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UNITED STATES FORCES IN THE PHILIPPINES
HEADQUARTERS, 109th DIVISION
IN THE FIELD

5 October 43

To: Lt.-Col. Frank D. McGee

1. First of all this letter is addressed to you but I want Pendatun to read it because most of it will concern him.

2. I received a very scathing letter from the CO 10th MD ordering me to report "WHY the necessity of antedating the effectivity of the appointments of officers under Pendatun". I did this as a favor to Pendatun, but whether or not he appreciates is questionable.

3. Following are extracts of radio messages from Fertig -
"PENDATUN WILL NOT RPT NOT BE TOLERATED AS CO OF BOTH REGIMENTS PD THE OLD GHOST OF THE BUKIDNON COTABATO FORCE MUST BE LAID PD" - - - - "IF PENDATUN THREATENS ORDER HIM TO REPORT TO THIS HEADQUARTERS".

4. Following are extracts of letters from Fertig -
(a) "Captain Piang does not want to serve under Pendatun for both family and seniority reasons. Pendatun was formerly a subordinate officer of Captain Piang".

(b) "It is reported that apparently with the agreement of Pendatun, Datu Udtog and Datu Mantil have signed a truce with the Japanese, which allows the operation of trucks from Davao to Dulawan."

(c) "Although it is my impression that Datu Udtog's troops were stationed at Kabacan, it is reported that Udtog has gone to Dulawan in the upper Koronadal Valley, leaving only a minor garrison at Kabacan area, and that no attempt is being made to limit traffic on the road between Kidapawan and Kabacan. It is requested that Colonel McGee investigate this matter and submit a report."

5. Fertig makes a statement concerning Almada, which is certainly not complimentary. If Almada causes any more trouble have him arrested.

6. More excerpts of letters of the Commanding Officer, 10 MD.
"Major Salipada Pendatun cannot function as CO of two Regiments. He is making every effort to maintain the ghost of the Bukidnon-Cotabato force with the idea of submitting same directly to Gen. MacArthur for recognition when the American troops arrive. I do not approve of Maguindanao soldiers remaining in Bukidnon, since I have rather conclusive evidence that the primary interest of these people is the

(Continued)

salt traffic which is the source of considerable revenue for Maguindanao officers formerly with the 117th Infantry. The matter should be handled in the form of an order to Pendatun, and if he wants to start trouble, now is the time to start it. Upon his assignment of CO of the 118th Infantry he should be given the mission of blocking the road between the Cotabato-Davao boundary in the Pikit area. This is not done at present and to aggravate the matter there is evidence that Datu Udtogs men actually have Japanese identification badges." (End of excerpts of letters of CO 10th MD.)

7. This recognition business is all very silly since the B-C Force probably did less actual fighting than any other organized force in the Philippines.

8. From all of this you can readily see that Pendatun is the Number One trouble-maker as far as Colonel Fertig is concerned. He is undoubtedly the only person on the island of Mindanao who is holding up Fertig's report to SWP that all is clear. Pendatun MUST be made to understand that he is a Regimental Commander and nothing more, and as such he has no authority to take in any more men or to grab any more territory, or to communicate with such persons as General Santos, the Piangs, or Lt. Afdal.

9. As a result of the above remarks of Fertig, and to save myself from going crazy, I am suggesting to Fertig that all troops in Cotabato including the 118th Infantry be placed into one Division with you as Commanding Officer. Whether or not Fertig will accept this suggestion remains to be seen.

10. One case of ammunition (1500) rounds has been sent to the 118th addressed to you. Today we are sending three cartons of Camels. You can take care of the distribution of both the ammunition. No funds will be sent until all those questionable accounts are cleared up and Brillas has turned in the papers as he was ordered.

11. In closing - all Pendatun has to do is to use just a little common sense, cut out all the long and loud public speeches, forget all ideas or ambitions of granduer which he might have, and TAKE ORDERS.

12. I have always been honest with Pendatun which is a hell of a lot more than he can say, as witness such a childish trick as his order to the officers at the radio station to give him copies of all my radio messages sent to or received from Colonel Fertig.

13. This letter can be construed as nothing but constructive criticism.

PENDATUN IS TO READ THIS LETTER.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY: *R. B. Slade* / *1st* R. V. Bowler
R. B. SLADE R. V. BOWLER
by G. J. Mace 2d Lt, Inf Lt.-Col AUS
Actg Ass't Adj Gen Commanding

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES
HQ, 109TH, COTABATO SECTOR

30 SEPTEMBER 1943

TO : THE COMMANDING GENERAL, 10TH MIL. DIST.
(THRU C. O. 109TH DIVISION)
Subject: RANK OF LIEUT F. M. MATAS

It is necessary to write in a very unmilitary style.

