our force was immediately assigned the task of guarding the hill north of the cemetery."

(*ATIS Bulletin No. 2062, Document No. 18840, Page 14*)

6. From loose handwritten sheets sent by CO of SUGI 4717 Force, dated 14 Dec 44 (17 Inf Reg, 8 Div).

"According to report issued by an air unit, an enemy mobile force comprising 60 ships was observed at 245 degrees, 160 km off BACOLOD at 0745 hours this morning. This force was proceeding northward, and apparently intends to land on MINDORO."

(*ADV ATIS Bulletin No. 169, Document No. 601220, Page 2*)

7. Handwritten diary, dated 4 Nov 44—22 Feb 45, presumably belonging to a member of 131 Airfield Battalion.

"16 Dec 44: At PUERTO PRINCESA. According to an intelligence report the enemy has landed in MINDORO. Pursuant to a battalion order, we returned to PUERTO PRINCESA. It is a miracle to be safe after such a heavy air attack today. Furthermore, if the enemy had landed yesterday, I wonder what would have happened to me? I could have been like the executed prisoners of war, floating and rolling in the breakwaters."

(*ATIS Bulletin No. 2011, Document No. 18492, Page 17*)

## Section II. EVENT

### A. DOCUMENTS CONCERNING EXECUTION

On the fateful day of 14 December 1944 the Japanese plan of action was carried out, resulting in the ruthless murder of the American prisoners of war. These prisoners of war were assigned to the 131 Airfield Battalion. A captured Japanese prisoner of war from that unit stated that the commanding officer, Captain KOJIMA, Chokichi, gave the order to carry out the execution of the Americans. It is apparent from extract number 3 that the Guard Company under First Lieutenant YOSHIWARA had the responsibility of carrying out this order. The incident itself is disclosed in several captured documents and a prisoner of war interrogation report concerning the atrocity.

1. Handwritten diary dated 4 Nov 44—22 Feb 45, presumably belonging to a member of 131 Airfield Battalion.

"15 Dec 44: At KANIGARAN. Somehow I feel as though yesterday's occurrence is all false. Due to the sudden change of situation, 150 prisoners of war were executed. Those who escaped were discovered this morning in the PUERTO PRINCESA antiaircraft trench and were shot. Although they were prisoners of war, they truly died a pitiful death. The prisoners of war who worked in the repair shop really worked hard. From today on I will not hear the familiar greeting, 'Good morning, sergeant major.' 'OO' who often used to reiterate how he wished this war would end so that he could rejoin his parent, or 'XX' who entered service after three months of married life and who often used to boast about how much his wife must be missing him, no longer can greet them in this world. How can we carry out repair work without the assistance of the prisoners of war who were all executed?"

"16 Dec 44: At PUERTO PRINCESA. According to an intelligence report the enemy has landed in MINDORO. Pursuant to a battalion order, we returned to PUERTO PRINCESA. It is

a miracle to be safe after such a heavy air attack today. Furthermore, if the enemy had landed yesterday, I wonder what would have happened to me? I could have been like the executed prisoners of war, floating and rolling in the breakwaters."

(*ATIS Bulletin No. 2011, Document No. 18492, Pages 16-17*)

2. Seven loose handwritten sheets dated 22 December, containing references to events on 14 December, presumably 1944. Owner and unit not stated.

"22 Dec 44: Completed emergency preparation on the 14th at 11 o'clock. We were to move to the left of the forked road by automobile, but due to automobile trouble, we were not able to leave. 12:00 o'clock, 1:00 o'clock and we are still here.

"Air raid has commenced so I spent some uneasy moments. The branch office personnel left in the automobile when the trouble was repaired. We were again left behind. Our moments of relief were brief. Uneasiness is again overtaking me. Alarm is heard! Heard a sound resembling that of a bomb in the vicinity of the mess hall. A rifle report is also heard. It must be an enemy landing. I grabbed my steel helmet and gun. Rifle reports are heard again nearby. Rifle reports have ceased. I guess it wasn't enemy landing. Going through uneasiness so many times, I have gradually become accustomed to it and am more calm. According to the story later, it seems that prisoner(s) was (were) killed, and the vicinity of the mess hall is unsightly with prisoners' blood."

(*ATIS Bulletin No. 1977, Document No. 18291, Page 11*)

3. Prisoner of War SAWA, Tomisakuro, 186-3 (PTF-3), Superior Private, member of 131 Airfield Battalion, which was stationed on PALAWAN Island, gave the following information.

"He had been in the army two years and one month, and was held to be of average intelligence. When 131 Airfield Battalion

## Section II. EVENT

### A. DOCUMENTS CONCERNING EXECUTION

On the fateful day of 14 December 1944 the Japanese plan of action was carried out, resulting in the ruthless murder of the American prisoners of war. These prisoners of war were assigned to the 131 Airfield Battalion. A captured Japanese prisoner of war from that unit stated that the commanding officer, Captain KOJIMA, Chokichi, gave the order to carry out the execution of the Americans. It is apparent from extract number 3 that the Guard Company under First Lieutenant YOSHIWARA had the responsibility of carrying out this order. The incident itself is disclosed in several captured documents and a prisoner of war interrogation report concerning the atrocity.

1. Handwritten diary dated 4 Nov 44—22 Feb 45, presumably belonging to a member of 131 Airfield Battalion.

"15 Dec 44: At KANIGARAN. Somehow I feel as though yesterday's occurrence is all false. Due to the sudden change of situation, 150 prisoners of war were executed. Those who escaped were discovered this morning in the PUERTO PRINCESA antiaircraft trench and were shot. Although they were prisoners of war, they truly died a pitiful death. The prisoners of war who worked in the repair shop really worked hard. From today on I will not hear the familiar greeting, 'Good morning, sergeant major.' 'OO' who often used to reiterate how he wished this war would end so that he could rejoin his parent, or 'XX' who entered service after three months of married life and who often used to boast about how much his wife must be missing him, no longer can greet them in this world. How can we carry out repair work without the assistance of the prisoners of war who were all executed?"

"16 Dec 44: At PUERTO PRINCESA. According to an intelligence report the enemy has landed in MINDORO. Pursuant to a battalion order, we returned to PUERTO PRINCESA. It is

a miracle to be safe after such a heavy air attack today. Furthermore, if the enemy had landed yesterday, I wonder what would have happened to me? I could have been like the executed prisoners of war, floating and rolling in the breakwaters."

(ATIS Bulletin No. 2011, Document No. 18492, Pages 16-17)

2. Seven loose handwritten sheets dated 22 December, containing references to events on 14 December, presumably 1944. Owner and unit not stated.

"22 Dec 44: Completed emergency preparation on the 14th at 11 o'clock. We were to move to the left of the forked road by automobile, but due to automobile trouble, we were not able to leave. 12:00 o'clock, 1:00 o'clock and we are still here.

"Air raid has commenced so I spent some uneasy moments. The branch office personnel left in the automobile when the trouble was repaired. We were again left behind. Our moments of relief were brief. Uneasiness is again overtaking me. Alarm is heard! Heard a sound resembling that of a bomb in the vicinity of the mess hall. A rifle report is also heard. It must be an enemy landing. I grabbed my steel helmet and gun. Rifle reports are heard again nearby. Rifle reports have ceased. I guess it wasn't enemy landing. Going through uneasiness so many times, I have gradually become accustomed to it and am more calm. According to the story later, it seems that prisoner(s) was (were) killed, and the vicinity of the mess hall is unsightly with prisoners' blood."

(ATIS Bulletin No. 1977, Document No. 18291, Page 11)

3. Prisoner of War SAWA, Tomisakuro, 186-3 (PTF-3), Superior Private, member of 131 Airfield Battalion, which was stationed on PALAWAN Island, gave the following information.

"He had been in the army two years and one month, and was held to be of average intelligence. When 131 Airfield Battalion

## THE PALAWAN MASSACRE

arrived in PALAWAN, 18 Aug 44, there were 300 American prisoners of war working for MANABE Unit. Thinks approximately 150 American prisoners of war taken to MANILA, September 1944. States that remaining 150 were killed by rifle fire (14 Dec 44) by order of Captain KOJIMA, Commanding Officer, 131 Airfield Battalion, because of possible American landing. Prisoner thinks a few may have escaped into the hills.

