

LIST No. 29-D 91st COAST ARTILLERY

SCREENED (NO PA P) 98

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 883078

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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CITY OF MANILA)
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A F F I D A V I T

I, FRANK BARAAN, 661460, presently First Sergeant, Company "A", 518th Military Police Battalion, PS, after having been duly sworn to according to law hereby depose and say:

That I personally know, Santos F. Forte, who had worked with Battery "E", 91st Coast Artillery, stationed at Fort Frank, Corregidor, employed as Cook during the period November 1939 up to the surrender of Corregidor to the Japanese Imperial Forces on 7 May 1942;

That being the First Sergeant of Battery "E", 91st Coast Artillery, I definitely have personal knowledge that Santos F. Forte was last paid on April 1942 for the payroll ending of March 1942;

That the said Battery "E", 91st Coast Artillery had no Foreman nor Capataz to manage the civilian personnel except Major Joe C. East and myself who prepares the time book and payroll of the civilian workers of the said organization;


That Santos F. Forte was receiving the salary of ₱35.00 per month including subsistence;

That due to the continuous bombing of Fort Frank, Corregidor, no payment was being made to the civilian personnel of Battery "E", 91st Coast Artillery;

That Santos F. Forte was taken as a prisoner of war and was concentrated at Camp O'Donnell, Tarlac and was finally released on December 1942;

That during his interim as a civilian employee of the said organization, his services were honorable and were efficiently performed.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto fix my signature this 20 day of December 1947, at Headquarters, 518th Military Police Battalion, PS.


FRANK BARAAN
1st Sgt.,
518th MP Bn, PS

91st Div.

SWORN STATEMENT OF GENERAL LUTHER STEVENS GIVEN TO LT. WILLIAM C. VINET JR., CLAIMS SERVICE, AFWESPAC, 18 APRIL 1946 AT THE ADMIRAL APARTMENTS, MANILA P. I.

I, Brigadier General Luther Stevens, ASN 1004, formerly Commanding General of the 91st Division, Philippine Army, now residing at 801 Admiral Apartments, Dewey Boulevard, Manila, hereby certify that the following statements are true to the best of my knowledge and belief:

That from 19 November to 23 December 1941, I had my Headquarters at Camp Pangatian, eight kilometers east of Cabanatuan, Province of Nueva Ecija, Luzon Island.

About 15 December 1941, I telephoned Major R. R. Derrick, Manager of the Rural Transit Company and ordered him to place all available transportation which he had at my disposal. The 91st Division was composed of approximately 7,000 Filipino troops. Major Derrick sent me approximately 150 vehicles within the two-day period after receiving this order. About 98 trucks of this group belonged to the Rural Transit Company. On or about 23 December 1941, I sent a Combat Team, consisting of one regiment, from Cabanatuan to Sison. I needed a convoy of an additional 140 vehicles to make this emergency move. Major Derrick sent Mr. B. C. Jack, his Assistant Manager, with 140 vehicles within 45 minutes after I gave him his order. Some of these vehicles were trucks which had been commandeered by the individual officers and had been turned over to various Army Units which Major Derrick had at his shop in Cabanatuan for repairs. A good number of these 140 vehicles were owned by the Rural Transit Company, Bachrach Motors Co., Inc. and the Pampanga Bus Co. This entire regiment and most of the 140 trucks with them were wiped out at Sison.

The Rural Transit Company had shops in Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija; San Jose, Nueva Ecija; Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya; Echague, Isabela; and Ilagan, Isabela. I knew that all of the above mentioned shops were servicing Army vehicles and those trucks which had been commandeered for the use of the Army, supplying needed parts and making necessary repairs to keep these trucks in serviceable condition.

All of the Rural Transit Company vehicles were in pretty good condition when they were turned over to me by Major Derrick. I knew that the Filipino employees of the Rural Transit Company in each of the five above-named shops remained to perform their regular duties of servicing vehicles at those shops and afterwards around the Army Camps from 8 December up until the fall of Bataan. There is no question in my mind but that the Army took all of the above named shops which belonged to the Rural Transit Company and used them exclusively for the repair and maintenance of vehicles used in our campaigns. I do not know if any verbal agreement for the use by the Army of the Rural Transit Company and Pampanga Bus Company vehicles was entered into between the operators of these companies and any authorized officers of the Army. I had heard that the Army was renting the trucks of these transportation companies before the outbreak of the war, but to the best of my knowledge and belief, no compensation of any kind has been received by the Rural Transit Company or the Pampanga Bus Company for their vehicles which we used from 8 December 1941 until 9 April 1942. On 29 December 1941, we were forced to retreat from Cabanatuan to Bataan. All of the shops owned by the Rural Transit Company mentioned above were of no further use to us after this date as they fell into Japanese hands at this time.

