

**200.6 BAGES, DECORATION
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HQ 1ST GRLA REGT-LGAF**

2nd MD

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND883078

HEADQUARTERS
1ST GUERRILLA REGIMENT
LGAF-USAFFE

18 May 1945

SUBJECT : Award, Request for

TO : Adjutant General, 25th Infantry Div.
APO #25

Recommend that the following be granted awards;

Copy to Capt. [unclear]

(a) - Private First Class JOVITO CABAWATAN, "I" Company, 3rd Bn., 1st Guerrilla Regiment, LGAF-USAFFE, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the Japanese forces at Cauco, Carranglan, Luzon, Philippines on 28 March 1945. Private First Class Cabawatan, acting in the capacity of a squad leader, displayed outstanding courage while on a mission to contact the enemy, determine its strength and locate enemy gun emplacements which had been harassing our position. Unknowingly, he, in cooperation with Privates Ancheta and Belmonte, came upon ~~an~~ enemy foxhole wherein ~~five (5)~~ Japanese soldiers were entrenched and firing at them with automatic rifles and rifles. He promptly threw a hand grenade into the said foxhole, killing ~~the~~ five Japs instantly. A Japanese sniper concealed in the underbush shot Private First Class Cabawatan while he was crawling to another foxhole nearby. Though sustaining wounds in the back and in the abdomen, Pfc Cabawatan disregarded his injuries and tried to throw another grenade at the enemy foxhole. Failing in his efforts because of utter physical exhaustion, he struggled out into a safe place where he was picked up and evacuated for medical attention. His gallantry and intrepidity in utter disregard for his personal safety, are a perpetual inspiration to all who witnessed his deeds and uphold the highest traditions of the military service. (DOW in Hospital, to be awarded posthumously)

March 28

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(b.) - Private Fernando Ancheta, "I" Co., 3rd Bn., 1st Guerrilla Regiment, LGAF USAFFE. For heroism at Cauco,

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(21)
(2)

Carranglan, Luzon, Philippines on 28 March 1945. Private Ancheta was acting as a scout leader of a patrol sent on a mission to contact the enemy, determine its strength and locate enemy gun emplacements which had been harrassing our position. Unknowingly, he, in joint cooperation with Pfc Cabawatan and Pvt Belmonte, came upon ~~an~~ enemy foxholes wherein ~~five (5)~~ Japanese soldiers were entrenched, and firing at them with rifles and automatic rifles. Simultaneously with Pfc Cabawatan, he threw a hand grenade at the enemy foxholes where the five Japs were killed instantly. Disregarding imminent danger to his own personal safety, he courageously struggled upright through a hail of enemy fire to pick up his comrade Pfc Cabawatan who was seriously wounded and evacuated him ~~for~~ ~~medical~~ medical attention. Private Ancheta's undaunted courage and coolness under enemy fire greatly inspired those who witnessed it and his actions reflected the highest standards of the military service.

(24)
(3)

c.- Private Ruperto Belmonte, "I" Co., 3rd Bn., 1st Guerrilla Regiment, LGAF USAFFE. For heroism at Cauco, Carranglan, Luzon, Philippines, on 28 March 1945. Private Belmonte was a member of patrol sent on a mission to contact the enemy, determine its strength and locate enemy gun emplacements which had been harrassing our position. Unknowingly, he, together with Pfc Cabawatan and Pvt Ancheta, came upon ~~an~~ enemy foxholes wherein were entrenched ~~five~~ Japanese soldiers, and firing at them with rifles and automatic rifles. ~~The~~ Japanese snipers concealed in the underbush shot one of his comrades, Pfc Cabawatan. He immediately shot and killed the sniper and ~~another~~ one atop a tree. His courageous action prevented the patrol from being wiped out completely by the enemy. Two enemy snipers were accounted to his credit. Private Belmonte's undaunted courage and coolness under enemy fire greatly inspired

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- 3 -

those who witnessed it and his actions reflected the highest standards of the military service.

copy to [unclear]

d.- Captain Tomas A. Delica, CO "MI" Co., 3rd Bn., 1st Guerrilla Regiment, LGAF USAFFE. For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services from 20 Jan. to 4 April 1945. Killed in line of duty. (To be awarded posthumously)

e.- First Lieutenant Ramon Barrios, Executive Officer of "I" Co., 3rd Bn., 1st Guerrilla Regiment, LGAF USAFFE. For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services from 20 Jan to 4 April 1945.

