

DECLASSIFIED

Authority AWD 88307P

SURVEY - (POW CAMPS)

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NOI 882078

AGAR-R

27 MAY 1958

MEMORANDUM THRU: Chief, Recovered Personnel Records Branch
Operations Officer, Recovered Personnel Records Branch
Deputy Commander, USARGEN

FOR: CO, USARGEN

SUBJECT: POW Camps

1. PROBLEM.--

- a. To determine the authority for and correctness of using 25 Jan 43 as the closing date for O'Donnell Concentration Camp, Capas, Tarlac, Philippines as a POW camp for Philippine Army USAFFE members.
- b. To determine the authority for and correctness of using 11 Jan 43 as the closing date for Malaybalay Concentration Camp, Casisang, Bukidnon, Mindanao, Philippines as a POW camp for Philippine Army USAFFE members.
- c. To determine the period during which Filipino Concentration Camp, Bongabong, Nueva Ecija, Philippines, also referred to as Camp Bongabong and Camp Cabantuan #3 was used as a POW camp for Philippine Army USAFFE members.
- d. To determine a closing date, if any, for Filipino Concentration Camp, Bongabong, Nueva Ecija, Philippines as a POW camp for guerrilla Philippine Army members.
- e. To determine the status of Antique Copper and other mines in the Philippines.
- f. To determine the status of the cotton plantations controlled by the Cotton Growers Association in the Philippines.
- g. To determine the status of the Los Baños Recuperation Center, Luzon, Philippines as a POW camp for USAFFE Philippine Army members.
- h. To determine the status of Koronadal Valley, Cotabato as a POW camp for USAFFE Philippine Army members.

2. REFERENCES.--

- a. SOP, Part V, Sec I, Type 11--POW status (Annex #1)
- b. File re Workers in Mines & on Cotton Plantations, Status of (Annex # 2)
- c. Policy Memo No. 3--AGRD (WOC Policies) dtd 7 Oct 52 (Annex #3)
- d. Los Baños Recuperative Camp (Extracted from Manila Tribune, dtd 7 Feb 43) (Annex #4)

- e. Extracts from Manila Tribune (Annex #5)
- (a) Extract 21 Jan 43 (5800 POWs to be released at O'Donnell)
 - (b) Extract 22 Jan 43 (Released POWs from O'Donnell)
 - (c) Extract 23 Jan 43 (1000 POWs released at O'Donnell)
 - (d) Extract 26 Jan 43 (489 POWs released 24 Jan 43 at O'Donnell; 466 sent to Los Banos Camp)
 - (e) Extract 27 Jan 43 (60 POWs released 22 Jan 43 at O'Donnell)
 - (f) Extract 29 Jan 43 (4621 POWs taken care of)
- f. Bangabong Policy (Annex 6)
- (a) Disposition Form dtd 13 Jul 53, Subj: Study Area Cases (Re: Policy established for POW status alleged at Bongabong Concentration Camp)
 - (b) Filipino Concentration Camp Bongabong POW Roster.
- g. Extracts from History of The "A" Corps, West Mindanao, 10th MD, Vol I. (Re Camp Casisang, Malaybalay) (Annex #7)
- h. Memo Toyo Manka Kaisha, Ltd Phil Cotton Growing Ass, Manila, dtd 22 Jan 44 (Annex #8)
- i. Rosters of Employees of Toyo Manka Kaisha (Annex #9)
- j. Extracts from Manila Tribune (Annex #10)
- (a) Extract 9 Dec 42 (Many Firms Ask for Laborers--300 to mining firms in Gabuao)
 - (b) Extracts 5 Dec 42; 11 Jan 43; 12, 13, 14, 15, & 16 Jan 43; 5 Feb 43; 6 & 7 Feb 43; 23, 24 & 25 May 43; and 30 May 43 (Help Wanted Ads for workers in the mines)
 - (c) Extract 9 Oct 43 (Re-employing ex-POW's)
- k. Chart pertaining to Japan Cotton Growing Assn (Annex #11)
- l. Extracts from Intelligence Periodic Reports on Civil Affairs for Period 1 Jan 44-29 Feb 44 (Peralta's Report) (Annex #12)
- m. Articles of Philippine Cotton Growing Assn (Annex #13)
- n. Extracts from Manila Tribune (Annex #14)
- (a) 30 May 43 (244 POW's released at Bongabong Camp)
 - (b) 26 Jun 43 (additional POW's released from Bongabong)

