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UNITED STATES FORCES IN THE PHILIPPINES
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
FIL-AMERICAN IRREGULAR TROOPS
PHILIPPINES

26 May 1945

SUBJECT: ACTIVITIES AND PERSONAL RECORD OF
COL. BONIFACIO S. ARAULLO (Gen. J. M. Bays)
COMMANDING GENERAL, FAIT

TO : WHOM IT MAY CONCERN



1. Upon hearing thru the radio broadcast in the morning of December 8, 1941, that the United States had declared war against Japan and her allies, and being a reserved officer, I immediately reported for duty at the General Headquarters of the Philippine Army, where I was instructed to wait for orders. Two weeks had elapsed and the expected order did not come, so on December 22, 1941, I went to see Gen. B. Valdez. He informed me that the long awaited order had been sent to me unfortunately at a wrong address, notwithstanding the fact that my change of address had previously been reported to the HPA. I was, however, instructed to have my physical examination and comply with other requirements. It took me two days to do so, due to the constant air-raids by the Japanese. At 4:15 in the afternoon of December 23, 1941, I finally reported to a Captain at the HPA, who told me to report the next morning and leave all the papers with him. At eight o'clock in the morning of December 24, 1941, I went back to the HPA where I was told that the HPA had moved out the previous night to Bataan. So I went to Gen. Valdez for a better information, but I did not meet him, even at his house. Under such circumstances, I had no other alternatives than to stay in Manila and wait for developments.
2. About a week after the Japanese had occupied Manila, I managed to contact Col. Jose P. Guido, PA. I explained the matter to him. Realizing my eagerness to fight the enemies, Col. Guido ordered me to work with him in strict secrecy. With "Araw" as my assumed name, I helped him in intelligence work for almost a year.
3. Sometime in May, 1942, I told Col. Guido about my desire to join a guerrilla organization. I sought his advice. Col. Guido suggested that I join the Fil-American Irregular Troops and promised to help me get the right contact.
4. On the tenth of March, 1943, I received from Col. Guido my commission as Captain, effective as of 1st January 1943, signed by Col. Hugh Straughn. He assigned me as assistant G-2, GHQ. In that capacity I submitted all my reports to Col. Guido.
5. About the end of May, 1943, I was assigned as Commander of Company "A", 1st Bn., 3rd Rgt., under Major Vicente Carvajosa. In spite of such assignment, my work was limited to pure G-2 activities and, in addition, I helped Col. Petaño organize the 3rd and 5th Regiments, to which I recommended about twenty officers.
6. To elude the strict surveillance of the Japanese, and upon the suggestion of Capt. Velo, Chief of our G-2, we put up a "front" in the form of an office and styled it as "Velo and Company, General Merchandise and Real Estate Agents", which we used as our General Headquarters from July 7, 1943, until I moved my Command Post to Nagcarlen, Laguna, on December 29, 1944.
7. Major Abuyen, Capt. Velo and I were in said office. At three p.m., 20 August 1943, Major Abuyen was arrested in our office upon the indication of Col. Petaño. At 4:00 a.m., 27 August

1943, Capt. Jose G. Velo of our office was also arrested in his house. Expecting that I was next, I prepared myself and my family, consisting of one-month old baby, four other children from eight to twelve years old, and my wife, for any eventuality.

8. At 4:00 a.m., 29 August 1943, as expected I was arrested. One truck load of Japanese soldiers with fixed bayonets led by three officers came to my house. When I opened the door, the three officers came in and trained their pistols at my breast. After asking for my name, which I gave, they ordered me to take them to my bedroom; they searched it; after which they investigated my wife. In the meanwhile, the soldiers had entered the house and looted my valuable things, including my Mason's jewels, money, silverwares, etc. Luckily, they did not find the seven pistols that I had hidden between the beams of the kitchen. Otherwise, I would have been killed right then and there.

9. I was taken to their garrison at the Far Eastern University. This garrison was famous for its tortures and atrocities more brutal and beastial than those perpetrated by the Japanese at Fort Santiago. Indeed, in the Far Eastern University garrison, I witnessed suspects that were roasted. There was one whose legs were bored with a carpenter's auger; others were tortured beyond description, the mere recollection of which would make my blood boil.

10. With seventy-two others, I was confined in the notorious Far Eastern University garrison for 32 long days, and given neither food nor drink for three days, after which a handful of rice was rationed to us daily. Often times, we were not given drinking water for 48 hours. During the entire period of our confinement, we were kept in the open subject to the inclemency of the weather. I was investigated on the 26th day of our confinement. The fact that all those who were confined were treated worst than a beast, anyone can just imagine the kind of treatment the Japanese at the Far Eastern University did to me.

11. Finally on the 29th day of September 1943, I was one of the sixteen prisoners who were released and instructed not to reveal to anyone, even to the members of my family, what we have seen and suffered during our confinement. During my confinement I had lost so much weight that up to now I have not recovered half of it. For, I was then a living skeleton, after my release.

12. About a month or so after my release, I was able to be on my feet again so I resumed my activities in the organization, more determined than ever and more aggressive although more cautious. For this purpose, I changed my assumed name from "Arawa" to "J. M. Bays", this being the initial letters of my real name, Jose Maria Bonifacio Araullo y Samaniego.