"Prisoner was ill with malaria at the time and since October had been at REISE (a small village) for medical treatment. Many of YOSHIWARA Company were ill with malaria, but all who could do so were ordered to PUERTO PRINCESA to take part in the killing of prisoners of war. Prisoner thinks that KOJIMA may have been killed, but that YOSHIWARA is still alive. Prisoners of war had been laborers under the supervision of First Lieutenant YOSHIWARA."

(8 Army ATIS Advanced Echelon Special Interrogation Report on Allied Prisoners of War at PUERTO PRINCESA, PALAWAN, and Personalities Involved in Prisoner of War Outrage, Dated 22 March 1945)

### B. TREATMENT OF PRISONERS

The 131 Airfield Battalion, which bears the responsibility for this massacre had, two months before, issued an order which stated that prisoners of war were to be treated according to prescribed regulations. Another captured document, dated 26 November 1944, would lead one to believe that the prisoners of war were treated accordingly. However, a third captured document reveals the inconvenience suffered by the prisoners of war and it further indicates that the Americans knew what their fate would be in the event of an American attack. The following three documents substantiate the above statements.

1. Bound mimeographed document entitled 'PUERTO PRINCESA Airfield Guard Regulations', classified 'Military—Most Secret', dated 1 Oct 44, issued by 131 Airfield Battalion

"The handling of prisoners of war will be according to Prisoner of War Handling Regulations."

(ADVATIS Bulletin No. 499, Document No. 603578, Pages 1-2)

2. Handwritten certification of casualty, issued by Garrison Company, 131 Airfield Battalion, 4 Air Army.

"Superior Private UYEDA, Masuo, while carrying out his duty as a sentry in the PW internment camp, after seeing that the PsW were all in the air raid trench, was wounded by bomb fragments dropped by a B-24.

26 November 1944"

(Issuing officer's name does not appear.)  
(8 Army ATIS Advanced Echelon Translation No. 35, Batch No 8720, Item 4)

3. Bound mimeographed and carbon-copied field diary containing interrogation reports on captured survivors of an American submarine. Report issued by PALAWAN MP Section, 14 Army MP Unit, Dated 1-31 Aug 44. Classified 'Military—Most Secret'.

"TAKA No. 55, 18 August 1944.

"Present mental state of Prisoners.

"They are concerned about the inconvenience of being prisoners and future treatment. They have faith in victory for the American forces, but they are afraid that the Japanese forces will kill them when the Americans return to the PHILIPPINES and are desirous of escaping."

(ATIS Bulletin No. 2054, Document No. 18658, Page 12)

### C. ATTITUDE OF PRISONERS

The prisoners were uneasy about the future and seemed to feel that their fears, as mentioned in the above document, were based on fact. A captured Japanese 14 Army MP report gives details of a plan of escape by two American prisoners of war in November, 1943. An earlier escape had brought forth an announcement by First Lieutenant KINOSHITA, Hitoshi (111 Land Duty Company) concerning his attitude and opinions on treatment of prisoners of war. The MP report also reveals the attitude and treatment of American prisoners of war from early in 1943 to November, 1943.

1. Printed and mimeographed file of police affair documents pertaining to prisoners, dated 20 Apr 42—19 Nov 44, issued by Commanding General, WATARI Group (14 Area Army) (SHUDAN) and others. Kept by Tuguegarao MP Section. Classified 'Most Secret' and 'Military—Most Secret'. Seals read OIKAWA and ABURATA.

"Memorandum on Renewing Vigilance in Checking the Escape of Prisoners of War.

ATTITUDE OF PRISONERS

30 November 1943

Chief of Staff

WATARI Gp (SHUDAN)

To: Commanding Officer, 14 Army MP Unit,

Concerning the discovery of a plan of a prisoner of war to escape.

1. The prisoners of war who planned to escape were:

Marine Pfc DEITO, Walter Albert, age 21  
Marine Pfc MAY, Robert Carl, age 22

2. First steps in the discovery of the plan to escape:

"At 1955 hours, 10 November 1943, one of the guards, Pfc KAJII, who was No. 2 Sentry, noticed the prisoners DEITO and MAY, who were stationed as guards at the entrance to the Prisoner of War Internment Camp, approach a bench near the entrance. DEITO sat down and concealed a piece of paper in the bottom of his shoe. With suspicion cast on him he blushed on examination and hiding his left shoe which concealed the piece of paper he showed his right shoe. When the left shoe was examined the piece of paper was not to be found. MAY, who was nearby at the time, walked away in a suspicious manner. He was followed and questioned by Pfc KAJII. He was made to take off his underpants and the aforementioned piece of paper was discovered in them. The piece of paper read:

'Unfortunately I can't meet you in the stone quarry. Ordinary citizens aren't allowed to enter the IWAHI Prison Area. If possible, at MAGARUWA, if not, by letter.'

It was written in English and addressed to 'Driver' DEITO.

Consequently, the above two prisoners were taken to headquarters and given severe examination. They confessed that they had had contact with some Filipinos and admitted their plan to escape. Thus, on the morning of 11 November, through the co-operation of the military police, the three Filipinos with whom the prisoners had communicated were all arrested at PUERTO PRINCESA and IRAWAN.

3. The Filipinos in contact with the prisoners were:

KARERO Vincente PIPORI, age 17

URUBANO TABINGA of PUERTO PRINCESA, age 18

4. Prisoners' plan to escape.

The prisoner DEITO has been in PALAWAN for six months. Feeling bored, and believing that his rations were insufficient,

he planned to escape. After talking it over with MAY, they planned to establish contact with some Filipinos. DEITO became a driver to a military stone quarry at MAGARUWA. He made a sign to Vincente PIPORI, a Filipino engaged in loading stones, begged for sympathy and assistance in escaping. Vincente was sympathetic and promised assistance. After this, two or three similar meetings were held. However, on 23 June, the two prisoners VANCE and HOWAI escaped and were captured a few months later. At this time the commanding officer, KINOSHITA Surv and Cons Unit, made an announcement concerning the return of prisoners to MANILA after completing work on army policy. He also announced his attitude and opinions on the treatment of prisoners of war. The above two prisoners then abandoned for a time their plans to escape. However, with the passage of time, by early October they became bored and discontented with the increase of work. Fearful of the announcement of the Commanding Officer of the survey and construction unit, and uneasy about the future and when they would be returned to MANILA, they longed for freedom and again entertained plans of escape.

They would pick up pieces of paper which Vincente would roll in a ball and leave in the road or at the MAGARUWA or IRAWAN working areas. Sometimes Vincente would put his communications in an empty cigarette package and drop them alongside the road from a truck. At other times Vincente, as a passenger, would throw a cigarette package with a piece of paper in it through the motor-man's window. Vincente PIPORI was a laborer at PUERTO PRINCESA meteorological unit. Other laborers, Demitrio OTERO and URUBANO TABINGA, would gather in Vincente's house in IRAWAN and discuss ways of helping the prisoners escape. On the night of the 7th, OTERO and TABINGA left the meteorological unit without permission and established contact with DEITO who was at IRAWAN. On the night of the 15th these Filipinos planned to tow a banca to the rear of the internment camp and escape with the prisoners to northern or southern PALAWAN.

5. State of mind of the prisoners described above and of the other prisoners. The prisoners believed the announcement



THE PALAWAN MASSACRE

by the Commanding Officer of the survey and construction unit at the end of time and anticipated their return to MANILA. Moreover, they look forward to the day of return to their country. They labor in daily discontent. Those who try to live as docile prisoners are content, for the most part, with the rations and the supervision of their work. There are many

who request work at this place. There are few unmarried men like DEITO. However it has been observed that the men are uneasy about returning to MANILA or JAPAN. They hate life at the internment camp and long for their freedom."

