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GUERRILLA RECOGNITION
(CURRENT REQUESTS FOR)

19A

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I N D E X

1. CASE OF REPLACEMENT AND CASUALTY BATTALION, CAGAYAN GUERRILLA FORCES.
2. CASE OF DEMOCRATIC ARMY VETERANS AND CIVILIANS OF THE PHILIPPINES
(DAV-PHILIANS ORGANIZATION)
3. CASE OF FIGHTING BOLO BATTALION, LANA O MILITARY SECTOR, (3RD BASAC
INFANTRY REGIMENT, FIGHTING BLADE WEAPON DIVISION, USAFFEE).
4. CASE OF FIL-AMERICAN GUERRILLA BRIGADE

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ROUTING SLIP
(AR 810-15)

NEVER USE FOR APPROVALS,
DISAPPROVALS, CONCURRENCES,
OR SIMILAR ACTIONS

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TO	INITIALS	DATE
Chief, Budget Br		
Chief, Mgt Br		
Chief, Pers Rec Br		
Chief, Rec Admin Br		
Chief, Sec Br		
Chief, Civ Pers Div		
Chief, Pers Div		
✓ CO. ESARCOM		
ASCMR		
ADRB		
ATTN: Mr. Tames, Chief, ADRB		
<i>Attached is the file copy of reply to the Vice President regarding the</i>		
<i>Fil-American Guerrilla</i>		
<i>Be sure you recall you sent me the words</i>		
<i>on the outfit - we had</i>		
<i>very short deadline to</i>		
<i>meet. Also attached is (over)</i>		

CHECK ACTION DESIRED

INFORMATION	SIGNATURE	NOTE AND RETURN	FILE
CIRCULATE	NECESSARY ACTION	SEE ME	
FROM	TELEPHONE	DATE	
N. STANTON, Chief Rec Centers Sec	52010 15286	11 Oct 61	
ORGANIZATION Records Administration Br Comptroller Division, TAGO			

5 OCT 1961

THE CHIEF LIAISON OFFICER

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President is typical of the
in the Philippines. Even
is without foundation, the
by high-level government
other correspondence.

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communications from Filipinos,
sent of the Army for appropriate
in the Office of the Vice
aged to follow this practice

to Vice President as requested

J. LAURENCE
Major General, USA
Adjutant General

N. R. Hoskot's secretary (Mrs. A. E.
Col Hoskot is Deputy SCS and White

W.

copy of memo to WHHO
which is self-explanatory.
Hope this gets results.
We mailed the records you
sent us (Balang 201 &
Fil-Amer Guerrilla Brig)
yesterday.

5 OCT 1961

THE HOUSE LIAISON OFFICER

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President is typical of the
the Philippines. Even
is without foundation, the
by high-level government
correspondence.

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communications from Filipinos,
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aged to follow this practice

o Vice President as requested

J. LAMKERS
or General, USA
Adjutant General

N. R. Hoskot's secretary (Mrs. A. E.
Col Hoskot is Deputy SCS and White

AGCR

5 OCT 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: COLONEL N. R. HOSKOT, WHITE HOUSE LIAISON OFFICER

SUBJECT: Inquiries From Philippine Sources

1. The inclosed letter to the Vice President is typical of the numerous appeals received from sources in the Philippines. Even though the preponderance of these appeals is without foundation, the individuals continue to write. Replies by high-level government officials merely serve to encourage further correspondence.

2. In view of the above, every effort has been made to encourage high-level government officials to refer communications from Filipinos, such as the one inclosed, to the Department of the Army for appropriate action. It is believed that the staff in the Office of the Vice President should be contacted and encouraged to follow this practice insofar as possible.

3. There is attached a reply to the Vice President as requested in this case.

1 Incl
Ltr TAG to VP
w/incl

J. J. LAMBERS
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

MEMO FOR RECORD:

This matter was discussed with Col N. R. Hoskot's secretary (Mrs. A. E. Schroff) and she suggested this action. Col Hoskot is Deputy SCS and White House Liaison Officer.

