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CALANGITAN FIGHTING FORCE

NAME OF UNIT

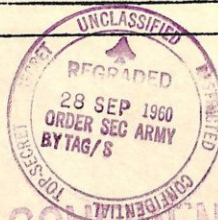
SANTIAGO OCAMPO

UNIT COMMANDING OFFICER

1. Complaints
2. Investigating Officer's Notes
3. NFC/DL ltr dtd 14 Sept '46, w/History & Activities

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REMARKS:



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11C-47-816
853

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES WESTERN PACIFIC
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
APO 707

GSCFO 091 PI

10 September 1946

Mr. Santiago Ocampo
Capas, Tarlac
P. I.

17 Sept. 46 *pu*

Dear Mr. Ocampo:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 19 August 1946 in which you request the recognition of the Calangitan Fighting Forces.

Special press release from Public Relations Office, AFWESPAC, dated 1 February 1946, stated that no applications for recognition of guerrilla units would be accepted by this headquarters after 15 March 1946.

Your request for recognition of the Calangitan Fighting Force was received at this headquarters in your letter dated 19 August 1946 and does not meet deadline referred to in paragraph two above.

It is considered generally that all concerned have had ample opportunity to prepare applications for recognition. In the opinion of this headquarters your request is not adequately justified and therefore is not favorably considered.

Sincerely yours,

[Faint, mostly illegible typed text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]

1 Copy Filed w/201 File (Santiago Ocampo)
1 Copy Filed w/Correcor. File (Calangitan Fighting Forces)
1 Copy Filed w/Unit File No. 016 WFO-DL

GSCFO Cornebach Copy

10 September 1946 RM/HIC/DCM/ovs Tel; U 444

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Lt. Col. Hugh L. Carnahan:

Request of Mr. Santiago Ocampo, Capas, Tarlac, dtd 19 Aug 46, for recognition of the Calangitan Fighting Force.

1. Informed that special press release from AFWESFAC, dtd 1 Feb 46, announced 15 March 46 the deadline for submission of applications for grla recogn.
2. Request was received at this hqs in ltr dtd 19 Aug 46, does not meet deadline, and therefore is not favorably considered.
3. The excuse given for not submitting this roster prior to 15 March 1946 is as follows: "The foregoing request has been unnecessarily delayed because the undersigned returned to the teaching service immediately after the liberation thereby seemingly to have forgotten those who joined the underground movement specially the negritoes of Calangitan." Such an excuse is unacceptable to this headquarters.

Maj. Douglas C. Murray

RECEIVED
19 AUG 21 1946
HEADQUARTERS
AFWESFAC
CAMPAS
TARLAC
PUNJAB

TO: SAC, CINCEN
FROM: SAC, CINCEN
SUBJECT: ...

...

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Handwritten signature
TO: SAC, CINCEN

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
HEADQUARTERS
AFWESFAC
CAMPAS
TARLAC
PUNJAB



#175

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Authority *NN0883078*HEADQUARTERS AFWESPAC
Check Sheet

4633

Do not remove from attached sheets

File No. GSXRP

Subject: Recognition of Guerrilla Unit.

(1) FROM: Recovered Personnel TO: Guerrilla Affairs 28 Aug 46
Division Branch FAJ/avg

The attached correspondence is forwarded as a matter pertaining to that Branch.

4 Incls:

- 1 - Ltr fr S. Ocampo, dtd 19 Aug 46
- 2 - Hist of Calangitan Fighting Force
- 3 - Ltr fr Gen J R M Weaver, dtd 28 Jan 46
- 4 - Ltr fr Kathleen Nelson, dtd 28 Mar 46

Morris F. Marcus
MORRIS F. MARCUS
Col, AGD
Dir, Rec Pers Div

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Authority *NN0883078*

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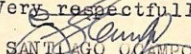
Authority NN8883078*NFC for Deadline*Capas, Tarlac
August 19, 1946Operations Branch
RPD, AFWESPAC
APO 707

S i r s:

I have the honor to submit the accompanying papers covering the composition, history, and activities of the Calangitan Fighting Force during the enemy occupation with the request that said UNIT be recognized if, in the opinion of that Office, the members thereof who risked their lives and the lives of their loved ones, deserve credit from the Federal Government. The foregoing request has been unnecessarily delayed because the undersigned returned to the teaching service immediately after the liberation thereby seemingly to have forgotten those who joined the underground movement specially the negritoes of Calangitan.

