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MILITARY GOVERNMENT DETACHMENT  
77TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
APO 331, c/o postmaster  
San Francisco, Calif.

1 April 1945

SUBJECT: Operations Report.

TO : The Adjutant General,  
Washington, D. C.  
THRU: Chain of operation Command.

DECLASSIFIED  
GDS 5000, 5001 and 5002 or (19)  
735017  
By: J NARS, Date 1/5/78

1. In compliance with Operational Directive No. 15, Headquarters Tenth Army dated 24 January 1945, and letter, Headquarters 77th Infantry Division dated 1 March 1945, subject: "Operations Report", the following report of the activities of Military Government Detachment B-9 is submitted.

2. Chapter I: As directed by Appendix #3 to Adm. Order #9, HQ, 77th Inf. Div., dated 19 February 1945, Military Government Detachment B-9 was to "leave four (4) officers and nine (9) EM on ZAMAMI SHIMA, who were to remain there until relieved by ISCOM". Mission of the Detachment was, during the assault phase, "to conduct military Government reconnaissance, and assist in control of civilians; establish civilian collecting points, post proclamations, and issue civilian relief supplies available to the Division". No. 6 G-10 Dispensary was likewise to be put ashore and function until relieved by ISCOM.

3. Chapter II: Not applicable.

4. Chapter III: Not applicable.

5. Chapter IV: From 18 February to 8 March 1945 on Leyte, P.I., near the former village of Tarragona, the Detachment which was made up of both army and navy personnel, first directed its attention to obtaining the balance of the required individual equipment, vehicles and organizational equipment. A training program was commenced in conjunction with military Government Detachments A-5 and no. 6 and no. 7 G-10 Dispensaries, who were bivouaced together. The program included instruction in firing and care of individual weapons, digging fox-holes and slit trenches, erecting pup-tents, practice march, defense against chemical attack, interior guard duty, instruction in Rules of Land Warfare, water supplies and water purification, enemy land mines and booby traps, first-aid, sanitation and protection against diseases in the target area, care and maintenance of motor vehicles, duties and responsibilities of military government personnel.

6. Chapter V: On 6 March 1945 the Detachment started loading its equipment and supplies from the beach near Tarragona, Leyte, P.I., and on 8 March 1945 a part of the Detachment designated as Section 2, embarked on the U.S.S. RIXEY to be followed 2 days later by the four (4) officers and nine (9) EM designated as Section 1, who were to be "left off at ZAMAMI SHIMA". This section boarded the U.S.S. SAMUEL CHASE. When the CHASE was found unseaworthy several days later the detachment personnel and equipment of Section 1 transferred to the U.S.S. PITT.

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7. Chapter VI: on 15 March 1945 a practice landing was made by elements of the Division and the Detachment Commander utilized the opportunity for experience, by going ashore with Division officers. Enroute to the target familiarisation talks on the target area, the pending operations, and instructions in the duties and responsibilities of military government personnel, were given by the various officers of the respective sections.

8. Chapter VII: a.(1) on the morning of 27 March 1945 the 1st Section of Military Government Detachment B-9 went ashore on Kerama Retto, Nansei Shoto. They accompanied troops of the 2nd Battalion, 305th Regimental Combat Team, debarking from U.S.S. PITT, and joined the Detachment Commander, who went in from the U.S.S. RIXEY. The landings were made from the ship's small boats to the small island of Agenashiku Shima and then across the bay in amtracks to the beach at the foot of Zamami Town, on ZAMAMI SHIMA. Proclamations were posted. Reconnaissance surveys were made by Lt. Col. Francis H. Miller, the Detachment Commander, and Major Fred Gustorf, C.O. of the sub-detachment, which was to remain with the garrison force and administer military government.

(2) While elements of the 2nd Battalion were organizing, the first military government reconnaissance surveys disclosed that the majority of the village houses had either been totally destroyed or badly wrecked; approximately 25 natives, mostly aged men and women and young children were concentrated in one or two houses in the center of the village, and all other natives were thought to have taken refuge in the caves and in the hills.

(3) When Capt. John A. McCartney, Assistant Medical Officer and Sanitation officer of the Detachment, came ashore he joined with a 1st Battalion Medical Corpsman in caring for the wounded. A woman whose neck was laid open by shrapnel; a mother and baby who necks had been slashed by the father in attempted homicide and suicide were among the first to receive treatment. Shortly it was found that attempted, and also accomplished, homicides and suicides were rather numerous and in keeping with Japanese propaganda, which taught that Americans were murderers; that they would kill the men and rape the women.

