

PERSONNEL FILES

INDIVIDUAL

CUSHING, JAMES M.

UNITED STATES FORCES IN THE PHILIPPINES  
HEADQUARTERS, CEBU AREA COMMAND  
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER

March 24, 1944

General Douglas MacArthur  
Commander-in-Chief, SWPA

Dear Sir,

We are sending for your information the following pertinent Unit Report, G-1 Report, G-2 Report, G-3 Report, Historical Reports, Enemy Propaganda and ours, and puppet Governor circulars. We wish to apologize for the incompleteness of the records and reports, as from time to time we are forced to evacuate, burn or hide these materials from the enemy. Often times, before such reports are recovered, they are destroyed by the "anay" (termites). However, when time permits, we shall give you a complete file and records on all activities since the start of this organization.

I wish also to take this opportunity to thank the General for the withdrawal of outside undercover agents from this province which information has just reached this Headquarters after our letter to you dated March 19, 1944 was written and sent.

Under separate cover are sketches asked by you which concern German sailor RETTER's reports about Japan.

Included are copies of letters between Commissioner GULLAS and myself. I wish to reiterate further that these puppets can be secured and sent to you if you so desire. If not desired, request advise on nature of action to be taken.

Inclosed herewith are some self-explanatory letters from Governor ABELLANA and Assemblyman LOPEZ which may help to clarify any misunderstanding you may have at the time these reports reached you. All letters inclosed have been written voluntarily by the two addressees without my having corresponded with or asked for such explanations.

I do not know exactly what is meant by the Usafeeing mentioned in Assemblyman Lopez's letter but if he refers to commandeering, only articles which formerly belonged to the Army and the Phillipine Government were commandeered; these articles were being stolen by the people on all sides when the Japanese invaded this province. Receipts were given in all cases except to those people actively aiding the enemy.

The G-fouring must mean the asking of voluntary contributions and donations in kind for which receipts have always been given. It is to be understood it is difficult to control this sort of thing. However, in our effort to do so, only officers were granted permission to procure. Offenders when caught have been dealt with severely. Some cases, was with Captain ZAPANTA (under arrest) whose case is so involved that only after our Forces arrive can it be settled as he accepted money and jewelry which he hid without giving any receipts.

A survey of civilian morale in this province would prove that should abuses have been excessive, the population could not have supported the guerrilla activities. In defense of all the unfounded rumors against this organization, I wish to state that



*File  
aw*



this is the only province where Army goods, property and personnel can be moved and guides furnished free of charge. These Volunteers are always ready at all stations. From my own experiences and those of officers who have travelled through other provinces, these services in those provinces are not only excessive in price but sometimes can not even be had at any cost due to antagonism between the Army and civilians. I wish to apologize for the comparisons but it may help to clarify the picture here in these islands.

During the early days of our organization, we requested General BRADFORD G. CHYNOWETH to advise us if it was alright to use brevet promotions to better control the daily increasing force being reorganized in this province. General CHYNOWETH advised us that as a prisoner of war he had no authority but he suggested that we use our own judgement. Rather than commit any mistakes it was given to understand to all officers that brevet ranks were given pending recognition. It has also always been our policy to keep our ranks one grade and sometimes two grades below the generally prescribed rank for the number of personnel (per T/O). It is therefore with the greatest of desire and in acknowledgement of the fine, hard and honest work of my officers and men that I respectfully recommend that all officers in this command be allowed to drop their brevet ranks and become full-pledged officers in accordance with the Station List submitted. Probationary ranks are mentioned in the case of those civilian group leaders who have lent so much to the success of our attainments.

*James M. Cushing*  
JAMES M. CUSHING  
Lieut-Colonel, Inf  
Commanding Officer

PS -

Captain TSURYAMA, head of the Kempetai in Cebu and responsible for the capture of all soldiers and officers within CEBU, whose ruthlessness is a matter of record, has just been ambushed and killed by our units with two of his assistants. Captain TSURYAMA has been the force behind practically all the drives into the mountains, with the aid of his cleverly developed espionage personnel made up mostly of Filipinos.