(ATIS Bulletin No. 2195, Document No. 19088, Pages 5-7)

## Section III. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### A. INTRODUCTION

From early in 1943 through 14 December 1944, the date of the atrocity at PUERTO PRINCESA, the story of PALAWAN involved two units; one being an air force duty unit, the other an infantry combat unit charged with the responsibility of defending the island. On 18 August 1944, the air force unit, known as the 111 Land Duty Company, was relieved of its duties which involved construction of an airfield at PUERTO PRINCESA, PALAWAN, by the 131 Airfield Battalion. It is known that the 111 Land Duty Company had, at that time, approximately 340 American prisoners of war assigned to it. Of these prisoners, 150 were reassigned to 131 Airfield Battalion on 18 August 1944 when it relieved 111 Land Duty Company at PUERTO PRINCESA.

The infantry combat unit originally responsible for the defense of the island of PALAWAN was 6 Company of 9 Infantry Regiment, 16 Division. This unit was relieved by 4 Company, 174 Independent Infantry Battalion, 102 Division, between 1-3 September 1944. Both of these units were under the ultimate command of 14 Area Army but it is believed that on 15 October 1944 the 131 Airfield Battalion came under command of 4 Air Army, which in turn was under the Supreme Southern Army Command. A captured document (see Appendix A) identifies all the units on PALAWAN as of 2 September 1944. This document also reveals that 131 Airfield Battalion was under command of 11 Air Sector and shows 11 Air Sector Headquarters as being under command of 4 Flying Division.

### B. RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEFENSE OF PALAWAN

The following captured Japanese documents indicate the change of responsibility for the defense of PALAWAN. A study of two extracts from these documents shows that in early 1944 the 16 Division, under 14 Army, was in charge of the defense of PALAWAN. In August 1944, with the creation of 35 Army, under 14 Area Army command (by

this time 14 Army was changed to 14 Area Army), the responsibility for the defense of PALAWAN was still that of the 16 Division, but the Division was placed under control of 35 Army.

1. Handwritten and mimeographed file of operation orders by KAKI 6558 Force (9 Inf Regt, 16 Div), MAEDA Unit. Dated 31 Dec 43-4 Oct 44.

WATARI Group (14 Army) Op Order A No 972. Dated 4 April 1944 at MANILA. Seal reads MATSUDA.

"16 Div CG will command the 31 Indep Mixed Bde (Including attached forces) and will be in charge of the defense of BISA-YAN Area and BUSUANGA and PALAWAN Islands."

(*ADVATIS Bulletin No. 67 Document No. 600192, Page 6*)

2. Bound mimeographed and handwritten file of 16 Division Operation Orders dated 15 Jan 44 to 11 Oct 44.

KAKI (16 Div) Op Order A No 716, 9 Aug at TACLOBAN.

"35 Army will take charge of the defense of VISAYAS and MINDANAO Sectors and at the same time this division will be under the control of 35 Army. Duty remains the same."

(*ADVATIS Translation No. 16 Document No. 600252, Pages 5-6*)

The following documents establish the identity and disposition of forces under 16 Division at PALAWAN. This involves 6 Company of 9 Infantry Regiment, and a portion of 6 Company, 20 Infantry Regiment. These documents also identify a Captain NAKAGAWARA, Sadakichi, as commander of 6 Company, 9 Infantry Regiment.

1. Handwritten chart showing disposition of forces in 16 Div, dated 6 Jun 44, issued by Ops Section, 16 Div. Owner and unit not stated. Classified 'Military—Ultra Secret.'

"9th Infantry Regiment:

6 Co (PALAWAN)  
Island, PUERTO PRINCESA } PALAWAN Sector  
Defense Unit

Medical Unit:

Convalescence Sta-  
tion (PUERTO PRINCESA) } PALAWAN Sector  
Defense Unit

THE PALAWAN MASSACRE

Division Signal Unit:

One type 3 and one  
type 5 Mobile } PALAWAN Sector  
(Portable) Ground } Defense Unit  
Wireless Station }

PALAWAN Sector Defense Unit:

6 Co CO of 9 Inf Regt: Capt NAKAGAWARA

6 Co of 9 Inf Regt

1/3 of 6 Co of 20 Inf Regt

One type 3, one type 5 Mobile (Portable) Ground Wireless Stations of Div Sig Unit

Convalescence Station of 4 FD Hosp

20th Infantry Regiment:

1/3 of 6 Co (BUSU-) PALAWAN Sector  
ANGA Island) Defense Unit"

(X Corps ATIS Advanced Echelon Translation No. 12, Batch No. 167, Item 7)

2. Mimeographed sketch showing disposition of defense units (BÖBI) on PALAWAN as of 1 Jun 44. Owner or issuing authority not stated.

"PUERTO PRINCESA:

Capt NAKAGAWARA (CO 6 Co, 9 Inf Regt)

6 Company 113 men

Infirmary 8 men

Code man 1

Survey and construction unit, (presumably 111 Land Duty Co) 1st Lt KINOSHITA and 148 men (including maintenance unit and mobile ground wireless station).

Meteorological unit 9 men

Air route 9 men

22 Air Signal Unit 8 men

MP section 6 men"

(ATIS Bulletin No. 1750, Document No. 17219, Page 8)

On 14 August 1944, 35 Army ordered the 102 Division to replace 16 Division with the responsibility for the defense of PALAWAN. The following documents indicate the arrival of units of the 102 Division and include the order from 35 Army placing 102 Division in charge of the defense of PALAWAN.

1. Single handwritten sheet containing 16 Div Disposition Chart, dated 10 Aug 44. Issuing authority not stated.

"6th Co of 9th Inf Regt, 1/3 of 6th Co of 20th Inf Regt, Type 3 and Type 5 mobile ground wireless stations of Div Sig Unit, and the convalescent station of Div Med Unit have transferred their guard duties in the PALAWAN sector to the 102 Div and are now in transit."

(I Corps ATIS Advanced Echelon Translation No. 0010, Batch No. 5050, Item 2)

2. Bound mimeographed file of operation orders dated 8 Aug 44—11 Nov 44. Issued by SHO Group (35 Army). Kept by Staff Officer TAKAHASHI. SHO Opn Order, dated 14 Aug 44.

"BATSU Group (102Div) will be in charge of the defenses of VISAYAS sector and PALAWAN Island."

(ADVATIS Translation No. 38, Document No. 601057, Page 4)

The following documents give ample evidence to show that the OBAYASHI Unit, or 4 Company, 174 Independent Infantry Battalion, 102 Division, departed MANILA aboard the KUMANOGAWA Maru on 28 August 1944 and arrived on 3 September 1944 at PUERTO PRINCESA to relieve 6 Company, 9 Infantry Regiment, of 16 Division, in accordance with the 35 Army order shown above. It also reveals the responsibility for security on PALAWAN and methods by which a communication system is to be maintained in accordance with 102 Division orders.

1. Bound file of handwritten and mimeographed operation orders belonging to OBAYASHI Unit, I 10689 Force (174 Ind Inf Bn), dated 20 Jul 44—23 Feb 45.

"PALAWAN Sector Unit Order

25 August 1944

MANILA Bivouac Area

1. The sector unit will be responsible for maintaining security on PALAWAN Island in accordance with I BATSU Op Order No 1.

2. CO of 3 Co will depart from MANILA Harbor tomorrow, the 20th, with the main strength of his unit, and a platoon under the command of an officer from TAYTAY, on the UBE and ASAHI Marus, and will proceed to COLON. His unit will alternate in guarding that area with 16 Div Guard Unit and will be in charge of maintaining peace and security in the vicinity of said area. One division wireless (Type 5) platoon will be assigned to each of the TAYTAY and COLON Guard Units.

3. 2nd Lt WATANABE of 4 Co, in command of a platoon, will depart from MANILA Harbor tomorrow, the 26th, for BALABAC, BALABAC Island, on the OGI Maru. The platoon will alternate in guarding the area with the 16 Div Guard Unit.....A wireless (Type 5) platoon will be assigned.

4. Cpl SAKATA of the assigned wireless

RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEFENSE OF PALAWAN

unit will assign a wireless (Type 5) platoon to each of the guard units in COLON, TAYTAY, and BALABAC. The unit will be in charge of maintaining communications between the various guard units within the sectors and between the Sector Unit Hq and 102 Div Hq.

