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Authority NND 735017By MLT NARA Date 7/18/09C of S _____
E 5-3 _____HEADQUARTERS TWENTY SEVENTH INFANTRY
A. P. O. # 25

14 August 1943

SUBJECT: Patrol Report.

TO : Chief of Staff, 25th Infantry Division.

1. A patrol consisting of Lieut. KOONTZ, Lieut. BARROW, and four Native Scouts left Lion CP the morning of August 10, 1943. We moved generally North and bivouaced South of Mt. Tirokiamba. We contacted Lieut. Col. SCHULTZ on the morning of August 11, 1943. We proceeded on West on an azimuth 270 degrees for 5,000 yards through swamps to PIRU. We reached the eastern edge of Piru Plantation at approximately 1700. We waited until 2100 and then proceeded West and reached the Western edge of the plantation at approximately 2200. We made a night reconnaissance into the plantation from 2200 to 0200. We spent the remainder of the night in the swamp to the East. All returned safely on the afternoon of August 12th.

FINDINGS:

Cross-section of area, approximately:

Rocky Beach, Plantation (700 yards), Muddy Jungle (1,000 yards)
Swamp (2,000 yards).

Around the plantation is a five-strand barbed wire fence, evidently NOT constructed by the Nips but by the plantation owners to prevent livestock entering the swamp. The plantation consists of short grass and coconut palms, no underbrush. Quite a few sounds of running livestock (horses and probably cattle).

There was no apparent major Nip installations in evidence, and no evidence of evacuation from Piru.

There is a good plantation road running South from the vicinity of Cutter Point. Road had a coral bed and light grass has grown over it. No tracks or evidence of vehicles having passed over road for some time. Saw causeway running West from Cutter Point. Many Nip voices were heard in barges going North. No North-South barge activity noticed. SCHULTZ reports hearing barge activity for several nights.

Natives report no East-West trails into Piru, and no high ground through swamp. Native also report good beaches in vicinity of plantation, but none were observed in vicinity of Cutter Point.

We actually observed two groups of five Nips each. The patrol was challenged and chased by one group, but the patrol scattered into the swamp. We heard continuous barge activity moving North in Hawthorn Sound.

Only light patrols can reach Piru overland from Zieta-Tirokiamba area.

Joseph J. Koontz
JOSEPH J. KOONTZ
1st Lieut., 27th Infantry
Reconnaissance Officer.

AG 007 E 417 Box 6969

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