DECLASSIFIED

Authority MOJ 883078

9. (Annex #15)

- (a) List of Released War Prisoners in Cotton Companies Who Desire to go Home
- (b) Letter Bongabon Stock Farm, dtd 20 Apr 44
- (c) List of POW's sent to Toyo Menka Kaisha dtd 23 Aug 43
- (d) List of POW's Drafted for the Nippon Manka Kaisha dtd 21 Apr 43

3. POLICY.--

- a. O'Donnell Concentration Camp--Arbitrary date of 25 Jan 1943 established as the last date this Concentration Camp existed as such and POW status thereat after 25 Jan 43 is not authorized. (Par 10, Annex 1 and 2b (7) (a), Annex 3)
- b. Camp Casigang, Malaybalay--Arbitrary date of 11 Jan 43 established as last date this Concentration Camp existed as such and POW status thereat beyond 11 Jan 43 is not authorized. (Par 11, Annex 1)
- c. Filipino Concentration Camp, Bongabong, Nueva Ecija also referred to as Camp Bongabong and Camp Cabanatuan #3--Arbitrary date of 25 Jan 43 established as last date of POW at this Concentration Camp. No POW status beyond 25 Jan 43 granted for periods of alleged concentration at Camp Bongabong. (Par a Annex 6a)
- d. POW Status at Filipino Concentration Camp Bongabong, Nueva Ecija also referred to as Camp Bongabong and Camp Cabanatuan #3 for PA guerrilla members is given when duly supported by affidavits or other acceptable evidence. (Par 8 Annex 1)
- e. Antique Copper and other mines were not considered to have been places of POW for periods individuals alleged confinement at those mines. (Incl D, Par 2h, Annex 2)
- f. Japanese controlled cotton plantations were not considered to have been places of POW for periods individuals alleged confinement except in rare instances (Par 2i Annex 2d)
- g. Los Banos Recuperation Center was not considered a place of POW but rather as a recuperation center for released POW's (Par 2b (7) (b) Annex 3, 4, 5d)
- h. Koronadell Valley was not considered to have been a place of POW (Section V, Annex 2c-1)

4. DISCUSSION.--

- a. O'Donnell Concentration Camp--The Manila Tribune of 21 Jan 43 carries accounts of the graduation of 5,800 war prisoners who were ready for release from O'Donnell Concentration Camp, their release to take place within the next three days (Annex 5a). Newspaper accounts indicate that by 25 Jan 43 those prisoners had been released and the camp closed 26 Jan 43 (Annex 5b thru 5f).

It was noted in the many 201 files checked that individuals alleging transfer from O'Donnell Concentration Camp, with rare exception, allege transfer prior to 26 Jan 43. Rosters of the Toyo Menka Kaisha Ltd (a Japanese firm which was a member of the Philippine Cotton Growing Assn) show that firm occupied the former POW camp at O'Donnell, employed released POW's and paid the former POW's a wage about ten times greater than that paid prisoners of war (Annex 8 & 9). Exact date of occupying O'Donnell Concentration Camp not of record. Note roster of 6 May 43.

b. The Malaybalay Concentration Camp was attacked by guerrilla forces the afternoon of 12 Jan 43 (Annex 7). The camp was found to have been evacuated prior to the attack. Guerrilla reports indicate prisoners had either been released or transferred to other POW camps. 201 files for individuals alleging POW status at Malaybalay, in most instances, allege release or transfer from that camp just prior to 12 Jan 43.

c. Filipino Concentration Camp, Bongabong: The Filipino Concentration Camp Bongabong, Nueva Ecija (also referred to as Camp Bongabong and Camp Cabanatuan #3) was used as a POW camp for USAFFE & guerrilla PA members. (Annex 15b) 201 files of USAFFE personnel alleging POW at that camp generally indicate transfer between Nov 42 through Jan 43, with the greater majority having been transferred from O'Donnell Concentration Camp. After a thorough study of the Manila Tribune, Philippine Cotton Growers Assn rosters and reports, and numerous 201 files of personnel alleging confinement at Bongabong, it appears that the following was the Japanese pattern for releasing USAFFE PA members.