5. I will depart from MANILA Harbor tomorrow, the 26th, for PUERTO PRINCESA on the KUMANOGAWA Maru with the main strength of 4 Co (Type 3 wireless platoon will be attached). The unit will alternate in guarding that area with the 16 Division Guard Unit.....

CO, PALAWAN Sector Unit  
1st Lt OBAYASHI "

(8 Army ATIS Advanced Echelon Translation No. 36, Batch No. 8723, Item 1)

2. Bound mimeographed, handwritten and carbon-copied field diary. No 35, compiled by and belonging to 6 Co, 9 Inf Regt. Dated from 1 August to 31 August 1944. Classified 'Military—Most Secret.' Seal reads NAKAGAWARA.

"Sketch of PALAWAN Sector Defense Unit (BOEI) Strength Disposition

1 Aug 44

TAYTAY—1st Lt KOMURA in command

BUSUANGA—1st Lt UYAMA in command

BALABAC—2d Lt YAMADA in command

PUERTO PRINCESA—Capt NAKAGAWARA in command"

\* \* \*

"31 August

The convoy transporting the relief forces for the defense of the PALAWAN Sector, which left on the 27th, arrived today at CORON, BUSUANGA Island. The SHOWU Maru will remain at CORON, but the UBE Maru, the TAIGI Maru and KUMANOGAWA Maru will depart tomorrow. The UBE Maru is bound for TAYTAY; the destination of the other two ships is PUERTO PRINCESA."

(ATIS Bulletin No. 1912, Document No. 17625, Page 12)

3. Bound handwritten field diary dated 23 Jul 44—1 Feb 45, kept by PALAWAN Sector Garrison Unit.

"23 Jul 44: In accordance with O Opn Order No 7, 3 and 4 Cos under command of 1st Lt TOMINAGA will board 110, 112, and 113 NANYO Marus. They will leave DUMAGUETE for

CEBU and will come under command of the division.

6 Aug 44: Arrived MANILA.

26 Aug 44: OBAYASHI Unit (4 Co, 174 Ind Inf Bn, 102 Div) will board KUMANOGAWA Maru; TOMINAGA Unit, UBE Maru; WATANABE Unit, TAIGI Maru; ASAI Unit (illegible). They will leave at 1700 hours.

5 Sep 44: 2nd Lt SAKAI, Tomoyuki, will be appointed paymaster of PALAWAN Sector Unit.

17 Jan 45: In accordance with KAWANO Group (HEIDAN) Orders, INANDEN Garrison SHIRAI Unit will be assembled at PRINCESA."

(ADVATIS Bulletin No. 505, Document No. 603776, Item 3, Pages 3-4)

4. Diary, dated 23 Jun 44—24 Dec 44, belonging to NAGATA, Kaoru, of OBAYASHI Unit (4 Co, 174 Ind Inf Bn, 102 Div), I 10689 Force, Philippines Expeditionary Army.

"7 Jul 44: HAYASHI Co transferred to NISHIYAMA Force from ONISHI Force.

28 Jul 44: 1st Lt ASABU lectured on gas masks.

6 Aug 44: Entered MANILA Bay.

28 Aug 44: Departed MANILA, destination PALAWAN.

3 Sep 44: Arrived at PUERTO PRINCESA.

14 Dec 44: Received orders to prepare for evacuation of PUERTO PRINCESA. Unit commander stressed that all documents pertaining to military matters should be destroyed by burning."

(ATIS Bulletin No. 2043, Document No. 18639, Item 8, Page 10)

### C. RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF AIRFIELD AT PUERTO PRINCESA, PALAWAN

It has been pointed out that one unit occupying PALAWAN was charged with responsibility for its defense, therefore this unit was considered as a combat army unit. Another unit simultaneously occupying PALAWAN was a non-combat construction unit charged with responsibility for construction of an airfield at PUERTO PRINCESA and was considered as an air force ground unit. Originally, the 111 Land Duty Company, commanded by Captain MANABE, Akira, was charged with initial responsibility for carving an airfield out of a jungle

RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEFENSE OF PALAWAN

unit will assign a wireless (Type 5) platoon to each of the guard units in COLON, TAYTAY, and BALABAC. The unit will be in charge of maintaining communications between the various guard units within the sectors and between the Sector Unit Hq and 102 Div Hq.

5. I will depart from MANILA Harbor tomorrow, the 26th, for PUERTO PRINCESA on the KUMANOGAWA Maru with the main strength of 4 Co (Type 3 wireless platoon will be attached). The unit will alternate in guarding that area with the 16 Division Guard Unit.....

CO, PALAWAN Sector Unit  
1st Lt OBAYASHI "

(8 Army ATIS Advanced Echelon Translation No. 36, Batch No. 8723, Item 1)

2. Bound mimeographed, handwritten and carbon-copied field diary. No 35, compiled by and belonging to 6 Co, 9 Inf Regt. Dated from 1 August to 31 August 1944. Classified 'Military—Most Secret.' Seal reads NAKAGAWARA.

"Sketch of PALAWAN Sector Defense Unit (BOEI) Strength Disposition

1 Aug 44

TAYTAY—1st Lt KOMURA in command

BUSUANGA—1st Lt UYAMA in command

BALABAC—2d Lt YAMADA in command

PUERTO PRINCESA—Capt NAKAGAWARA in command"

\* \* \*

"31 August

The convoy transporting the relief forces for the defense of the PALAWAN Sector, which left on the 27th, arrived today at CORON, BUSUANGA Island. The SHOWU Maru will remain at CORON, but the UBE Maru, the TAIGI Maru and KUMANOGAWA Maru will depart tomorrow. The UBE Maru is bound for TAYTAY; the destination of the other two ships is PUERTO PRINCESA."

(ATIS Bulletin No. 1912, Document No. 17625, Page 12)

3. Bound handwritten field diary dated 23 Jul 44—1 Feb 45, kept by PALAWAN Sector Garrison Unit.

"23 Jul 44: In accordance with O Opn Order No 7, 3 and 4 Cos under command of 1st Lt TOMINAGA will board 110, 112, and 113 NANYO Marus. They will leave DUMAGUETE for

CEBU and will come under command of the division.

6 Aug 44: Arrived MANILA.

26 Aug 44: OBAYASHI Unit (4 Co, 174 Ind Inf Bn, 102 Div) will board KUMANOGAWA Maru; TOMINAGA Unit, UBE Maru; WATANABE Unit, TAIGI Maru; ASAI Unit (illegible). They will leave at 1700 hours.

5 Sep 44: 2nd Lt SAKAI, Tomoyuki, will be appointed paymaster of PALAWAN Sector Unit.

17 Jan 45: In accordance with KAWANO Group (HEIDAN) Orders, INANDEN Garrison SHIRAI Unit will be assembled at PRINCESA."

(ADVATIS Bulletin No. 505, Document No. 603776, Item 3, Pages 3-4)

4. Diary, dated 23 Jun 44—24 Dec 44, belonging to NAGATA, Kaoru, of OBAYASHI Unit (4 Co, 174 Ind Inf Bn, 102 Div), I 10689 Force, Philippines Expeditionary Army.

"7 Jul 44: HAYASHI Co transferred to NISHIYAMA Force from ONISHI Force.

28 Jul 44: 1st Lt ASABU lectured on gas masks.

6 Aug 44: Entered MANILA Bay.

28 Aug 44: Departed MANILA, destination PALAWAN.

3 Sep 44: Arrived at PUERTO PRINCESA.

14 Dec 44: Received orders to prepare for evacuation of PUERTO PRINCESA. Unit commander stressed that all documents pertaining to military matters should be destroyed by burning."

(ATIS Bulletin No. 2043, Document No. 18639, Item 3, Page 10)

C. RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF AIRFIELD AT PUERTO PRINCESA, PALAWAN

It has been pointed out that one unit occupying PALAWAN was charged with responsibility for its defense, therefore this unit was considered as a combat army unit. Another unit simultaneously occupying PALAWAN was a non-combat construction unit charged with responsibility for construction of an airfield at PUERTO PRINCESA and was considered as an air force ground unit. Originally, the 111 Land Duty Company, commanded by Captain MANABE, Akira, was charged with initial responsibility for carving an airfield out of a jungle

THE PALAWAN MASSACRE

at PUERTO PRINCESA. It was calculated by the Japanese to have this airfield in operation within a few months, but machinery and other essential materials to expedite construction apparently were not available at PUERTO PRINCESA. As a result, 'coolie' or prisoner of war labor was used to perform the task, and the job that was to take a few months was prolonged for approximately 18 months.

