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HISTORY
OF
1st ALBAY CO, P. C.

No. 69c

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HISTORY

OF

1st ALBAY Co, PC

No. *88*
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HISTORY OF THE 1ST ALBAY CO FC
(Dec 1941 - May 42)

- A. The following history of the 1st Albay Co, FC has been deduced from a special study conducted on thirty one (31) 1st Albay Co, FC cases:

At the outbreak of the war, the 1st Albay Co, FC was stationed at Regan Barracks, Daraga, Albay. CO of the Company was Capt. Demetrio J. Camua. Provincial Inspector was Maj. Francisco C. Sandico. There is no mention of a Junior Officer of the Company. However, two other officers were attached for duty with the Provincial Inspector's Office, namely: Capt Jesus Mercado, FC Traffic Officer, and Lt Burgos T. Sayoc, District Med. Inspector, 5th MD FC.

At dawn of 12 Dec 41 enemy battleships were sighted at Legaspi Port. Maj. Sandico ordered Lt Sayoc to contact HPC, Manila and report the presence of the enemy, estimated about 12,000 strong, at Legaspi Port. Lt Sayoc allegedly succeeded in transmitting the message, however, no reply was received. The PA and FC personnel at Regan Barracks combined, then deployed in their camp, ready to resist the enemy. About 0500 hours, 12 Dec 41, however, Provincial Governor Saturnino Benito, on learning the proposed resistance of the military personnel at Regan Barracks, advised Majors Deveras and Sandico, PA and FC senior officers in that area, respectively, that it would be futile for them to fight the enemy because of their (enemy) numerical superiority. The plan to defend the barracks was, therefore, abandoned and Maj. Sandico, on his own initiative, ordered his men (FC) to evacuate to the mountains and there wait for reinforcements. Unfortunately, nothing arrived.

The majority of the cases studied allege automatic induction on 17 Dec 41 by virtue of radiographic instructions from HPC, Manila. Recent studies conducted on the validity of these alleged instructions (automatic induction of the FC on 17 Dec 41), revealed that there is absolutely no basis for such an alleged induction. (See History of the Hqs Det, Dept of NL FC, for a full explanation of this.)

A few cases allege induction by Maj. Sandico on various dates in Dec 41. This could not be possible because Maj. Sandico, himself, alleges induction (like Capt. Camua and Capt. Mercado) on 13 May 42 by Maj. Licerio F. Lapus, Provincial Inspector (FC) of Sorsogon province. Maj. Lapus in turn alleges to have been "personally inducted" by Col. Cornell (USA), CO, Leyte-Samar Provisional Regt, on or about 30 Mar 42.

NOTE: No determination has yet been made on the validity of Lapus' alleged induction. This will be made in a separate study on the

Sorsogon PC, of which he was the Provincial Inspector. Nevertheless, a determination on the validity of Maj. Sandico's induction can be made on the basis of facts now at hand.

Granting that Maj. Lopus' induction on 30 Mar 42 by Col Cornell is determined valid, the induction he performed for Maj. Sandico, Capt. Camua and Capt. Mercado on 13 May 42 is not valid because it was done after the official surrender of the USAFFE forces. After this surrender (6 May 42) there was no authority to induct personnel.

1st Lt Burgos T. Sayoc, one of the 2 officers on duty with the Prov'l. Inspector's Office when the Japs landed in Legaspi, alleges to have joined the Sorsogon PC which was under Maj. Licerio Lopus, on or about 1 Feb 42. He further alleges to have been "inducted into the USAFFE in Catbalogan, Samar on March 29, 1942 by Maj. Antonio Lanzar".

NOTE: Maj Lanzar alleges to have been inducted on 30 Dec 41 and subsequently assigned S-4 Leyte Provisional Regt and then Ex-O Samar-Leyte Sector under Maj. J. Causing and Col. T. M. Cornell, respectively.

It is therefore possible that Lt. Sayoc may have acquired USAFFE status in view of this alleged induction.

Sixteen of these cases allege to have been either disbanded or separated on various dates during the period Dec '41 to Apr '42. However, Capt. Camua, in affidavits found in several of these cases, attests that these same people were with him "all the time" in the mountains of Albay and that they became the First Albay Co Guerrilla on 23 May 42. In spite of Capt. Camua's statements, it is believed that the Company was temporarily disbanded and that most of its members were later reactivated on or about 23 May 42 to form the First Albay Co. Guerrilla. This unit later expanded into the 55th Inf Regt, 52d Div under the overall command of Col. Sandico.