W.

ASCR
The Vice President

I trust the foregoing information will be of assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

J. C. LAMBERT
J. C. LAMBERT
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

←
Inclosure

Copies furnished:
OCS, Attn: WHLO ✓
ASG, OSA for OSD ✓

J.C.L.
See
J. C. GORDON
Rec. In. O. Records Centers Section
Rec. Admin. Br., Compt. Div., TAGO

C.D.M.

ASCR

5 OCT 1961

The Vice President
United States Senate

Dear Mr. Vice President:

This is in reply to your inquiry transmitting an appeal from Colonel Monico Ferrer Calang for approval of backpay claims of 2700 officers and men of the Pil-American Guerrilla Brigade.

A review of the records discloses that since 1951 Colonel Calang submitted to this Department a number of similar requests on behalf of the Pil-American Guerrilla Brigade. He was advised each time by the Army that consideration could not be given to his requests inasmuch as the guerrilla recognition program was terminated on 30 June 1948. No record has been found to show that the Pil-American Guerrilla Brigade received favorable consideration during the program as a recognized guerrilla unit.

Under this program a period of more than three years was allowed for guerrilla units and members of such units to claim official recognition. This program originally contemplated a termination date of 30 June 1946, but this date was extended to 30 June 1947 and finally to 30 June 1948, concurrent with the lapse of the appropriations, "Expense, Army of the Philippines." During this period the widest possible publicity was given this program throughout the Philippines.

The Army organization which was established in the Philippines for the purpose of acting on claims for guerrilla recognitions was discontinued upon termination of the guerrilla recognition program. No organization or authority now exists for investigating and extending recognition to individuals and organizations claiming guerrilla service. The Army's policy, which has been applied without exception, is to deny consideration of guerrilla recognition claims received subsequent to 30 June 1948.



SEP 30 10 54 AM '61
THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

SECRET
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

September 28, 1961

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing a communication to which I will appreciate your giving serious consideration, based on its merits.

Please let me have in duplicate as prompt a reply as possible, returning the enclosure, in order that I may inform the writer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lyndon B. Johnson".

Lyndon B. Johnson

Department of Defense
Washington 25, D. C.

P S Please address reply to me, Lyndon B. Johnson,
Room 5113 New Senate Office Building, Washington 25,
D. C. If additional information is required, telephone
Mr. George Reedy, CA 4-3121, extension
2221 or 2222

Sampaloc, Manila, Philippines

Provincial Dress:
Sto. Niño, Guagua, Pampanga

September 20, 1961

The Honorable Lyndon Johnson
Vice-President of the United
States of America
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Vice-President,

As Vice-President and concurrently President of the U.S. Senate, we have the honor in behalf of our colleagues to appeal to your good office in working out the early adjudication and approval of the claims for backpay of our guerrilla unit - the Fil-American Guerrilla Brigade, 1st Regiment, 1st Pampanga Military District, ECLGA, Philippines with a following of 2,700 officers and men. We consider your latest visit to our fair isles as significant in further cementing a closer Philippine-American relationship and in helping resolve the wartime service claims of Filipino veterans and guerrillas who together with their brother American soldiers valiantly fought the common enemy in the defense of those democratic ideals and freedom. We trust, Mr. Vice-President, that not a few bills have been legislated in the upper chamber regarding benefits and claim of Filipino veterans. For these we are extremely grateful for we believe deep in our hearts that America is sincere and altruistic in her dealings with her Asian ally. But as time wore on, some of these legislations have fizzled out and their fate have not been known. We are therefore requesting that our claims be adjudicated more fairly and approved on the basis of equity for what we are soliciting were all in accordance with the promises made by American leaders who sincerely believe we are entitled to remuneration for wartime services rendered. We have received previous answers to our claims from no less that your worthy predecessor the late Vice-President Alber W. Barkley, who was then the President of the U.S. Senate. Under the courageous stewardship of President Kennedy and yours we are confident that our claims would be given a more sympathetic attention and favorable consideration.