The Prisoners of War used on this construction were American, and documentary evidence shows that the 111 Land Duty Company had between 309 and 344 such prisoners assigned to it. The 111 Land Duty Company had been under command of the 22 Flying Brigade, but in February 1944 it came under command of the 11 Air Sector Unit which was then commanded by Lieutenant Colonel YUASA, who was later replaced by Lieutenant Colonel FUSHIMI, Shizume. In August 1944 11 Air Sector Unit replaced 111 Land Duty Company with another unit in its command which was capable of performing airfield service duties. This unit, the 131 Airfield Battalion, commanded by Captain KOJIMA, Chokichi, arrived at PUERTO PRINCESA on 18 August 1944, and retained 150 of the American prisoners of war which were assigned to the 111 Land Duty Company. The latter unit returned to MARAKINA, LUZON.

The following extracts from captured documents establish a record of command authority over 111 Land Duty Company, to include 11 Air Sector Unit and 14 Army (became 14 Area Army sometime before August 1944). They establish the presence of 111 Land Duty Company at PUERTO PRINCESA and show that more than 300 American prisoners of war were under control of this unit. They also show that by the end of August 1944 the 111 Land Duty Company was located at MARAKINA, LUZON, and the 131 Airfield Battalion, its successor, was at PUERTO PRINCESA. Both these units remained under command of 11 Air Sector Unit which in turn was under the 4 Flying Division, and ultimately under 14 Area Army.

Another document included below, issued by the PALAWAN MP Section of 14 Army MP Unit discloses that "Of the 309 prisoners working with the 111 Land Duty Company, 159 are with the company. 150 have been attached to Garrison (or Guard) Company of 131 Airfield Battalion".

1. Mimeographed and carbon-copied file of WATARI (14 Army) Opn Orders 942 A,

dated 31 Jan—10 Jul (presumably 1944).

"19 February (1944)

MANILA

11 Air Sector CO will command the forces listed in Separate Sheet No 3, and together with carrying out air sector duties within the PHILIPPINES, he will be responsible for constructing airfields in places specifically stated. Moreover, for the moment, he will be responsible for air signals with its command signal network. 297 Ind Motor Trans Co, 111 Land Duty Co, and 56 Building Duty Co will be removed from the command of 22 Flying Brigade CO and will come under the command of 11 Air Sector CO.

11 AIR SECTOR UNIT: CO, LT COL YUASA "

(ADVATIS Translation No. 63, Document No. 601841, Pages 2-5)

2. Handwritten notebook, written in ink, belonging to KAZAMA, Yasuo, dated 1 Feb 44—12 Mar 44. Unit not stated. Shows forces under 11 Air Sector Unit.

"11 Air Sector Unit 19 February

CO: Lt Col YUASA

31 Airfield Bn

102 Airfield Bn Main Strength:

Southern LUZON

Elements:

North MINDANAO,

MINDANAO

103. Airfield Bn

8 Airfield Co

13 Airfield Co

32 Airfield Co

47 Airfield Co West VISAYA Sector

48 Airfield Co East VISAYA Sector

1 Plat of 2 Co, 175 Inf Bn

297 Ind MT Co

3 Co, 63 Ind MT Bn

111 Land Duty Co

56 Bldg Duty Co "

(ADVATIS Bulletin No. 550, Document No. 604108, Pages 4-5)

3. Mimeographed file of Situation Reports and Training Notes dated Apr—Jul 44, issued by 11 Air Sector Unit.

"Chart Showing Disposition of Deployment of Personnel of 11 Air Sector Unit.

30 April 1944

PALAWAN:

1st Lt and 138 men of 111 rc (Land Duty Co) (Includes portion of 13 ac) (American Prisoners—344 men)."

(ADVATIS Translation No. 102, Document No. 602499, Page 1)

4. Certificate of Fact signed by Commanding Officer, 111 Land Duty Company.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF AIRFIELD AT PUERTO PRINCESA, PALAWAN

"Capt MANABE, Akira  
111 Land Duty Company Co, 25 Sep 44"  
(*ADVATIS Bulletin No. 120, Document No. 600886, Item 6, Page 7*)

5. Mimeographed file containing SHOBU (14 Area Army) Opn Orders, dated 21 Aug 44—1 Sep 44.

"Deployment Situation of Air Sector Forces, end of August 1944, SHOBU Group (SHUDAN) Hp MANILA base, 11 Air Sector Unit:

131 Airfield Bn at PRINCESA.

111 RK (Land Duty Co), (less one Sec) at MARAKINA, LUZON."

(*ADVATIS Bulletin No. 191, Document No. 601283, Item 2, Page 5*)

6. Bound mimeographed and carbon-copied field diary containing interrogation reports on captured survivors of an American submarine. Issued by PALAWAN MP Section, 14 Army MP Unit, dated 1—31 Aug 44.

"American Prisoners—

From April 1943 to 18 August 1944, 159 prisoners under Capt MANABE were engaged in the construction of an airfield at PUERTO PRINCESA, and were relieved by 131 Airfield Battalion. Of the 309 prisoners working with 111 Land Duty Company, 159 are with the company. 150 have been attached to Garrison Company (KEIBI) 131 Airfield Battalion."

(*ATIS Bulletin No. 2054, Document No. 18658, Item 4, Page 16*)

#### D. ORGANIZATION OF 131 AIRFIELD BATTALION

The following extracts from captured documents give the date, place, and organization of 131 Airfield Battalion and account for its date of arrival at PUERTO PRINCESA.

1. Handwritten service and merit records of two members of Guard Co (KEIBI), 131 Airfield Battalion, dated from June 1942 to June 1944.

"17 Apr 42: Arrived at TUNKNING, MUTANCHIANG Province. Assigned to 6 Company, TUNKNING Med Arty Regt.

7 Jun 44: Departed from TUNKNING in order to be transferred as air force personnel to 131 Airfield Bn.

8 Jun 44: Transferred to 42 Airfield Bn.

12 Jun 44: Left FUSAN. Arrived at HAKATA, JAPAN.

15 Jun 44: Organization of 131 Airfield Bn begun.

20 Jun 44: Organization completed.

Transferred to 131 Airfield Bn. Assigned to Guard Co (KEIBI)."

(*ADVATIS Bulletin No. 468, Document No. 603409, Item 10*)

2. Two handwritten sheets containing the service record of TSUKAHIRA, Tokunosuke, of 131 Airfield Bn, dated 9 Dec 28—18 Jul 44.

"12 Jun 44: Called to 8 Guards Inf Regt, 6 Co.

15 Jun 44: Transferred to 42 Airfield Bn.

16 Jun 44: Entered 131 Airfield Bn.

2 Jul 44: Left MOJI.

15 Jul 44: Arrived MANILA.

18 Aug 44: Arrived PUERTO PRINCESA."

(*ADVATIS Bulletin No. 451, Document No. 603337, Item 6, Page 5*)

3. Service record belonging to IWASAKI, Satoshi, dated 10 Jun 42—18 Aug 44.

"20 Jun 44: Transferred to 131 Airfield Battalion and assigned to Guard Co (KEIBI).

15 Jul 44: Reached MANILA.

15 Aug 44: Departed MANILA.

18 Aug 44: Reached PUERTO PRINCESA in PALAWAN Island and took up guard duty."

(*ADVATIS Bulletin No. 524, Document No. 603936, Item 1*)

4. Bound printed soldier's handbook with handwritten service record, dated 1 Sep 42—18 Aug 44, belonging to 1st Cl Pvt (Air Technician) YAGI, Chozaburo, of 4 Flying Div, 4 Air Army. Five handwritten pages.

"31 Mar 44: Assigned to Work Unit, No 3 Branch Depot, 11 Fld Air Repair Depot.