There has been and still is extreme rivalry between
Lieut Mantil Delingalen and Lieut Froilan Matas.

It offends Matas as well as his thousands of enthus-
iastic followers that his rank is now two grades below that
of Delingalen. This was due to circumstances and regulations.
Delingalen was a third Lieut. of the Bolo Bn and as a result
got an original 2nd Lieutenantcy antedated to June 1 and after
ninety days in that grade was promoted.

Matas claims he was inducted into the Bolo Bn as Captain
and was assigned to the Midsayap-Picket sector but his state-
ment to that effect was overlooked and as a result he got an
original third Lieutenantcy and since it was delayed until after
September 1st it could not be antedated. Being a U. S. citizen
he could have asked for commission in the U. S. Reserve which
would have given him the higher rank.

A whole Bn of Enlisted Men are willing and apparently
anxious to refuse recognition until this inequality is removed.
Since forming our USFIP is a voluntary act they have that
privilege. My assurance, that the promotions would take place
in ninety days intervals does not satisfy.

The Commanding General, 10th Military District is the
only one in the Philippine Island authorized to do so and I
recommend and urge that he do so. By antedating orders it
can be done legally.

This is an exception recommended for an exceptional case.
He helped Delingalen start the Cotabato Guerrillas, October 2,
1942 and sent his applications to the Commanding General before
Delingalen did. I know that this measure will benefit the morale
of soldiers and civilians to an important degree.

F. D. MCGEE

Lieut-Colonel, AUS

This is suspended by letter on reverse side of later date.

/s/ F.D.M.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

R. B. Slade
R. B. SLADE

2d Lt, Inf - Actg Ass't Adj Gen

UNITED STATES FORCES IN THE PHILIPPINES
 HEADQUARTERS, 109th DIVISION
 IN THE FIELD

10 October 43

To: Lt.-Col. Frank D. McGee
 Commanding Officer, 106th Division

CONGRATULATIONS -

The message was received by TAC last night and means that the 106th Division to garrison Cotabato will be activated on 16 October by General Order 168, paragraph 2. McGee will be CO per Special Order 227, paragraph 2. I am directed to help you with your staff, but I don't see how I can do much for you unless you want some Officer from this Division. However I think you can find enough good Officers in Cotabato. Piang is organizing 117th but has not been recognized. (This is confusing. There already is a 117th Infantry Regiment in the 10th MD, and Fertig states above that the 106 Division will garrison Cotabato, so it cannot mean a 117th Division. Must be a mistake. I will find out by radio). Pendatun will Command the 118th Infantry Regiment and Page will Command the 116th Infantry Regiment.

Enclosed is a communication from Gumbay Piang requesting the return of some fire arms. Maybe you can do something about this. I cannot handle it from here. I notice he mentions the 119th Regiment.

As soon as the orders come from CPG I will forward them to you.

/s/ R. V. Bowler
 Lt.-Col. AUS
 Commanding

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

R. B. Slade
 R. B. SLADE
 2d Lt, Inf
 Actg Ass't Adj Gen
by A. L. Moser

UNITED STATES FORCES IN THE PHILIPPINES
10TH MILITARY DISTRICT
HEADQUARTERS, 1ST BN, 118th INF REGT

In the Field - 30 September 1943

MEMORANDUM For:-

LIEUT GAVINO VILCHEZ, JO "B" Co.
LIEUT GERONIMO QUINONES, JO "B" Co.

1. Upon receipt of this memorandum report immediately to my headquarters together with Lieut Quinones at Demapaco.
2. Before leaving your detachment, instruct your boys to be alert and just to wait for orders.
3. Inform barrio people about the present condition, regarding the change of Battalion Commander in our Battalion. Tell them if they still love me, let them parade here in front of Col. McGee and protest against the changing of Battalion Commander.
4. Compliance.