As ever our highest esteem and appreciation, we remain as ever.

Very respectfully yours,

COL. MONICO FERRER GALANG

Commander

Fil-American Guerrilla Brigade
1st Regiment Pampanga
Military District
E C L G A

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29 June 1961

Mr. John C. Gordon
Records Admin. Branch
Comptroller Div, TAGO

1. Attached is a memorandum furnishing background information regarding the claim for recognition of the Bolo Battalion (3rd Base Infantry Regiment, Fighting Blade Weapon Division, USAFFE). Was not sure of the exact format desired and if change in format is desired please return and we can take care of it.

2. I am also sending a copy of a document titled "Preparation, Use and Significance of Individual and Organization Guerrilla Rosters" which contains general background on the guerrilla recognition program which you may desire to give Mr. Lane. Note that paragraph 13d, page 12 contains the following under definition of terms:

"Bolo, Spearman, Fighting Blade Units. Voluntary organizations who aided guerrillas on a part-time basis as laborers and ammunition carriers but who were not active military guerrilla units."

3. The extra copy of memorandum marked with your name is for your files if desired.

Incls
as

ANGELO J. TSENES
Chief, RPR Branch
USARCEN

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Department of State

SUBJECT: Petition for Guerrilla Recognition

1. Reference is made to the petition for guerrilla recognition submitted by former members of the Bolo Battalion (3rd Base Infantry Regiment, Fighting Blade Weapon Division, USAFFE).

2. The original claim for guerrilla recognition of the Fighting Bolo Battalion Unit, Lanao Military Sector, 3rd Base Infantry Regiment, was submitted 17 January 1946 by Datu Ambulo Maruhon (Tab A). After careful investigation and full consideration of all substantiating records and testimony of witnesses having pertinent knowledge, the claim was denied (Tab B). Denial of this claim was based on the fact that evaluation of the evidence disclosed that the unit did not meet established requirements for recognition as follows:

a. Record of service was not substantiated by sufficient acceptable evidence.

The Lanao Military Sector, Fighting Bolo Battalion Unit, and its subordinate units, was not in any sense a well-organized guerrilla unit. Prior to surrender of the 81st Division, USAFFE, the Bolo Battalions were used by General Fort as "Bolo Units," "Farmer Battalions," and "Labor Battalions." According to the "Guerrilla Resistance Movements in the Philippines," a collection of monographs published by the Philippine Sub-Section, G-2, General Headquarters, Southwest Pacific Area, the Moros were under their own leaders, but had been paid by the USAFFE prior to the surrender. Even if they had not been paid, their activities would not constitute a claim for guerrilla activities, but rather a claim for pay as labor battalions aiding the 81st Division. The Letter Order from General Fort to Datu Kalaw, ordering him to take command of the Blade Weapon Forces does not necessarily prove that the unit continued as a well-organized unit. Colonel Fertig stated that when the Japanese invading forces landed at Davao the Moro Force dissolved rapidly, and that activities against the enemy claimed by the Lanao Military Sector after the surrender of the 81st Division were spontaneous uprisings of the people. The records of the unit consisted primarily of promotion papers. Promotions were made periodically and each month most officers were promoted to one higher rank.

ACCC-RC

SUBJECT: Petition for Guerrilla Recognition

b. The unit was not maintained satisfactorily in the field in opposition to the enemy.