15 May 44: Relieved from the organization of 11 Air Repair Depot and came under the command of 4 Flying Div, 4 Air Army.

1 Jun 44: Attached to CHAONAN 1 Ind Maint Unit.

19 Jun 44: Departed FUSAN.

3 Jul 44: Departed MOJI.

10 Jul 44: Departed KEELUNG.

15 Jul 44: Arrived MANILA.

15 Aug 44: Departed MANILA.

18 Aug 44: Arrived PUERTO PRINCESA Airfield, PALAWAN Island."

(*ADVATIS Bulletin No. 606, Item 6, Page 2*)

With the arrival of 131 Airfield Battalion at PUERTO PRINCESA, PALAWAN, a captured document dated 18 August 1944 indicates that the strength of this unit, including officers and enlisted men, was 319,

THE PALAWAN MASSACRE

whereas a captured document dated 2 September 1944 gives the total strength as 342. Of the total strength, the names of 251 members belonging to 131 Airfield Battalion are known through two captured enemy documents, leaving 98 men under command of First Lieutenant OGAWA, Toru, unaccounted for, through captured documents, at that time. The following documents substantiate the above statements.

1. Handwritten loose sheet containing assignment of personnel from various units to PUERTO PRINCESA, PALAWAN, dated 18 Aug 44. Owner and unit not stated.

Extract:

Unit	Off	NCO	Pvt	Labor	Total
6 Flying Brig Hq	1	4	22		27
11 Fld Air Rep Dep	3	10	82	17	112
66 Flying Regt	7	26	84		117
131 Flying Wing	14	36	269		319
NAKAOKA Unit, AKATSUKI 2955 Force (Ship Sig Regt)					
3 Shipping Command	1		10		11
6 Co, 6 Air Sig Regt	1		11		12
6 Ship Engr Regt, Repl Unit		3	17		20
2 Nav Aid Regt			4		4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>622</b>

(ADVATIS Bulletin No. 498, Document No. 603656, Item 2)

2. Bound handwritten carbon-copy field diary dated 20 Jun 44—29 Nov 44, compiled by Guard Co, 131 Airfield Bn. Classified 'Most Secret.'

Summary and Extract:

Organization Chart

Commanding Officer:

1st Lt YOSHIWARA,  
Sho

Hq Squadron: Warrant Off and 16 EM

Gas Section: Sgt and 15 men

1 Platoon Leader:

2d Lt SENNO, Haruo

Liaison Sgt: 1

1 Section: Sgt and 17 men

2 Section: Cpl and 15 men

3 Section: Cpl and 15 men

2 Platoon Leader:

2d Lt YOSHIYAMA,  
Shigeyoshi

Liaison Sgt: 1

1 Section: Sgt and 14 men

2 Section: Cpl and 16 men

3 Section: Ldg Pvt and 16 men

AA Mach Cannon Pl Ldr:

2d Lt ABE, Isao

Hq Squadron: Sgt and 5 men

Obs Squadron: Cpl and 6 men

Lookout Squadron:

Ldg Pvt and 8 men

1 Section: Cpl and 6 men

2 Section: Cpl and 6 men

3 Section: Cpl and 6 men

Total Strength: 183 men

(Names of EM given but not translated.)

Number of PsW used on airfield construction daily given. Number of men daily from 67 to 110 men.

(ADVATIS Bulletin No. 504, Document No. 603693, Page 6)

3. Bound mimeographed and handwritten file containing organization chart of 131 Airfield Bn Hq, dated 1 Dec 44. Classified 'Military Secret.' Seal reads TSUKITARI.

Extract:

Battalion Commander:

Captain KOJIMA, Chokichi

Adjutant: 1st Lt TSUKITARI, Enkoi

1st Lt (Flying) TAJIMA, Masaki

1st Lt (Inf) OZAWA, Ryoji

Probationary O (Artillery) SATO, Yoshikazu

1st Lt (Paymaster) SATO, Masahiko

2d Lt (Paymaster) FUJII, Shinichi

2d Lt (Med) NAKAMURA, Kichiyoshi

Probationary O (Med) MIYAI, Hiroji

Total strength:

Nine officers

23 Warrant O's and NCO's

35 enlisted men

One mechanic

Total: 68

(Names of enlisted men given but not translated.)

(ATIS Bulletin No. 2044, Document No. 18625, Page 3)

Appendix A shows all units stationed in PALAWAN as of 2 September 1944 and gives the strength of the respective units. It also contains the names of the commanding officers of the units. The Guard Company, under First Lieutenant YOSHIWARA, is therein shown to be one of three companies in the 131 Airfield Battalion commanded by Captain KOJIMA, Chokichi. The 131 Airfield Battalion is listed under command of 11 Air Sector Unit which, in turn, is listed under 4 Flying Division.



### E. CHAIN OF COMMAND INVOLVING 131 AIRFIELD BATTALION

It has been established in previously-cited documents that by 2 September 1944 Captain KOJIMA, Chokichi, was commander of 131 Airfield Battalion. Evidence also was presented to show that by chain of command this unit was responsible to 11 Air Sector Unit, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel FUSHIMI, Shizume, and that 11 Air Sector Unit was under 4 Flying Division, commanded by Lieutenant General KINOSHITA, Isamu. KINOSHITA's unit, in turn, was responsible to 14 Area Army, commanded by Lieutenant General KURODA, Shigenori. Documentary evidence is available to show that after 2 September 1944 certain changes were made in command responsibility which involved the 131 Airfield Battalion.

The following order, issued by 6 Air Sector Unit, indicated that on 15 October 1944, 131 Airfield Battalion was transferred from 14 Area Army (by this time its commanding general was Lieutenant General YAMASHITA, Tomoyuki) to 4 Air Army, thus establishing a change in the ultimate command responsibility outlined previously in this report.

1. 6 Air Sector Unit Operation Order A-1.

"20 October 1944  
SILAY, NEGROS

All airfield and all airfield survey and construction units in the PHILIPPINES were transferred from 14 Area Army to 4 Air Army on 15 October."

(*ATIS Bulletin No. 2113, Page 7*)

Another document shows that Lieutenant General TOMINAGA, Kyoji, became commander of 4 Air Army in September 1944, and arrived at his new post 8 September 1944.

1. Two handwritten bound files entitled 'Squad Leaders' Notebook,' belonging to 6 Administrative Duty Squad. Dated 18 September to 5 October, presumably 1944.

"20 September Order

The new commanding officer of 4 Air Army, Lt Gen TOMINAGA, Kyoji, arrived at his new post 8 September."

(*ATIS Bulletin No. 1926, Document No. 17914, Item 11*)

The following document shows that by 25 October 1944 Lieutenant General MIKAMI, Yoshizo, had replaced Lieutenant General KINOSHITA, Isamu, as commanding general of 4 Flying Division.

1. From 6 carbon-copied files, entitled 'Field Diary,' belonging to 132 Airfield Bn, dated 15 Jun to 31 Dec 44.

"20 Jun 44: Organization of 132 Airfield Bn completed.

21 Jun 44: 132 Airfield Bn Co: Capt OKAMOTO, Sanekichi,

21 Aug 44: Arrived MANILA.

20 Sep 44: 4 Flying Div Opn Order A-89, issued by Div CG, Lt Gen KINOSHITA, at MANILA. '(1) 13 Air Sector Unit CO will transfer 132 Airfield Bn to the command of 10 Air Sector Unit CO.'

16 Oct 44: 4 Air Army CG, Lt Gen TOMINAGA, came to inspect the airfield.

19 Oct 44: At 1200 hours, 40 enemy fighter planes and bombers flew over this area. One enemy plane made forced landing. One prisoner (officer) was executed and the other (non-commissioned officer) was sent to the division at CLARK.

25 Oct 44: Lt Gen KINOSHITA, Isamu, was appointed 2 Div CG (presumably 2 Flying Div) and Lt General MIKAMI (MIKAMI), Yoshizo, 4 Div CG (presumably 4 Flying Division).