13. Soon, I contacted Col. J. P. Roxas of the GHQ who informed me that Gen. Vicente Lim of the USAFFE was the new commander of the Fil-American Irregular Troops under the assume name of "Col. Admond P. Ellsworth".

14. In my second meeting with Col. J. P. Roxas, he instructed me to contact as many of the FAIT officers as I could, with the purpose of re-organizing the 3rd and 5th Regiments which were at that time practically disorganized due to the capture by the Japs of their respective organizers.

15. Upon my recommendation, Capt. Jose G. Velo was promoted to the rank of Major and assigned as commander of the 3rd Bgt., and Major Jose Luna, as commander of the fifth regiment.

16. On November 18, 1943, I was promoted to Major and designated as the aide-to-the-Commanding General. In this capacity, I regret to state that I was not able to perform personally what I was supposed



to do; for, I did not have the opportunity confer with the commander. However, I was able to relay all instructions and orders to the officers in the field through Mrs. Migoul Roxas (Major Butler), the only contact lady between myself and Miss Remedios Filoteo, then secretary to the commander.

17. Toward the end of May, 1944, I suggested to the Commander that I be allowed to organize a QMC. My suggestion having been approved, I immediately started with the organization. To expedite the work, as the necessity of detaching some officers from other units became apparent, I sent to the Commander the following:

"10/6/44

"TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN;

"Gentlemen:

"As the 3rd, and 4th, Regiments are now disorganized because their organizers can be contacted with for reasons already known to you, and in as much as I have received verbal orders to organize Q.M.C., which will require me to appoint men from the above mentioned Regiments, I request that I be given a written authority from the High Command so that I may have something to show those concerned so as to avoid doubts on the part of anyone.

"Hoping that you will grant me this request which I sincerely believe will help me a bit in the prosecution of the assignment entrusted to me, I am

Very respectfully,

(Sgd) J. M. BAYS"

18. On June 15, 1944, I was assigned as Executive Officer QMC and promoted to Colonel. With this authority, I was able to organize the QMC, composed of such limited services as supply, Motor Transport, and Water Transport of about 2,500 officers and men. A week later, I reported that the QMC had been duly organized.

19. Three days after the submission of my report, the Commander ordered me to see him personally. I met him at room 206 Avenue Hotel. That was in the afternoon of June 25, 1944. He told me then that our Chief of Staff was missing and that I was to act as such. I told him that such job was to big for me and that I would certainly appreciate it if he would tender such an important office to another officer. But he said that was an order so I had to accept the post.

20. On the same day, i.e., June 25th, 1944, I received the following letter:

"Manila, June 25th, 1944.

"TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN;

"By virtue of the power vested upon me as successor to Col. Hugh A. Straughn, (02515) Commander of the Fil-Amer. Irregular Troops, Midwest Pacific, Philippines, I hereby name and appoint Col. James Whitlock Houser (04564) to take my place effective this day, June 25th, 1944.

"As legitimate successor to the undersigned, Col. Houser is hereby empowered to carry on the unfinished work I could not fully accomplish due to vital circumstances beyond my will, and he is authorized to sign orders pertaining to the organization and the appointments of personnel; to carry on faithfully and to the best of his ability and in full cooperation of the forces appointed by



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the undersigned attached to the F.A.I.T. the policy as outlined by my predecessor for the achievement of Victory for the American and Allied nations and peace of the whole world.

"I therefore enjoin Col. J. M. Bays and all the personnel of the Quartermaster Corps to recognize Col. James Whitlock Houser as my legitimate successor and to extend to him your solid and faithful cooperation for the success of the organization in particular and of Guerrilla Forces of the Midwest Pacific in general.

(Sgd) EDMOND P. ELLSWORTH (0112201)
MAJOR GENERAL,
COMMANDING F.A.I.T.

21. Immediately after receiving the above quoted letter I tried to contact Gen. Simeon de Jesus (Col. James Whitlock Houser) but to no avail, as he refused completely to see anybody regarding the organization. This information was relayed to me by Miss Filoteo, who was able to see him personally. So I did the best I could. Without receiving orders from, I assumed the general command of the Fil-American Irregular Troops in the presence of ranking officers, among them Col. Jose P. Roxas, Major Francisco Bonifacio, Major Benito Manesa, Col. Jose P. Guido, Miss Remedios Filoteo, the secretary of the late Gen. V. Lim and Mrs. Miguel Roxas (Maj. Butler). The General Order No. 1 that I issued to that effect was dated 3rd August 1944.

22. On the 15th of August, 1944, I received the following proclamation of Gen. de Jesus:

"GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
FIL-AMERICAN IRREGULAR TROOPS, PHILIPPINES

"AUGUST 15, 1944

"SUBJECT: PROCLAMATION
TO : ALL REGIMENTAL COMMANDERS, F.A.I.T.