**CERTIFICATE OF VOTES OF CANDIDATES**  
**CERTIFICADO DE VOTOS DE CANDIDATOS**

**S**

WE HEREBY CERTIFY, that the candidate or opposing candidates mentioned below have obtained in this  
 CERTIFICAMOS que el candidato o los candidatos contrincantes que a continuación se mencionan han obtenido en este precinto

precinct the votes set forth opposite their respective names:  
 los votos consignados frente a sus respectivos nombres:

Office of \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cargo de \_\_\_\_\_

	votes votos
	votes votos
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	votes votos

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we sign these presents at Precinct No. \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
 EN TESTIMONIO DE LO CUAL, firmamos el presente en el Precinto Núm. \_\_\_\_\_ de \_\_\_\_\_

this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_  
 hoy \_\_\_\_\_ de \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_

_____ Chairman	_____ Inspector
_____ Inspector	_____ Poll Clerk

(See sections 146 and 148, Election Code.)  
 (Véase artículos 146 y 148, Código Electoral.)

TELEGRAM

Jan 27, 1944

46 G MANILA 134 42 27 1120 m

COMMISSIONER GOLLAS  
CEBU

EVERY IMPORTANT WE KNOW EXACT NUMBER GUERRILLEROS  
SURRENDERED UP TO MIDNIGHT LAST EVENING PERIOD IT IS  
UNDERSTOOD LAST DAY AMNESTY IN VISAYAS TO BE COMPUTED  
FROM DATE RECEIPT PROCLAMATION IN MUNICIPALITIES STOP  
PLEASE WIRE RUSH INFORMATION REQUIRED.

PRESIDENT LAUREL

252s-7

TRUE COPY/dd



*COPY  
MTC. [Signature]*

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Appendix H  
Appendix

February 26, 1944

MEMORANDUM ORDER NO. 13

SUBJECT: Air Raid Measure

for  
SOPH

Engineer Arviso is hereby designated as a Committee of one to study the problem of protecting the civilians in case of air raids.

The sense of the majority leaders in Cebu is to take such steps as not to alarm the populace and at the same time plan effective measures in the event of emergency.

For this purpose, the committee is instructed to examine the existing air raid shelters in the capitol and other places, to order their cleaning and to make the necessary improvements or repairs as to render the shelters safe and habitable.

With Gullas  
STEFF  
JMC

Commissioner for the  
Visayas.





Visayan Provinces—

Antique  
Bohol  
Cepiz  
Cebu  
Iloilo  
Leyte  
Negros Occidental  
Negros Oriental  
Samar

Republic of the Philippines  
Commissioner of the Visayas  
Cebu City

March 16, 1944

Dear Colonel:

1. Much gratified to learn that my appeal has to some degree touched responsive chords in your heart... May I hope that soon, the order of open warfare will at last be revoked in order to minimize as much as possible the suffering of our people.

2. Regarding the abuses of the PC,--we shall soon have a District inspector for the Visayas. I have asked for one to be detailed in this District, so that a new spirit may be inculcated into these PC soldiers, who should be preservers of the peace & real guardians of the law & not disturbers of the Peace, wolves in sheep's clothing.

3. Of course everybody knows that the PC is recruited from all kinds of materials, including the flotsam & jetsam of humanity. Then, given but a 45 day training, learning or trying to learn the rules of discipline, penal laws, Nippongo, and other subjects,--and you can imagine the result. But for the few abusive, pestiferous, cancerous crowd, the organization has done pretty well, under the most trying circumstances.... In my speeches too, I tried to pillory the gangsters in the organization. And the Assembly has passed a law, & the President has issued an order, aimed at giving the "rack" to these dirty rats.

4. May I make a suggestion: eliminate the bandits infesting from Mambaling to Talisay. They pretend to be Guerrilleros or Usaffes, for the purpose of terrorizing & looting the poor civilians.

5. It may be of interest to you to know that I put in a good word about you to Malacañan.

6. Frank Vidal, by consenting again to take this letter, is endangering further his life. If caught by the Japanese, he may be in for a lot of trouble. If caught by the Guerrillistas for having surrendered, he may find himself in hot water. Over his objection, I finally prevailed upon him to do me another important errand, upon the success of which depends the lives of many men.

