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Authority 885078

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GUERRILLA PROGRAM, HISTORY OF  
(CORRESPONDENCE RELATIVE TO)

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GUERRILLA PROGRAM, HISTORY OF

(CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO)

GR1A- 21

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GSX

26 April 1949

SUBJECT: History of the Recognition Program of the Philippine Guerrillas

TO: The Adjutant General  
Department of the Army  
Washington 25, D. C.  
PERSONAL ATTENTION: The Adjutant General  
General Witsell

1. Inclosed herewith are five (5) copies of the History of the Recognition Program of Philippine Guerrillas (copies Nos. 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25). Under separate covers, four (4) additional copies have been forwarded to The Adjutant General (copies Nos. 17, 18, 19, and 20).

2. One copy, No. 16, has been forwarded directly to the Chief, Public Information Division, U. S. Army, Attention: General Frichard.

3. Two (2) copies, Nos. 8 and 9, have been forwarded to Chief, Organizational Records Branch, Building 102, Records Administration Center, AGO, 4300 Goodfellow Boulevard, St. Louis 20, Missouri, to be placed with the official guerrilla records on file with that organization.

4. It is requested that the same procedure be followed in the handling of all copies of the History of the Recognition Program of the Philippine Guerrillas as that outlined in par. 2, letter, this headquarters, to The Adjutant General, 29 September 1948, subject: "Storage of Official Guerrilla Records", copy attached.

5. This letter has been addressed for the personal attention of The Adjutant General at the personal request of the Commanding General, this command.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

4 Incls:  
1 - Ltr, Bq PHILCOM,  
29 Sep 48.  
2 - Rad WARK 87013,  
fr GSPFD  
3 - Cy ltr to Chief, ORB  
4 - 5 vrs History

JAMES H. HILL  
Lt. Col., AGO  
Adjutant General

Incl #3

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HEADQUARTERS  
PHILIPPINES COMMAND  
UNITED STATES ARMY

GSX

AP0 707  
26 April 1949

SUBJECT: History of the Recognition Program of the Philippine Guerrillas

TO: Chief, Organizational Records Branch  
Building 102, Records Administration Center  
AGO, 4300 Goodfellow Boulevard  
St. Louis 20, Missouri

1. Inclosed herewith are two (2) copies "History of the Recognition Program of the Philippine Guerrillas. Nine (9) copies have been forwarded to The Adjutant General, Attention: General Witsell, and one (1) copy to Chief, Public Information Division, Attention: General Prichard.

2. Attention is invited to the attached copy of letter, this headquarters, subject: "Storage of Official Guerrilla Records", dated 29 September 1948, to The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C., copy furnished your command, and copy of radio from Chief, Public Information Division to Commanding General, PHILCOM, reference History Guerrilla Recognition.

3. It is requested that the same procedure be followed in the handling of the copies of the History of Guerrilla Recognition as that outlined in par. 2 of attached letter.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

4 Incls:

- 1 - Ltr, Hq PHILCOM,  
to TAG, 29 Sep 48.
- 2 - Rad WARK 87013, fr  
CSPID.
- 3 - Cy ltr to TAG, 26 Apr 49,  
Hq PHILCOM
- 4 - 2 cys of History

*James W. Hill*  
JAMES W. HILL  
Lt. Col., AGD  
Adjutant General

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GSKOP 313.3

29 September 1948

SUBJECT: Storage of Official Guerrilla Records

TO: The Adjutant General  
Department of the Army  
Washington 25, D. C.

1. Reference 2d Ind AGO, DA, 16 Aug 48, file AGAW-A (22 Jun 48) to letter this headquarters, subject: Storage of Official Guerrilla Records, File GSCP 313.6 dated 22 June 1948, (copy attached) action as indicated in reference indorsement is as follows:

a. Records were packed in accordance with pars 20 and 21, TM 12-259, except that official record boxes were not available and amphibious packing cases substituted therefor. Type and source of records were intentionally omitted from the boxes for security reasons, since steveforing at port is by local civilians. Shipment departed Manila via USAT General Wm. Weigel for SFPE (booking #TC 4315-D) on 28 September 1948 (ETA SFPE 16 Oct 48) in custody of First Lieutenant Lester W. Pierce, Jr, O10A1275, CAC, who will deliver records to Chief, Organizational Records Branch, Records Administration Center, AGO, 4300 Goodfellow Blvd., St. Louis, Mo.

b. Packing lists were prepared as directed and are fastened to lid of each box. One copy of packing list is inclosed. One copy of packing list has been forwarded Records Administration Center, AGO, with info copy of this communication.

c. These records are composed of four parts as follows:

(1) Part 1 are Individual Non-casualty case files and includes boxes numbered 1 through 144. These files consist entirely of 201 files of individuals, arranged alphabetically. In these files are requests for recognition, with supporting papers, submitted by claimant and of the action taken on the requests by Guerrilla Affairs Division, this headquarters.

