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 Authority NND 735017  
 By MKT/NARA Date 7/18/09

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*Patrol Reps 25th Div.*

HEADQUARTERS TWENTY SEVENTH INFANTRY  
 A. P. O. # 25

13 October 1943.

SUBJECT : Lion Red Patrols.

TO : G-2, 26th Infantry Division.

The following is a list of patrols made by First Battalion Twenty Seventh Infantry on Kolombangara Island, October 7th and 8th, 1943:

PATROL NUMBER 1

Security patrol of "A" Company left forward outpost at 0700, 7 October 1943. Patrol followed trail to Northeast, through three Japanese bivouac areas (1, 2, and 4), which were scouted thoroughly and were found to have been abandoned from 10 to 14 days. Individual and cooking equipment was found.

One Japanese was found in second bivouac area but through his refusal to surrender the patrol was forced to shoot him. (He replied: "Go away, me stay here - Japanese soldier not afraid to die". and moved away as if to get weapon.) He was shot at pt 3 on map.

No other signs of recent enemy activity were found in area, therefore, patrol returned, time 1145,

PATROL NUMBER 2

"C" Company combat and reconnaissance patrol left company area (1) at 0845, 7 October 1943 traveling northeast to road junction (2) to enemy bivouac area (3) found nothing and continued on trail. At (4) similar bivouac area was found. Again following trail, ran into bivouac area at (5) which was estimated to have been occupied by one battalion. There were 20 to 25 shacks, caves had been dug but no pill boxes. Some clothing was found.

Continuing on, patrol found caves, connecting tunnels and (machine gun positions at (6) - (7) and in one cave was found food and ammunition supplies. Then 5 men followed trail to (8) where 5 trucks and 1 auto were found in motor park.

Again following the trail, strongly organized pill boxes (9) and 3 in gun (10) were found. Area appeared to be a bivouac for approximately 2 companies.

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Crossing bridge there was found a 77mm gun mounted on wheels (11) and at (12) found heavy machine gun (bolt removed) at (13) searchlight was found (destroyed sound detector and a remote control unit in working condition were also discovered.)

Mouth of Vila River is fordable by wading out 100 yards.

In addition to pill boxes which covered front from (12) to (16) and small arms and AT ammunition which was in dumps all along beach from (11) to (13) were two 37 mm guns (15-16) with sights removed. Patrol returned at 1515.

#### PATROL NUMBER 3

Company "C" patrol left from (1) at 0900 on the 7th of October 1943 following coral road (2) and trails to (3) where they entered a large bivouac area. Area believed to have been where pilots lived. Again going along trail (4) to (5) found 3 large tin roofed shacks containing the following:

- 200 picks and shovels
- 2 coils 3/4 in manilla rope
- 8 coils smooth wire
- 3 large cans dynamite fuse
- 4 tents
- 35 bicycles
- Large quantities tools of all types
- 5 pulleys
- 1 bath tub complete w/heater
- Miscellaneous items.

Proceeded on to (6) - (7) - (8) - (9) which were all deserted bivouac areas with many dug outs and remnants of shacks all having wire from the main trail. Going north to (10) which is believed to be Jack Hill where there was a large bivouac area with a large shack (tin roof) and termination of trail (which was about 3 feet wide and corduroyed solid with small logs) and all wires. Investigated all around Jack Hill and found only hospital equipment and one destroyed telephone. Patrol then returned along trail (11) to "C" Company area at 1450

#### PATROL NUMBER 4

Reconnaissance patrol from "C" Company left battalion bivouac area at 0845 on 8 October 1943 by boat to (1) found 3 inch gun at (2) and bivouac area extending from (3) to (4). Estimate 1 battalion with CP in cave dug in rear of hill (5) found telephone switchboard (6) and bags of rice, small arms ammunition and old clothes.

Took trail and ran into bivouac (7) estimated 1 company and CP and on to (7). Small trail was investigated and reported negative. Continued on trail to (9) and (10) finding two bivouac areas with nothing of value in either area. Along trail to (11)

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finding another bivouac area (containing nothing of importance) and continued on back to area of "C" Company arriving there at 1540.

PATROL NUMBER 5

Combat and Reconnaissance patrol left Company B area at 0800, 8 October 1943, following well traveled Japanese trail which crossed series of hills and many streambeds. Searched 8 bivouac areas (estimated 2 weeks since occupancy) in area of Ringi Cove. Found 6 wrecked barges at Cove. Returned along same trail to starting point at 1800.