(1) Prisoners from the southern islands arriving in Manila would be held overnight at the Bilibid Prison and then were brought to Camp O'Donnell. Most of those prisoners had never undergone spiritual or moral rejuvenation courses which were generally required before their release from a POW camp. With the imminent closing of O'Donnell those prisoners from the southern islands were transferred to Camp Bongabong where the spiritual and moral rejuvenation courses were still being conducted. This appears to be a reasonable explanation for their non-release. (Annex 14a)

(2) Upon completion of the aforementioned course prisoners were eligible for release (Annex 14b). Since they were so far from home, without transportation, food or money they were in no position to reject offers of employment by the Japanese which had the promise of return passage to their homes after six months work. (Annex 15a and 15c)
Most USAFFE POW's of Camp Bongabong allege release from Mar through May 43, however, there are exceptions. The last semi-official date, a roster of POW's sent to Toyo Menka Kaisha, shows a release date as 23 Aug 43, this is the last date shown in available data exclusive of allegations in 201 files. (Annex 15c) Some of these individuals appearing on this roster are civilians and other PA guerrillas whose confinement was not the result of service prior to the surrender in 1942. Camp Cabanatuan #3 located within the Bongabong area, confining American POW's until the Camp was evacuated on 31 Oct 42. Filipino POW's

Some allegations and base information about receipt of Special Labor was found regarding the cotton plantation. (Annex 16, a (1) & 2) (Annex 13). Individuals working on the various cotton plantations appear to have been

began occupying that camp in Nov 42. Rosters indicate correct name of camp after Oct 42 was Filipino Concentration Camp, Bongabong, Nueva Ecija. About one out of every ten POW files checked refers to that POW camp as Cabanatuan while the remainder use the name Bongabong. Letter of 20 Apr 44 (Annex 15b) makes reference to former Camp Cabanatuan #3 and also indicated that most USAFFE PA POW's had been transferred there from by Aug 43 and the few remaining USAFFE were used as cadre. It is believed those individuals used as cadre were no longer POW's since as cadre they were a favored group with the Japanese and were granted privileges far beyond those extended to POW's. Only one roster of personnel confined at Bongabong is available (Annex #6b); however several rosters are presently under study. Final approval is being held in abeyance pending establishment of a termination date of POW at this camp.

The puppet Bureau of Public Welfare attempted to place ex-prisoners in jobs (Annex 10c). d. Filipino Concentration Camp, Bongabong also referred to as Camp #3 Bongabong and Camp Cabanatuan #3 The Filipino Concentration Camp, Bongabong, Nueva Ecija was used as a POW camp for guerrilla PA members (considered bandits by the Japanese) (Annex 14b & 15a). Although it was the policy of the Japanese to have each USAFFE member undergo a course in spiritual & moral rejuvenation as a requisite for release, this policy did not always apply to PA guerrilla members. From the evidence available there does not appear to have been a general release date for guerrillas. The Filipino Concentration Camp, Bongabong, was continued beyond Aug 43 for the concentration of PA guerrilla members. Unconceded policy to work at farming, fishing and related forms of trade.

(Annex e. Antigua Copper and other mines The question of POW status for individuals at the Antigua Copper and other mines has been studied before (Annex 3a, 2a (2) & 2d). Individuals working in the various mines appear to have gone to the mines for several reasons among which are:

1. REASON (1) Lack of other available employment. (Gained from the available records discussed in this study the following is recommended)
 - (2) No guarantor to sign for their release.
2. The arbitrary date of 20 Jan 43 continues to be used as the closing date of (3) Release on an island other than their home island presented a language problem in many instances.
 - (4) Lack of transportation from POW camp to home. (Mines to be considered closed as a place of POW for PA USAFFE members of 13 Jan 43.
 - (5) General food shortage.

e. The Filipino Concentration Camp, Bongabong, Nueva Ecija, also referred to as Camp #3 Bongabong and Camp Cabanatuan #3 The puppet Bureau of Public Welfare attempted to place ex-prisoners in jobs (Annex 10c). It can be assumed they placed some of the ex-prisoners in the mines since there was a heavy demand for mine laborers (Annex 10a, b & c). Guerrilla reports indicate the mine situation (Annex 12). It is alleged, they should be studied thoroughly and the termination date of POW be based on the

f. Antigua Plantations. Cotton plantations controlled by the Philippine Cotton Growing Assn, a part of the Japan Cotton Growing Assn, Colonial Office of the Development Department had in its employ many ex-prisoners of war. (Annex 9 & 11).

Fewer allegations and less information about restraint or forced labor was found regarding the cotton plantations. (Annex 2b, c (1) & d) (Annex 13). Individuals working on the various cotton plantation appears to have gone

there for several reasons, among which are:

- (1) Lack of other available employment.
- (2) No guarantor to sign for their release.
- (3) Release on an island other than their home island presented a language problem in many instances.
- (4) Lack of transportation from POW camp to home.
- (5) General food shortage.