Prior to 27 May 1942 the 81st Division, USAFFE, dominated the area and subsequent to September 1942 the Maranao Militia Forces of the 10th Military District, a recognized guerrilla organization of approximately 8,000 former members from the claimant Bolo Battalions, dominated the area. Resistance activities against the Japanese during the three months period between these dates consisted of an uprising of the people of Lanao, not guerrilla activity by the Lanao Military Sector, Fighting Bolo Battalion Unit. The statements of guerrilla leaders indicated that the Bolo Battalions were not maintained after surrender of the 81st Division.

c. Activities of the unit did not contribute materially to the eventual defeat of the enemy.

The Moros were neither a valuable ally nor a dangerous enemy. Their principal claim for recognition is based upon two local battles with the Japanese in September and October 1942. The Diemas Islam Unit, a bitter foe of Kalaw, under Datu Diampuan, also claims credit for these engagements. These battles cannot be accepted as activities of this or any other organized guerrilla unit. The Lanao Military Sector, Fighting Bolo Battalion Unit, therefore, claimed activities which were executed by the initiative of a resentful and angered tribe, rather than their units.

d. A definite organization was not established.

Prior to 27 May 1942, Datu Busren Kalaw was an intelligence agent of the 81st Division, USAFFE, and during the latter months of that year became a member of the Maranao Militia Force. Officers and enlisted men of the Lanao Military Sector, Fighting Bolo Battalion Unit, lived with their families and supported them by means of normal civilian pursuits throughout the occupation. Practically all battalion commanders and ranking officers on the roster of this unit were mayors of the various towns or held other political positions during the Japanese occupation. The members of the unit who were interviewed, with the exception of the leaders, could not give their positions within the various units and most of them stated there was very little organization within the unit.

e. Adequate records were not maintained.

A report from the Intelligence Section, Military Police Command, Philippine Army, Lanao Province, stating that after surrender

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AOCC-RC

SUBJECT: Petition for Guerrilla Recognition

Monthly rosters, appointment and promotion papers, dated back as far as 1942, were submitted as records; but an examination showed that most of the rosters were made at one time, using carbon papers and leaving the dates blank, so that the date could be entered later. Furthermore the paper used did not show the wear and tear of paper that had been used since 1942.

4. The denial of the claim for guerrilla recognition submitted by this unit did not show satisfactory continuity of activity and organization. It was concluded that no basis was established concerning any change in the original determination denying guerrilla Colonel Fertig, who commanded the 10th Military District, stated that the Solo Battalion did nothing to stop the Japanese advance and was more harmful than helpful. The Moro forces dissolved rapidly after the Japanese landed in Davao. The unit could not show any conclusive supporting evidence to sustain their claims of activity subsequent to surrender of the 81st Division.

5. Members of the unit did not devote their entire effort to military activities in the field to the exclusion of normal civilian occupation and family obligations.

The members of the unit holding political positions, such as mayors, continued to remain in office during the Japanese occupation. The members of the unit who were common farmers and laborers continued their normal pursuits.

1. Ltr 17 Jan 46
2. 3. The report of investigation of this claim included the following evidence to support denial of recognition:

4. Memo 9 Jun 46
5. a. First Indorsement dated 15 January 1947 from Colonel Wendel Fertig, who had commanded the 10th Military District, emphasizing that the unit did nothing to stop the Japanese advance and contributed nothing prior to the surrender. Colonel Fertig recommended that the Blade Weapon Unit and associated units in the province of Lanao be not recognized (Tab C).

b. Memorandum from Mr. Edward Kuder, Director of Civilian Affairs for Lanao under Colonel Fertig, stating that the unit was a racketeering organization which had inducted practically all its members during 1945 and 1946 and that the leaders had been collecting fees from the members. Mr. Kuder recommended that the unit be denied recognition (Tab D).

c. A report from the Intelligence Section, Military Police Command, Philippine Army, Lanao Province, stating that after surrender

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AGCC-RC

SUBJECT: Petition for Guerrilla Recognition

of the 81st Division, many members of the Bolo Battalion became collaborators, infamous looters, robbers and bandits. It further stated that rosters and orders submitted were antedated and that the cadre of the Bolo Battalion had already been recognized with the Maranao Military Forces (Tab E).