*Joseph J. Koontz*  
JOSEPH J. KOONTZ,  
1st Lt., 27th Infantry,  
S-2.

*Encl. - One overlay*

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By <u>MG/NARA</u> Date <u>7/18/09</u>

HEADQUARTERS TWENTY SEVENTH INFANTRY  
A. P. O. #25

4 October 1943.

SUBJECT: Patrol Report of HAMBERI-VILA Trail on KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND.

TO : G-2, XIV Corps.

MISSION: - (1) To determine Japanese activity over the HAMBERI-VILA trail, and  
(2) the reconnaissance of a route to the trail from the coast.

FINDINGS: (1) There was no enemy activity over the trail for the 48 hour period 30 Sept. and 1 Oct.  
(2) The route taken by the patrol was believed to be the best at the time because of the Japanese activity at KUIJI and N on the KOLOMBANGARA trail as far as LOKETI. In view of later developments, the best route would be to land at MALANGA COVE and proceed up the KOLOMBANGARA Route to the fork of the KOLOMBANGARA and the GJA route thence up the GIZA route to the HAMBERI-VILA trail. This would eliminate the heavy hill climbing which this patrol went through to search the forks of the KOLOMBANGARA and GIZA RIVERS. The trip from HUNDA COVE to the Japanese trail over the route the patrol followed took 8 1/2 hours. Landing at MALANGA COVE and following the river up should cut this to 4 hours.  
(CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD OF PATROL ATTACHED)

PERSONNEL: One officer (the undersigned), two EM from the 27th Inf., S/Sgt Claude Sims and Corp. Cecil A. Moss, and Corp. Frank Nash, on SD with the D.S.I.O., and six native guides were attached to the patrol as scouts.

DETAILED  
ACCOUNT OF  
PATROL:

27 Sept: The patrol left BOMBOE VILLAGE at 0830 and proceeded by Higgins boat to BUSTLING POINT, arrived there at 0900 and were picked up by native canoe at 0930 we arrived at TENT ISLAND (GONA) at 1030.

28 Sept: The patrol left TENT ISLAND at 2100 and proceeded to HUNDA COVE by native canoe. They arrived there at 2210. The night was spent in HUNDA VILLAGE.

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By MGT NARA Date 7/18/09

29 Sept:

At 0600 the patrol left HUNDA VILLAGE and arrived at KOKATIA at 0625. KOKATIA is a native garden with two shacks just North of HUNDA. Breakfast was eaten in KOKATIA and we were on our way by 0720. Time must be allowed the natives to cook the prodigious amounts of rice that they consume. We got on a well hidden native trail to the W of HIPERA and travelled along it generally N and NE. The jungle growth is medium heavy and generally comparable to the bush at the start of the ZINTA TRAIL on NEW GEORGIA. The hills are extremely steep. At 0830 we arrived at the junctions of the trails which led to HIPERA and SUNGOVANGA. The HIPERA trail runs due E from the trail we were following. The trail to LUNGUAVANGA travelled due W. We continued along the trail we were on and hit the BUKA stream at 0845. This is a small water point that could supply a regiment with water. A trail leads into HIPERA going E from this point. Our trail cut in back of HIPERA and travelled generally E and SE. We arrived at KOKAPETI on the MASURU RIVER at 1015 (K KAPETI is a native garden with two huts on the right bank of the river). The trail runs down grade most of the way and the terrain is exceptionally steep down to the floor of the valley. The track is very poor and native guides are necessary to follow it. The direction followed was generally E until we reached KAKOPETI. The MASURU is a small river about 8 feet wide, one foot average depth with a bottom strewn with large boulders. A tributary of the KOLOMBANGARA flowing SE. Excellent drinking water. A trail led E from this point to LOPEYI on the KOLOMBANGARA RIVER. 1 1/2 hours journey. LOPEYI is the most Northward point of Japanese activity on this river. Our trail then led E for ten minutes to the forks of the GIZA and KOLOMBANGARA RIVERS. This point is called POTIGAMA, a large native garden with a demolished hut. This sits in the forks. The MASURU flows into the KOLOMBANGARA just below the forks. The KOLOMBANGARA (MALANGA) is 20 feet wide, average depth of two feet, with a large boulder strewn bottom, and flows due S. The GIZA is a tributary of the KOLOMBANGARA flowing SW. It is about 15 feet wide, average depth of two feet with a boulder strewn bottom. We travelled N on the GIZA in the river and in the bush along the shore. There is no trail. The jungle becomes thick along the river. All the water here is good for drinking. One hours travel from the forks, the banks start to rise steeply. We travelled generally N and NE. Stopped for the night at 1615 just one half hour from Jap trail we dispatched two native guides to look at the road and determine if there were any Jap activity on it lately. The scouts reported that a party of 20-30 Japs had used this trail two days previously, going from VILA to HAMBERT. They reported 10 leaf lean-to's which would sleep a hundred men on the TEDEMBAKO RIVER, just N of the point that

