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COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES
PHILIPPINE ARMY

JFB/rcs

SUBJECT: Activities of the Mine Sweeping Unit,
USAPFE, Sulu Archipelago.

TO : The Commanding General, AFPAC.
(Thru the Adjutant General, PA)

1. The organization known as the Mine Sweeping Unit, was organized by me on 14 November 1944 with an original members of sixty(60) men. The designated Headquarters was Tabawan Island, Tawi-Tawi Group. After the men were designated to perform their respective duties I rented three (3) kumpits and three (3) small vintas at the rate of ₱100.00 and ₱25.00 per month respectively. The more boats mentioned herein were officially used by the Mine Sweeping Unit. The three small vintas were used as runners, bouying and releasing mines.

2. Then I purchased the necessary materials for operation costing me three hundred fifty (₱350.00) Pesos, such as rope, logs, lead, etc. This unit was financed by me from the start of its organization on 14 November 1944 to March 1945.

3. This unit began operation sweeping the mines planted by the Japanese in the water between the islands of Tagao and Pandanan up to Sugbay channel. From 18 to 30 November 1944 the said unit had released and destroyed fifty-five (55) mines in the water between Tagao and Pandanan islands.

4. From 1 to 31 December 1944, this unit had swept, released and destroyed fifty five (55) mines in the waters of Pandanan and Sugbay channel. Unfortunately that while releasing the bouyed mine, this accidentally struck the small boat, whereupon it exploded and killing the three (3) men that were in the boat. The bodies were so mutilated and disintegrated that they could not be recovered.

5. From 1 to 31 January 1945 this unit operated and swept ninety (90) mines in the waters between Kakatan and Bubuan islands.

6. From 1 to 28 February 1945 this unit moved, operated and swept thirty six (36) mines in the waters between Bubuan and Logos Islands.

7. On 22 February 1945, I spent one kumpit to Jolo with five (5) men to buy food supplies for the consumption of my men. On their way, before reaching Pata Island, the said party was intercepted by Japanese patrol launch and killed three of my men, the two of them were able to escape and reported to me what had happened.

(continued)

8. On 26 February 1945 at about 8 o'clock in the morning while my unit was sweeping the mines in the water between the islands of Kakatan and Logos, a Japanese launch was sighted going toward us. When the launch was about five hundred (500) yards from us they opened fire. I then spread my boats at a distance of one hundred (100 yards) apart and engaged the enemy. We were equipped with sub-machine guns and some carbines. After fighting which lasted about an hour, American planes came, so that the Japanese launch escaped toward Siasi Island but was sunk before reaching it. Then I called to the nearest island for fear that we might be bombed by mistake. While none of my men was hurt, one of my kumpit sustained a slight injury caused by bullets.

9. On 19 March 1945 I moved my unit to Tawi-Tawi group with the mission of clearing the minefield in this area reported to have been heavily mined by the Japanese to protect their garrison from the American landing at Bungao. After surveying the water around this island, I discovered that a great number of mines were laid at the entrance of Tawi-Tawi Bay. I also found a submarine cable. On 22 March 1945, this organization swept and destroyed ten mines and another nineteen more during the following two days. All these mines were extracted in the waters between the islands of Laa and Tanduhongus. On 25 March 1945, this unit was sweeping the mines in the water between Sangaysiapo and Bungao Island, the Japanese artillery at Bungao fired at us. Luckily we were not hit but our kumpits almost were capsized due to waves. Suddenly America Squadron of Liberators came and bombed the Japanese artillery position. We also escaped because of an airplane bomb that was directed at us which I believed it was done by mistake. We anchored at Simonol island. Here I learned that American forces have landed at Kolakola on the other side of Bungao.

10. On 2 April 1945 six (6) Mine Sweeping Unit of the U.S. Navy arrived at about 8 o'clock in the morning and started the clearing of the area which we have already cleared and they have found nothing. On 3 April 1945, the US Mine Sweeping Unit swept the water between Sangaysiapo and Bungao Island. Here YMS 71 struck a mine, exploded and caused the boat to sink. In the afternoon of the same day, Captain Albert E. Bond, Commander of YMS No. 50, US Navy, came to see me at Tubig-Indangan at Simonol Island, as he received information from one of the guerrillas that I could be found in that place. Captain Albert E. Bond informed me that YMS No. 71 was sunk this morning. In our conference we reached a decision wherein my unit is to be left with the responsibility of clearing all mines in this area. After our conference the four US Mine Sweeping boats left Bungao for Sambonga with words that the Captain will return to see us in a few days.