"IN THE COURSE OF AN ANTICIPATED STRUGGLE AGAINST A FOREIGN ENEMY WHO HAS BEEN ENDEAVORING FOR ALMOST THREE YEARS TO ENSLAVE OUR COUNTRY, IT HAS PLEASED GOD TO SEND THESE ISLANDS FURTHER BITTER TRIALS.

"INTERNAL TROUBLES HAVE THREATENED TO COMPROMISE THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR. THE DESTINY OF THE PHILIPPINES, THE HONOR OF HER HEROIC AMERICAN-FILIPINO ARMY, THE HAPPINESS OF HER PEOPLE AND THE WHOLE FUTURE OF OUR BELOVED COUNTRY, DEMANDS THAT AT ALL COSTS VICTORY MUST BE WON.

"THE ENEMY IS MAKING HIS LAST EFFORTS AND THE MOMENT IS NEAR WHEN ALL OUR GALLANT TROOPS FROM THE MOUNTAINS AND ABROAD IN CONCERT WITH THEIR GLORIOUS ALLIES, WILL FINALLY OVERTHROW HIM.

"IN THESE DAYS OF CRISIS WE HAVE CONSIDERED THAT OUR NATION NEEDS THE CLOSEST UNION OF ALL ITS FORCES FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF VICTORY. IT HAS BEEN OUR GREATEST MISFORTUNE TO LEARN THAT MOSTLY THROUGH TREACHERY AND BETRAYALS MOST OF THE MEN WHO HAVE GLADLY TAKEN UPON THEIR SHOULDERS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CARRYING ON THE TASK IN RESPONSE TO THE CALL OF PATRIOTISM IN ORDER THAT THEY MAY CONTINUE THE STRUGGLE FOR OUR GLORIOUS LIBERTY, ARE NOW EITHER BEHIND BARS OR MAY HAVE MET DEATH CALLANTLY IN THE PURSUANCE OF THEIR DUTY AND ARE NOW AT REST IN GRAVES UNKNOWN AND UNMARKED. BUT THIS MISFORTUNE SHOULD NOT IN THE LEAST DISMAY US. ON THE CONTRARY, ON THE FACE OF ALL ODDS AND EVENTUALITIES, WE SHOULD RESOLVE TO LEAD OUR MEN FRONT WITH A FIRM DETERMINATION TO FIGHT TO THE LAST MAN.

CONSCIOUS OF THE SACRED DUTY CONFERRED UPON ME BY MAJ. GEN. EDMOND P. ELLSWORTH, COMMANDER OF THE GUERRILLA FORCES OF THE MIDWEST PACIFIC, PHILIPPINES, BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR AN UNKNOWN DESTINATION, I ENJOIN UPON ALL FAITHFUL MEMBERS OF THE FIL-AMERICAN IRREGULAR TROOPS AS WELL AS OTHER GUERRILLA FORCES OF THE WHOLE PHILIPPINES TO FULFILL THEIR SACRED DUTY OF DEFEATING OUR ENEMY

AND DEPENDING OUR BELOVED PHILIPPINES, AT THE NATIONAL TRIAL.

"BY VIRTUE OF THE POWER VESTED UPON ME AS LEGITIMATE TO MAJ. GEN. E. P. ELLSWORTH, I ACKNOWLEDGE THIS AS THE GREAT HONOR TO ASSUME COMMAND OF THE GUERRILLA FORCES OF THE MIDWEST PACIFIC, PHILIPPINES EFFECTIVE TODAY AUGUST 15, 1944. IN THIS CAPACITY, I FURTHER ENJOIN ALL MEMBERS OF THE F.A.I.T. TO REFRAIN FOR THE PRESENT IN SEEKING TO KNOW MY PERSONAL IDENTITY NOT TO SEEK PERSONAL INTERVIEWS IN VIEW OF THE STRICT VIGILANCE EXERCISED BY THE SPIES OF THE ENEMY UPON ALL ARMY OFFICERS, AND THE OBVIOUS NECESSITY OF MAINTAINING THE UTMOST SECRECY. LET IT SUFFICE FOR THE PRESENT, PLACE ALL YOUR SUGGESTION WITH REFERENCE TO ORDERS, APPOINTMENTS, ETC. DIRECTLY TO THE CHIEF OF STAFF, COL. J. M. BAYS WHO WILL ACT IN MY CAPACITY IN ALL MATTERS REQUIRING IMMEDIATE DECISION. AT THE SAME TIME, I EMPOWER COL. J. M. BAYS TO APPOINT ALL OTHER MEMBERS OF THE STAFF AND ALL THE IMPORTANT BRANCHES OF THE ORGANIZATION IN ORDER TO INSURE ITS SYSTEMATIC FUNCTIONING AND FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE WHOLE ORGANIZATION IN GENERAL.