May God preserve in abundance the milk of human kindness in your heart...

Gratefully,  
*Paulino Gullias*  
PAULINO GULLIAS



Letter of Paulino Gullas to Col. Cushing:

"February 24, 1944

"Dear Colonel:

"At last I succeeded to confer with x-Capt. F. Vidal ..... I found in him, -- whom I asked several weeks ago to surrender under the Presidential Amnesty Proclamation, -- the man thru whom I can convey the following message to you.. Please, extend to xCapt Vidal the necessary protection as my special envoy.

"May I ask you--to please rescind your declaration of war dated Jan. 19, 1944? Since I read the declaration, I have been very much worried. Because of it, how many lives have been lost. Since one killing leads to another, many more will be killed,--soldiers & civilians, enemies & friends, brothers of the same blood & the same cause.

"I am not in a position to judge who is to blame, who is the cause for the declaration of war. But I take it that each tried to protect his own side, to save himself. When one's passion cools off & he can think clear as Christ, our Father, would want him to think,--he would probably conclude that after all no one was to blame, no one wanted to trick the other. Each just tried to do the best he could under the most difficult circumstances. And I don't blame your side for getting mad. I'd only entreat you to see the other side of the picture in a dispassionate way.

"All of us have suffered in this war,--some more, others less. But all will probably suffer much more in the days to come. May we plead for humanity's sake, to minimize the horrors, the torture?.....The Philippines has bled from many wounds. If I could but heal one wound, indeed I shall be satisfied.

"The Commissioner's post is big... I am small. The problems that beset me every day are tremendous, contending or dealing with so many men,--some, powerful; others, so humble; some rattling with demands, others whispering their grievances, pouring out their woes. Many times I feel depressed, disappointed,--powerful & yet powerless; omnipotent and yet impotent.

"A few days ago, I asked His Excellency to allow me to go back to the Assembly. He refused. He asked me to stick to this post. Only the thought of being able to serve my people the best I know how, to help them tide over to better times keeps me at this post.... May I ask you please to help me serve & save our people--by rescinding or relaxing the order--to minimize the suffering of our innocent men and women and children?

"At this very moment some undercovers are jailed by the Fiscal, some PC men are locked up behind bars & will be prosecuted to the limit by the Senior Inspector! All for abuse of authority....We don't want to protect criminals. We want to have a reign of law & not a reign of greed, a reign of justice & not a reign of abuses.

"We have a long way to go, a steep hill to climb. Will you like a good Samaritan help us on the weary way?

"With thanks & kindest regards, from your former neighbor.

"Very truly,  
"SGD. PAULINO GULLAS  
"Commissioner for the Visayas"



Answer of Col. Cushing to Paulino Gullas:

"2 Mar. 44

"Dear Commissioner:

"I have yours of February 24. Allow me to express my heartfelt appreciation for the course you are taking in making possible a better understanding between men laboring for the same Great Cause -- Humanity and Liberty -- but from different points of view.

"I am aware of the great responsibilities on your shoulders as perhaps you are of mine. It's a difficult job, I understand, especially in these times of stress.

"The main point in your letter is your request to rescind the Manifesto dated Jan. 19th, 1944, declaring war on BCs. You have been very much worried because of the loss of lives which it has entailed. But, as you said, let us look at the other side of the picture.

"You can never fully know how painful it was to make the declaration. I have been from the start fighting Japanese imperialism and tyranny, striving all the time to save the lives of our own blood-brothers, although they may have been on the other side of the fence. For months I suffered stoically the abuses of the BCs not only against our fighting men, but also against our poor innocent civilians, whom they are supposed to protect in their supposed duty to maintain peace and order. They have maltreated and killed many civilians, captured lonely soldiers, had in fact given too much aid to the enemy --- until I could bear it no longer. They had become not only a nuisance to our Cause but an actual Menace to our Country. It had become my sad duty to make the declaration. So the Manifesto. And as long as Laput and his henchmen hold the reins of the BC organization, there will never be any change in the BC organization, there will never be any change in the BC attitude in this province. As I understand it, the BCs are not a Japanese organization, but under their leaders, the BC is working for the Japanese.

