

PERSONNEL

FILES

INDIVIDUAL

PETTIT, BERT E., JR.

27 January 1945

Subject: Report on special mission to Headquarters 10th M.D.

To : Major Bernard L. Anderson.

On 7 March 1944, the undersigned, John Paul Schafer, civilian, and Mauro Prieto, civilian, were assigned a special mission by Captain Bernard L. Anderson to proceed to Headquarters 10th M.D. to report on possible landing points for submarines from Dingalan Bay to Capalanga, Camarines Norte and to accompany submarine to one of the possible landing points; and further, in the event that said personnel could not accompany submarine, they were to return to Luzon with what supplies that could be procured from 10th M.D. using any transportation available.

The special mission party were taken to Mindanao by Mauro Rama and party, members of "Queen's Own Guerrillas". Arrangements for transportation were made by Captain Montalvan, liaison officer on Luzon from the 10th M.D.

The special mission party left Luzon at Hulsney, Bondoc Peninsula on or about 7 April 1944 and arrived in Tobigon, Bohol on or about 13 April 1944. Due to delay on part of C.O. Bohol force in giving arms which had been issued to Mauro Rama, the party was unable to leave Bohol until 6 May 1944. The party left on this date with Major Zapanta and arrived at Sabadbaran, Agusan Province, 7 May 1944. From there the party went to Loreto, Agusan Province, and arrived at the Headquarters 10th M.D. on 25 May 1944.

A written report on possible landing points in Luzon was turned into the C.O. 10th M.D., who forwarded the information to SWPA. No reply was received from SWPA up to June 25, 1944. The special mission party left the Headquarters 10th M.D. on 25 June 1944 with medicine, clothing, 5,000 Pesos Philippine Currency 1941, series E, and about 10,000 Pesos Jap War Notes and also 24,000 Pesos Mindanao Emergency Currency for the liaison officer of the 10th M.D. on Bohol. The party was to proceed to Bohol and pick up other supplies which the C.O. 10th M.D. would send.

The party reached Balinguan, Or. Misamis, on or about 18 July 1944 and purchased a bance, capacity 4,000 Kilos. Mr. Schafer remained in Balinguan to get the bance in sailing order and to procure supplies and crew. The undersigned and Mauro Prieto proceeded to Balingasag, Or. Misamis and sent a radio message to C.O. 10th M.D. for authority to use the 24,000 Pesos intended for Bohol as the undersigned learned that Bohol had been invaded by the enemy, and the money could not be taken there at that time. The authority was granted 25 July, 1944.



Mr. Schafer arrived in Balingasag about 12 August 1944 and left about 14 August 1944 for points in Occ. Misamis as directed by the C.O. 10th M.D. to pick up supplies for Luzon. Mauro Prieto accompanied Mr. Schafer. Also Mr. Schafer took supplies received at Headquarters 10th M.D. with him.

The undersigned proceeded to contract for another banca and due to enemy action in that vicinity and difficulty in getting a crew and scarcity of bancas was unable to procure a banca until 7 September 1944. The banca was to sail on the 19th but the enemy action increased and the banca was captured and burned on the 17th. The radio in Balingasag was out of order so the undersigned proceeded to Sumilao, Bukidnon and made radio contact with C.O. 10th M.D., reported the burning of the banca and asked the whereabouts of Mr. Schafer in order to rejoin him. Mr. Schafer was still in Dipolog so the undersigned proceeded to Talacod on the way to the coast at Alibijed, Or. Misamis. At Talacod the undersigned received information that Mr. Schafer had left Occ. Misamis about the 16th of October for Or. Misamis and also the undersigned's promotion to captain. The undersigned went to Alibijed and found that Mr. Schafer had passed there on his way to Camaguin Is. The undersigned left Alibijed and rejoined Mr. Schafer 3 November 1944 at Kinoguitan, Or. Misamis. The party proceeded to Mombajoo, Camaguin Is. arriving there 5 November 1944.