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it flows into the GIZA. The TEDENBOKO flows SW into the GIZA. We set up a base camp in the bush on the right bank of the GIZA. Posted security and went to sleep.

30 Sept:

At 0530 we dispatched two scouts to look at road. No activity during night. At 0705 we left base camp to pick an OP from which to observe the road. We selected a point just N of the forks of the TEDENBOKO and GYA where the trail crosses the GYA RIVER. The OP is on a hill about 30 feet over the trail, well concealed with excellent observation. The OP was in operation at 0830. Two native scouts were dispatched W on the road toward HAMBERI and two were sent E along toward YILA. They were instructed to observe for Japs on the way and if met to turn around and precede then back to us. They were sent out at 0845. Two natives were kept at the OP for general utility work. The scouts to the E returned at 1515. They had gone as far E as the SAMBUJA RIVER. There were no Japanese movement and tracks were all two days old. The road follows the GIZA down to just N of the TEDENBOKO and turns NE along the river to where the houses are and then goes up the ridge due N. The scouts reported numerous steel helmets and clothing thrown on the side of the trail. Vines were put on the sides of steep places on the trail to hold their footing. Stones were put across rivers to walk across on. These scouts brought back a bugle with a red cord, denoting Infantry, and this mark on the mouthpiece: A two quart bottle which held kerosene, and a Jap raincoat. The scouts to the W returned at 1515. They reported no movement for 48 hours. One dead Jap was buried slightly off the trail. They brought back the cap that was placed on his grave. The road followed the GIZA N for 100 yards then climbed the ridge, heading due W toward HAMBERI. The scouts first crossed the GINURA RIVER, then the KOKOMBA, and then they reached the KOLOMBANGARA RIVER before starting home. The KOKOMBA and GINURA are small streams but the KOLOMBANGARA is larger than the GIZA. They reported 3 leaf houses, sleeping ten men each, at the KOLOMBANGARA RIVER; two rifles were thrown in the bush, one of which the scouts brought back along with an entrenching shovel and several blankets. At 1800 the OP was moved closer to the trail and converted into a listening post. No Jap activity during the day.

1 Oct:

At daylight, the OP was moved back to the hill. At 0800, scouts were dispatched along the road in both directions with the same instructions. Cpl. Nash and myself climbed to the W ridge-top, about 500 ft. high, and then a tall tree, to attempt to get bearings. No points could be seen that could be used. At 1600 we investigated the Jap bivouac area, and the road at that point. The road is a well-worn trail about 3 ft. wide, small trees and bushes in the way were cut down.

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The labor on it has all been casual and hastily done. There were twelve sleeping shelters and nine cook houses in the bivouac area. It could easily accommodate 100 men. Some of the shelters were 10 yards long. The bivouac area was on the right (W) bank of the TEDEMBOKA RIVER. A sign with an arrow pointing toward HAMBERI was on one of the shelters. (observed several blankets and articles of clothing scattered around). At 1700 scouts to the E returned. At 1730 arrived back at base camp. Scouts reported they had gone as far as the HIMERI RIVER, no activity. Sixty Jap leaf shelters were on the HIMERI with 40 steel helmets in them. Much clothing, 10 blankets, ammunition and two shovels and six nice plates were around the area. Four of the plates had Naval insignia and two had Army (Labels enclosed from some of the clothing). Steps had been cut into the steep hills that the road crossed. Scouts to the W returned at 1730. Had reached just W of the KOLOMBANGARA RIVER. Nothing new to report.