"Rescission of the declaration is a sudden change of front, and would amount to only one thing: Japanese suspicion of some sort of understanding between us and certain ranking employees of the Japanese administration. You said you are being watched. Now, Commissioner, you will see that such an action will ultimately lead to an increased surveillance over you which would be prejudicial to our good work. We would not like to jeopardize your life too much. We, too, think about your welfare.

"However, if you keep your work, I'll assure you that I will personally investigate captured BCs and will give them all the leniency necessary under the circumstances.

"I am really very grateful to you and other officials for the attitude you have taken in checking abuses of BCs and Japanese undercovers.

"With my heartiest regards, I am,

"Yours very truly,

"JAMES M. CUSHING"



Recommendations of Awards for  
Cooking and Gasparis.

Gov't Section,  
(O.S.)

4-2,  
(Gen Willoughby)

19 May 46

1. Lt. Col. Cushing. I am in full accord with giving any decoration possible to Colonel Cushing covering his services in the guerrilla movement. It is my impression, however, that the services specifically mentioned in attached papers would be considered as having been covered by the award of the Distinguished Service Cross, if it was within the time specifically indicated in that award. On this point I am not sure.

2. Lt. Col. Gasparis. I believe it would be unwise to support the decoration recommended for Colonel Gasparis in view of the pending of investigations covering Gasparis's finances in connection with which Gasparis, as Finance Officer, may have some share of responsibility. It is my impression that the Special Emergency Currency Committee of the Commonwealth Government ran across considerable anomaly in the matter of emergency currency, and of course we have ourselves that Gasparis far exceeded the amount specifically authorized by the E-in-C, which action Colonel Gasparis, as his Finance Officer, has sought to justify. In the circumstances attending Col. Gasparis's services, it would appear most unwise for GOC to put its stamp of approval thereon pending completion of any indicated action on the currency question.

Instat n/o

..... O.S. ....



COPY



SUBJECT : Recommendations of Awaras for CUSHING and GEMPERLE.  
TO : General Willoughby.

1. Recommend favorable consideration be given to the approval of the attached recommendations for award of Legion of Merit for Lt. Col. CUSHING and Lt. Col. GEMPERLE. I drew up the papers before I left but left the papers for inclusion of specific data from PI Section files when they arrived.

2. Lt. Col. CUSHING. Was given DSC for guerrilla activities in general. This recommendation is for the recovery of Japanese naval operational plans captured on Cebu and forwarded promptly to GHQ in April 1944. NO mention has ever been made of the incident and Cushing's part in it. Note mention of name of Admiral KOGA. It was suspected at the time that KOGA was captured on Cebu and that the papers were his. I checked with Foreign Liaison Office and data on KOGA's death agrees with ours. CUSHING states he has verified identity of KOGA from photographs. CUSHING saw a good bit of the leading officer captured on Cebu before he released him to the Japanese.

3. Lt. Col. GEMPERLE. Recommendation previously submitted by General PERALTA but returned for submission by an American officer. Our files clearly support General Peralta's recommendation. Have also talked to many who were on Panay during the occupation and all are unqualified in their statements that GEMPERLE's level head and wide experience was a healthy balance in the running of the Panay guerrilla force. McVittie, Davis and Seelaus have all thought well of GEMPERLE.

(sgd) E.A.W.

1st Ind.

8 May 46.

1. In compliance with the first paragraph above, specific data from the P.I. files has been included in Major Williams rough draft of the recommendation of Lt. Col. James CUSHING and the completed draft attached.

2. Investigation in A.G. Awards & Decorations Branch and in General Whitney's office reveals that the original recommendation of Lt. Col. GEMPERLE is now on General Whitney's desk awaiting his action.

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CATLIN E. TYLER,  
Lt. Col., Inf.