(2) Part 2 are Individual Casualty Case files and include boxes number 145 through 180. These files are essentially 201 files as above except that each one is a claim of a Guerrilla Casualty.

(3) Part 3 are Guerrilla Unit Case files and includes boxes numbered 181 through 221. These files consist of the request for recognition, all submitted papers, affidavits, correspondence, etc, and the action by the Guerrilla Affairs Division on the Guerrilla Unit. These files are arranged chronologically and indexed in each folder.

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GSXOP 313,3  
SUBJECT: Storage of Official Guerrilla Records

29 September 1948

(4) Part 4 are miscellaneous Files and are in box numbered 222. These files consist of reference material, special and general orders of Philippine Army affecting Guerrilla Units.

1. This shipment consists of 222 boxes numbered serially with a total volume of 555 linear feet.

2. The following procedures have been used by this headquarters in the utilization of these records;

a. All records were handled by officers working in the Guerrilla Affairs Division as if they were classified SECRET. Personnel receipted for all records received and returned them before leaving their work.

b. Interested and authorized personnel from the two agencies of this headquarters closely related to the guerrilla recognition program, Claims Service and the Recovered Personnel Division, were permitted to peruse the records in the confines of the Guerrilla Affairs Division and with an officer of the Division on hand. Prior to this, the records were perused to remove any controversial information not deemed necessary by the inquiring agency. The records were not permitted to be taken out of the Guerrilla Affairs Division.

c. Other divisions of this headquarters and agencies of the U.S. Government were not permitted access to the records. If it was possible to satisfy their requirements, the information required was extracted by personnel of the Guerrilla Affairs Division.

d. All agencies of the Philippine Government were denied access to the records, and no request for extract information was honored.

3. In view of the scope of these records, official personalities of a foreign government involved and the interest and value they may have for a commercial historiographer, it is believed that access to these records should be granted to authorized Army personnel engaged in Army research only and not to satisfy individual solon inquiry.

4. Attention invited to para 2 and 3 basic communication referred to in par 1, supra, to again emphasize the importance of these records.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

3 Incls:

- 1 WDAGO 216 (Packing List)
- 2 WDAGO 450-40 (Theater Ship Dec.)
- 3. Copy ltr Hdqs Philecom dtd 22 Jun 48

/t/ JAMES W. HILL  
Lt Col AGD  
Adjutant General

Info copies to: Commander in Chief, FEC  
Records Adm Cntr, AGO, St Louis, Mo

copy

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GSCF 313.6

AFPO 707  
22 JUN 1948

SUBJECT: Storage of Official Guerrilla Records

TO: The Adjutant General  
Department of the Army  
Washington 25, D. C.

THRU: Commander-in-Chief, Far East, APO 500

1. Request authority to ship direct to the Adjutant General's Office, Records Administration Center, St. Louis, Missouri, approximately 245 record boxes (box, amphibious, stock No. 7 N 12810) containing permanent "CONFIDENTIAL" records of the Army and of international import. Records to be accompanied by a Cargo Security Officer and to be personally delivered to the Records Administration Center.

2. These records are the basis of decision of the U. S. Army in awarding official guerrilla recognition to Filipinos who actively resisted the Japanese during the late war, such recognition being tantamount to induction into the Philippine Commonwealth Army which at that time was in the service of the armed forces of the United States. Thus, soldier emoluments and benefits are corollary to recognition, for which disbursement of an appropriation of approximately two hundred million dollars (\$200,000,000) was involved and representing an estimated future obligation to the Veterans Administration of a sum approximateing one billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000). The magnitude of this task and the hazards involved may be appreciated by the fact that over seven per cent of the Philippine population, 1,278,646 persons, requested guerrilla recognition for which 261,912 received favorable decision.

3. The constant public attention, political pressure, vituperative press, fraudulent claims, and machination of many claimants for personal aggrandizement and lucrative purposes caused extreme embarrassment to the United States Government. The execution of this mission resulted in combing practically the entire archipelago with field investigating teams which obtained numerous statements and affidavits from mayors, governors, clergy, successful businessmen, and prominent politicians in the Philippines. These statements were obtained with the proviso of the integrity of the U. S. Army that the identity of the informant would remain anonymous. Their disclosure would noticeable impair Fil-American relations as they are

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Subject: Storage of Official Guerrilla Records

in complete variance with the present positions of many prominent politicians and many physical acts of violence would result. The value of these records as a check against all recognized personnel carried on guerrilla troop rosters used by the Veterans Administration and as a source of information to any investigating committee concerning this controversial mission cannot be overestimated.