Hereto attached are certified copies of the letters from Brigadier General James R. N. Weaver of the U S Army and Mrs. Havelock Nelson of Ohio who were duly informed on how the late Major Nelson was taken care of by the Calangitan Fighting Force. The originals of the letters are in the possession of the undersigned for future reference.

Very respectfully,


 SAN TIAGO CAMPU

District Supervisor

SO

*Incl #1*DECLASSIFIED
Authority NN8883078

HISTORY OF THE CALANGITAN FIGHTING FORCE

Calangitan is a sitio inhabited by non-Christian Filipinos (aetas) about nine (9) miles from the municipality of Bamban, province of Tarlac. It is located in the mountains. Its location is such that resistance movements against the Yellow Rats (Japs) could be done with ease because its accessibility to the invaders was difficult if not impossible. We, the residents and evacuees of the place, upon the Fall of Bataan organized ourselves into a fighting group that could offer effective resistance against the common enemies. We armed ourselves with licensed revolvers, bolos, and bows and arrows. We were ready to liquidate any Japs that would dare tread on our soil and molest our tranquility. We were desperate because we sensed and understood that night was to rule over right. At night we patrolled our vicinity. That was in the summer of 1942. While we were on patrol duty one dark night, three of our companions reported that they saw an American Officer grouping in the dark by the bank of the river. Our Executive Officer commanded that the American Officer be brought immediately. No sooner ordered than done. In a few minutes Major Havelock Nelson of the Tank Division U. S. Army was in the headquarters for questioning. It was learned that he escaped from the concentration camp at O'Donnell, Capas, Tarlac. He was suffering from malaria that he contracted in Bataan. His condition was affected by the Death March from Bataan to Camp O'Donnell, his wounds, and long trip (3 days without food) from the prison camp to our isolated place. At once our wives played the role of nurses. They changed his clothes, dressed his wounds, and served him with native foods. He was given much relief. The boys constructed for him a shack in a hidden place by the side of Calangitan creek. His body guards and cooks were Sergeants Ben Capis and Romy Aquino. The former was killed by Japs while catching fish and getting food for Major Nelson. The people of Calangitan were scheduled by the Executive Officer in rationing Major Nelson with the best foods obtainable in the locality at that time. When Major Nelson got a little better he organized the Calangitan Fighting Force as follows:

Major HAVELOCK NELSON

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Capt. Santiago Ocampo, School Supervisor | |
| 2. 1st. Lt. Federicc Gamit " Teacher | |
| 3. 2nd. Lt. Angel Ramirez "Deceased" | |
| 4. 3rd. Lt. Artemio Gutierrez X | |
| 5. Sgt. Ben Capis "Deceased" | 11. Pvt. Benito Lindo |
| 6. Sgt. Remigio Aquino | 12. Pvt. Atanacio Fontecha |
| 7. Pvt. Julian Sicat | 13. Mvt. Manuel Gonzales |
| 8. Pvt. Eulogio Sicat | 14. Oligario Irang X |
| 9. Pvt. Cesar Sicat | 15. Pvt. Atanacio Resi |
| 10. Pvt. Paulino Capis X | 16. Pvt. Domingo Capiz X |
| | 17. Arcadio Sequete X Pvt. |
| | 18. Pvt. Faustino Aquino X |
| | 19. Pvt. Deong Lindo X |
| | 20. Juan Pineda Pvt. X |
| | 21. Pvt. Vicente Irang "Deceased" X |
| X" Negritoes" | 22. Pvt. Dominador Gutierres X |