4. The denial of the claim for guerrilla recognition submitted by this unit was appealed by Datu Ambulo Maruhom on several occasions. After each review it was concluded that no basis was established warranting any change in the original determination denying guerrilla recognition to the unit. Datu Ambulo Maruhom was advised of these denials.

5. The guerrilla recognition program terminated on 30 June 1948 and subsequent to that date no authority exists to alter, amend, or modify previous decisions with respect to recognition.

6. Attached is a copy of the report of investigation conducted by the Guerrilla Affairs Division which formed the basis for the recommendation that the unit be denied recognition (Tab F).

Incloasures

1. Ltr 17 Jan 46
2. Ltr 2 Apr 47
3. 1st Ind 15 Jan 47
4. Memo 9 Jun 46
5. G-2 Report 12 Apr 46
6. Copy report of investigation

R. V. LEE
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

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AGCC-RC Domingo, Eulogio P.
(27 Mar 61)

13 April 1961

Mr. Eulogio P. Domingo
Malagasang 1st, Imus
Cavite, Philippines

Dear Mr. Domingo:

Reference is made to your letter of 27 March 1961 to the Clerk, Court of Equity, Washington, D. C., requesting information concerning the status of the case of the Democratic Army Veterans and Civilians of the Philippines (Dav-Philians) Organization regarding the members' backpay claims.

The arrears in pay program for Philippine Commonwealth Army personnel, including recognized guerrillas, ended 31 December 1949. After that date there is no authority to determine or redetermine claims for such pay; therefore, no further action may be taken on claims for arrears in pay.

Sincerely yours,

EUGENE S. TARR
Colonel, AGC
Commanding

12 APR 1961

CASE OF
Democratic Army Veterans & Civilians of the Philippines
(Dav-Philians Organization)

1. Letter, U. S. District Court for the District of Columbia, Washington, D. C., forwarding letter from Eulogio P. Domingo, addressed to the Clerk, Court of Equity, Washington, D. C., dated 27 March 1961, requesting information concerning the status of the case of the Democratic Army Veterans and Civilians of the Philippines (Dav-Philians) Organization, regarding back pay claims of the organization's members. In this letter, Mr. Domingo states that he doubts if said case was submitted for reconsideration.

2. In the transmittal letter from the U. S. District Court for the District of Columbia, no statement is made as to whether there was any record of receipt of a prior claim from this organization. Search of the files of Recovered Personnel Records Branch failed to reveal a previous case concerning this organization.

3. The Alphabetical List of Guerrilla Organizations does not list subject organization or any similar organization.

4. A search of records on file failed to reveal any records pertaining to Eulogio P. Domingo. There is on file one 201 file under the name Eulogio Domingo but this file pertains to an individual who is deceased.

5. In his letter Mr. Domingo states that Servando L. Miclat is the National Chairman of subject organization. The records of Servando L. Miclat are on file and contain the following information:

a. Form 23 shows service alleged as Lt Col, 3rd Bn, 31st Inf, MMD, ECLGA

b. No record of arrears in pay determination

c. No record of a claim for Veterans Administration benefits

d. Report from Records Section shows Miclat, Servando recognized as 2d Lt, DHQ, and Special Troops G-2 MMD, ECLGA. Initial date of recognition of unit shown as 3 February 1945.

e. Letter, National Headquarters (Dav-Philians) Democratic Army Veterans of the Philippines, Manila, (signed by Servando L. Miclat as National Commander) addressed to the Commanding Officer, Adjutant General's Records Depository, dated 5 December 1952. In this letter information is requested in behalf of members and non-members of this organization as to the official date fixed as the deadline for filing claims for guerrilla recognition. On 11 December 1952, the following reply was sent to Mr. Miclat:

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Referense is made to your letter of 5 December 1952.