6 May 1946

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation for Award of the Legion of Merit

**TO :** Quartermaster-in-Chief, General Headquarters,  
United States Army Forces, Pacific,  
APO 900

1. Under the Provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, Lt. Col. James Cushing, O-2327775, Corps of Engineers, United States Army, is recommended for the award of the Legion of Merit for distinguishing himself by extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against the enemy from 1 April 1944 to 25 May 1944.
2. In the early morning of 1 April 1944, a Japanese four engine seaplane from Palau bearing Admiral Mineichi Koga and part of his staff with extremely important operational papers was forced down off the southern coast of Cebu, Philippine Islands. Lt. Col. Cushing's intelligence reported the forced landing and also reported abnormal patrol activity south from Cebu City shortly after. Lt. Col. Cushing immediately ordered prompt and thorough search of the area in the vicinity of the landing to seek out the cause of such enemy patrols. Guerrillas forces located and captured a party who escaped from the plane and brought them directly to the headquarters. Another group located a separate member of the party, arrested him and took papers which he had in his possession. Though Lt. Col. Cushing did not know the contents of the papers nor the identity of his captives, Japanese patrol activity, the alarm over the missing persons, the reward for certain papers and the bearing of the leaders of the captives convinced Lt. Col. Cushing that he was in possession of important prisoners and documents. He promptly contacted General Headquarters in Australia and arranged delivery of the papers by submarine. This timely action on the part of Lt. Col. Cushing preserved for Allied hands some of the most important documentary intelligence concerning enemy plans captured during the entire course of the Southwest Pacific war. Lt. Col. Cushing did this knowing he exposed himself, his guerrillas and the civilians supporting him to merciless reprisals if the Japanese learned of the seizure of the papers. Prompt action, the preservation of the greatest security and disregard of personal safety in the interests of the national effort are worthy of the highest traditions of the service.
3. During the time covered by this recommendation Cushing held the rank of Lt. Colonel.
4. Services of Lt. Col. Cushing during the period covered by this recommendation were most honorable.



5. The dates of this recommendation have not been used as the basis of a previous recommendation and will not be used for any future recommendation.

6. I have personal knowledge of the service covered by this recommendation.

7. Lt. Col. Cushing's home address is:

1417 W. 90th St.,  
Los Angeles, California.

C. A. WILLAUGHBY,  
Major General, U.S.A.,  
Asst. Chief of Staff, G-2.



GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, U. S. ARMY FORCES PACIFIC  
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE  
RADIO AND CABLE CENTER

# INCOMING MESSAGE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
ROUTINE

22 August 1945

TO : CINCPAC FOR CIVIL AFFAIRS (WHITNEY)  
FROM : CO PERSONNEL CENTER FOR MACARTHUR CALIFORNIA  
NR : 220250 Z

Please advise since capitulation enemy forces that theater, orders from that Headquarters required for return of Lt Col James M Cushing, ASN O-2027773, Reception Station 20.

Crowwell

TOO : 221150 I  
MCN : USPD 72

NOTE: Subject Officer is attached to the Philippine Army.

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Form No. 108  
1334—QM Printing Plant—8-10-45—510M

ROUTINE  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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HEADQUARTERS  
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES IN THE FAR EAST

GENERAL ORDERS )  
: )  
NO.....109 )

A.P.O. 501  
4 May 1945

DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS--Awards..... I Section  
BRONZE STAR MEDAL--Award..... II

I. DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS. By direction of the President under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 9 July 1918 (Bulletin 43, WD, 1918), the Distinguished-Service Cross is awarded by the Commanding General, United States Army Forces in the Far East, to the following-named officers:

Lieutenant Colonel SALVADOR ABCEDE, (01520), Philippine Army. For extraordinary heroism in action in the Philippine Islands from 8 July 1943 to 23 March 1945. Refusing to surrender when the major defense forces were overcome, Colonel Abcede assumed command of scattered forces continuing resistance on the island of Negros. He effectively organized many dispersed elements throughout the island, held much stronger enemy forces continuously at bay, and denied to them some of the resources of the country. He improvised tactics for effective warfare with limited means, and ingenious methods for supplying his men and their families. He persisted in this enterprise, although a large price was set on his head, and he was of necessity in constant proximity to the enemy. His courage and resourcefulness enabled him to avoid capture, to inspire in the people of Negros a will to resist, and to furnish the United States command with information of great military value.