All personnel of the Rural Transit Company who serviced vehicles for the Army gave us the fullest cooperation in every respect. On 9 December 1941, Major Derrick, who had not yet been commissioned, assigned a seven passenger jitney, painted red, to me for my personal use. The Filipino driver of that jitney remained with me all the time up until the fall of Bataan. I was in Bataan up until the surrender on 9 April 1942 at which time I was taken prisoner by the Japanese. I know that most of the 290 trucks sent to me by Major Derrick were still being used by the various units of my command up until 9 April 1942.

Altogether I must had at least four hundred vehicles with my division throughout our campaigns. I know that Mr. F. F. Cottrell, Manager of the Pampanga Bus Company sent me many of his vehicles (it is impossible for me to estimate the number) and moved some of his equipment from San Fernando to Little Baguio, Bataan to set up a repair shop for the Army there.

s/ Luther Stevens
t/ LUTHER STEVENS
Brig. General PA.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 18th day of April 1946.

s/ William C. Vinet, Jr.
t/ WILLIAM C. VINET, JR.
2nd Lt., Inf.
Investigating Officer

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

s/ William C. Vinet, Jr.
t/ WILLIAM C. VINET, JR.
Investigating Officer.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

BENJAMIN J. FULLEY
Captain - Inf.
Investigating Officer

Original in Statistics Section.

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HEADQUARTERS MISSOURI MILITARY DISTRICT
ST. LOUIS 2, MISSOURI

6 September 1946

SUBJECT: Claims for Services.

TO : Headquarters, Claims Service, AFWESPAC
APO 707, c/o Postmaster, San Francisco
Attention: Captain Benjamin J. Pulley

1. Reference is to your letter of 20 August.
2. Pursuant to orders of the Commanding General, Northern Luzon Force (then Major General Jonathan M. Wainwright) I arrived at Ilagan, Isabella Province, P. I., on 16 December 1941 and assumed command of all military forces and activities in the Cagayan Valley. Shortly thereafter I was contacted by Mr. Bartholome Puzon, District Engineer of Isabella Province, who offered his co-operation with the military authorities in any matters connected with the defense of the Valley against the Japanese invasion.
3. In accordance with his offer Mr. Puzon was requested by me to establish and maintain telephone communication with a detachment of troops operating under my command west of the Cagayan River in the vicinity of Enrile. This he agreed to do, and accomplished by building a temporary connection between two existing commercial (government owned) lines.
4. Later when orders were received from Northern Luzon Force to evacuate the Valley Mr. Puzon was requested by me to prepare all bridges south of Ilagan in Isabella Province for destruction and to execute the destruction upon my order. I have personal knowledge that the bridges were prepared for destruction and I was informed by the officer left behind to supervise the withdrawal of the last units that the bridges actually were destroyed.
5. In all my contacts with Mr. Puzon and his assistants I considered that they were cooperating with the military forces. At no time did I make any commitments as to paying wages or salaries. So far as I knew all of Mr. Puzon's assistants were employees of the Provincial Government.
6. In my contacts with Mr. Puzon I found him a man of character, energy and ability. He was a frequent visitor at my headquarters and fulfilled every request made of him.

Glen R. Townsend
GLEN R. TOWNSEND
Colonel, Infantry

HEADQUARTERS MISSOURI MILITARY DISTRICT

ST. LOUIS 2, MISSOURI

6 September 1946

SUBJECT: Claims for Services.

TO : Headquarters, Claims Service, AFWSBAC
APO 707, c/o Postmaster, San Francisco
Attention: Captain Benjamin V. Kelly

1. Reference is to your letter of 30 August.

2. Pursuant to orders of the Commanding General, Northern Luzon Force (then Major General Jonathan M. Wainwright) I arrived at Ilocos, Ilocos Province, P. I., on 18 December 1941 and assumed command of all military towns and activities in the Cagayan Valley. Shortly thereafter I was contacted by Mr. Bartholomew Brown, District Engineer of Ilocos Province, who offered his cooperation with the military authorities in any matters connected with the defense of the Valley against the Japanese invasion.

3. In accordance with his offer Mr. Brown was requested by me to establish and maintain telephone communication with a detachment of troops operating under my command west of the Cagayan River in the vicinity of Estrella. This he agreed to do, and accomplished by building a temporary connection between two existing commercial (government owned) lines.

4. Later when orders were received from Northern Luzon Force to evacuate the Valley Mr. Brown was requested by me to organize all existing communication lines for destruction and to organize the destruction upon my order. I have personal knowledge that the bridges were prepared for destruction and I was informed by the other staff behind me that the withdrawal of the last units of the bridges actually were destroyed.

5. In all my contacts with Mr. Brown I have considered that they were cooperative with me in the sense that I have any complaints as to the assistance rendered by Mr. Brown as I know all of Mr. Brown's assistance rendered to the Provincial Government.

6. In my contacts with Mr. Brown I have observed his energy and ability. He was a frequent visitor to my headquarters and I fulfilled every request made of him.



Colonel, Infantry