The United States Government closed the guerrilla recognition program on 30 June 1948. Subsequent to that date, the authority to extend recognition to individuals or organizations claiming guerrilla status ceased to exist.

It is regretted that a more favorable reply cannot be made.

f. Letter, National Headquarters (Dav-Philians), Democratic Army Veterans of the Philippines, Manila (signed by Servando L. Miclat as National Commander) addressed to the Commanding General, Philippine Command, letter: Commanding Officer, Adjutant General's Records Depository, dated 12 December 1952. In this letter, Mr. Miclat gives a brief description of the organization makes the following statement and request:

Recently, during our executive meeting a motion was approved requesting your good office to, "expose to the public the status or final determination by the Guerrilla Affairs of Philcom pertaining the applications of recognition al all guerrilla units that filed on or about 30 June 1948 the deadline for filing such." This is being requested by our members whose applications for recognition were filed on that date. They do believe that, "recognition is not a closed matter to them in as much that they filed on time but, they believe too that, recognition is already a closed matter to those who failed to file on time (June, 30, 1948). "As to our opinion, there is a difference between; filing recognition and termination of recognition. It does not mean that after June 30, 1948 there is no more recognition. To our interpretation of that deadline; recognition is still in effect to those who filed on time. So, we have the boldness to request your office to expose the status of this units for the sake of the following purposes:

1. To save the guerrillas from racketeers
2. To clear the mind of these guerrillas so as to know the truth about their status and wash out their blind reason of idly waiting their backpays from the army and refuses to work which hinders the rapid rehabilitation of our country.
3. From 1948 - 1952 its already high time for them to know their status and Filipino guerrillas have already levelled the mountains of waiting and waiting.

On 9 January 1953, the following reply was sent to Mr. Miclat:

Your letter dated 12 December 1952, addressed to The Commanding General, PHILCOM, Clark Air Force Base, APO 74, has been referred to this headquarters for appropriate action.

Please be informed that the extension of official recognition to individuals or organizations claiming guerrilla status was a function of the Guerrilla Affairs Division. The deactivation of this division on 30 June 1948 terminated the guerrilla recognition program. Subsequent to that date, no agency has the authority to alter, amend, or modify previous decisions of the Guerrilla Affairs Division on matters pertaining to guerrilla recognition.

g. The records of Servando L. Miclat contain a statement of one Deomedes R. Lacuna, former employee of AGRD, dated 2 October 1950 regarding a fraudulent guerrilla claim in which Miclat was allegedly involved. The following is an extract of that portion of Lacuna's statement as pertains to the fraud:

Last Saturday, 30 September 1950, I was invited by my brother-in-law, Antonio A. Borlongan, to his residence at Lepanto Ext, Sampaloc, Manila. When I arrived the place, I saw two men in the house. I was introduced to them and their names were Idelfonso Bernabe and Nemesio Castro. A little while they opened the topic on Guerrilla Backpays. Bernabe and Castro made me understand that they proclaimed my brother-in-law as Organizer of a certain company. My brother-in-law asked me whether AGRD still deals with Arrears in Pay and I answered "NO". He further asked me whether there is a possibility of being recognized and paid, my answer was still in the negative. Bernabe and Castro interrupted and told me of a certain Servando Miclat as having been given authority by Lt Col Gold and Major Page to organize the "Fil-American Grlas, 31st Prov'l Div. South and Central Luzon Area, comprising of 7 Regiments with 14,000 men. Bernabe and Castro also told me that \$90 millions are intended to said Division with the condition that 50 per cent of the fund will go to the organization while 45 per cent to the Officers and 5 per cent to the Civilian Employees of this Command. They even alleged the two Regiments has been paid under this condition. Furthermore, they demand money to the members in which they alleged that said money will be used for parties or banquets in honor of Lt. Col Gold and Maj. Page. As a matter of fact, my brother-in-law had already been victimized of ₱300.00 as membership fee for his company and at present being demanded for ₱1,000.00, supposedly to

