

CAMP OVERTON, Mindanao, P. I.

July 15th, 1904.

The Adjutant General,

Department of Mindanao,

Zamboanga, Mindanao.

(Thro' Military Channels.)

Sir:

Pursuant to S. O. No. 84, Camp Overton, Mind., June 10, 1904, I have the honor to make the following report of an exploring expedition made under my command from this post to Margos sa Tubig, Mind.

At 10:30 a. m. June 12th, the detachment left Camp Overton on Quartermaster's launch West Point for Misamis, arriving there at about 3:00 p. m.

After disembarking, the detachment was put in the old Spanish barracks of the fort, getting in just in time to escape a downpour of rain which continued intermittently until about 5 o'clock the following morning.

During the afternoon I went up town to inquire for a guide and was referred to a Visayan named Ramon Gallardo whom I went to see and found to be a man of some intelligence, having been Captain in the insurgent army.

After a few moment conversation he said that he would accompany us for 3 or 4 days or until we could get other guides.

On the 13th, we started for Mt. Malindang, this being our first objective point, and as it was very warm, the trail muddy and in places rough, and the cargadores pretty heavily loaded made only about five miles. Our camp was at the house of Miguel Jalim a Visayan. This house with two or three others in the vicinity is called Pulut. During the afternoon Private Myers killed a fine wild hog.

On the morning of the 14th, I sent Cook Ruhl and one of the cargadores, who had developed some fever, back to Misamis with

instructions to have the operator (an old member of my troop) telegraph the Quartermaster at Camp Overton for the launch in order that they could return-The sending them back being at the advice of Dr. Coffin.

We marched this day about eight miles getting into the Subano country and made camp on Maquinagay river near the rancheria of Datto Danunto. On talking with him through Gallardo, who is a good interpreter, it was ascertained that Americans had been to this place before.

At this camp I was struck with immense leaves of the Elephant's ear plants growing about, and one which was measured was $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet long by 4 feet 7 inches wide.

June 15th: After about $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours march we came to the rancheria of Catagan, Datto Anib, and rested here for about one hour.

It might be of interest to state that from this place no civilized man had ever before trodden, and that the people are all Subanos until Cumularang near Dumaquilas bay was reached. The people of Cumularang are Maguindanao Moros, and the town being so near the bay had been visited before our advent by the Spaniards and an American official or two, though we were the first United States soldiers there.

Anib volunteered to accompany us to Malindang as a guide, and we proceeded on our journey camping this night on the Malubug river making a distance of 7 miles for the day. The travel was now hard as it was in the mountains.

At this camp one of the cargadores found a poor grade of honey made by bees considerably smaller than ordinary house flies.

June 16th: Our march was a hard one, up, up, up, as we were ascending one of the highest peaks in the Philippines, and also one on which no white man had ever before been. At 2:00 p.m. we made a dry camp at an altitude of about 7000 feet and I calculate that we marched only about 5 miles this day, this on account of our rough and steep route. On this mountain there were many immense trees the resin of which copal, has a high commercial value, being used in the making of varnish.

On the 17th, we left camp at 6:00 a.m. sharp arriving at the top of the mountain at 8. Our disappointment can be imagined when from the top of this mountain we could see that we were not on the peak of Malindang, and to reach it we must go down a deep gulch then up the other side which would have taken probably two days.

On account of the slow time we were making in an attempt to climb Malindang, the very short distance we still were from Misamis and the thought that our rations might run short at a bad time or place I decided to continue on our journey leaving Malindang unclimbed.

The mountain we were on was a peak almost exactly like Malindang and very slightly lower, only a matter of probably 150 or 200 feet. We must have been at 8:00 o'clock in the morning of the 17th, June at an altitude of 8000 feet or more. This mountain we named Lebo after our regimental commander. Lieut. Holcomb took many observations and will give bearing, height, etc. of it as well as of Malindang in his map. I feel pretty certain that Mt. Lebo is hidden from the coast by Malindang and is between 8000 and 8500 feet high.

Our attempt at Mt. Malindang can in no way be considered a failure and we would have ascended this peak, in addition to the one we did ascend, had we not had a long trip before us where all of our rations would be apt to be needed. As it was we were right up against Malindang but it would have required time to make the ascent.

We spent about an hour on the top of Mt. Lebo then started forward on our journey to Margosa Tubig via Cumularang.

NOTES.

MALINDAG - Natural group of lofty elevations, central summit of which reaches elevation of 8560 feet, in north portion of Misamis, Mindanao, fifteen miles inland from west shore of Iligan bay. Divides drainage between that bay on the east and channel between Mindanao and Negros on the north. Fifteen miles west by north of this summit is another, 8580 feet in height. Another group of the same range, thirty-two miles to southwest, with same name, rises nine miles north of Tres Reyes mountains, which form line of boundary between Misamis and Zamboanga on the south.

MALINDANG - Natural peak of range of same name, 7892 feet high, northwest of Misamis. South peak of same range 3-1/2 miles south by east is 5858 feet high.