"I HAVE FOUND IT NECESSARY TO TAKE THE ABOVE MENTIONED STEPS WITH A VIEW TO ELIMINATING ALL OR ANY LOOPHOLES AND/ OR MISTAKES THAT MAY HAVE BEEN COMMITTED IN THE PAST WHICH HAS RESULTED IN UNFORTUNATE INCIDENTS LEADING TO THE APPREHENSION OF SEVERAL OF OUR RANKING OFFICERS, THE MOST OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF WHICH WAS THE CAPTURE OF COL. HUGH STRAUGHN FORMER COMMANDER OF THE FAIT. ALL THESE HAS BEEN DUE TO THE DEFECTION OF SOME UNSCRUPULOUS MEMBERS WHO SEEK NO MORE THAN SELF AGGRANDIZEMENT AND MATERIAL ADVANTAGES TO THEMSELVES. IT IS THEREFORE, NOT NECESSARY FOR ME TO STRESS THE OBVIOUS FACT THAT WE SHOULD LEARN LESSONS OF THE PAST.

"THEREFORE, HAVING ACCEPTED THE SACRED DUTY AND HIGHEST HONOR OF SUCCEEDING MAJ. GEN. E. P. ELLSWORTH IN HIS CAPACITY AS COMMANDER OF THE FIL-AMERICAN IRREGULAR TROOPS, PHILIPPINES, MIDWEST PACIFIC, EFFECTIVE THIS DAY, AUGUST 15, 1944, I SOLEMNLY SWEAR TO DISCHARGE MY DUTIES TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY TO HELP ME GOD.

JAMES WHITING KENNEDY, COL. U.S. ARMY
#047541, COMMANDING F.A.I.T.

(SEAL)

23. During the month of August, 1944, I organized the Medical Corps, and appointed Major Jose Encarnacion (now Colonel), Prof. in the University of the Philippines, as Chief; and the Engineering Corps, with Maj. Azuzano, of the Bureau of Commerce as chief.

24. In September, I made an arrangement to send a representative to Negros to confer with the Chief of the Allied Intelligence Bureau whose HQ was located in that area, for the purpose of negotiating for arms, ammunitions, supplies and if possible, financial aid, and also to work for our recognition. During all this time, our activities were concentrated in Intelligence work, sabotage and counter-propaganda, for we did not have enough arms except a few which were detailed in separate reports. Maj. F. Chipongian did not return until the middle of December, 1944, and I regret to say that the mission failed as per letter received from Maj. Roberto Benedicto of A. I. B.

UNITED STATES FORCES IN THE PHILIPPINES
HQs., 7 PAAG, North Negros Unit

"October 24, 1944

"Col. Marcelo Ibañez
Co., Fil-American Troops in Luzon

"Dear Col. Ibañez;

"Major Felix Chipongian was our trues for nearly a month in this area. May I take the pleasure of congratulating your Unit for patriotism shown by Maj. Chipongian which I am sure typifies the

... enemy. With men like Maj. ... of our country did not come to stay. We ... SOON.

"Major Felix Chipongian has informed me of the problems of your Unit. Within the prerogatives and knowledge given me I informed him of the present situation and contemporary events must have proven to him the facts itself.

"I am forwarding to the Commander PAAC, the communications sent thru Benny Newcastle, who will in turn sent them to the C-in-C SWPA. What decision will be, we are not in a position to tell. The very near future will tell us what action the C-in-C regarding the Luzon Units.

"It is definite however, that SWPA has not recognized so far any Unit in the Island of Luzon. This much we can assure you because we have received communications to this effect.

"It is believed that in the very near future SWPA will make definite its policy re-Luzon. Acting as I presently do within my limitations let me assure you that all the Units who have cooperated and will in the future cooperate with the landing operations will receive their due attention from the higher headquarters.

"From time to time we will send thru Benny Newcastle instruction from Higher Headquarters for your Units. This will be done in the fastest possible manner, so our help and our efforts will all contribute to the destruction of the enemy.

"With my personal regards to the men of the Fil-American Irregular Troop.

(SGD.) Roberto S. Benedicto
Major, AC (GSC)
Commanding"

25. On the 24th of Sept., 1944, upon the request of the Commander of A.I.B. known at that time as PAAC, I attached the 1st Laguna Regiment, under Col. Marcelo Ibañez, as per Memo Order which follows:

"UNITED STATES FORCES IN THE PHILIPPINES
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
FIL-AMERICAN IRREGULAR TROOPS
"24 September 44

"MEMORANDUM ORDER NO.

- "1. In accordance with policy of this Headquarters, which is to cooperate with a brother organization in the fight for the liberation of the Philippines, effective September 24, 1944, the First Laguna Regiment FAIT will be detached from the Headquarters of the First Laguna Division.
- "2. Effective September 24, 1944 this regiment will be attached tactically, and for other service, for finance, and for ration to the UNITED STATES FORCES IN THE PHILIPPINES, Headquarters PAAC, Free Luzon Area, for the duration of the war.
- "3. Lt. Colonel Marcelo Ibañez, Commanding Officer of this Regiment is hereby directed to report to the Commanding Officer of the PAAC, Free Luzon Area with his entire command, including all arms, equipments, and supplies originally issued to him by the FAIT Headquarters. He shall however continue to execute the admi-



nistrative orders of say higher headquarters of the Fil-American Irregular Troops, from whom he used to receive legal orders, excepting those that pertain to ration, finance, and issue of Quartermaster and Ordnance equipments.



