

DECLASSIFIED

Auth: NND 883018

STARS & STRIPES UNIT
NAME OF UNIT

EDWARD MATTHEWS
UNIT COMMANDING OFFICER

1. Complaints
2. Investigating Officer's Notes
3. Request for Recognition dtd 17 Jan '46
4. NFC ltr & TLR dtd 8 May '47

REMARKS:

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Authority NND 883078

// This letter was sent
but never reached its
destination.

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Authority

NNJ 883018

HEADQUARTERS
PHILIPPINES-RYUKYUS COMMAND
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL

GSCPU 091 PI / 1007

APO 707

8 MAY 1947

Mr. Edward Matthews
Manila, P. I.

Dear Mr. Matthews:

The Commanding General has directed that you be informed that the "Stars and Stripes Unit", purporting to be a guerrilla organization under your nominal control, is not favorably considered for recognition as an element of the Philippine Army.


A set of general requirements for guerrilla recognition, established by General MacArthur during the liberation of the Philippines, has been used as a guide in considering the record of this unit. After careful investigation and full consideration of all substantiating records and testimony of witnesses having pertinent knowledge, recognition of this guerrilla unit is not deemed to be warranted because of reasons mentioned below:

- a. Record of service was not substantiated by sufficient acceptable evidence.
- b. Adequate records were not maintained (names, ranks, dates of enlistment or joining, dates of promotions, and necessary related information).

It is desired to emphasize that each claimant member of the unit is considered to have had just and adequate appraisal for recognition when his services were evaluated concurrently with this study of the unit with which he claims membership. Individual requests were not necessary nor appropriate then, or now, as their acceptance would in effect constitute unjustified duplication of consideration of one individual by this headquarters. However, this does not preclude submission for casualty recognition by those individuals who are qualified and feel justified in entering such claims. Upon request by interested individuals, appropriate forms will be forwarded.

Your attention is invited to Presidential Executive Order No. 68, Commonwealth of the Philippines, copy of which is attached, for any necessary action in connection therewith.

Sincerely,


R. E. CANTRELL

CAPTAIN, AGD
ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL

1 Incl
Executive Order No. 68

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 883018

MALACANAN PALACE
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 68

DEMobilIZATION OF ELEMENTS OF THE PHILIPPINE ARMY AND
OTHER GUERRILLA UNITS IN THE FIELD

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth Government has been advised by the Commander-in-Chief, United States Army Forces, Pacific, of the termination of hostilities and the surrender of Japanese forces;

WHEREAS, the Government has further been advised by the Commander-in-Chief, United States Army Forces, Pacific, that this termination of hostilities and surrender of the Japanese forces has rendered unnecessary the maintenance for further field service of elements of the Army of the Philippines in addition to regularly activated units and of those guerrilla units already recognized;

WHEREAS, continued assembly and maintenance of headquarters is not a prerequisite to recognition of guerrilla units; and

WHEREAS, the demobilization of guerrilla units in the field will not prejudice the continuance of recognition of such guerrilla units as can produce evidence showing that they have maintained organized military forces in the field in effective opposition to the Japanese, which will be the basis for award of such benefits as may be authorized of such units;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, SERGIO OSMEÑA, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the Philippines, do hereby order:

1. That all unrecognized guerrilla units be disbanded and that all members thereof return to their homes and engage in their normal civilian pursuits.
2. That all arms, ammunitions, and military supplies and equipment in the possession of unrecognized guerrilla units or of individual members of such units be immediately turned in to the Commander of the nearest unit of the United States Army or of the Army of the Philippines.
3. That all records of unrecognized guerrilla units disbanded in conformity herewith, together with any request for recognition and evidence in support of such request, be assembled and turned in to the Commander of the nearest unit of the United States Army or of the Army of the Philippines for forwarding to Headquarters, Philippine Army.

(over)

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Authority NND 883018

Done at the City of Manila, this 26th day of September, in the year of Our Lord, nineteen hundred and forty-five, and of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, the tenth.

(SGD) SERGIO OSMEÑA
President of the Philippines

By the President:

(SGD) JOSE S. REYES
Secretary to the President

E.O. No. 68



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Authority **NND 883018**

SPECIALLY FOR USE OF STAFF

G-3 Form No. 2 : HEADQUARTERS
 : PHILIPPINES-RYUKYUS COL
 : OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-3
 : OFFICE RETAINED RECORD

SEQUENCE NO.

 RADIO CITE

G-3 File No. GSCP U 091 PI : Date: _____
 : 2 May 1947
 SUBJECT: Recognition, Request for : Type of Communication
 FROM : Edward Matthews : Ltr
 GROSS REFERENCES : _____

FOR ACTION BY: _____ : SUSPENSE DATE : _____ : CONCURRENCES : _____
 (file symbol only) : _____ : _____ : _____

GSCP	File Symbol	Initial	Date

OFFICER TAKING ACTION (and initials) : _____ : _____ : _____
1st Lt Lester W. Pierce, Jr. *LP* : _____ : _____ : _____

Policy : Non-Policy : Recommending : _____ : _____ : _____
 : : Approval : _____ : _____ : _____
 : : CAW : _____ : _____ : _____

(File Symbol) (Action) : _____ : APPROVED : _____

TO: ML FOR: Dign *8 May 47*

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Col Gerald F Lillard:

1. The "Stars and Stripes Unit," (Independent), strength unknown, has not been favorably considered for recognition. This is an initial investigation. No members have been previously recognized.
2. This unit does not fulfill the requirements of the five basic points for recognition. See attached Team Leader's Report.
3. No useful purpose will be served by further investigation of this unit.
4. There are no members worthy of recognition. No casualty report has been submitted. Recommend that any casualty claims submitted by this unit be NFC'd.

