Reconnaissance Report made by
Capt White, 6th Angrs.

We made a foot patrol from BAYAMBANG along HIGHWAY 252 to
ALCALÁ. We crossed the AGNO RIVER at BAYAMBANG at existing railroad
bridge which has since been open to jeep traffic. It is a steel
truss 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 ALCALÁ is a 1-way gravel road with one bridge of
8-ton capacity which can easily be bypassed (22/0 – 16,0)(approx.).
The road has a very thin coating of fine gravel with silty sand
base which would become impassable under heavy traffic during wet
weather. Soundings were made on the AGNO RIVER opposite ALCALÁ
from a canoe, and at the deepest parts the river was 8 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 ALCALÁ 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 ALCALÁ
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 pontoon 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.

Guerrillas at ALCALÁ reported that during the night of 14 Jan ap-
proximately 2000 Japs moved North across the AGNO RIVER from CARMAN
towards VILLASIL, and that the Japs had succeeded in fording vehicles
across the river in that vicinity.

Date of report: 15 Jan 45, 2000 hours.