(*ADVATIS Bulletin No. 611, Document No. 604636, Item 1*)

It is believed that the above chain of command, with indicated revisions as outlined, was still effective on 14 December 1944, the date of the massacre at PUERTO PRINCESA.

## Section IV. CONCLUSIONS

### A. GENERAL

Through documentary evidence it has been shown that the 131 Airfield Battalion was responsible for committing the massacre of 150 American prisoners of war at PUERTO PRINCESA, PALAWAN, on 14 December 1944. From a Japanese prisoner of war it was learned that orders to carry out the execution were given by Captain KOJIMA, Chokichi, commander of the 131 Airfield Battalion. The actual execution, as has been shown in the documentary evidence (See EVENT, Document 2), was carried out by the Guard Company, under command of First Lieutenant YOSHIWARA. It cannot be definitely determined by documentary evidence whether or not Captain KOJIMA was instructed by higher echelons of command to perform this execution. However, there are several sources which would seem to indicate that such was the case.

As seen in the following documents, the 131 Airfield Battalion was, in some respects, under the command of 102 Division Headquarters. As commander of 77 Infantry Brigade, of the 102 Division, Major General KONO, Takeshi, sent on 21 February (presumably 1945) to 4 Company, 174 Independent Infantry Battalion, instructions for all forces on PALAWAN to destroy airfields and harbors, and to inflict losses on the enemy. It is quite possible that similar instructions may have been issued prior to 14 December 1944, and Captain KOJIMA was undoubtedly subject to any such orders.

The influence of 102 Division Headquarters on 131 Airfield Battalion is obtained from two captured documents, one undated and the other issued by 16 Division on 23 August 1944.

1. Loose undated handwritten sheet containing list of units under 102 Div Hq, issuing authority not stated.

"6 Flying Brig Hq

131 Airfield Bn

66 Flying Regt (SENTAI)

PUERTO PRINCESA Branch Off, 3 Ship Trans Hq PALAWAN Detached Unit (BUNKEN), VISAYA MP Unit, 655 Air Unit"

(ATIS Bulletin No. 2040, Item 6, Page 9)

2. Bound mimeographed and handwritten file of 16 Div Opn Orders, dated 15 Jan 44-11 Oct 44.

Extract:

#### Operation Order C

KAKI (16 Div) Forces in charge of handling mail	No 143, Unit in charge of Administration	23 Aug at TACLOBAN. Location
131 Airfield Bn	BATSU Group	PRINCESA

(ADVATIS Translation No. 16, Document No. 600252, Pages 5-6)

Another document, dated 5 November 1944, shows that 77 Infantry Brigade, 102 Division, was in an 'Intelligence Collecting System' involving air units under 4 Air Army.

1. Shows both Airfield Battalions and 77 Inf Brig (called KONO Force) in the collection scheme which passed on to Sector Unit, then Flying Div, and ultimately 4 Air Army.

(ADVATIS Bulletin No. 642, Document No. 604894, Item 1)

The following document give the aforementioned instructions to forces on PALAWAN, 21 February 1945.

1. Handwritten copy of radio message BATSU (102 Div) 7, No 104, sent by CO KONO Group (77 Inf Brig) at BACOLOD to OBAYASHI Unit CO, dated 21 February(45).

"Please transmit this telegram to the supreme commanders of the Army and Navy forces at PRINCESA and CORON. For the defense of your sector in the coming emergency, units the Army and Navy forces under your command. You will act according to the following policy. You will build up in advance your individual combat efficiency and strength. In the event of emergency, you will destroy the airfields and harbors and attempt to inflict losses on the enemy. After obstructing his advance, you will crush the enemy from your previously established main positions (If at PRINCESA in the mountains west of PRINCESA, and if at CORON,

GENERAL

in the mountains northwest of CORON). For this purpose, and to prepare emergency installations, increase combat strength and effect necessary training, dispose the Army and Navy forces on the scene under a joint commander beforehand."

(8 Army ATIS Advanced Echelon Translation No. 51, Batch 89M, Page 1)

Another person who could have issued instructions to execute the prisoners of war is Lieutenant Colonel FUSHIMI, Shizume, the commanding officer of 11 Air Sector Unit, since it is known that the 149 Airfield Battalion, also under command of 11 Air Sector Unit, committed atrocities in LUZON. It is likely that Lieutenant Colonel FUSHIMI may have condoned executions of prisoners of war by units under his command.

Further information or clarification of detail may be obtained from members of units known to be at PALAWAN during the massacre. The units present have been enumerated throughout this report with one exception, information on which is obtained from another captured document indicating that elements of 10 Sea Transport Battalion may have arrived at PUERTO PRINCESA at the time of the massacre. This document follows.

1. Bound file of mimeographed operation orders belonging to WATANABE Unit, dated 5 Nov-10 Dec 44. Classified as 'Military Ultra Secret.'

" 10 Sea Tpt Opn Order B-35  
10 Sea Tpt Bn Order

9 December 1944  
BALABON

The CO's of the 2 and 4 Co's will provide the following shipping transportation:

One sailboat each from 2 and 4 Co's

Material to be transported for Air Depot:

Aviation gas	300 units (100 cu m)
Jettisonable tank	50 units ( 35 cu m)
Implements	10 units ( 25 cu m)
Ammunition	50 units ( 5 cu m)

To be loaded at: M

To be unloaded at: PUERTO PRINCESA

Notes: o i/c of convoy to come from 2 Co, MG's from 4 Co

Two sailboats from 2 Co

IIJIMA, Yutaka  
Bn CO

(ADVATIS Bulletin No. 222, Item 4, Page 5)

The following Japanese prisoners of war having knowledge of either the atrocity or personalities involved are known to have been captured by American forces.

1. 1st Lt WATANABE, Gentaro  
PW: (8A-O17)

Report No: 166 LD-I 303

PW captured 13 Jun 45, NEGROS, PI, member 77 Brig (102 Div), is acquainted with situation 14 Dec 44. Involves Maj Gen KONO, Takeshi, also identifies Capt KOJIMA with 77 Bde intendance Sec Jun 45. (KONO became Lt Gen in March.)

2. PW: NAGANO, Shoniro  
No: 51 J 8443

Report No: SAAE-I (30 Mar 45)  
Sup Pvt of 131 Airfield Bn. Captured 22 Mar 45 at NAPSAN, PALAWAN, PI.

3. PW: TATEKAWA, Koji  
No: 51 J 8442

Report No: SAAAE-I 163 (30 Mar 45)  
Sup Pvt of 3 Co, 174 Ind Inf Bn, 102 Div, captured BAHელი, PALAWAN.

4. PW: OKAMOTO, Takayoshi  
No: 51 J 8409

Report No: SAAAE-I 151 (25 Mar 45)  
Of 151 A/Bn. Captured IWASHIGE, PALAWAN.

5. PW: SAWA, Tomisaburo  
No: (186-3 (PTF-3))

Report No: SAAE-I 146  
Of 131 A/Bn. Captured PALAWAN 14 Mar 45.

6. PW: NEGISHI, Yasuo

Report No: SAAAE-I 143 (17 Mar 45)