4. The mission of granting guerrilla recognition is concluded on 30 June 1948. It is estimated that the volume of related correspondence to be received by this headquarters will require their retention until December 1948. For security purposes it is desired to ship these records the instant they may be declared NON-CURRENT; therefore, prior authority is requested as to their storage.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

/s/ James W. Hill  
JAMES W. HILL  
Lt. Col., AGD  
Adjutant General

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AG 313.6 (22 Jun 48)AG

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, FAR EAST COMMAND, APO 500, 16 July 1948

To: The Adjutant General, Department of the Army, Washington 25, D. C.

1. Reference letter dated 18 May 1948 from Philippine War Damage Commission, to The Adjutant General, reference Army Claims Service files; with 1st indorsement, GSX 313.3, Headquarters, Philippines-Ryukyus Command, dated 8 June 1948; and second indorsement, AG 150 (18 May 48)JA, General Headquarters, Far East Command, dated 30 June 1948.

2. It has been ascertained that the 245 boxes of records referred to in basic letter are not included in those whose retention is requested by the Philippine War Damage Commission in letter to The Adjutant General dated 13 May 1948 nor are they included in those discussed in letter, Headquarters, Philippines-Ryukyus Command, dated 17 June 1948, file GSX 040 VA, subject: "Philippine Commonwealth Army Service Information."

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BASIC: Ltr Hq PHILRYOON, 22 Jun 48, GSCP 313.6, subj: Storage of Official Guerrilla Records\*

3. It is recommended that approval be given to the request in paragraph 1, basic communication, with the date of shipment to be fixed by the Commanding General, Philippines-Ryukyus Command.

FOR THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF:

/s/ R. M. Levy  
R. M. LEVY  
Colonel, AGD,  
Adjutant General.

AGAW-A (22Jun 48) 2d Ind McCool/vc/73893

AGO, Dept of the Army, Washington 25, D. C., 16 August 1948

THRU: Commander-in-Chief, Far East Command, APO 500, c/o PM San Francisco, Cal.

TO: Commanding General, Philippines - Ryukyus Command, APO 707, c/o PM San Francisco, Cal.

1. Request for authority to ship the records referred to in basic communication to the Records Administration Center, AGO, is approved. Records will be shipped direct from the Philippines Command to the Chief, Organisation Records Branch, Building 102, Records Administration Center, AGO, 4300 Goodfellow Boulevard, St. Louis 20, Missouri.

2. It is desired that the following action be taken with regard to this shipment:

a. Records will be packed and shipped in accordance with procedures outlined in paragraphs 20 and 21, TM 12-259.

b. Packing lists will be prepared on WD AGO Form 216 (Incl #1). Complete information will be recorded on the packing list for each box of records.

c. A detailed statement will be furnished with the advance notice of shipment, indicating the filing scheme or system utilized.

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Authority 883078

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AGAW-A (22 Jun 48)  
Subject: Storage of Official  
Guerrilla Records

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d. The total volume of files (linear feet) will also be furnished with advance notice of shipment.

e. Detailed information will be furnished regarding present procedures being followed in permitting access to and the furnishing of information from this accumulation of files.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

1 Incl  
WD AGO Form 216

/s/ LEE L. STEWART  
Major, AGD  
Adjutant General

C O P Y

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*July*

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RESTRICTED

PRIORITY RESTRICTED

MCN : 1772

DFA/FCM

TOO : 121752/Z

PHILCOM DIST

RECD: 13 APR 49 0800/H

INFO : C/S

FROM: CSPID SGD PRICHARD

FILE

TO : CINCFE

INFO: CG PHILCOM

CITE: WARX 87013

RE CG PHILCOM CLASSIFIED MESSAGE SX 41214 DTD 11 APR  
PART 6 ADVISES COMPLETE HISTORY GUERRILLA RECOGNITION BEEN  
PREPARED PHILCOM FORWARDED CINCFE. APPRECIATE EXPEDITE COPY  
TO CSPID IF AVAILABLE

RESTRICTED

"TRANSMISSION OF PLAIN TEXT OF THIS MSG AS CORRESPONDENCE  
OF THE SAME CLASSIFICATION IS AUTHORIZED. PARAPHRASE NOT  
REQUIRED. SEE PARS 511 & 60A (4), AR 38045."

PRIORITY RESTRICTED

INCOMING  
PAGE 1 OF 1

*Dec 2*

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