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be used for expediting the payment of his company. Bernabe and Castro told me further that their CO Servando Miclat is in close contact with Lt. Col Gold and Maj Page, they also alleged that affidavits and processing are being done secretly in the quarters of Lt. Col Gold and Maj Page and they also informed me that 11 Officers of this command are involved in this mess in which I firmly believe that these allegations are great lies. We argued for two hours and frankly told them that their allegations are hard to believe but they insisted that they can support their stand as they have correspondence received from Lt. Col Gold and Maj. Page. Bernabe and Castro left my brother-in-law's place at around 1000 hours but before they left I asked them as to who will be responsible in this mess and the names given to me are Servando Miclat, Idelfonso Bernabe, Nemesio Castro, Santos and Barredo, the first names of the last two are unknown to me.

My brother-in-law, Antonio Borlongan, told me that 14,000 men are at present victimized by the above named individuals and he informed me that these people were influenced simply because the above responsible individuals are using the name of the officers of this command, Lt. Col Gold and Major Page as a camouflage. The racket is immaterial nor does it interest me whatsoever. My primary purpose is to protect the good name of our office and the integrity of the Officers involved.

h. Letter from Servando Miclat to Commanding Officer, Adjutant General's Records Depository, dated 15 January 1952 requesting information as to whether the following units are recognized:

(1) Bataan Defenders Formerly the Watawat Regiment, under Colonel Benjamin Angeles

(2) Maycuayan Unit, under Colonel Alberto Noriega

(3) Nasugu Regiment, under Colonel Perculio

(4) Second Manila Division, under Colonel Revilla

(5) Tagbac Regiment, under Colonel Leyva and Jose de Vera

On 22 January 1952, the following reply was sent to Mr. Miclat:

Official records on file disclose that the units mentioned in your letter are not recognized guerrilla organizations. Individuals claiming service therewith are considered

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unrecognized guerrillas and not entitled to veterans' benefits under laws administered by the US Veterans Administration.

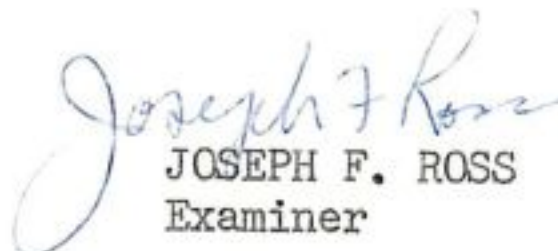
The extension of official recognition to individuals or organizations claiming guerrilla status was a function of the guerrilla Affairs Division. Its deactivation on 30 June 1948 terminated the guerrilla recognition program. Subsequent to that date, no agency within this command has the authority to alter, amend or modify previous decisions of the Guerrilla Affairs Division on matters pertaining to guerrilla recognition.

This correspondence is filed under the Guerrilla Irregularities (Fraud) (Grla-18), Headquarters, Recovered Personnel Records Branch.

i. A search of records on file in Records Section, RPR Br failed to disclose 201 files which could be identified from the information contained in the statement of Lacuna, as pertaining to Antonio Borlongan, Idelfonso Bernabe, or Nemesio Castro.

6. After thoroughly analyzing this case, it appears that Mr. Domingo was seeking a new source of appeal and his letter was not intended for this office since information on file shows that Mr. Miclat, national commander of subject organization, has previously written to AGRD on several occasions concerning guerrilla recognition of the members of subject organization. On each occasion he was informed that the Guerrilla Recognition Program was closed as of 30 June 1948, and that no authority exists to alter, amend, or modify previous decisions regarding guerrilla recognition or to extend recognition to individuals or organizations claiming guerrilla status.

7. In view of the foregoing, and based on established policy, there is no alternative but to inform Mr. Domingo that with the close of the Arrears in Pay Program and the Guerrilla Recognition Program, no organization now exists with authority to determine or redetermine claims for arrears in pay or to render decisions on any new claims for guerrilla recognition.