The puppet Bureau of Public Welfare attempted to place ex-prisoners in jobs Annex 10a & 10c). It can be assumed they placed some of the ex-prisoners on cotton plantations since there was a great need for this type of worker.

g. Los Banos Recuperation Center: Los Banos Recuperation Center has a self explanatory title. Only released POW's were sent to this camp to regain their health. (Annex 3, 4 & 5d).

h. Koronadal Valley: Koronadal Valley was a form of cooperative under the National Land Settlement Administration. Released POW's were sent to Koronadal Valley to work at farming, fishing and related forms of trade. (Annex 2b & 2c (1)). The element of restraint was negligible, food & medical supplies bountiful and individuals at Koronadal Valley appear to have had better living conditions during the Japanese occupation than any other group of Filipinos.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS.-- Based on the information obtained from the available records discussed in this study the following is recommended:

a. The arbitrary date of 25 Jan 43 continue to be used as the closing date of the O'Donnell Concentration Camp, Cepas, Tariao, Philippines as a place of POW for Philippine Army USAFFE members.

b. Malaybalay Concentration Camp, Casiang, Bukidnon, Mindano be considered closed as a place of POW for PA USAFFE members of 11 Jan 43.

c. The Filipino Concentration Camp, Bongabong, Nueva Ecija, also referred to as Camp Bongabong and Camp Cabanatuan #3, be considered an official place of POW for PA USAFFE members. It is further recommended that 23 Aug 43 be established as a closing date for USAFFEA members confined at that camp. However, where allegations of such POW subsequent to 23 Aug 43 is alleged, they should be studied thoroughly and the terminating date of POW be based on the competency of the allegations and available evidences. Further, that a later date can be accepted when the deviation seems reasonable. (See example #1 and #3)

d. The Filipino Concentration Camp, Danggabong, Nueva Ecija be considered an official place of POW for PA guerrilla members. It is further recommended that no particular date be established as a closing date for guerrilla PA members confined at that camp and the terminating date of POW be based on comparability of the allegations and available evidence.

e. The Antique Copper and other mines should not be considered a place of POW. (See example #2)

f. The cotton plantations should not be considered a place of POW. (See example #3)

g. The Los Baros Recuperation Center should not be considered a place of POW. (See example #4)

h. The Koronadal Valley should not be considered a place of POW. (See example #5)

20 Incl

1. Example #1 w/201 of Abadiano, Jose G.
2. Example #2 w/201 of Corpus Demetrio G
3. Example #3 w/201 of Borja, Eugenio G.
4. Example #4 w/201 of Falcon, Crispin N.
5. Example #5 w/201 of Mandoa, Manuel

6-20 Annexes

JOSEPH F. ROSS & RUSSELL E. TILLY
Management Analysts, RPA Branch

d. The Filipino Concentration Camp, Bongabong, Nueva Ecija be considered an official place of POW for PA guerrilla members. It is further recommended that no particular date be established as a closing date for guerrilla PA members confined at that camp and the terminating date of POW be based on compatibility of the allegations and available evidence.

e. The Antique Copper and other mines should not be considered a place of POW. (See example #2)

f. The cotton plantations should not be considered a place of POW. (See example #3)

g. The Los Banos Recuperation Center should not be considered a place of POW. (See example #4)

h. The Koronadal Valley should not be considered a place of POW. (See example #5)

20 Incl

1. Example #1 w/201 of Abadiano, Jose G.
2. Example #2 w/201 of Corpes Demetrio C
3. Example #3 w/201 of Borja, Eugenio C.
4. Example #4 w/201 of Falcon, Crispin R.
5. Example #5 w/201 of Mandac, Manuel

6-20 Annexes

JOSEPH F. ROSS & RUSSELL E. TILLY
Management Analysts, RPR Branch

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AWD §§ 3078

	<u>CONCURRENCE</u>	<u>NON-CURRENCE</u>	<u>SEE ATTCHD COMMENT</u>
Chief, RPR Branch	()	()	()
Operations Officer, RPR Branch	()	()	()
DCOM, USARGEN	()	()	()

APPROVED:

C. J. BARRY JR
Colonel, AGC
Commanding

DECLASSIFIED

Authority *AWD* §§ 2078

SURVEY - (POW CAMPS)

DECLASSIFIED

Authority AWD 88307P

WCC PROGRAM