Juddo

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CALANGITAN FIGHTING FORCE

- 1. 1st. ...
- 2. 2nd. ...
- 3. 3rd. ...
- 4. 4th. ...
- 5. 5th. ...
- 6. 6th. ...
- 7. 7th. ...
- 8. 8th. ...
- 9. 9th. ...
- 10. 10th. ...
- 11. 11th. ...
- 12. 12th. ...
- 13. 13th. ...
- 14. 14th. ...
- 15. 15th. ...
- 16. 16th. ...
- 17. 17th. ...
- 18. 18th. ...
- 19. 19th. ...
- 20. 20th. ...

APPENDIX A - RYA LOCK ALIEN

[The following text is extremely faint and largely illegible due to fading and bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. It appears to be a list or a series of entries.]

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HISTORY CONTINUED

After the reorganization of the force, an American Officer by the name of Lt. Heart came. While talking with Major Nelson two Japs soldiers went to the barrio to get chickens and eggs from the natives. Upon sight, Lt. Heart and some of our companions wanted to liquidate them because they could not see us but the Major ordered not to because the place was near the Camp at O'Donnell and it would be easy for the detachment to send soldiers to Calañgitan and that would mean the death of all including Major who was just recuperating. The advice was so good that it continued peace to reign over Calañgitan. By this a stern warning from the Japs reached us. It stated among other things, that anyone found taking care of Americans would be shot to death including all the members of his family. We did not give any importance to the warning. On the contrary the more we took proper care of Major Nelson and other Filipino soldiers who were able to escape from the Camp. We continued our resistance. We got news from other sources and relayed them to our friends so as to keep up their morale. We were well informed of war developments from Europe and the Pacific. We kept the people's faith in the coming back of the Americans. Those people who were bent on believing in the strength of the Japs were scouted. The news in the Shinbunnya, a Japs means of propoganda, was proved false by the members of Calañgitan Fighting Force. The history of the force will be rather incomplete without the narration of the personal experiences of Major Nelson which runs thus -

"How I came into your midst is wonderful", Major Nelson said in our gathering. Then he continued, "After our surrender, the cruel Japs made us walk from Bataan to Camp O'Donnell. On our way to Capas I got hungry and thirsty so at Guagua I bought something from a pedler. I gave her a Twenty Peso bill (Philippine currency). The vendor gave Japs money as change. When we reached the camp the Japs searched us. They found in me the Japs' notes as change I received in Guagua. At once I was accused of having killed Japanese soldiers. At once they slapped my face and kicked me several times. I even fell to the grounds with other prisoners of war in whom they found knives, Japs' notes and other deadly weapons, I was sentenced to face the firing squad. When the day of execution came, we were made to dig our common grave. After doing so we were tied one after the other then made to kneel facing our grave. When the signal to fire was given, the firing squad fired at us. All of us fell into the grave. The Japs were about to cover our grave but it showered so they postponed the job to the next morning. At midnight I felt someone moving in our grave. He said, "Hello Joe". I moved and looked at him. He was a Filipino who was spared by the bullets like me. We agreed to remove each other's ropes. We did and agreed to try our last chance by escaping. We got out of the fence by crawling when we found the guard in the tower sleeping. My companion went down-stream while I up-stream. I followed the course of the stream. I walked conti-

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HISTORY CONTINUED

nuously for three days and three nights without food and reaching nowhere. I simply made turns around the hateful and frightful concentron camp. On the fourth day I was so tired that I could go no further. I was forced to sit by the bank of the stream and prayed to Almighty. As luck would have it I caught sight of a fish the name of which I did not know. I immediately removed my shirt and tried to fish it. I caught the fish but could not eat it raw. I felt my pockets and found my box of match. It had but two wet sticks. I tried the first stick but did not give me light. I basked the second one. After a few seconds I was able to build fire. I roasted the fish then served myself. It was the first meal I had in four days. It was a million dollar meal. It gave me strength so I continued my way. In the evening of the fourth day while groping in the dark of the night some of you boys found and brought me to this place that I regard as heaven. That is how I got into your midst.