(4) Although first-aid treatment only was available at first, the 68th portable Surgical Hospital was set up and functioning within two days in several native huts and houses and provided hospital care for American soldiers, natives who were seriously wounded, and at least one Japanese aviation technical sergeant, who had been brought in by the navy after being shot down.

(5) The No. 6 G-10 Dispensary was set up in an adjoining native house on 30 March and on Saturday Dr. Alsop was also treating wounded civilians who for the most part were brought in by our troops after being found in caves.

b. (1) Through an interpreter it was learned that the native mayor, sometimes referred to as Ichikawa and later as Nomura, was thought to be dead and dealings with the natives were then begun through an aged native, Mayasato. Later a native by the name of Shigobo Chinnen was appointed acting mayor.

(2) The first problem of control was a simple one. The natives were frightened, numbers were wounded, and with exception of a few girls and young mothers, others were aged and weak men and women, or young children. They were instructed not to leave the village or they would be subject to being shot by our troops who were on the lookout for the enemy. Thereafter they asked permission. Arrangements were then made to have a guard accompany the few persons permitted to return to close-by caves for clothing and other personal belongings.

(3) At first only military government personnel were available for guarding the civilian collecting point but a small detachment of military police was requested for guard duty. On the second day a few additional civilians, who had been wounded in the hills, were brought in and on Wednesday evening a group of sixty-five, who had been reported to the Division Commander as waving a white flag on Yakabi Shima, were at his direction removed to the collecting point by a detachment of troops and military government personnel. In keeping with the desire of the Tactical Commander, Lt. Col. Doyle, the civilian collecting point was moved Thursday and Friday, 29th and 30th of March, to the village of Ama, over the hill to the west approximately a mile distant. On Saturday, the 31st, there were 215 men, women and children under care.

c. Feeding during the first week was not a serious problem; soldiers provided some K Rations, natives had some food and a small amount of civilian type rations which had been brought ashore was provided. On request from the Artillery Commander on Geruma Shima, two bags of rice were sent over for the ninety-nine civilians remaining on that island. The future problem of feeding did not seem to be an acute one as the natives reported having quantities of rice and fresh vegetables. practically all of the fishing boats had been destroyed, however, and it appeared necessary to make provisions for fish in the diet.

d. Reconnaissance in the hills surrounding Zamami Town disclosed a cache of several tons of shoes and clothing which were salvaged and placed at a near-by monument. However, with the shortage of guards and while property was unguarded souvenir hunting soldiers and sailors pilfered three-quarters of the stock.

e. Approximately 200 Korean laborers were taken prisoners by our troops and they were used for various details; some of them to dig graves in the newly established American military cemetery, others to bury enemy dead, while still others were used by military government personnel to build a corral for some half dozen cows and a score of goats which were found in the town. Because of the weak and aged condition of the natives, who were first concentrated in the collecting point, they were given only odd jobs to do. Two strong young mothers helped with washing clothes in the hospital.

f. On Wednesday a message was received from the Artillery Commander on Geruma Shima and Col. Miller and Capt. Robineau, Property Custodian, went to that island and picked up several packages which contained native currency and documents which apparently were records of savings accounts, insurance policies, and report cards of children in school. These had been found in a cave where twelve women had committed suicide. They were turned over to Major Gustorf for investigation and disposition.

8. In general, military government administration appeared to be meeting the requirements. Personnel were cooperating and carrying out the desires of the Tactical Commanders. During the week the Regimental and Battalion Commanders, Col. Tenzola and Lt. Col. Doyle, had requested that notices to the population be printed stating that civilians would be cared for and not harmed in the newly established civilian center and all civilians were encouraged to come in. One statement was prepared by Major Gustorf and the other by the acting mayor and mimeographed on two sides of the same paper. They were to be taken by civilians, who were permitted to return into the hills to their caves, for distribution. Natives who obtained them were to present them to soldiers when necessary to get through the lines. Miyoshi Wotanabe, interpreter who had been assigned to the garrisoning military government detachment, proved to be an excellent interpreter and an excellent and capable foreman for getting natives organized and doing individual jobs in the collecting center. He apparently had no trouble in conversing and making the natives understand. Likewise, Hisashi Hino and Isayuki Fugii, interpreters of the 2nd Section, who had been taken in by the Detachment Commander were found to be able to converse fluently with the natives. All officers and enlisted personnel of the 2nd Section went ashore to observe operations and gain experience for their coming assignment.

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