B. A thorough search of all available archives for 1st Albay Co PC has been made at Records Branch and at Project "J". This revealed that:

1. There are no records of the Company at Archives Section, Records Branch;
2. Some members of the Company appear in some PC records which are dated prior to 8 Dec 41, at Archives Section;

3. The "Alphabetical Casualty Listing of Officers and Enlisted Personnel who were in the Philippine Island Area as of 7 Dec 41," at Project "J" shows one Lt Col. Theodore M. Cornell, O-7279, Hqs. Philippine Department.

Maj. Lopus, who attests to have inducted Maj. Sandico, was allegedly inducted by one Col T. M. Cornell, (USA) CO, Samar-Leyte Provisional Regt.

4. "Leyte Provisional Regiment," found in the Historical Files at Records Branch, mentions one Col Cornell as CO of the Leyte Provisional Regt.
5. "Triumph in the Philippines" Vol I, p. 45, relates, that "on December 12, Gen. HOMMA landed a battalion of the 16th Division's 33d Regiment at Legaspi, in southern Luzon". This unit was known as the Kimura Detachment.

C. From the above facts and findings the following conclusions have been drawn:

1. The 1st Albay Co FC was stationed at Regan Barracks, (now Camp Cerro Gordo) Davao, Albay at the outbreak of the war.
2. CO of the Company was Capt. Demetrio J. Camua. No mention of a JO is made in any of the cases studied. There were 3 officers in the Provincial Inspector's Office, namely: Maj. Francisco G. Sandico, Provincial Inspector, Capt. Jesus Mercado, FC Traffic Officer, and Lt Burgos T. Sayoc, District Medical Inspector, 5th MD, FC.
3. On 12 Dec 41, the Imperial Japanese Forces effected the landing of the Kimura Detachment at Legaspi, Albay.
4. All plans of resisting the enemy contemplated by the military personnel at Regan Barracks were abandoned due to enemy superiority.
5. Maj. Sandico, having failed to secure instructions from HFC, Manila, on his own accord, ordered the FC personnel to evacuate to the mountains and there wait for reinforcements.
6. The unit evacuated to the mountains of Albay and was later disbanded during the period Dec 41-Apr 42.
7. The unit was not inducted into the USAFFE on 17 Dec 41, hence, is not a bonafide USAFFE unit.

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8. The induction of Maj. Sandico, Capt Canua and Capt Mercado, allegedly done by Maj. Lapus was not a valid USAFFE induction, since it was performed after 6 May 42, the official termination of organized USAFFE resistance.
9. In view of the preceding paragraph, the USAFFE inductions allegedly performed by Maj. Sandico for members of the 1st Albay Co during the beleaguered period were not valid.
10. Members of the unit who allege induction into other bona-fide USAFFE units before 6 May 42, may be accorded positive USAFFE status if evidence acceptable under Sec III, Vets Br Adjudication Policy as changed by Sec I, Branch Memorandum #3, dtd 3 Feb 50, is presented.

The following attached documents were used as aids in arriving at the above history:

1. Affidavits by Maj. Demetrio J. Canua dtd 31 Jul 46 & 20 Jun 46.
2. Amplification of Activities (in processing paper) of Capt. Jesus Mercado dtd 10 Oct 45.
3. Affidavit by Lt Col Licerio G. Lapuz dtd 16 Jan
4. Affidavit by M/Sgt Pedro Bulsacao dtd 15 Dec 47.

Josefina H. Alburo
JOSEFINA H. ALBURO
Claims Examiner

WR Fronk
WESLEY R. FRONK
DAD FINAL REVIEWER
REA Sec, VB, AGRO

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Authority *AWD 88830B*KNOWN MEMBERS OF THE 1ST ALBAY CO, PC
(Dec 41 - May 42)Provincial Inspector
Maj. Francisco C. SandicoCommanding Officer
Capt. Demetrio J. CamuaOther Officers in the Prov'l. Inspector's Office
Capt. Jesus Mercado - PC Traffic Officer, 5th MD
Lt. Burgos T. Sayoc - Dist. Med. Inspector, 5th MD (PC)Sergeants

1. Pagio, Raymundo O - Actg 1st Sgt
2. Laguilles, Policarpo N - Sgt
3. Lasin, Cirilo J. - - "
4. Martinez, Rodrigo A. - - "
5. Rosen, Marciano A. - - "

Privates 1st Class

1. Apuli, Ricardo C.
2. Manjares, Melocio P.
3. Pasion, Ventura C.
4. Talaran, Eulogio T.

Corporals

1. Banton, Zoilo B.
2. Brillante, Toribio P.
3. Cassero, Rufino C.
4. Lopez, Angel M.
5. Mirabuna, Alberto M.
6. Navarro, Inocentes L.

