

Reconnaissance Report made by
Capt White, 6th Ingrs.

We made a foot patrol from BAYAMBANG along HIGHWAY 252 to AICALA. We crossed the AGNO RIVER at BAYAMBANG at existing railroad bridge which has since been open to jeep traffic. It is a steel trestle bridge. It will carry any load, limited only by width of vehicles. A good road net connects it with BAYAMBANG. The road from BAYAMBANG to AICALA is a 1-way gravelroad with one bridge of 8-ton capacity which can easily be bypassed (20% - 16.0)(approx.). The road has a very thin coating of fine gravel with silty sand base which would become unpassable under heavy traffic during wet weather. Soundings were made on the AGNO RIVER opposite AICALA from a canoe, and at the deepest parts the river was 6 feet deep. Near curves in river there are numerous sand bars which are silt-covered and very soft. The average width of the river is 700 feet and narrows down at spots to 300 feet. Opposite AICALA the banks are soft sand covered by a shoulder-high grass; on the outside of the river curves, the banks are approximately 6 feet high. On the inside of the curves, the banks are sloped down to the water edge. The river was observed at other points to South and same conditions existed. Civilian in charge of public utilities at AICALA stated there were no passable vehicle fords between BAYAMBANG and CARMAN. He had existing records up until the time of the Japanese occupation which contained soundings of the river and show no passable vehicle fords. Approaches for ponton bridge sites from the South are fair and could easily be connected to the existing road net. Soil conditions throughout the area are silty sand and retains water to such an extent that the area is very muddy after a rain. River when observed had an abnormal flow of 5 miles per hour due to recent rains. Natives report normal flow as 2 miles per hour. Guerillas at AICALA reported that during the night of 14 Jan approximately 2000 Japs moved North across the AGNO RIVER from CARMAN towards VILLASIS, and that the Japs had succeeded in fording vehicles across the river in that vicinity.

Date of Report: 15 Jan 45, 2000 hours.

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