② f.- Private First Class Anatalio Bautista, "H" Co., 2nd Bn., 1st Guerrilla Regiment, LGAF USAFFE. For heroism at Putlan, Baguete Pass, Luzon, Philippines, on 2 May 1945. The CP of his company was subjected to heavy enemy artillery and mortar fires causing it to burn. Pfc Anatalio Bautista, at the risk of his life ~~and~~ in the midst of rain of enemy shells, put out the fire ~~and~~ (and with the help of another soldier) ^{R+} saved all equipments and records from further destruction and wreckage.

③ g.- Private Arthur Normandy - (Same as Bautista)

④ h.- Technical Sergeant FERMINO SANTOS, "L" Co., 3rd Bn., 1st Guerrilla Regiment, LGAF USAFFE, for gallantry in action against the Japanese forces at Cauco, Tarranglan, Luzon, Philippines on the night of 6-7 April 1945. Technical Sergeant Santos was the leader of a platoon of "L" Co. attached to "I" Co. defending a hill along the Old Spanish Trail on the right flank of the 25th Infantry Division US ARMY. When the numerically superior enemy force broke through the defense perimeter, five Japanese soldiers rushed to the company's CP. T/Sgt Santos, in wanton disregard to his own personal safe under constant enemy fire, ^{got out from his foxhole, met the charging Japs and when the enemy was within} threw a hand grenade at them, ^{charging enemy} killing

Thomson (1/1/45)

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S/ Sgt INIEGO BAGSIC (KIA); S/Sgt FELIPE CASTAÑETO (KIA), Pfc BERNARDO LEYDA (KIA), Pfc JOSE PASCUAL (KIA), Pfc PAULINO SAWI (KIA), Pvt BONIFACIO GARCIA (KIA), Pvt CATALINO FERNANDO (KIA), Cpl FERNANDO LOPEZ (WIA) Pfc FERNANDO ANCHETA (WIA), Pfc RUPERTO BELMONTE (WIA), Pfc RICARDO LAURETA (WIA), Pfc FELICIANO ORA (WIA) and Pvt FAUSTINO MATUTINO (WIA), all of "I" Co., 3rd Bn., 1st Guerrilla Regiment, LGAF-USAFPE .

For extraordinary heroism in action against the Japanese forces in Cauco, Carranglan, Luzon, Philippines on the night of 6 - 7 April 1945. These men were assigned to guard and defend the southern side of the perimeter of "I" Co., defending a hill along the Old Spanish Trail on the right flank of the 25th Infantry Division, U.S. Army. An estimated enemy force of between two hundred and three hundred strong, attacked the hill defended by 115 officers and enlisted men, and tried to break through that point defended by these vallant men. Against overwhelmingly superior enemy force, both in number and in fire power, these gallant soldiers of freedom held their ground and checked the rapid advance of the enemy amidst shouts of "Banzai". S/Sgt Iniego Bagsic, the most ranking among the enlisted men, ordered the defenders to fight to the last bullet. Greatly outnumbered, part of the enemy was able to penetrate and rushed to the foxholes of these men. Due to lack of bayonets, they engaged the enemy in a hand-to-hand fight, fighting like hell in the darkness, using the butt of their rifles and whatever hard objects they could lay hands on. S/Sgt Bagsic died of ~~five~~ ^{thirty} saber wounds on the forehead but the Jap officer lay dead in his foxhole with his saber. All the other men died of bayonet wounds, and the others were either wounded of bayonet thrusts or enemy bullets. The heroic stand made by these brave men under heavy machine gun, rifle, mortar fires and hand grenades, checked the enemy advance which otherwise would have caused more casualties on our part and consequently loss of that strategic hill. In their sector alone ~~twenty~~ ^{thirty}-five Japs were found dead. Their gallantry and intrepidity, in utter disregard for their own personal safety, are a perpetual inspiration to all who witnessed their deeds and uphold the highest traditions of the military service.