Privates

1. Bermillo, Celedonio
2. Bibon, Casiano B.
3. Fanesa, Nestorio
4. Feralta, Angel A.
5. Polo, Loreto G.
6. Saret, Simeon
7. Solano, Elias T.
8. Vasquez, Salvador C.

Provincial Inspector's Office

1. Bulalacao, Pedro B. - 1st Sgt.
2. Colinares, Ladislao C. - Sgt.
3. Atanante, Isabelo M. - Cpl.
4. Broqueza, Jose C. - - "

Jacquina H. Alburo
JACQUINA H. ALBURO
Claims Examiner

WRC Frank
WESLEY R. FRONK
DAG FINAL REVIEWER
RFA Sec. VB. AGRD

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES : S.S.
PROVINCE OF Tarlac)

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AND 88308

A F F I D A V I T

I, DEMETRIO J CANUA, Major Infantry, PA, 01380, married of legal age, residing at postal address Provost Marshal, WPC, Tarlac after having been duly sworn according to law, depose and say:

1. That I was the Company Commander of 1st Albay Co PC, Legaspi, Albay on 12 December 1941, during the invasion of the Japanese Forces of Legaspi, Albay;

2. That upon order of Major now Lt Col F. Sandico, Provincial Inspector, PC, Legaspi, Albay, I took my unit of 48 EM to the mountains of Daraga, Albay in the morning of 12 December 1941, due to the Japs invasion of about 12,000 strong;

3. That it was futile to fight the Japs at that time because of their big number, hence the order of my Provincial Inspector to withdraw to the mountains to wait for reinforcement;

4. That Cpl Eulogio Talaran, PA, 213413, formerly a Pfc of 1st Albay Co PC under my command, is a regular soldier and was inducted into the USAFFE by General G. B. FRANCISCO, Chief of the Philippine Constabulary on or about 19 December 1941, and he was among those who was with me in the mountains of Daraga, Albay.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto affixed my signature this 31st day of July 1946.

s/ Demetrio J Canua
t/ DEMETRIO J CANUA - 1380
Major, Inf., PA

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 31 day of July 1946,
at the Tarlac Tarlac.

s/Fidel B. (ILLEGIBLE)
(Administering Officer)

1st Lt. Inf. Adj.
(Rank and Organization)

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:


H. CUTLER
1st Lt., AGC
Asst Adjutant

COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES
ARMY HEADQUARTERS
APO 501

10 Oct. '45

SUBJECT: ACTIVITIES, AMPLIFICATION OF

TO : The Adjutant General, HPA, APO 501

1. In the morning of 12 Dec. '41 the Japanese Army numbering around 12,000 made a surprised landing in the town of Legaspi, Albay. Upon learning of their landing Majors Antero Deveras and Francisco Sandico and other officers including myself who were then stationed at Regan Barracks, Legaspi, Albay have decided to defend the barracks. The PA unit under Maj. Deveras was to defend the main while the Constabulary under Maj. Sandico was to defend the rear of the Constabulary barracks facing the air field. We then placed ourselves into our respective assignments ready to meet the enemy.

2. At about 0500 hours in the morning of 12 Dec. '41 Gov. SATURNINO BEMITO of Albay came to see us and inquired as to our plans; Maj. Sandico explained to him that we were ready to meet the enemy, the Governor then said, "Gentlemen, I am not your superior, I am only the Chief Executive of the Province, but to save the province from unnecessary destruction I advise you not to resist; by the way how many aref to which Maj. Sandico answered, "we are about 100". "Well, the governor said, I don't think you have any chance to fight; if you will listen to my advise as a friend, I advise you to retire to the mountains as there are several battleships in the bay". With this sound advise of the governor, we moved to the mountains and there wait for the arrival of the reinforcements. As the days passed on without any sign of the Army Forces we strengthen our camp in the barrio of Burokburocan in the town of Ligao, province of Albay.

3. Towards the end of the month of February '42, Mayor Virgilio Rempillo of Cas, Albay accompanied by Atty. Casimiro came to my camp and asked if they could organize a Guerrilla Force and join us; as the proposition sounded good I told them to go ahead. About 5 Mar. '42 we gathered around 150 civilian volunteers and formed them the NUCLEUS of our unit. Since that date I have been inducting volunteers who joined us.