2 Oct;

No activity during the night. At 0645 dispatched 3 natives on back to scout trail and go across to TENT ISLAND to arrange for a camp. At 0710, left base camp for return trip. Followed the GIZA going a short way and then climbed the W ridge to strike a faint native track that leads down the ridge top. The ridge runs between valleys of the KOLOMBANGARA and the GIZA RIVERS. The ridge becomes knife-edged and the trail drops off the ridge to the W and hits the KOLOMBANGARA RIVER, just N of the forks. This trail, if traveled E, would cut the Jap road between the GIZA and the GIHURA RIVERS according to the natives. Arrived at the forks of the KOLOMBANGARA and GIZA RIVERS at 0850. Arrived at KOKOPETI on MASURA RIVER at 0900. Arrived at BUKA stream at 1130. Arrived at HAMBERI, and watch station of 3 shacks on the HIPERA trail, at 1140. Arrived at HIPERA, and unused coastwatcher station at 1200. We left HIPERA that evening at 1800, and followed the trail over the southern face of the hill. Arrived in HUNDA at 1730. Picked up by native canoe at 2000 that night. Arrived at TENT ISLAND at 2100. (the native scouts believe that it is a 4 day journey from VILA to HAMBERI for the Japs. They stayed the first night at HIMU RIVER (80 shelters), the second at the TEDEMBOKA RIVER (12 shelters), the third at DAIMPONGO (15 shelters) and arrived in HAMBERI on the fourth night.

ROBERT W. LEONARD,  
1st Lt., 27th Infantry,  
Patrol Leader.

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 By NGT/NARA Date 7/18/09

HEADQUARTERS TWENTY SEVENTH INFANTRY  
 A. P. O. #25

*FILE*

4 October 1943.

SUBJECT: Report of Patrol to KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND.

TO : G-2, XIV Corps.

Following is report of reconnaissance patrol consisting of Sgt. Wayne Duke, Pvt. 1st Class Kenneth Nycum and undersigned sent to KOLOMBANGARA, whose mission was to reconnoiter MALANGA COVE area and determine enemy movement toward West along the coast:

28 Sept.

- 0830: Patrol left BOMBOE VILLAGE by Higgins boat for BUSTLING POINT.
- 0900: Arrived BUSTLING POINT.
- 0930: Left BUSTLING POINT in native canoe sent by Lt. Robertson, put in at TENT ISLAND to pick up patrol.
- 1030: Arrived TENT ISLAND. Received detailed information of situation in MALANGA COVE area from Lt. Robertson; last minute arrangements made for patrol. Six natives assigned to patrol to join us at HUNDA (our landing point along coast). Awaiting report from scouts sent out by Lt. Robertson that HUNDA is all clear.

29 Sept.

- 1500: Native scouts report HUNDA COVE is clear of enemy.
- 2100: Left TENT ISLAND in native war canoe for HUNDA 6,600 yards across BLACKETT STRAIT.
- 2205: Arrived at HUNDA VILLAGE. Met by native scouts. Spent night at HUNDA(VILLAGE, the same as others along the coast was abandoned by the natives when Nips came to KOLOMBANGARA. The village is comparatively large and well laid out. It had been visited only once by the enemy who came by barge and took some timber and leaf roofing).

30 Sept.

- 0600: Left HUNDA and followed native track to KAKATIO, another abandoned village in the jungle (See overlay) where we ate breakfast.
- 0800: Left KAKATIO and went overland thru the bush to HERIMBANGARA.
- 1100: Arrived HERIMBANGARA (former location of a native village) and established base camp well off the trail.
- 1200: Patrol sent out to HIPEVA (former OP of Lt. Robertson). Excellent view of DULO BAY, MALANGA COVE, HUNDA and area in which we were to operate. Also excellent view of VILA, LADY LEVER, coast of NEW GEORGIA, ARUNDEL, RENDOVA and WANA. Field of observation included GIZO and entire island of GANONGGA and GIZO. (See panoramic sketches) Patrol returned 1520.
- 1200: Patrol sent to investigate Government track and area West of MALANGA RIVER. Patrol returned at 1600. Patrol saw no sign of Nips on East side of MALANGA RIVER. Found Jap rag in native garden West of river. No barges in MALANGA COVE (previous report that there was a barge was found to be a small outboard motor boat) No sign of Nips in KAVARA or IRIKI.

