

The Philippine Archives Collection
A Special List of Documents in Record Group 407, Records of the
Adjutant General's Office, 1917-,
Concerning U.S. Army and Guerrilla Units in the Philippines During World
War II

Guerrillas – Guerrilla Unit Recognition Files, 1942-1948

Overview

The Philippine Archives Collection is a group of records in Record Group 407 that constitutes an invaluable source of information on the Pacific war, particularly concerning the treatment of prisoners of war (POWs); military operations in the Philippines, 1941-1942; guerrilla warfare in the Philippines; and conditions in the Philippines under Japanese occupation. These records showed the shortage paper on the Philippines from 1941-1945. They are on brown paper bags, on the back of letters, sales receipts, court documents, school forms, ledger book papers, milk can labels and similar items. Some of the records retrieved in 1945, show the effect of being buried to prevent capture during the war.

The Collection documents the activities of the Southwest Pacific Area (SWPA) and its component parts but the primary focus is not at the command level but at the level of the individual men and women who served in military or civilian capacities or in guerrilla units in the Philippines during the SWPA control. Among the records are personal histories and diaries; unit histories; medical and death reports; documents on activities within guerrilla units and criminal behavior by guerrillas; and accounts of the effort to liberate the Philippines from Japanese control.

In June 1945 the U.S. Recovered Personnel Division, AFPAC, began its mission to locate, recover and take care of U.S. and other Allied military and civilian personnel who had been captured by the Japanese. They were also required to gather personal information on civilians employed by the Army during the war, Army personnel, guerrillas and POWs. Awards of claims of compensation were limited to individuals who had supported U.S. objectives in the Philippines. A key factor in determining eligibility was an individual's service records – veterans of the Philippine Army, Philippine Scouts, or guerrilla units that were recognized by Gen. Douglas MacArthur. In the course of its investigations, RPD created or acquired a record of an individual's military or civilian participation in the war and on outlaw and non-recognized guerrilla groups.

In November 1945, the second phase of RPD's mission extended its mission to cover Philippine Army personnel and recognized guerrilla units. This extension provided pay and benefits to civilian and military personnel who were unavoidably away from their duty posts either because they were POWs, mission in action, in casualty status, or had an otherwise acceptable reason. To qualify for benefits, applicants were required to establish membership in the Philippine Army or one of the recognized guerrilla units. This increased the number of claims for recognition. More than 350,000 were interviewed; and their claims processed, validated, and sent to the Philippine Army finance office for payment.

The Collection is composed of 1,665 boxes and is located at the U.S. National Archives, College Park, Maryland (NARA). It is in a deteriorating state with some records illegible and still having a rusty pin or clip attached or sewn together with crumbling thread from the time they were submitted. Some folders had dead insects and dirt in them.

The Philippine Archives Collection is divided into the following records.

- Invasion and Surrender
- Civilian Employees
- POWs/Civilian Internees
- Japanese Occupation
- Guerrillas
- United States Armed Forces in the Far East
- Liberation/Post-War Era
- Recovered Personnel Division
- Claims

The records of the *Guerrilla Unit Recognition Files, 1942-1948* (1257644_RG407A1095) is part of the Guerrillas section of the Philippine Archives Collection. It is composed of 270 boxes (Box 260-530) and about 270,000 scanned records. This is a compilation of records submitted by guerrilla units to RPD to secure official recognition of wartime service and thereby claim compensation and benefits. Each file also includes RPD evaluations of the claimed participation in the resistance. In the records are data for a variety of resistance organizations, the bulk of which retained USAFFE or USFIP designations are semi-regular units (E.G., "H Company, 85th Infantry, Cebu Area Command (file 2-80)). Also, however, there are files of independent or irregular guerrilla units such as "Hukbalahap" or "Huks" (file 118-1). The files also report joint military operations by guerrilla units and U.S. forces during the liberation of the Philippines, Oct 1944-Sept 1945. The unit histories in the files contain information that has never before been known.

The records of the *Bataan Index and Files* are scanned from other sections of the Collection by the U.S. Defense POW/Missing Accounting Agency. Their box number corresponds to NARA's box number and file code to NARA's File Number. Only certain files were scanned for the agency's purpose. The scanned records are marked with "Scanned In Entirety."

Digitization Project

The Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO), Filipino War Veterans Foundation (FILVET) and Mr. Francisco Licuanan funded a project team to go to the U.S. National Archives and digitize the records of the Philippine Collection. The Guerrilla Unit Recognition File records were digitized. The goal was to bring back a copy to the Philippine and make known the guerrillas' heroic contributions during WWII thereby promoting pride and nationalism.

Files Provided to Libraries and Archives

To obtain a copy of all the records and documents, contact PVAO IT department. You will need to give them a 1- terabyte hard drive to load all the data.

NARA

1. 1257644_RG407A1095_Guerrilla Recog Files_fileunitlist (list by Box, Fileunit and NAID)
2. 1257411_RG407A1095_Guerrilla Recog Records (records by Box Number)

U.S. POW/MIA Accounting Agency

1. Bataan Index (list by NARA Entry Number, Boxes, Subject, Title and NARA Location)
2. Bataan File complete (list by Box, File Name and File Code)
3. RG407 POW-MIA Dept Records (records by Fileunit name)

Guidelines

1. Project Description
2. Glossary of Initialisms, Abbreviations, and Acronyms
3. Alphabetical List of Guerrilla Units and Their File Codes in the Guerrilla Recognition Unit Files
4. APO Numbers and Locations of Philippine Army Miscellaneous Components

Managing the data



- Each of the record has this label on the side. This label is required by NARA for each record to show that it is declassified data from NARA.
- Contact PVAO to get the files listed above. The records will be in PDF form. You keep the original intact and make a copy to use for your users.

Searching the data

To look for the names of a unit (San Juan Unit), person (Nakar Div.) or area (Pangasinan or LGAF) in the Guerrilla Unit Recognition Files.

1. Open the Alphabetical List of Guerrilla Units and their File Codes and search to get the File Number.
2. Open the Guerrilla Recog Files fileunitlist to search for the File Number and get the corresponding Box Number and Fileunit NAID.
3. Open the Guerrilla Recog Records and search for the Box Number and the Fileunit NAID.
4. Open the NAID file to look for the topic.
5. Note: What you are looking for might also be found in other boxes/files because a soldier who was under his officer's unit name and already had a file created earlier under

his officer's unit name, decided to submit another claim later under a different unit name resulting in another file.