11. In a short period of ten days of operation the area of Tawi-Tawi was completely cleared of mines. During this period of our operation, on 6 April 1945, Captain Bond came with his four Mine Sweepers. I went to see him on board YMS No. 50. He told me that he brought supplies for my unit. The next day Captain Bond accompanied by his two technical men,

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to lay bouy inside the Tawi-Tawi Bay, which work we finished in the afternoon of the same day. I conducted him back to his boat YMS No. 50 Here he instructed that the following morning I should accompany him in his boat YMS No. 50 to resweep the Tawi-Tawi bay because several boats will anchor inside the bay. The operation lasted up to late in the afternoon. After this we separated and he proceeded to Kolakola. On the third day Captain Bond sent for me that he was leaving for Zamboanga again. On board his ship I wrote a letter to the Commander of the Seventh Fleet, U. S. Navy, requesting recognition of my unit. Attached herewith is a true copy of said communication.

12. Commander L. R. Neville, USN, sent me a note of see him on board the MSS No. 465. The following day after I received his note I went to see him on board the MSS No. 465. In the course of our conversation I showed in the map the minefield which we have already cleared indicating also all probable field of mines which up to that time then we have not yet worked out. He wanted also to see the mines which we have removed and placed along the shore at Sangaysiapo. So we boarded a motor boat and rode toward the shore. There he saw several mines with TNT unremoved. He directed immediately his photographers to get a snapshot of the mines which was done instantly. As he also wanted to get all the parts of the mine for the information of the Navy Department, I ordered my men to release one mine, and tow it to the shore. In a few minutes the boys opened the mine in the presence of Commander L. R. Neville. When this is finished we returned to his boat. I told Commander Neville of my intention to move my unit and operate in the waters of Tutu Bay along the coast of Sulu island.

13. On 30 April 1945 I started the operation in Tutu Bay. As I was running short of food supplies, I proceeded to Jolo to get food supplies from U. S. Army station No. 163 R.C.T. Here I met the Captain of YMS No. 98 who told me that he was ordered by Captain Neville to sweep Tutu Bay in accordance with my report. After I had secured my supplies I dispatched my boat with instruction to proceed to Tutu Bay while I boarded YMS No. 98 with the captain, and proceeded together to Tutu Bay.

14. On 30 May 1945 Commander Neville arrived at Jolo. Immediately he sent for me. I went to see him on board his ship and after a short conversation he wrote a letter of a preciation for the successful accomplishment of my mission. Attached herewith is a true copy of Commander Neville's letter of appreciation.

15. With my unit, on 6 June 1945, I started for Tonquil Island to sweep the mines which reported to be great in number. The island is located midway of Jolo and Zamboanga. We arrived there on the following day and immediately started the operation. On 8 June 1945 at about 7 o'clock in the evening while our boats were anchored in one of those small islands seven Japanese suicide soldiers from the neighboring islands came to us in a small boat equipped with hand grenades. Their mission might have

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been to blast or kill us, but, before they could throw their grenades we fired at them and killed them.

16. On 15 June 1945, I sailed for Zamboanga to get supplies from the Naval Base and upon a rival, I paid my respect to the commander of the Base and reported to him that we killed seven Japanese on a small boat who attempted to attack us in Tonquil Island. While in Zamboanga I received a radiogram from Sulu Area Commander to return to Jolo to be processed, but before we arrived, the processing team left for Meyte.

17. On 9 August 1945, I boarded a Coast Guard for Zamboanga bound for Manila. I arrived Manila 11 August 1945. On 13 August 1945, I reported to the Philippine Army Headquarters. I was processed on the same date.

18. The mines are first located by using a sweep of five hundred (500) fathoms of line and three (3) kumpits (more boat) with eight men in each boat as her crew. When mine is found it is bouyed by a swimmer and the remaining string of mines is then bouyed in turn. After bouying all mines, each is released and destroyed. We have lost fifteen (15) men and one (1) injured in this work. Summarizing therefore the number of mines extracted and destroyed within the Sulu water, it makes the total of three hundred fifteen (315) mines to the credit of this unit.

19. In view of the foregoing activities of the Mine Sweeping Unit, with such courage and service to the country, is unique in the annals of resistance movement and military operation, having performed such duty against all odds not to mention the absence of necessary tools and equipments for the accomplishment of such hazardous and risky mission. I would highly appreciate for any consideration or any award the Commanding General may see fit to be given to my unit and my men.

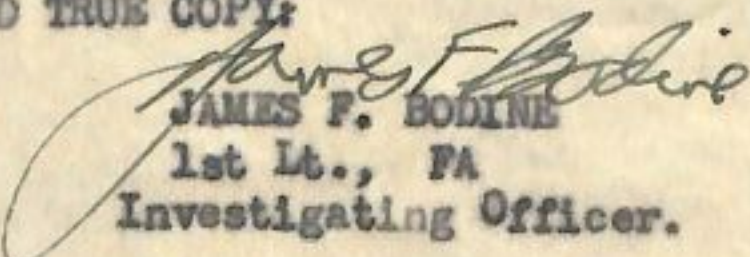
20. Request reimbursement of the expenses incurred during the operation as per itemized receipts attached.

s/ Abubaker Jacaria
t/ ABUBAKER JACARIA
Captain Infantry, O-1269
Commanding MINE SWEEPING UNIT of
Sulu Archipelago.

