

DECLASSIFIED

MEMORANDUM FOR:

F-3-4.

Submarine

Subject: ~~Resume of Seventh Fleet Activities Connected with Guerrilla Organizations in the Philippines.~~

As General Headquarters, Southwest Pacific Area has recently publicized the existence and activities of friendly guerrilla organizations in the Philippines, it might be well at this time to summarize the part that the Seventh Fleet has played in activities behind the enemy lines.

After the formal surrender of ~~Blue Forces~~ early in 1942, the few Americans who ~~had~~ escaped Prisoner of War or Internment Camps were ~~hiding~~ ^{hid} in remote ~~areas~~ ^{parts} of the Philippine Archipelago ~~with~~ ^{where there was} no rapid and dependable means of ~~passing~~ ^{sending} to our forces ~~such~~ ^{any} information as they might have. Accordingly it was decided to test the feasibility of ~~land-~~ ^{making} ing ~~by~~ ^{by submarine,} supplying small communication and coast watcher units in the Philippines ~~by submarine.~~ The first attempt was made on 14 January 1943 when the GUDGEON ~~successfully~~ landed 6 men and 2000 pounds of equipment and supplies on the island of NEGROS. This was followed by the TAMBOR, landing a small party with ~~approximately~~ ^{about} 2 tons of supplies at LABANGAN, MINDANAO on 5 March 1943. Thereafter, at about 5 week intervals, small parties of personnel with about 2 tons of stores each were landed at various points in the central and southern Philippines by ~~operational~~ ^{submarine} submarines ~~as a special missions~~ ^{carried out} during their regular war patrol.

The cooperation of the natives in the southern part of the Philippines area was extremely good, and, under the direction of General Headquarters, Southwest Pacific Area, an organization of guerrilla forces was set up along recognized military lines. Efficient functioning

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of this organization was dependent to a great extent on ^{the availability of} ~~ability to supply~~ ^{where} it with a modicum of arms, ammunition, medical supplies and funds. The requirements of this supply, plus the expansion of the coast watcher and communications net, mounted to figures which were ^{could not be} ~~impracticable~~ to handle by submarines on war patrol as ~~special missions~~, hence a special supply unit was organized in October, 1943, with the NARWHAL, NAUTILUS, SEAWOLF and STINGRAY ^{were assigned} as ~~components~~, with the primary duty of carrying out supply and evacuation missions in the Philippines Area. That these efforts ^{have} ~~been~~ highly successful ^{is proved} ~~is attested~~ by the rapid growth ^{of an} ~~and~~ efficient functioning of a net of coast watchers, weather observers and aircraft spotters completely covered the central and southern Philippines at the time of our initial landings in Leyte, with additional, but incomplete, coverage of Luzon. This intelligence net employed a total of 120 small radio stations, ^{while} ~~and~~ the Navy manned and operated two control stations in MINDANAO ^{to} ~~for the purpose of screening~~ ^{this} the guerrilla traffic and passing ^{on} ~~directly~~ to SEVENTH Fleet units ^{the} ~~such~~ items ~~as were~~ of operational importance. The military supplies brought in by the submarines played no small part in the organization of the natives into effective combat and reconnaissance units, ^{until,} ~~again,~~ at the time of the Blue landings on Leyte ~~it is~~ ^{an estimated} ~~estimated~~ that there were 65,000 organized guerrilla troops in the Philippines south of 12° N. Lat., ~~and they have~~ rendered valuable service ^{during} ~~in many ways since~~ the campaign ~~started.~~

^{after} Since January 1943, a total of 18 submarines ~~have~~ carried out 39 supply and evacuation missions in the Philippines. During these ~~missions~~, 1325 tons of supplies and equipment were landed and delivered

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into ^{to} the hands of the guerrillas. Less than 50 tons of supplies were lost or not delivered, and it is believed that none fell into the hands of the enemy. No missions were completely unsuccessful and only ^{three} ~~two~~ were ^{not wholly} partially ~~unsuccessful~~. 327 persons were landed during these operations, and 466 were evacuated. ^{all this was accomplished with the loss of only} ~~one~~ submarine, the SEAWOLF, ~~was lost while on a mission~~ in October, 1944.

Since the inception ^{after} of the Blue campaign in the Philippines the need, and the desirability of, submarine supply in that area has rapidly decreased. Aircraft and small surface vessels have ^{not} ~~taken~~ ^{took} over the job of getting supplies to guerrilla forces not within the immediate sphere of ^{the} Blue operations. The special submarine supply unit ^{was} ~~has been~~ dissolved and any special missions now ^{thereafter} ~~required~~ in the Southwest Pacific Area ^{are} ~~are~~ handled by submarines assigned to war patrols.

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