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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY China

DATE:

SUBJECT Military and Naval Information: Macao

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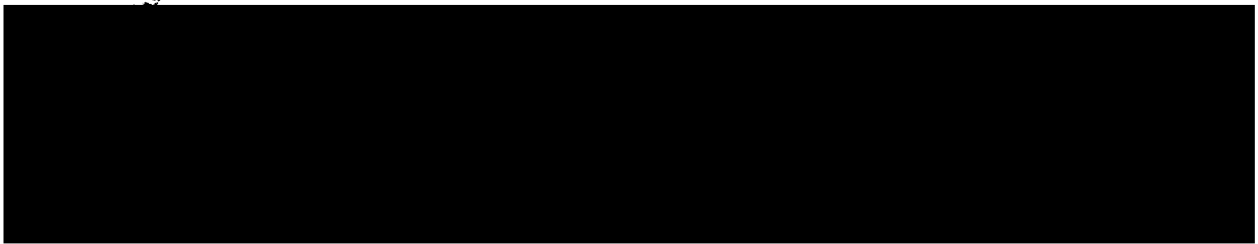
PAGES 2

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an expeditionary force comprised of about 700 men known as the 'Batalhao de Cacadores do Norte' arrived on the SS "Lourenco Marques" in Macao. (This unit with its equipment was previously reported as 719 men who disembarked on 1 July.) This battalion is said to be a famous Portuguese unit from northern Portugal, the soldiers being mostly former farm laborers from the mountainous region of northern Portugal. It was reported that just before the Japanese surrender in 1945 when Portugal was expected to declare war on the Japanese these troops were stationed aboard the "Lourenco Marques" and were to attack Portuguese Timor, which at that time was in the hands of the Japanese. The battalion was not sent back to Portugal but diverted to Macao, apparently upon the request of the British who were having difficulties in Hongkong with the Chinese.

The troops are quartered in the barracks Rua da San Francisco and in houses near the barracks. Some of their equipment includes Bren guns, some modern trucks, and about a dozen tanks. These tanks are of the open type and unfit for any street fighting, since they could easily be knocked out by hand grenades and sharpshooters located on roof tops or in the upper stories of buildings. These tanks were primarily to be used in Timor where the open type would be most desirable. A large amount of ammunition was lost during the voyage of the "Lourenco Marques" when a fire broke out aboard the ship and a part of the ammunition had to be thrown overboard. One source stated that these troops had an unusual amount of grenades and explosives and that recently the utmost security has been maintained in the military establishments in Macao. No one except the soldiers themselves are being permitted entry into any of the military compounds.

The commander of the Batalhao de Cacadores do Norte is Ten. Colonel (Lt. Col.) Anibal Tarrinho. The battalion is divided into two main units:

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- 2 -

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a. Sub-unidade de Chaves or 2a. Companhia de Cacadores. This is an infantry unit commanded by Capitao Jose Joaquim Cape(a).
 Note: Chaves is a city in northern Portugal.)

b. Companhia Auto T. T. This is a tank and motorized unit commanded by Capitao Gois Pinto.

4. Besides the Batalhao de Cacadores do Norte, there is a small artillery unit of about forty men of the former garrison stationed at the old fort which was known as Monte Fort. Actually this unit is of no importance and has never taken part in parades or in any military functions. There are also about 100 Negro troops from Mozambique who have their own quarters on Coloman Island. During August - September 1946, 400 Negro troops from Timor, described as lazy and completely unreliable, were returned to Timor. (Note: Previous reports stated that 250 were from Mozambique and 150 were from Timor.)

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5. Since there has been a constant flow of British troops from Hongkong into Macao where they spend their leaves, the problem of bad relationships has arisen between the British and Portuguese troops. The Portuguese troops dislike the British troops and openly call them "Beefe", meaning beefsteak. During a football game between a British team from Hongkong and the Batalhao team on 25 October, the Portuguese team played an intentionally rough game, with the Portuguese expressing much pleasure whenever a Britisher was knocked down or injured. Fights between Portuguese and British soldiers became so frequent in the cabaret of the Central Hotel that the management was compelled to charge the servicemen an entrance fee in order to keep the majority of them away.
6. The Aviso "Alfonso Albuquerque", a Portuguese war ship commanded by Capitao-tenente Jose Salvador Mendes, is now in Macao Harbor. The ship is reported to have very modern equipment, some radar gear, and a crew of 350.
7. The personnel of the harbor office, maritime police, pilots, and other maritime services ("Servicos de Marinha") totals about 400 men.
8. The Macao police force totals 450 Portuguese and about 1100 Chinese and Portuguese-Indians [? Goanese?] and even of all three races [??].

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