After a few months in seclusion the sickness of Major Havelock Nelson, our Major, attacked him again. We tried our best to cure him with the available medicines and those that could be procured through risky means but to no avail. For two weeks he lay in bed and then finally breathed his last. He was burried in a secluded place that could not be molested. His grave was marked with a tree that has grown big. When the forces of liberation arrived, due information was given to the proper military authorities. At the time of writing his bones were already exhumed.

After the death of our Major, the Japs raided our place several times hence the members of the units were forced to evacuate Calaňgitan but did not in the least give up the resistance movement. As a matter of fact, Sgt. Artemio Gutierrez and his men liquidated 12 Japs that were trying to masacre civilians in the mountains before the liberation. The other members of the Unit went places and coordinated their work with the plans of operational activities. The officers kept burning in the members that desire to exterminate the enemies. It is a pride to state in this connection that the rice of Capt. Ocampo that was stocked in Calaňgitan under the care of Et. Artemio Gutierrez was all consumed by the members of the Unit and by other Guerilleros that stopped in Calaňgitan for days. The rice amounted to no less than one hundred cavenes. Not even a centavo was paid to him. The other members of the Unit contributed eggs, rice, corn, milk, chickens, and meat of wild animals to those engaged in the resistance movement.

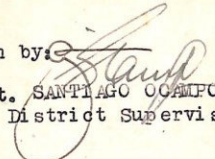
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HISTORY CONTINUED

Below is a summary of the accomplishments of the Calañgitan Fighting Force:

- a. Took proper care of an American Officer in the person of Major Havelock Nelson of the U. S. Tank Division
- b. Received news from short wave and transmitted same to Major Havelock Nelson, Lt. Heart, and other Americans contacted.
- c. Took care of Filipino prisoners that escaped from the concentration camp at O'Donnell.
- d. Kept the morale of the people regarding the resistance movement.
- e. Scouted the news of the Japanese propaganda in the Jap controlled dailies.
- f. Whispered to the people in the towns that the forces of liberation were on the way to the Philippines.
- g. Encouraged government employees to be fence seaters for their suffering would soon be ended.

Written by:


Capt. SANTIAGO OCAMPO
District Supervisor

SO

4TH HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT
SPECIAL TROOPS, FIRST ARMY
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
Fort Benning, Georgia

28 January 1946

Mr. Santiago Ocampo,
Supervisor of Schools of Capas Bamba-District,
Tarlac, P. I.

Dear Mr. Ocampo:

You befriended and took care of one of my Staff Officers, Major Havelock Nelson, in the summer of 1942, following his survival of an attempted execution by the Japanese near Camp O'Donnell in April '41 probably. The War Department has furnished me an excerpt copy of your letter, addressed to Mrs. Nelson.

She has written me in distress that her letter, addressed to Mr. Fortunato Gordon, thanking him for his communication to her, apparently similar to yours, has been returned undelivered. It may be that in some way she was furnished the wrong address and that it should have been addressed to you. It is inclosed unsealed. Will you try to get it to the addressee for her and in any event, know that the appreciation and sentiment expressed applies to your kindly and notable services to Major Nelson.

In the meantime, I am sending a copy of your letter (in excerpt as I received it) to Mrs. Nelson, 2600 Erie Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio; and I have no doubt she will communicate with you.