J. M. BAYS
COMMANDING GENERAL"

26. On October 15, 1944, I made my first inspection trip to Laguna and visited the A.I.B. in Nagcarlang, whose Chief was Capt. Buenaventura Villanueva (Benny Newcastle) and had conference with him regarding agreement for mutual cooperation between our two organizations.

27. Upon reaching our camp in Nagcarlang, I received bad news from Col. Ibañez that the Marking's Guerrillas were giving our boys a lot of trouble; and as a matter of fact, some of our officers were even threatened to be killed if they did not go with them. Reports on this matter is given in detail in a separate report of Col. Ibañez. Proper steps were taken by the Staff to avoid a clash and to save lives, as it was against the principles of this organization to spill blood on matters like this against our comrades. I was in the convent of Nagcarlang, when we heard the radio announcement that the Americans landed in Leyte.

28. Upon my return to Manila, I immediately tried to contact with all other units in order to coordinate our operations to intensify our intelligence work and sabotage. In this connection, we were able to blow up many trucks and auto tires of the Japs by scattering roofing nails on the streets, cut communication wires and killed some Japs.

29. On the 29th of Dec., 1944, I again went to Laguna with a delegation of 4 officers and my family. I had been wanted by the Japanese since last November, but luckily they could not find me because they did not know my real name. They were after the Commander of the Fil-American by the name of Bays and only four officers knew me by that name.

30. Upon my arrival at Lumbang, Laguna, I established my C.P. and began to work. The party arrived there on 30 December 1944, and immediately sent my Aide-de Camp to contact the camps under Col. Marcelo Cruz, Col. Santiago Peña and the A.I.B.

31. On the 31st of December, 1944, a delegation of 9 officers of the A.I.B. headed by their chief, Capt. Benny Newcastle, paid me a visit and stayed with me 3 days. They were going to Manila on a mission and three of my operatives were with them. I took advantage of this occasion to discuss matters pertaining to operation and instruction as received from Gen. MacArthur relayed by Lt. Cabangbang to Capt. Newcastle.

32. During my stay in Lumbang with the cooperation of the officers of other units we were sending daily reports to Nagcarlang and Pila, because those were the places where contact could be made with the American forces at that time. Our reports covered enemy installations, operations, forces, gun emplacements, etc.

33. Upon knowing that the American Forces were in Laguna, I tried to contact with them, because we needed very badly arms to protect the Caliraya Project, including the Power Plant in Lumbang, but to no avail.

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34. On the 16th of February, 1945, the power house was dynamited by the Japs who on the 17th, moved their garrison to the town.

34. On the 16th of February, 1945, the power house was dynamited by the Japs who on the 17th, moved their garrison to the town.

35. As soon as there were no more Japs in the Power House, I immediately proceeded to the said Power House to inspect and find out the extent of the damage caused by the blasting. But when I was on my way home, accidentally I met a detachment of Japanese which was led by the garrison commander who was acquainted with every one in the vicinity. He stopped me and took me together with my wife who was with me, to the garrison for questioning. Before proceeding with the investigation those Japs at the garrison had my hands tied up with electric wires and placed me at the middle of the camp for three hours. Luckily, in the course of investigation, I was able to outwit them, not to say that I fooled them. So I was released and sent home with my wife. At this time the Japs were already desperate, so the following day they arrested and killed a suspect right then and there.

36. The next day I moved my C.P. to the hills of Caliraya. On the 20th day of February, 1945, I received a letter which reads as follows:



"GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
P. I. SECTION DETACHMENT
LUZON AREA

C O N F I D E N T I A L

"12 Feb. 45

"My dear General J. M. Bays,

"I am very sorry indeed that I was not able to proceed to your place on my way back from mission. In my own honest opinion the are you are now is not quite safe due to the fact that all indications points to Japanese going to withdraw passing that town. In as much as your place has a tendency of being cut off from your unit I suggest that you stay with San Pedro to give discession to your men.

"I have with me at present latest instructions from General MacArthur re-operations, conditions and future recognition of services of your outfit.

"I'm looking forward to the day I could explain these matter to you personal.

"Regards to the Mrs. and the rest of the family. Good luck, and May God Bless Us All.

(Sgd.) BENNY NEWCASTLE
Captain, GSC (AUS)
Commanding

"P.S.

"Peña passed by this Hq. with Doc. but they could not proceed to your place because of the situation. Peña went to Batangas to get infor for your unit also Filoteo. Doc is with me here now and is doing fine job.

Same"

37 37. I made preparations to go to the A.I.B. Camp in Negearlandg, but due to the danger of falling in the hands of the enemy

again, I took time and prepared my plan carefully so as to avoid meeting the enemies on our way. To enable me to do this, I had to cross the Sierra Madre Mountains. It took me and my two young officers two days to reach the destination, without any unpleasant event.

38. We arrived at the camp of Col. Ibañez on the 6th of March 1945, but from there we were informed that Capt. Newcastle had left for Manila, and that Col. San Pedro had joined the Marking's Guerrillas Fil-Americans, because Marking was already supplied and armed by the American Forces.