*RG 407 E 477 Box 6969*



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- 0730: Established OPall day on Government track between HUNDA and MALANGA RIVER. Trail runs from HAMBERI to KUIJI along the coast. It is indistinguishable in places because of lack of use. No sign of Nips all day. Natives say that the only time it was used by Japs was a month and a half ago when eight survivors from a barge made their way along trail to VILA. According to natives, Jap outposts at KUIJI and GATERE never contacted each other over this trail, the only route which they could have done so along the coast. (See overlay).
- 0730: Patrol sent to LAKOTI to investigate a Jap trail which had been built by them in the bush from LADY LEVER to MALANGA COVE. It is believed that this trail was supply route for LADY LEVER with barges stopping at MALANGA COVE, and supplies being carried overland from there, and with outpost at KUIJI to protect route. Trail looked like it had taken a lot of traffic at one time but had not been used lately. Patrol returned by way of HIPERA 1430.
- 0730: Patrol sent out to look over HUNDA area and Government track, reported negative.
- 0730: Patrol sent to investigate MALANGA COVE, crossed river, went up to KUIJI, then to DULO BAY. Found 20 abandoned Jap leaf houses just East of KUIJI (large enough for from two to six men) and numerous holes along the shore and in the jungle. No barges at DULO BAY. Four native canoes were found there. Native scouts say they evacuated 25/26 September and used the trail thru LAKOTI to LADY LEVER. Only evidence of Nips was scattered clothing, rice and buried ammunition. Patrol returned at 1700.

2 Oct.

- 0800: Patrol sent to look over DULO BAY area and SAMBIRA. Investigated jungle in rear of DULO BAY and saw no sign of enemy. Found other shacks and a kitchen between DULO and KUIJI. Estimated 100 Japs had been in KUIJI-DULO area. Patrol took one of canoes reported by scouts the day before and paddled to SAMBIRA. Saw no sign of Nips along shore between DULO BAY and SAMBIRA. Went ashore at SAMBIRA. No evidence of Japs ever having been there. Patrol returned by way of HUNDA at 1500.
- 0800: Patrol sent to investigate GATERE and Government track. Found footprints in VOTUANA. Going on up to GATERE found six abandoned leaf houses. Estimated 24 Nips were in this area. Old foot prints along Government trail to HAMBERI. Native scouts believed Nips left Monday, 26 September. They probably left shortly after that as two of the enemy were reported along the beach that same Monday morning. Five native canoes which had been previously reported at GATERE were missing. It is believed they evacuated West in these canoes. Other than scattered rice and fireplaces there was no other evidence of the enemy. All indications at both KUIJI and GATERE are that they had advance notice for an organized evacuation. Patrol returned at 1450.
- 1200: Sent two native scouts across to TENT ISLAND, to contact Lt. Robertson and tell him we were coming out that night in order that he would send a canoe after us and also notify air corps and PT's.
- 1630: Broke camp and started down to HUNDA. Hide in mangrove opposite HUNDA until after dark and went across to village in small canoe.
- 2000: Canoe arrived from TENT ISLAND and came ashore after we had given them the password. Shortly after we had started back an enemy float-plane flew low over BALCKETT STRAIT about 1,000 yards from the shore. He appeared to be about 50 to 100 feet above the water and was evidently looking for PT's.

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2100: Arrived at TENT ISLAND.

Lt. J. J. KOONTZ

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HEADQUARTERS 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
 Office of the AC of S, G-2

A. P. O. # 25,  
 12 October 1943.

SUBJECT: Report of Patrol Covering West Coast of Kolombangara.

TO : Commanding Officer, 27th Infantry.