Please accept my continuing and fervent gratitude for your service to my Staff-Officer and friend.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

James R. Weaver
LICERIO P. LAPUS
1st Lt., Inf., PA-Res.
ASN O-32700
Former member, D-24,
RPD, AFWESPAC, APO 707

Sincerely,

/s/ James R. N. Weaver
/t/ JAMES R. N. WEAVER
Brigadier General, U S Army
Comdg. Tanks, USAFFE, '41 '42

I was a p.w. at O'Donnell Apr 11 May 10, 1941;
at Tarlac 11 May 11 August '41

Incl #3

THE SEVENTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MADISON ROAD AT CLEINLEW
AVENUE
Cincinnati

March 28, 1946

Mr. Santiago Ocampo,
District Supervisor,
Capas, Tarlac,
Philippine Islands

Dear Mr. Ocampo:

Your very kind letter, postmarked January 22nd, arrived yesterday - on Major Nelson's 48th birthday. Since mailing it to me you have, I hope, received General Weaver's letter of January 28th, in which he enclosed my letter to Mr. Fortunato Gordon. So you see I knew about you and your kindness and intended writing, but first hoped to receive the letter that I knew you had sent to the War Department. However, it was never forwarded to me. It is too bad that there was the error in address. My appreciation for your efforts to communicate with me is very great, and you will always have the undying gratitude of myself and my two daughters for all you did for my husband to make those last weeks of his life easier, and especially so as it was done at such a great risk to yourself. The tragic facts of his death are very hard to accept, and as time goes by it seems we miss him more than ever.

I have wondered about Major Nelson's burial place. Do you know if it is in a spot where it might be disturbed, or perhaps revert to jungle growth? I hope not. My hope is that his body remain with those who cared for and buried him. But I'd be happier knowing that there was a marker to tell who he was, and someone to care for his grave. If this is possible I'd gladly pay for such care. There has been talk of our government removing soldier's remains to a national cemetery on Luzon. However, I have no knowledge that this has been done.

Also, do you know a Mr. Angel Ramirez of Calangitan? I learned through Capt. Bruce, who returned to America last year, and who had been a friend of Lt. Hart's, that he had possession of my husband's gold watch. Mr. Fortunato Gordon wrote that Lt. Hart had died, but if Mr Ramirez has the watch it is possible that he might have other articles that Lt. Hart had taken after my husband's death. Anything however small, that had been havelock's would be treasured by us.

Missed

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As I told Mr. Gordon, I do not have a great deal, and am working as Church Secretary to help support myself and two daughters. But I want very much to repay partially the debt I owe you and your people and if there is anything you feel I might do for you, please tell me. My seventeen year old daughter, Leslie, enters college in the Fall, and my other daughter, Kate, now fifteen. I wish they might have had their father's love and care longer.

Again, my deepest gratitude to you. It is comforting to know that my husband had your friendship and companionship. It must have meant a great deal to him.

With every good wish to you and yours, and with the hope that I may hear from you if I can be of help to you, or if you have any additional information for me, I am

Most sincerely yours,

/s/ Kathleen Nelson

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

L. P. Lapus
LICERIO P LAPUS, ASN O 32700
1st Lt., Inf., (PA-Res)
Former member, Team D 24,
RECOVERED PERSONNEL DIVISION
AFWESPAC, APO 707

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L-231

G-3, PHILIPPINE ARMY DIVISION
 GUERRILLA AFFAIRS BRANCH

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Approval - | 5. Note & Remark | 9. Draft |
| 2. Remark & Record | 6. Signature | 10. Memorandum |
| 3. Information | 7. Letter | 11. Indorsement |
| 4. Necessary Action | 8. Carrier Note | 12. Addl Copies |

TO	Date	REMARKS	
Major Murray	9/3	4	m/e
Sgt Paris	9/3	Calangitan Fighting Force?	WCh
Major Murray	9/5	Sir, above unit has no records in file	CEP
Capt C	9/5	1-T-5	WCh
Typing	9/6	4-T-7	Amc
Major Murray	9/10	146	1/5
Capt	9/12	Dispatch	WCh
W/C	9/12	Dispatch	Amc HEC
File	9/3	Dispatched	m/e
		"Calangitan Fighting Force"	NFC-DL
			no?

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