39. Nevertheless, I stayed in Nagcarlang to direct the training of our boys and at the same time to cheer them up and bolster their spirit. They were already discouraged for not receiving any arm from the liberated areas. "Arms and Ammunition" were the only cry of my boys in the camp.

40. On the 15th of the same month Capt. Newcastle arrived in his camp. I immediately called on him. In our conference he explained to me the result of his mission in Manila. He told me that at that time nothing was clear about the recognition of my outfit. With this discouraging news, I again prepared for my return to Lumbang to fetch my family back to Manila.

41. I arrived at Lumbang on the 22nd of March, 1945, but the place was surrounded by the Japanese. They even reached my C.P. on the hills, because they were hiding already from the reconnaissance planes. We could not leave the place, because they did not allow any one to cross the river of Lumbang, which is the only exit therefrom.

42. But on the 4th of April, about 10:00 A.M., the American planes started bombing the town of Lumbang, and also the outskirts of the mountains of Pagsanjan. The people were very glad, specially myself because I saw that all the places that we had reported were hit by the bombs.

43. The next day, about 9:00 o'clock in the morning the artillery and infantry action started, which lasted the whole night.

44. At 8:00 o'clock in the morning of 6th April 1945, the towns of Pagsanjan and Lumbang were liberated. I immediately went down the hills and met the liberators. I presented my credentials to Maj. James S. Cogswell of the 43rd Division M.P. Platoon, and gave him all available information. By his order I arrested the wife of Capt. Yamaguchi, a Filipina who was left behind by her husband. We took her to Morong in a car which the Major was able to commandeer.

45. On my arrival at the 43rd Division HQ. in Morong, I was interviewed by Capt. Stoddard, G-2 of the Division, and gave him all the information that he requested from me.

46. The next morning, I was conducted to Manila by Lt. C. O. Salem. My activities as soon as I reached Manila were fully described in my memorandum to the Commander-in-Chief, thru Col. Kreuter, copy attached.

47. My credentials presented to Maj. Cogswell is quoted hereunder:

“(CONFIDENTIAL)”



UNITED STATES FORCES IN THE PHILIPPINES
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
FIL-AMERICAN IRREGULAR TROOPS
PHILIPPINES

MEMORANDUM

Subject: ON THE SUCCESSION OF COMMAND OF
THE FIL-AMERICAN IRREGULAR TROOPS
From : COMMANDING GENERAL, FIL-AMERICAN IRREGULAR TROOPS
To : COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, USAFFE, HQ, SWPA
Thru : COL. ROBERT KREUTER

A. This MEMORANDUM is hereby respectfully submitted for the purpose of clarifying the succession of the General Command of the FIL-AMERICAN IRREGULAR TROOPS.

1. ELLSWORTH SUCCEEDS STRAUGHN.- On August 5, 1943, Col. Hugh Straughn, U.S.A. #02515, Founder and commander of the FIL-AMERICAN IRREGULAR TROOPS was captured in Malaya, Piliilia, Rizal, by the Japs. Col. Edmond P. Ellsworth (Major-General Vicente Lim, U.S.A., #0112201) succeeded Col. Straughn and assumed command by virtue of (1) a prior agreement with Col. Straughn and (2) upon designation of a certain U.S.A. army general¹ who was the immediate superior officer and adviser of Col. Straughn. The general referred to in the memorandum² has been recently identified as Brigadier-General Manuel A. Roxas.

2. J.M. BAYS BECOMES CHIEF OF STAFF.- During the incumbency of Col. Ellsworth, he retained the organization of the FIL-AMERICAN IRREGULAR TROOPS as well as its staff; recognized the commissions issued and the ranks given to the men in the field by Col. Straughn; carried on the policies of his predecessor and limited the activities of the FIL-AMERICAN IRREGULAR TROOPS to intelligence work and sabotage.³ On June 1st, 1944, the FIL-AMERICAN IRREGULAR TROOPS lost its contact with Col. Charles B. Pierce (Juan O. Chiooco) Chief of Staff. On June 15th, 1944, in recognition of his meritorious services, J.M. Bays (Bonifacio S. Araullo) was promoted to the rank of Colonel; and ten days later was sent for by Col. Ellsworth and designated Chief of Staff.

¹Annex "A", Rush Memorandum of Col. Edmond P. Ellsworth on Change Command and Special Orders, par. 1.

²Interview on May 20, 1945, in Manila, between Brigadier-General Manuel A. Roxas and J.M. Bays and Richard S. Edison (Col. Enrique Rimendo) and Col. Jose J. Guzman, 0278133 (J.G. Ilaw)

³Annex "A", Memorandum of Edmond P. Ellsworth pars. 1-6



3. ELLSWORTH NAMES HIS SUCCESSOR.- Due to circumstances beyond his control, Col. Ellsworth, on June 25, 1944, named James Whitlock Houser his successor,⁴ Thus:

"Manila, June 25th, 1944

"TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

"By virtue of the power vested upon me as successor to Col. Hugh A. Straughn (02515) Commander of the Fil.Amer. Irregular Troops, Midwest Pacific, Philippines, I hereby name and appoint Col. James Whitlock Houser (04564) to take my place effective this day, June 25th, 1944.