/s/ F. M. Matas
F. M. MATAS
(Bvt) Major, Inf, USFIP
Commanding

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

R. B. Slade

R. B. SLADE
2d Lt, Inf
Actg Ass't Adj Gen

Lt. Col. E. F. Jernigan

UNITED STATES FORCES IN THE PHILIPPINES
TENTH MILITARY DISTRICT, MF
HEADQUARTERS, 109th DIVISION

25 August 43

To: Lt.-Col. Frank D. McGee

Following are excerpts from a message received from Fertig today - "CONTINUE ORGANIZATION WORK IN UPPER COTABATO PD UNITS SOUTH OF RIVER ARE ONE BN IN LEBAK-UPI AREA, SECOND SOUTH END OF PROVINCE . . . MAJOR PAGE IS CO ONE ONE SIX INF WITH HQ NEAR GLAN PD GUMBAY PIANG INTERESTED IN ORGANIZING DULAWAN AREA . . . UDTOG ASKED FOR CONFERENCE AT LEBAK PD I APPROVE".

There are so many conflicting stories coming in from Cotabato re the situation there, will you send up a report as to what the picture is there. I will radio your report to Fertig, or, if you are able to get close to a radio I suggest you contact the CO, 10th MD.

There has been a rumor going around that Fertig has gone to Australia. He has ordered me to circulate a statement that will emphasize the fact that he is "STILL CO AND THAT THE HQ TENTH MD IS STILL FUNCTIONING".

Fertig was promoted to full Colonel as of August 4 by order of SWP.

I am enclosing two letters for Fr. Haggerty. I have had no report from the Lieutenant who is supposed to be hunting for the Bishop's Papers. Give the padre my regards.

If possible, send word when to expect you back in this area, or when you will send a report.

/s/ R. V. Bowler
R. V. Bowler
Lt.-Col. AUS

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

R. B. Slade
R. B. SLADE
2d Lt, Inf
Actg Ass't Adj Gen

By J. L. Mauer

UNITED STATES FORCES IN THE PHILIPPINES
HEADQUARTERS, 109th DIVISION
IN THE FIELD

17 Sept 43

TO: Lt.-Col. FRANK D. MCGEE

1. At your request the names of Lt. RODIL and Lt. MORALES have been lined out on the transfer order.

2. Lt. MARIANO RAMOS will be notified to deliver the money to Lt. CARINO upon its arrival from the DFO.

3. Lt. CARINO is authorized to pay for supplies, when properly receipted for.

4. I heartily approve of your suggestion to issue an order stating that all communications with certain persons with the Japanese be made ONLY RPT ONLY by Lt.-Col. FRANK D. MCGEE. I would like to suggest that such names as you think necessarily be placed on the list, and everyone be made to understand that you are the only person authorized to communicate with such persons. The only reason anyone else would want to contact such people would be a political reason and we are not interested in politics.

5. The decision is yours as to the composition of the order, and to whose signature should be on it. I believe your name would draw more weight in Cotabato than mine.

6. If any more orders are necessary, send out a runner in the morning.

/s/ R. V. Bowler
R. V. Bowler
Lt.-Col. AUS

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

R. B. Slade
R. B. SLADE
2d Lt, Inf
Actg Ass't Adj Gen

Ed. Carungay

UNITED STATES FORCES IN THE PHILIPPINES
 HEADQUARTERS, 109th DIVISION
 IN THE FIELD

27 Sept 43

To: Lt.-Col. Frank D. McGee

The radio is still not functioning so we have had no instructions from Fertig.

I had another spell of a few days but am about ready to travel now.

I am sending you a copy of the Independence to be granted by the US. It looks like a race between the US and the Japs to see who gives Independence first. If you read between the lines, it looks as if the "aid" is going to get here sooner than expected.

We are also sending a copy of a letter I sent to Lt. Ramos, the Finance Officer. As soon as those accounts are cleared up, money will be given to the 118th, not before.

Mr. Maceren has been trying to get Brillas to present certain papers regarding the money given to Officers in the 117th, but has had no luck. Brillas evidently does not want to give up these papers, because when he left here he told me he was all cleared up on his accounts. As long as he insists on disobeying orders, no money will be sent to Cotabato.

Try to stop the public speeches. If the last one here was supposed to be funny, it was very successful.

The Japs are planning to conscript all PC and other able bodied men to fight the Americans when they land. As a result of this, many former prisoners are coming out of Jap occupied territory.

When I get any instructions from Fertig I will send them by special runner.

Best regards to you and Major Pendatun.

/s/ R. V. Bowler
 R. V. Bowler
 Lt.-Col. AUS

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

R. B. Slade
 R. B. SLADE
 2d Lt, Inf
 Actg Ass't Adj Gen

by J. T. Moore

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