Lieutenant Colonel JAMES M. CUSHING, Corps of Engineers, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action in the Philippine Islands from 22 January 1944 to 23 March 1945. Refusing to surrender when the major defense forces were overcome, Colonel Cushing assumed command of scattered forces continuing resistance on the island of Cebu. He effectively organized many dispersed elements throughout the island, held much stronger enemy forces continuously at bay, and denied to them some of the resources of the country. He improvised tactics for effective warfare with limited means, and ingenious methods for supplying his men and their families. He persisted in this enterprise, although a large price was set on his head, and he was of necessity in constant proximity to the enemy. His courage and resourcefulness enabled him to avoid capture, to inspire in the people of Cebu a will to resist, and to furnish the United States command with information of great military value.

II. BRONZE STAR MEDAL. By direction of the President under the provisions of Executive Order No. 9419, 4 February 1944 (Sec. II, Bulletin 3, WD, 1944), a Bronze Star Medal is awarded by the Commanding General, United States Army Forces in the Far East, to the following-named officer:

11



(G. O. NO. 109)

II

First Lieutenant WILLIAM A. HOWARD, (01686174), Adjutant General's Department, United States Army. For exceptionally meritorious achievement in connection with military operations in the Southwest Pacific Area from February 1942 to May 1945.  
Home address: 1066 Perkins Way, Sacramento, California

FEED 200:6

By command of General MacARTHUR:

RICHARD J. MARSHALL,  
Major General, General Staff Corps,  
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

*R. E. Fraile*  
R. E. FRAILE,  
Colonel, A.G.D.,  
Adjutant General.



*File*

**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE D.S.C.**  
**TO LIEUT. COL. JAMES GASKING, US.**

Lieut. Col. James Gasking, US, is cited for extraordinary heroism in the presence of the enemy during the period from 22 January 1944 to 23 March 1945.

This officer, as Commander, Cebu Area Command, has organized and directed the guerrilla action on Cebu and developed detailed and precise information on enemy dispositions and movement which has proved of great value to military operations.

In the performance of his duties Lieut. Col. Gasking has displayed high qualities of leadership and exemplary courage and devotion to duty, thereby inspiring the officers and men under his command to perform service of incalculable value under most difficult and hazardous conditions.



OF

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*0-9 Personal*

LETTER TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE D.S.C.  
TO LIEUT. COL. JAMES CASHING, CR.

Lieut. Col. James Cashing, CR, is cited for extraordinary heroism in the presence of the enemy during the period from 22 January 1944 to 23 March 1944.

This officer, as Commander, 6888 Central Postal Directory, has organized and directed the guerrilla action on Okinawa and developed detailed and precise information on enemy dispositions and movement which has proved of great value to military operations.

In the performance of his duties Lieut. Col. Cashing has displayed high qualities of leadership and exemplary courage and devotion to duty, thereby inspiring the officers and men under his command to perform service of inestimable value under most difficult and hazardous conditions.



AFO 500  
26 April 1945

Memorandum for: Lieut. Col. James Cushing, CO, Cebu Area Command.

1. Mrs. Emilio Osmena, wife of the late Lt. Col. Osmena, has approached this office in reference to 10,000 pesos which her husband turned over to a Mariano Alejandro for safe keeping. According to the details, Alejandro gave this money to Fenton for Army purposes.
2. Mrs. Osmena is interested in retrieving the money and any assistance which you could give her would be appreciated.
3. Pertinent copies of correspondence which relate to the incident are attached for your information.

COURTNEY WHITNEY  
Brigadier General, U.S. Army

Incl:  
as indicated above.



Cushing Period

C.W.

Thru: C-1a-C  
C/S

23 March 1945

1. Recommend award of the Distinguished Service Cross to:

Lieut. Col. Salvador AMENES  
Lieut. Col. James CUSHING

for their work in organizing and directing the guerilla movement in NEGROS and CEBU respectively.

2. Recommend further that if these awards are made, presentation of the medals be made by the Commanding General, Eighth Army in your behalf at an appropriate occasion during coming operations in the field.

3. In PANAY such action proved a good thing for both the Army and the guerilla forces. It served to dignify the guerilla movement and establish the relationship between Army and guerillas on a high plane of understanding and mutual respect.

C.W.