"As legitimate successor to the undersigned, Col. Houser is hereby empowered to carry on the unfinished work I could not fully accomplish due to vital circumstances beyond my will, and he is authorized to sign orders pertaining to the organization and the appointments of personnel; to carry on faithfully and to the best of his ability and in full cooperation of the forces appointed by the undersigned attached to the F.A.I.T. the policy as outlined by my predecessor for the achievement of Victory for America and the Allied Nations and peace of the whole world.

"I Therefore enjoin Col. J. M. Bays and all the personnel of the Quartermaster Corps to recognize Col. James Whitlock Houser as my legitimate successor and to extend to him your solid and faithful cooperation for the success of the organization in particular and of the Guerrilla Forces of the Midwest Pacific in general.

(SGD.) EDMOND P. ELLSWORTH (0112201)
 Major General
 Commanding F.A.I.T."

4. J. M. BAYS ACTS AS COMMANDING GENERAL.- Col. James Whitlock Houser did not assume command on the designated day, June 25, 1944; hence Col. Bays, as Chief of Staff, performed all the duties of a commanding general in an acting capacity. As the Japs were tightening their cordon against the guerrillas and the need for co-ordination of the activities of the gallant troops from the mountains and the operatives in Manila became more acute, and as Col. Houser had not assumed command, J. M. Bays, (Col. Araullo) as the most ranking officer, on August 3rd, 1944, assumed command of the FIL-AMERICAN IRREGULAR TROOPS.⁵

⁴Annex "B" Letter of Edmond P. Ellsworth to Col. J. M. Bays.

⁵Annex "C" General Orders No. 1 of J. M. Bays of August 3rd, 1944.



6. HOUSER CONFIRMS ALL ACTS OF BAYS.- On August 15th, 1944, Col. Houser issued his proclamation⁶ accepting the command of the FIL-AMERICAN IRREGULAR TROOPS and confirming all the acts of Col. Bays thus:

X X X X

"BY VIRTUE OF THE POWER VESTED UPON ME AS LEGITIMATE SUCCESSOR TO MAJ. GEN. EDMOND P. ELLSWORTH, I ACKNOWLEDGE THIS AS THE GREATEST HONOR TO ASSUME COMMAND OF THE GUERRILLA FORCES OF THE MIDWEST PACIFIC, PHILIPPINES EFFECTIVE TODAY AUGUST 15, 1944. IN THIS CAPACITY, I FURTHER ENJOIN ALL MEMBERS OF THE F.A.I.T. TO REFRAIN FOR THE PRESENT IN SEEKING TO KNOW MY PERSONAL IDENTITY NOR TO SEEK ANY PERSONAL INTERVIEWS IN VIEW OF THE STRICT VIGILANCE EXERTED BY THE SPIES OF THE ENEMY UPON ALL ARMY OFFICERS, AND THE OBVIOUS NECESSITY OF MAINTAINING THE UTMOST SECRECY. LET IT SUFFICE THAT FOR THE PRESENT, PLACE ALL YOUR SUGGESTIONS WITH REFERENCE TO ORDERS, APPOINTMENTS, ETC. DIRECTLY TO THE CHIEF OF STAFF, COL. J. M. BAYS WHO WILL ACT IN MY CAPACITY IN ALL MATTERS REQUIRING IMMEDIATE DECISIONS. AT THE SAME TIME, I EMPOWER COL. J. M. BAYS TO APPOINT ALL OTHER MEMBERS OF THE STAFF AND ALL THE IMPORTANT BRANCHES OF THE ORGANIZATION IN ORDER TO INSURE ITS SYSTEMATIC FUNCTIONING AND FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE WHOLE ORGANIZATION IN GENERAL."

6. J.M. BAYS BECOMES COMMANDING GENERAL.- Col. Houser being under strict surveillance by the Japs, finally lost all his contact with the FIL-AMERICAN IRREGULAR TROOPS. J.M. Bays (Areallo) as the most ranking officer assumed command and organized his staff thus: Chief of Staff, Col. Enrique Rimando (Richard S. Addison); G-1, Maj. Francisco Bonifacio; G-2, Capt. Ernesto Barretto; G-3, Lt.Col. Jose J. Guzman; G-4, Maj. Joaquin Amanaber; Chief Liaison Officer, Maj. Carlos Barretto; Finance Officer, Maj. Miguel Bonifacio; and Provost Marshal, Maj. James Stevenson. Since August 19th, 1944 up to the present, Gen. Bays has been and still is the commanding general of the FIL-AMERICAN IRREGULAR TROOPS. He has seen action in Laguna; his First Regiment, First Laguna Division, has performed military and police work in Laguna since June, 1944, up to date; his officers and men, individually or collectively, have been attached to different branches of the Sixth Army of the United States; his men first hoisted the American flag in Meycawayan, Bulacan, Malabon and Pasig, Rizal- these are only a few of the activities of the FIL-AMERICAN IRREGULAR TROOPS. In the short span of eight months, Gen. Bays has gone through the ordeals of a commanding general. In fine, he has lent life and soul, initiative and honor to his unheralded forces of the underground movement.