Mr. Schafer in the meantime on 14 August 1944 had proceeded to Occ. Misamis and then to Dipolog, Zamboanga and arrived there about 5 September 1944. He went to "A" Corps area and arrangements were made to meet a submarine and pick up necessary supplies for Luzon. After much delay he received limited supplies as directed by C.O. 10th M.D., for supplies had been landed on Luzon by submarine. Mr. Schafer left Dipolog on or about 16 October 1944. During Mr. Schafer's stay in Dipolog he loaded his banca with supplies and took them to 82 POW's at Sindangang Point, Zamboanga, who had escaped from a Japanese prison ship torpedoed by one of our submarines. These supplies reached the POW's about 19 September 1944.

On Mr. Schafer's way from Alibijed to Occ Misamis Mr. Schafer and crew had an encounter with a Japanese Motor boat which was about 70 feet long and had about 12 Japanese on board. The boat inspected the banca with Mr. Schafer hiding in the cabin. The boat pulled away, but then swung its bow into the banca and threw a line over in order to tow the banca. A Lieutenant Delphin Queto took a tommy gun handed to him by Mr. Schafer and shot down four Japs on the rail. One wounded Jap ran towards the stern of the boat and another one unrounded ran behind him. Mr. Schafer shot one down with his pistol and Lieutenant Queto got the other one with the tommy gun. The boat was out of control but finally backed off far enough so that another boat standing off about 1 1/2 km could throw a rope on board and tow it away. A report came in that this boat went to Sicijore island, four dead and two wounded were taken ashore. Three launches were out the next day going up and down the coast for about two days and nights. Mr. Schafer and crew were able to escape with no casualties.



Not surrendering but fighting against a Jap boat of unknown armed power with another Jap boat standing nearby to come to its aid showed bravery and courage in the face of the enemy by Mr. Schafer and crew; therefore the undersigned recommends whatever citation or medal this action merits for Mr. Schafer and crew of the banca "Bahala No".

On 5 November 1944 on Camaguin Island a message was sent to C.O. 10th M.D. requesting authority and information about proceeding to Luzon via Leyte. Authority was not granted, but arrangements were made to pick the party up by plane. This was done on 7 December 1944. The party boarded the submarine about 19 December 1944 but was ordered to return to Mis Wendie because of intense naval action in the area for which the party was headed. The party was brought back to Taaloban, Leyte and were told that it was now too late to return to Captain Anderson now Major Anderson.

Bert E. Pettitt
BERT E. PETTITT,
Captain, Air Corps.



~~SECRET~~

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES IN THE FAR EAST

SPECIAL ORDERS)
:)
NO.....198)

A.P.O. 501
19 July 1944

- E X T R A C T -

4. Announcement is made of the temp promotion of the following-named O to the gr indicated in the AUS with rank fr date of this order:

CAPT TO MAJ
BERNARD L. ANDERSON 0360167 AC

1ST LT TO CAPT
RUSSELL D. BARROS 0298071 GAC ROBERT B. LAPHAM 0379114 Inf

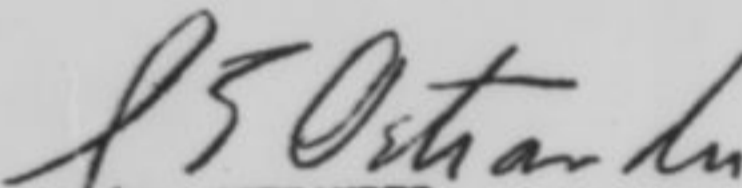
(210.2)

5. Announcement is made of the temp promotion of 2D LT BERT E. PETTITT, Jr. 0419373 AC to gr of CAPT in the AUS with rank fr date of this order.

By command of General MacARTHUR:

R. K. SUTHERLAND,
Lieutenant General, United States Army,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:


L. S. OSTRANDER,
Brigadier General, U.S. Army,
Adjutant General.

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Jul 15