1. MISSION: To patrol the west coast of KOLOMBANGARA for the purpose of determining whether or not area had been evacuated by the Japanese. Size of patrol - one officer and eight men.
2. The patrol left VILA 0930 8 October for HUNDA COVE. Travel was made by LCP. Spent the night at HUNDA VILLAGE, a large abandoned native village which showed no sign of occupation by the Japanese at any time.
3. Left HUNDA COVE at 1020 9 October by LCP to reconnoiter areas to the North. First stop made at GATERE COVE and evidences found that a small number of Japs, probably not more than 50, had occupied that area. Some clothing and insignia, naval issue, were found.
4. Next stop was made at MERESU COVE and the area for several hundred yards inland was reconnoitered. One Jap straggler, a soldier, was found in one of the huts in the leper colony. The patrol attempted to capture him, but were forced to kill him. The area from the leper colony to HAMBERI was thoroughly patrolled along the shore and inland with all native huts and shelters searched. The area could have been occupied by several hundred Japanese. Evacuation was carefully done. Some old clothing and equipment was scattered throughout the area. The beach from MERESU to HAMBERI was organized with pillboxes approximately 100 feet apart. There were some indications that equipment had been buried in slit trenches. The landing at HAMBERI COVE had been used by barges. The remains of a Jap radio station were found at HAMBERI COVE. All of the equipment in this area indicated naval occupation. Practically all of the ammunition found was 7.7mm. One 1-kilowatt generator, slightly damaged, was found near HAMBERI. Spent the night at HAMBERI COVE.
5. Next stop was made at VARU POINT where there were no signs of recent occupation. Area between VARU POINT and VANGA POINT was investigated. Again no signs of recent occupation.
6. Next stop made at TOMBOLU VILLAGE and the area inland reconnoitered. A bivouac was found that probably housed 10-20 Japs. An OP with telephone wire was found at the point.
7. Next stop was made at REI COVE where a fairly large bivouac area was discovered. There were numerous shelters and scattered equipment. Indications were that some evacuation was made from this point as a good portion of the bivouac area was very temporary. Evacuation had been made a few days previously. Two large rubber boats, both of which could be salvaged, were found here.

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8. Next stop was made at TUKI POINT which also showed signs of being an evacuation point. Bivouac areas that could have held 50-100 Japs were found. Very little equipment was left.

9. Several stops were made between ROPA POINT and VAU VILLAGE with no signs of Jap occupation found. Spent the night at a cove one mile South of SESEPI VILLAGE. The surrounding area was reconnoitered with no signs found of Jap occupation.

10. Next stop was at KAVIKANA PLANTATION, the entire beach area of which had been organized with pillboxes 50-100 feet apart and barbed wire had been strung along the beach. This area could have been occupied by several hundred Japs. The entrance to JACK HARBOR was checked and two 80mm CA pieces with some ammunition were found there. At the entrance were several bombproofs and shelters that probably were occupied by 50-100 men. The interior of the harbor was not checked as it already had been covered by Lieut. Ferriter's patrol.

Returned to VILA at 1330 11 October.

REMARKS:

1. Japanese landing barges were found on the west coast at the following places:

- a. One on shore approximately 5,000 feet South of GATERE COVE.
- b. One on shore at GATERE COVE.
- c. One between REUVI and VANGA VANGA.
- d. One at VANGA VANGA.
- e. One at MERESU COVE (No engine).
- f. Two at TUKI POINT.
- g. One between ROPA POINT and VAU VILLAGE.

None of these barges were afloat and had been beached either on the shore or on the reef. Although they had been shot up somewhat, most of them could be salvaged for the purpose of test firing.

2. The area around and South of HAMBERI COVE will bear further checking for the salvaging of Jap equipment. Numerous documents were found at the various stops and are being forwarded to G-2, XIV Corps.

CONCLUSION: Conclusion reached by this patrol was that the area on the West side of the island was free of Japs with the possible exception of a few stragglers. The largest evacuation appears to have been made from HAMBERI COVE with the next largest evacuation made from Rei Cove. However, at none of the points of evacuation were there indications of numbers over 300 having been evacuated.

*R. L. Stevenson*  
R. L. STEVENSON,  
Lt. Col., G.S.C.,  
AC of S, G-2.

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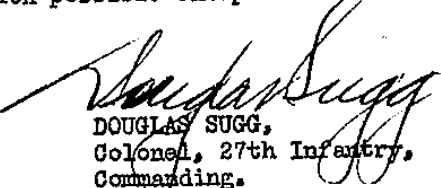
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By NCJ NARA Date 7/18/09

1st Ind.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTY SEVENTH INFANTRY, FORWARD ECHELON, APO # 26.,  
15 October 1943. TO: Commanding General, 25th Infantry Division.

Reference basic indorsement and patrol report of 1st Lt.  
Richard H. Ferriter, previously submitted. There are no enemy  
remaining on Kolombangara Island, with possible exception of a  
few stragglers.

  
DOUGLAS SUGG,  
Colonel, 27th Infantry,  
Commanding.

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Authority NND 735017By MG NARA Date 7/18/09

COPY

HEADQUARTERS 27TH INFANTRY  
APO #25

13 October 1943.

SUBJECT: Lion Red Patrols.

