

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
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MAY 4 1954

Chief of Station, Guatemala []

Operational - SI

Railroad bridge across Lake Amatitlan

Reference: 100-2174

1. Attached is a strip of 35mm film of spots of the railroad bridge across Lake Amatitlan. These pictures were taken by [redacted] on 1 May 1954.

2. At the railroad station called "Maguna" the railroad coming from SACUNTILA turns along the lake edge and starts across the lake on a dirt filled causeway for approximately 1000 feet. At the north end of the causeway there is a bridge span about 35 feet long constructed to permit passage of small boats underneath. The span is supported by a concrete abutment on each end and a center support (about 2 feet thick and the width of the tracks) of concrete mounted on 12 six inch solid steel posts in the lake bed.

3. The rails rest on ties which in turn rest on steel "I" beams which are about 24 inches high and 12 inches across, made of 5/4" steel. There are two beams on the center support and one on each end. They are fastened to the concrete by 1" square head bolts. There are about 3 inches between the end of the beam and the concrete abutment. In the center, there is about 1 inch between the beams and the concrete support and approximately 2 inches between the side of the beam and the edge of the support. [redacted] states this was caused by steel spacers that were placed under the "I" beams to level the track. He believes a charge could be placed under the "I" beams at these points. (Sketch attached).

4. According to [redacted], persons could work from a boat or from the shore. If a boat is used, a platform could be required to give sufficient height. If a land approach is made, he recommends that it be from the north (town of Moran). There is a road within 1,000 feet of the north end of the span. It is believed that the bridge is used for pedestrian traffic between Moran and little shacks on the other side of the lake. There is fishing at night in the lake so that a boat would not attract undue attention. The person blowing the bridge could fish there a few nights in advance to observe traffic.

[]
Robert S. [redacted]

Attachments: 2

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Distribution:

2-100-2174 w/single attachments

2-Wash w/o attachments

2-Files w/o attachments

1-C [] w/o attachments

100-2174 / [redacted] / [redacted]