# Appendix A. CHART SHOWING ALL UNITS ON PALAWAN, 2 SEPTEMBER 1944

16

Forces Under Command	4 Flying Division				6 Flying Brigade					
	(Under Command of 11 Air Sector CO)									
Unit Name	131 Afd Bn	131 Afd Bn	131 Afd Bn	8 Plat. 1 Co. 22 Fld Met Unit	66 Flying Regt (SENTAI)	66 Flying Regt (SENTAI) Maint	6 Flying Brigade Hq	6 Co. 6 Air Sig Regt	1 Indep Maint Unit. 11 Fld Air Repair Dep	
Code Name	I 18450 Force Hq	Supply Co. I 18450 Force	Guard Co. I 18450 Force	TSUBASA (*1) 10650 Force	I 9150 Force	I 9150 Force	I 9150 Force	I 9411 Force	I 8367 Force	
Personnel	Total	62	99	181	10	17	116	27	21	111
	Ranks	Off 5 NCO 21 Men 36 Civs 1	Off 3 NCO 6 Men 90	Off 5 NCO 18 Men 158	Off 1 NCO 1 Men 8	Off 3 NCO 14	Off 7 NCO 26 Men 83	Off 1 NCO 4 Men 22	Off 1 NCO 2 Men 18	Off 3 NCO 10 Men 98 Civs 15
	Regular	43	11	112	8	17		27	14	71
	Call-up	20	88	69	2				7	40
	Unit CO	Capt KOJIMA, Chokichi (*2) (SP Vol)	1st Lt OGAWA, Toru (*3) (Call-up)	1st Lt YOSHIWARA, Yasooi (*4) (Call-up)	2d Lt IKITA, Toyoishi (*5) (Regular)	1st Lt SUGIYA, Katsuji (*6) (Regular)	2d Lt OIZUMI (*7)	2d Lt TANI, Morio (*8) (Regular)	2d Lt HOMMA, Toshio (*9) (Call-up)	Capt YONEMURA Masa-mitsu (*10) (Regular)
Station	PUERTO PRINCESA	PUERTO PRINCESA	PUERTO PRINCESA	PUERTO BANKAO*	PUERTO BANKAO*	PUERTO BANKAO*	PUERTO PRINCESA	PUERTO PRINCESA	PUERTO PRINCESA	
Type of Duty	Permanent	Permanent	Permanent	Permanent	Permanent	Permanent	Permanent	Permanent	Permanent	
Remarks	Arrival—18Aug 44 Former station—MANILA	Arrival—18Aug 44 Assembly point—NAGOYA	Arrival—18Aug 44 Det duty—19 Hospitalized—2		Arrival—15 Jul 44 Former station—TUNGAN Prov MANCHURIA 629 Force	Arrival—18Aug 44 Former station—MANILA	Arrival—18Aug 44 Former station—MANILA	Arrival—18Aug 44 Former station—MANILA	Arrival—18Aug 44 Former station—MANILA	

## CHART SHOWING ALL UNITS ON PALAWAN, 2 SEPTEMBER 1944

FORCES STATIONED IN PALAWAN  2 SEP 44  PALAWAN MP DET	Forces Under Command	2 Air Sig Group (DAN)	2 Air DIV (KOKUSHI- DAN)	3 Shipping Transport Hq		102 DIV			KURE		
	Unit Name	2 Navigation Aid Regt	5 Security Co. Southern Air Route Dept	MANILA Branch, PUERTO PRINCESA Branch Office	2 Co. 3 Shipping Transport Sig Regt	174 Indep Inf Bn	174 Indep Inf Bn	174 Indep Inf Bn	995 Naval Air Unit	PHILIP- PINES Naval Air Unit	BARABAKU* Expeditionary Unit, Navy 33 Garrison Unit (KEIBI)
	Code Name	MURAKAMI (*1) Unit, I 16612 Force	NAKAMURA (*2) Unit, I 11058 Force	OGAWA (3*) Unit, I 2944 Force	NAKAOKA (*4) Unit, I 2955 Force	I (or BATSU) (*5) 10689 Force	I (or BATSU) 10689 Force	I (or BATSU) 10689 Force			Navy HI (*6) 6064 Force
	TOTAL	12	9	10	11	164	103	49	166	59	107
	RANKS	Off NCO 1 Men 11	Off NCO 2 Men 7	Off 1 NCO 2 Men 5 Civs 2	Off NCO 1 Men 10	Off 4 NCO 22 Men 148			Off 14 WO 2	Off 1 WO 1	Off 1 WO 13 NCO 25 Men 78
	Regular	10	5		11	1					25
	Call-up	2	2	10		163					82

ADVATIS BULLETIN No. 524  
Document 603942, Pages 3-4

CHART SHOWING ALL UNITS ON PALAWAN, 2 SEPTEMBER 1944

## CHART SHOWING ALL UNITS ON PALAWAN, 2 SEPTEMBER 1944

FORCES STATIONED IN PALAWAN  2 SEP 44  PALAWAN MP DET	Forces Under Command	2 Air Sig Group (DAN)	3 Air Div (KOKUSHI- DAN)	3 Shipping Transport Hq			(TN Number omitted) Div				KURE
	Unit CO	Sgt Maj MURAKAMI, Tatsuji (*1) (Regular)	Sgt NAKAMURA, Makoto (*2) (Call-up)	1st Lt OGAWA, Tazo (*3) (Call-up)	Sgt FURU- KAWA, Haruo (*4) Regular (Call-up)	1st Lt OBAYASHI, Rokuzo (*5) (Regular)	1st Lt TOYONAGA Naoshi (*6)	2nd Lt ASAI, Tomio (*7)	Comdr IMA- GAWA (*8) (Regular)	Ens OGAWA (*9) (Regular)	Navy Lt OCHIAI Otoichi (*10) (Regular)
	Station	PUERTO BANKAO*	PUERTO BANKAO*	PUERTO PRINCESA	PUERTO PRINCESA	PUERTO PRINCESA	TAYTAY	KORON*	PUERTO PRINCESA	PUERTO PRINCESA	BARA- BAKKU*
	Type of Duty	Permanent	Permanent	Permanent	Permanent	Permanent	Permanent	Permanent	Temporary	Temporary	Permanent
	Remarks	Base BABORODO*	Arrival— 6 Aug 44 Base—SINGA- PORE Island	Arrival— 4 Aug 44 Former station --MANILA	Arrival— 18 Aug 44 Former station --MANILA	Arrival— 3 Aug 44 Former station --MANILA	Arrival— 3 Aug 44 Former station --MANILA	Arrival— 3 Aug 44 Former station --MANILA	Arrival— 15 Oct 44	Arrival— 15 Oct 44	Arrival— 18 Jun 44 Hq. BONGAO* CAGAYAN Det 26 MERU- BURIBII* Det—10

ADVATIS BULLETIN No. 524  
Document 603942, Pages 3-4

THE PALAWAN MASSACRE

CHART SHOWING ALL UNITS ON PALAWAN, 2 SEPTEMBER 1944

## CHART SHOWING ALL UNITS ON PALAWAN, 2 SEPTEMBER 1944

18  FORCES STATIONED IN PALAWAN 2 SEP 44  PALAWAN MP DET	Forces Under Command	2 Air Sig Group (DAN)	3 Air Div (KOKUSHI-DAN)	3 Shipping Transport Hq		(TN Number omitted) Div				KURE	
	Unit CO	Sgt Maj MURAKAMI, Tatsuji (*1) (Regular)	Sgt NAKAMURA, Makoto (*2) (Call-up)	1st Lt OGAWA, Tazo (*3) (Call-up)	Sgt FURUKAWA, Haruo (*4) Regular (Call-up)	1st Lt OBAYASHI, Rokuzo (*5) (Regular)	1st Lt TOYONAGA Naoshi (*6)	2nd Lt ASAI, Tomio (*7)	Comdr IMAGAWA (*8) (Regular)	Ens OGAWA (*9) (Regular)	Navy Lt OCHIAI Otoichi (*10) (Regular)
	Station	PUERTO BANKAO*	PUERTO BANKAO*	PUERTO PRINCESA	PUERTO PRINCESA	PUERTO PRINCESA	TAYTAY	KORON*	PUERTO PRINCESA	PUERTO PRINCESA	BARA-BAKKU*
	Type of Duty	Permanent	Permanent	Permanent	Permanent	Permanent	Permanent	Permanent	Temporary	Temporary	Permanent
	Remarks	Base BABORODO*	Arrival— 6 Aug 44 Base—SINGAPORE Island	Arrival— 4 Aug 44 Former station —MANILA	Arrival— 18 Aug 44 Former station —MANILA	Arrival— 3 Aug 44 Former station —MANILA	Arrival— 3 Aug 44 Former station —MANILA	Arrival— 3 Aug 44 Former station —MANILA	Arrival— 15 Oct 44	Arrival— 15 Oct 44	Arrival— 18 Jun 44 Hq—BONGAO* CAGAYAN Det 26 MERU-BURIRII* Det—10

THE PALAWAN MASSACRE

ADVATIS BULLETIN No. 524  
Document 603942, Pages 3-4

CHART SHOWING ALL UNITS ON PALAWAN, 2 SEPTEMBER 1944