TO : G-2, 25th Infantry Division.

The following is a list of patrols made by First Battalion Twenty Seventh Infantry on Kolombangara Island, October 7th and 8th, 1943:

PATROL NUMBER 1

Security patrol of "A" Company left forward outpost at 0700, 7 October 1943. Patrol followed trail to Northeast, through three Japanese bivouac areas (1, 2, and 4), which were scouted thoroughly and were found to have been abandoned from 10 to 14 days. Individual and cooking equipment was found.

One Japanese was found in second bivouac area but through his refusal to surrender the patrol was forced to shoot him. (He replied: "Go away, ~~me~~ stay here - Japanese soldier not afraid to die", and moved ~~away~~ as if to get weapon.) He was shot at pt 3 on map.

No other signs of recent enemy activity were found in area, therefore, patrol returned, time 1145.

PATROL NUMBER 2

"C" Company and reconnaissance patrol left company area (1) at 0845, 7 October 1943 traveling northeast to road junction (2) to enemy bivouac area (3) found nothing and continued on trail. At (4) similar bivouac area was found. Again following trail, ran into bivouac area at (5) which was estimated to have been occupied by one battalion. There were 20 to 25 shacks, caves had been dug but no pill boxes. Some clothing was found.

Continuing on, patrol found caves, connecting tunnels and (Machine gun positions at (6) - (7) and in one cave was found food and ammunition supplies. Then 5 men followed trail to (8) where 5 trucks and 1 auto were found in motor park.

Again following the trail, strongly organized pill boxes (9) and 3 in gun (10) were found. Area appeared to be a bivouac for approximately 2 companies.

Crossing bridge there was found a 77mm gun mounted on wheels (11) and at (12) found heavy machine gun (bolt removed) at (13) searchlight was found (destroyed sound detector and a remote control unit working condition were also discovered.)

Mouth of Vila River is fordable by wading out 100 yards.

In addition to pill boxes which covered front from (12) to (16) and small arms and AT ammunition which was in dumps all along beach from (11) to (13) were two 37 mm guns (15-16) with sights removed. Patrol returned at 1515.

PATROL NUMBER 3

Company "C" patrol left from (1) at 0900 on the 7th of October 1943

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following coral road , ) and trails to (3) where they entered a large bivouac area. Area believed to have been where pilots lived. Again going along trail (4) to (5) found 3 large tin roofed shacks containing the following:

- 200 picks and shovels
- 2 coils 3/4 in manilla rope
- 8 coils smooth wire
- 3 large cans dynamite fuse
- 4 tents
- 35 bicycles
- Large quantities tools of all types
- 5 pulleys
- 1 bath tub complete w/heater
- Miscellaneous items.

Proceeded on to (6) - (7) - (8) - (9) which were all deserted bivouac areas with many dug outs and remnants of shacks all having wire from the main trail. Going north to (10) which is believed to be Jack Hill where there was a large bivouac area with a large shack (tin roof) and termination of trail (which was about 3 feet wide and corduroyed solid with small logs) and all wires. Investigated all around Jack Hill and found only hospital equipment and one destroyed telephone. Patrol then returned along trail (11) to "C" Company area at 1450.

#### PATROL NUMBER 4

Reconnaissance patrol from "C" Company left battalion bivouac area at 0845 on 8 October 1943 by boat to (1) found 3 inch gun at (2) and bivouac area extending from (3) to (4). Estimate 1 battalion with CP in cave dug in rear of hill (5) found telephone switchboard (6) and bags of rice, small arms ammunition and old clothes.

Took trail and ran into bivouac (7) estimated 1 company and CP and on to (7), Small trail was investigated and reported negative. Continued on trail to (9) and (10) finding two bivouac areas with nothing of value in either area. Along trail to (11) finding another bivouac area (containing nothing of importance) and continued on back to area of "C" Company arriving there at 1540.

#### PATROL NUMBER 5

Combat and Reconnaissance patrol left Company B area at 0800, 8 October 1943, following well traveled Japanese trail which crossed series of hills and many streambeds. Searched 8 bivouac areas (estimated 2 weeks since occupancy) in area of Ringi Cove. Found 6 wrecked barges at Cove. Returned along same trail to starting point at 1800.

/s/ Joseph J Koontz  
/t/ JOSEPH J. KOONTZ  
1st Lt, 26th Infantry,  
S-2.

Encl - One Overlay.