JOSEPH F. ROSS
Examiner

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13 April 1961

AGCC-RC Espiritu, Joaquin C.
(14 Nov 60)

Mr. Joaquin C. Espiritu, In Charge Veterans Affairs
Office of the Governor
Province of Cagayan, Tuguegarao
Philippines

Dear Mr. Espiritu:

Reference is made to your letter of 14 November 1960 to the Court of Equity, Washington, D. C., requesting reconsideration of the claim for guerrilla recognition of the Replacement and Casualty Battalion, Cagayan-Apayao Force.

The records have been reexamined and it has been found that the Cagayan Guerrilla Forces were not officially recognized as a guerrilla organization. The guerrilla recognition program terminated on 30 June 1948. Subsequent to that date no authority exists to alter, amend, or modify previous decisions. Accordingly, no further action may be taken on your claim.

The roster you submitted is inclosed.

Sincerely yours,

Inclosure

EUGENE S. TARR
Colonel, AGC
Commanding

12 APR 1961

CASE OF
REPLACEMENT AND CASUALTY BATTALION
CAGAYAN GUERRILLA FORCES

1. Letter, U. S. District Court For the District of Columbia, dated 24 March 1961, transmitting letter, Republic of the Philippines, Province of Cagayan, Tuguegarao, Office of the Governor, signed by Joaquin C. Espiritu, In Charge Veterans Affairs, dated 14 November 1960. With this letter, Mr. Espiritu submitted a roster of the alleged members of the Replacement and Casualty Battalion, a component of the Cagayan Guerrilla Forces, requesting reconsideration of the claim for guerrilla recognition of the unit.

2. A search of records on file failed to reveal any records pertaining to Joaquin C. Espiritu. There is on file one 201 file under the name Joaquin Espiritu but this file pertains to an individual who is deceased.

3. The Guerrilla Affairs Division files contain files regarding the claim for guerrilla recognition of the Cagayan Guerrilla Forces, USAFIP NL. These files show that the Cagayan Guerrilla Forces, USAFIP NL was not favorably considered for recognition; however, some of the members were recognized with the USAFIP NL.

4. In his letter Mr. Espiritu states that Colonel Marcelo Adduru, the overall commander of the guerrilla organization, did not include the roster of subject unit at the time he submitted the claim for recognition of the organization.

5. Examination of the records of Marcelo Adduru revealed that on 13 November 1953, it was determined that his records contained insufficient evidence of service with the USAFFE and a report from Records Section shows that his name is not listed in any approved Guerrilla Affairs Division roster.

6. The Guerrilla Affairs Division files show that the claim for recognition of the Cagayan Guerrilla Forces, USAFIP NL was thoroughly investigated but the organization was not favorably considered for guerrilla recognition.

7. Although Mr. Espiritu has submitted a roster which he states contains the names of the members of the Replacement and Casualty Battalion, Cagayan-Apayao Force, it is of no value and may not be considered since the Cagayan Guerrilla Forces were not favorably considered for guerrilla recognition, and since the close of the Guerrilla Recognition Program on 30 June 1948, no organization now exists with authority to investigate or render decisions on any new claims for guerrilla recognition.

8. After examining the records and this claim, it appears very unusual that during all these years, Mr. Espiritu has never submitted a claim for any benefits, especially arrears in pay although he alleges to have served as a guerrilla during the enemy occupation of the Philippines. Another unusual aspect of this case is the fact that he allowed these many years to elapse before submitting his appeal for guerrilla recognition of subject organization.

9. In view of the foregoing, and based on established policy, there is no alternative but to return the roster submitted by Mr. Espiritu and inform him that no organization exists with authority to investigate or render decisions on any new claims for guerrilla recognition.

Joseph F. Ross
JOSEPH F. ROSS
Examiner

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