Major BURGOSINO R. FAUSTO, Commanding Officer, 3rd Bn., 1st, Guerrilla Regiment, LCAF USAFFE. For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty on 13 April 1945 in the vicinity between 3rd Bn C P and "I" Hill, Cauco, Carranglan, Luzon, Philippines. While the situation was tense and everyone jittery as a result of the fierce and bloody "Banzai" attack of the Japs in the night of 12-13 April 45, Major Fausto led a patrol of 20 men to the "I" Hill to investigate results of the fight the night before. Japanese snipers of undetermined number posted themselves along a wooded creek and hills flanking the trail and while the patrol was passing thru that area, the snipers ambushed them from all sides. Major Fausto, and two members of his patrol found themselves far ahead of the rest of the men, After an aggressive advance in the face of heavy sniper fire. Approaching a big log laid across the trail, he observed 2 Jap snipers hiding behind a tree. Major Fausto, directing his men to cover him, boldly moved forward, ~~and~~ fired his carbine ^{and} killed the two snipers. They made their advance towards a big rock and next observed three Japs fleeing across a ridge. He and his men opened fire and one of the enemy was killed. As his men were firing, Major Fausto, unnoticed, fearlessly dashed forward alone and killed the fleeing enemy before his companions joined him on the ridge. At this juncture, eleven other men joined Major Fausto's group. An attempt was made to send six of the newly arrived men along the right flank of a small dense forest that lay ahead, but murderous enemy automatic rifle fires forced them back. Deploying his men, Major Fausto moved to the front of his group and led the advance into the forest. He and his men suddenly became pinned down by Japanese automatic weapons firing upon them at a distance of about 25 yards. Major Fausto, while in giving orders to the rest of the patrol to maneuver to the left flank, again exposed himself to thick enemy fire. The enemy snipers intensified the fight by throwing hand grenades at the valiant band of Filipino soldiers within the forest. The patrol did not budge an inch inspired by the example of their leader. After an exchange of fire for about thirty minutes, the enemy was seen retreating in a hurry into the adjacent thick woods. Major Fausto ordered his men to assault with himself ahead of the assaulting wave and succeeded in clearing the area of enemy snipers.

He then proceeded to the "I" hill without losing a single man after more than two hours of fighting. The prodigious courage and combat skill exhibited by Major Fausto are exemplary of the finest traditions of the armed forces of the Philippines.

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Captain FELIX F. CASTRO, C O, "I" Co, 3rd Bn., 1st Guerrilla Regiment, LGAF USAFFE. For exceptionally meritorious service in a duty of great responsibility against the Japanese forces at Cauco, Carranglan, Luzon, Philippines on the night of 6-7 and 12-13 April, 1945. An estimated enemy force of between 200 and 300 strong attacked the hill defended by 115 officers and enlisted men on the night of 6-7 April 1945. ^{Captain} Lt. Castro, then acting CO of "I" Co., in spite of superior enemy force, both in number and in fire power, hold his ground. In the thick of the fight, under a hail of enemy mortar, rifle, machine gun fires and hand grenades, ^{Captain} Lt. Castro, in utter disregard for his own personal safety, left his foxhole, went from one defense position to another, supervising and inspiring his valiant men and ordering them to hold their ground to the last man. While the enemy concentrated its attack on a point defended by S/Sgt Iñigo Bagsic and his men, ^{Captain} Lt. Castro directed mortar fire from the American Mortar Platoon, located in the vicinity of the Bn CP, thru the telephone. Effective fires were registered and part of the enemy dispersed to attack another point. The telephone/wire was cut by the enemy and his position then was without mortar support. Rain of mortar shells dropped within the area of the "I" Co., and ^{Captain} Lt. Castro, together with S/Sgt Fermino Santos, checked the advance of the enemy who were able to penetrate towards the company's CP. ~~Even though his position was not completely dug in completely,~~ He stood his ground in the face of the rapidly advancing enemy. This act slowed down the enemy assault sufficiently to give other members of the command time to shift to better positions to crush the Japanese attack. Again, on the night of 12-13 April 1945, the Japanese launched another ^{Banza} attack on the same hill. This time the enemy was estimated to be not less than 500, superior both numerically and

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in fire power. Despite these overwhelming odds, ^{Capt} Castro again met the attack with coolness and prudence. He had, after the previous attack, strengthened his defense perimeter, and taken steps to sufficiently check any enemy attack. ~~Greatly outnumbered~~ The enemy attacked on all directions. Greatly outnumbered and despite his losses in the first encounter, he held his ground heroically.

Superior rifle, mortar, machine gun fires and hand grenades did not alter the morale and fighting spirit of his gallant men. He exposed himself to imminent danger when, during the progress of the attack, he inspected his line of defense at short intervals, ordering and at the same time inspiring his brave men to hold out to the end until the enemy retreated at the break of day. Through his leadership, bravery and coolness under heavy enemy fire, he saved that strategic hill from passing to enemy hands. Throughout the entire two engagements, Capt. Castro displayed outstanding gallantry and sound tactical judgment which served as an inspiration to his entire command and was in accordance with the highest ~~xxx~~ standards of military tradition.

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