4. About the end of March '42 Col. Sandico, Maj. Camua, Lt. Zabat and myself proceeded to Juban, Sorsogon arriving at the camp of Col. Lapuz about 1 May '42 and then on 13 May '42 Col. Lapuz inducted us into the USAFFE per instructions of Col. Cornell who was then the sector commander of Leyte-Samar sector, we returned to our camp in Albay in 22 May '42. Since our contact with Col. Lapuz we continued inducting volunteers and train them.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES
ARMY HEADQUARTERS
APO 501

25 Oct. 1945

COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES
ARMY HEADQUARTERS
APO 501

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Authority *AWD 88303*

25 Oct. 1945

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The following is an Addenda to the Amplification
of my Activities;

(a) As my Guerrilla Unit was not benefited by any Guerrilla Funds or Emergency Notes, I had to resort of money and buy rice and other food stuffs thru credit system. At times loyal citizens and friends used to send me money, rice, medicine and other food supplies. Others give contributions and donations.

(b) Most of my officers and men had their own means of living like fishing and rice fields and those who needed help were given out of the contributions and donations.

(c) The subsistence of my family were secured by credit system. At times my children help in the rice harvest on share basis. I had also my small rice field which helped my family subsistence. My Figgery and Poultry Project helped me greatly in my days of privations; my wife used to make Sausgges and other preserves to make the pork last long.

When I received my salary for the month of April, May and June 1945 my wife went around and started some of our bills.

s/ Jesus Mercado
t/ JESUS MERCADO (O-1291)
Capt., Inf.

A TRUE COPY

H. H. Cutter
H. H. CUTTER
1st Lt., AGC
Asst Adjutant

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA }
COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES } S. S.
CITY OF MANILA }

A F F I D A V I T

I, LICERIO G. LAPUZ, Lt. Col. Inf. O-1200 under oath depose and say;

That on or about 13 May 42 I have personally inducted Lt. Col. Francisco Sandico Inf.- O-1148 into the USAFFE in compliance with instruction of Col. Colonel, Commander Samar - Leyte Section after I was personally inducted by him.

That Lt. Col. F. Sandico has never surrendered to the enemy.

Further the deponent say not.

s/t/ LICERIO G. LAPUZ
Lt. Col. Inf.
O-1200

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 16 day
of Jan. at the City of Manila, Philippines.

(Sgd) Emmett P D Shea

2nd Lt. Inf.

TJA, SCM, HPA

A TRUE COPY

E. H. CUTLER
E. H. CUTLER
1st Lt., AGC
Asst Adjutant

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR } S.S.
MUNICIPALITY OF NAGA }
X-----X

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Authority *AWD/BB/303*

A F F I D A V I T

I, Pedro Bulalacao, ASN-114413, M/Sgt., Inf, of legal age, married and at present assigned with the Hqs Camarines Sur Province, MPC (AFP), Naga, Camarines Sur, after having been duly sworn to in accordance with law, hereby depose and say:

That I know personally and officially Cpl. Ventura Pacion, ASN-223804, Infantry, AFP, he being one of the regular enlisted men of the former First Albay Company, PC, stationed at Legaspi, Albay, of which I was the First Sergeant. When the Japanese Imperial Forces invaded Legaspi, the said unit was automatically inducted into the USAFFE on or about 17 December 1941 during the mass induction of all isolated units in the field by Gen. G. B. Francisco, Chief of the Philippine Constabulary. Subsequently, Cpl. Pacion was personally inducted into the Guerilla Service on 23 May 1942 by Major F. Sandico, Provincial Inspector of Albay at that time;

That Cpl. Ventura Pacion was last paid to include 30 November 1941;

That he was not able to draw his three (3) months advance pay due to lack of Company Funds;

That the province of Albay was invaded and occupied by the Japanese forces on 12 December 1941 and upon its occupation our unit withdrew to the mountains and immediately after the fall of Corraçidor and Bataan, on 23 May 1942 Major Demetrio J. Camua then the Commanding Officer and at the same time Disbursing Officer of the Unit, organized the First Albay Company Guerilla.

In truth hereof, I have hereunto affix my signature to this affidavit this 15 day of December, 1947, at Naga, Camarines Sur.

s/t/ PEDRO BULALACAO
Affiant

Subscribed and sworn to before me this T 15 day of December, 1947, at Naga, Camarines Sur.

s/t/ E. B. LOGRONIO
Captain, Infantry
Commanding,
Oath Administering Officer.

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:


L. H. CUTLER
1st Lt., AGC
Asst Adjutant

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No 69 G.

No 69 G.

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