Encls:

1. Letter of AFPAC 11 Sept 1945
2. Letter Comdr Task Group, 31 May '45
3. Letter to Comdr 7th Fleet, USN, 11 Apr '45
4. Itemized Subsistence expenses and Rentals.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:


JAMES F. BODINE
1st Lt., PA
Investigating Officer.

HEADQUARTERS, 10D DISTRICT FIELD TEAM
RECOVERED PERSONNEL DETACHMENT, AFWESPAC
CAMP MURPHY, APO 707

JFB/res

28 December 1945

SUBJECT: Reimbursement of Guerrilla expenses, Request for

TO : Commanding General
AFWESPAC, APO 500
(Thru Channel)

1. Request reimbursement of expenses incurred in the Mine Sweeping of Sulu Sea around Tawi Tawi, Tutu Bay and almost all the islands of the Sulu Archipelago. Expenses incurred consisted of finances for the subsistence of the members of the Mine Sweeping Unit, Usaffe, Sulu Archipelago and rentals of Moro Kumpits and Vintas utilized in sweeping the Marine mines planted by the Japanese in the Sulu Sea, covering the period from 14 November 1944 to 31 July 1945.

2. Mine Sweeping of the area was stopped on 9 August 1945 when I boarded a Coast Guard from Zamboanga for Manila. From 8 April 1945, I began receiving food supplies and materials from the Mine Sweeping Unit of the U. S. Navy stationed at Zamboanga, for the subsistence of my Unit. I continued to rent the Moro boats used in the Mine Sweeping up to 31 July 1945.

3. The Mine Sweeping Unit, USAFFE, Sulu Archipelago, was recognized by AFPAC effective 14 November 1944, copy of letter dated 11 Sept 1945 of AFPAC herewith attached. Duplicate copy of communication dated 6 October 1945 together with inclosures herewith inclosed.

4. Reasons: Most of the finances made in connection with the activities were borrowed from prominent people of the Sulu Archipelago with the guaranty that I will pay them in good faith upon being reimbursed by proper authorities.

During the Japanese occupation, all my properties were commandeered, burned or de troyed, consequently I am not in a position to give my family a decent living unless aid from the United States Government is given in the form of early reimbursement of my expenses incidental to my guerrilla activities.

s/ Abubaker Jacaria
t/ ABUBAKER JACARIA
Captain, Infantry
Commanding

1st Ind

JVC/cst

HQ DECEASED CLAIMS SEC, RP DET, AFWESPAC, APO 707, 2 Jan 46

TO: CO, RPD, AFWESPAC, APO 707

Incls:
n/c

s/ JVC
t/ JVC

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:
James F. Bodine
JAMES F. BODINE
1st Lt., FA,
Investigating Officer

10 Nov
PA
Granillo

HEADQUARTERS
61ST INFANTRY REGIMENT, PHILIPPINE ARMY
APO 717

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, KALINGALAN CALUANG, Captain, Inf., ~~Inf.~~, PA, do hereby certify as follows:

That I have been Commanding Officer of Co. "K", 3rd Bn., 1st Sulu Regiment under Lt.-Col. Alejandro Suarez, Commanding Officer of the Sulu Area Command, since this guerrilla unit was officially recognized on the 11th day of February, 1944.

That the funds of the regiment were so low, that it was a military necessity for Lt.-Col. Suarez to authorize all unit commanders, and their authorized agents, to procure supplies, equipment, and cash loans on requisition receipts with the understanding that the persons who furnished these supplies, equipment, and cash loans would be reimbursed at a future date at an agreed price or at the fixed Army price then existing.

That I have examined the receipt attached to the herein claim of Hadji Hassan and certify that it bears my true signature and the true signature of Lt. M. Molijon who was my executive officer at the time of the requisition, and was, consequently, duly authorized to make said requisition. Further, that the claimant has been paid the sum of ₱200.00, being a partial payment on account of the original loan of ₱500.00 covered by said receipt.

I further certify that the currency involved were Treasury Notes of the Philippine Commonwealth Government.

Dated this 28th day of November, 1945.

(SGD) KALINGALAN CALUANG
Capt., Inf., (PA)
Co. "K", 3rd Bn.
Commanding

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28th day of November, 1945.

(SGD) GEORGE B. LITTLE
2nd Lt., Inf.
Investigating Officer
Claims Service, AFWESPAC

A TRUE COPY:

C-1449
CG-11-X-1657
Adolfo L. Magallanes
ADOLFO L. MAGALLANES
Chief, Statistics Branch
Records and Fiscal Division.

Solo Area Card

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