Lester W. Pierce, Jr.
 LESTER W. PIERCE, JR.
 1st Lt., Inf

Concur: *S.C. Buchanan*
 Capt S C Buchanan
 Chief, Southern Luzon

Concur: *CAW*
 Maj C H Wentzell
 Chief, Unit Inv Sec

(over)

HEADQUARTERS **RECORDS**
 PHILIPPINES-HYUKYUS COMMAND FILE
 OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL

GSCFU 091 FI /1007

APO 707

8 MAY 1947

Mr. Edward Matthews
 Manila, P. I.

Dear Mr. Matthews:

The Commanding General has directed that you be informed that the Stars and Stripes Unit, purporting to be a guerrilla organization under your nominal control, is not favorably considered for recognition as an element of the Philippine Army.

A set of general requirements for guerrilla recognition, established by General MacArthur during the liberation of the Philippines, has been used as a guide in considering the record of this unit. After careful investigation and full consideration of all substantiating records and testimony of witnesses having pertinent knowledge, recognition of this guerrilla unit is not deemed to be warranted because of reasons mentioned below:

a. Record of service was not substantiated by sufficient acceptable evidence.

b. Adequate records were not maintained (names, ranks, dates of enlistment or joining, dates of promotions, and necessary related information).

It is desired to emphasize that each claimant member of the unit is considered to have had just and adequate appraisal for recognition when his services were evaluated concurrently with this study of the unit with which he claims membership. Individual requests were not necessary nor appropriate then, or now, as their acceptance would in effect constitute unjustified duplication of consideration of one individual by this headquarters. However, this does not preclude submission for casualty recognition by those individuals who are qualified and feel justified in entering such claims. Upon request by interested individuals, appropriate forms will be forwarded.

Your attention is invited to Presidential Executive Order No. 68, Commonwealth of the Philippines, copy of which is attached, for any necessary action in connection therewith.

Sincerely,

COY GSCFU 1 1007

1 Incl
 Executive Order No. 68



R. E. CANTRELL
 CAPTAIN, AGD
 ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL

GSCFU Comeback Copy

2 May 1947

IMPJr/rhm

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REPORT ON THE STAR AND STRIPES UNIT

1. On 25 April 1947, Lt. Lester W. Pierce, Jr., examined the file of the Stars and Stripes Unit.

2. ALLEGED HISTORY: See attached unit file

3. FINDINGS:

a. After a careful examination of the unit file a field investigation was deemed unnecessary.

b. Record of service was not substantiated by sufficient acceptable evidence.

c. Adequate records were not maintained. There were no rosters of the unit, no documentary evidence to sustain their claims of existence, or any other necessary related information.

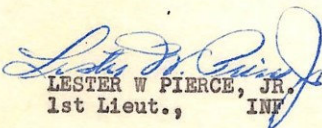
d. No useful purpose will be served by further investigation of this unit.

4. POLITICAL ASPECTS:

This unit appears to have no political affiliations or aspirations.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Stars and Stripes Unit be not favorably considered for recognition. Recommend also that casualty claims (if submitted) be not favorably considered.


LESTER W PIERCE, JR.
1st Lieut., INF

*Make
my unit
folder*

C-1115

6-3

Manila, January 17, 1946

Commanding Officer,
AFWESPAC, APO 707

Dear Sir:

I read in the newspaper dated Jan. 16 where the guerillas are suppose to file their claims in case they want their outfit recognized. I am going to give you a clear idea about our outfit. This was known as the Stars and Stripe unit composed of more or less two hundred men in Batangas province. This was form at the very beginning of the Japanese occupation under my leadership. All our activities were purely sabotage. We have two Japanese tanker Sakura and Igami blasted and sunk between the coast of Batangas and Mindoro.

We received instruction when and how to blast bodegas and boat from our American advicer from Santo Tomas Camp, Mr. Homer Waller a Baguio miner who provided us with dynamites and Capt. Wallace, ship captain by profession who gave us hint where to blast the ship most effectively. We had men working at Batangas Bay loading food stuff and oil for the Japanese which gave us ample chance to sabotage ships. We had also time-bomb expert now a cameraman in U. S. A.

So far we have no records of any sort except our three American witnesses who can give real facts if personally interviewed. We never did take any chances of keeping records during the Japanese time. All that we kept well was a complete list of our men in duty which is now in the possession of James Matthews now in U. S. A. We never believed the guerillas will ever be recognized in any manner at the very beginning. For this reason we never kept any fancy records and rosters.

Just in case there is any chance for our outfit to be recognized I can cable for the complete records of the names of my men in U. S. A.

Hoping to hear from you in your most convenient time.

Respectfully yours,

Edward Matthews