7. M. DIKIT SLEEPS ON HIS ALLEGED RIGHTS.- Twenty-one months after the capture of Col. Straughn, six months after the first landing of the American Liberation Forces in the Philippines, and almost three months after the re-establishment of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, Col. Dikit waked up from his lethargy and is, by a few un-authorized officers,

⁶Annex "D" Proclamation of J.W. Houser of August 15th, 1944 par. 6

unanimously made commanding officer of the FIL-AMERICAN IRREGULAR TROOPS.⁷ If Col. Dikit had any rights at all to the command, why did he not assert them immediately after the capture of Col. Straughn, knowing fully well as he does that in an underground movement, a leader is essential if not an imperative necessity? Six months ago on D-Day, why did he not assert his alleged rights when it was most timely and necessary to marshal together all the FIL-AMERICAN IRREGULAR TROOPS forces of liberation? It is strange that Col. Dikit has chosen to be unanimously named commanding officer almost three months after the re-establishment of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, when the dangers of the underground movement have vanished and orchids abound for the deserving! The behavior of Col. Dikit leads us to the following: (1) that he did not assert his alleged rights when it was most timely and necessary; (2) that he is guilty of too many laches and too much delay; and (3) that the belated awakening of his patriotic fervor and the tardy and feeble attempt on his part to assume the leadership of the FIL-AMERICAN IRREGULAR TROOPS is not only far from exemplary but also unworthy and unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.



8. THE PRINCIPLE OF ESTOPPEL AT WORK.- Col. Dikit is guilty on two counts; namely, (1) failure to assert his alleged rights when it was most timely and necessary, and (2) acquiescence in, and recognition of, the command of Gen. Bays. In two meetings (April 9 and 22nd, 1945) in Sampaloc, Manila, Col. Dikit sought promotion from Gen. Bays. In the first meeting, he expressed his desire to be second in command. In the second meeting, Col. Richard S. Edison (Enrique Rimando) offered to resign as Chief of Staff to accommodate a fellow officer. But Gen. Bays, instead, offered to Col. Dikit the post of Adjutant General. On April 26th, 1945, Col. Dikit called on Gen. Bays at Sta. Ana, Manila, to arrange the members of the Central General Staff of the FIL-AMERICAN IRREGULAR TROOPS. Two days later, on April 28th, 1945, he called again on Gen. Bays and submitted to the latter a Memorandum on Policies of the FIL-AMERICAN IRREGULAR TROOPS.⁸ Col. Dikit signed the memorandum at the right side of page 2 as Colonel of the FIL-AMERICAN IRREGULAR TROOPS and place five spaces below his designation at the left side the name "B.S. ARAULLO (J.M. Bays), Commanding General." This indeed, is not only an acquiescence on his part in the command of Gen. Bays but also a tacit recognition and a complete avowal in a private instrument of such command which he is estopped to deny or question. By his acts and omissions (April 9, 22, 26 and 28, 1945), Col. Dikit fittingly falls within the purview of the conclusive presumption of law:⁹ "Whenever a party has, by his

⁷Free Philippines (Manila), May 11, 1945, P. 3 col. 5

⁸Annex "E" Memorandum of Policies, April 26th, 1945

⁹Revised Rules of Court of the Philippines, Rule 123 sec. 69, par. a.

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own declaration, act, or omission, intentionally and deliberately let another to believe a particular thing true, and to act upon such belief, he cannot, in any litigation arising out of such declaration, act, or omission, be permitted to falsify it." And, like the proverbial moth, Col. Dikit will keep on beating in vain his silken wings against the lambent flame of his newly-born ambition.

B. The succession of the General Command of the FIL-AMERICAN IRREGULAR TROOPS having been shown to have originated and passed from the late Col. Hugh Straughn, thru the late Maj.-Gen. Vicente Lim, to the late Maj.-Gen. Simeon de Jesus who has been succeeded by Col. Bonifacio S. Araullo (Gen. J. M. Bays), in the manner hereinabove indicated, it is hereby respectfully requested that said Col. Bonifacio S. Araullo (Gen. J. M. Bays) be recognized as the Commanding General of the FIL-AMERICAN IRREGULAR TROOPS in connection with all matters affecting said organization.



Bonifacio S. Araullo
 BONIFACIO S. ARAULLO
 COLONEL,
 COMMANDING GENERAL, FAIT

C/o COL. ENRIQUE RIMANDO
 CHIEF OF STAFF, FAIT.
 c/o House of Representatives
 Manila, Philippines

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Authority: AND 5301 B

FIL-AMERICAN IRREGULAR TROOPS, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
UNDER COLONEL EDMOND PAGE KILSWORTH #0112201 U.S.A.
SUCCESSOR TO COLONEL HUGH STRAUGHN, #02515 U.S.A.

RUSH : MEMO
TO : ALL OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN OF F.A.I.T.
SUBJECT : CHANGE COMMAND AND SPECIAL ORDERS.

For the guidance of all officers and enlisted men of FIL-AMERICAN IRREGULAR TROOPS, who were under the command of Col. Hugh Straughn, the following order and regulations are published.

1. Owing to the regretful incident leading to the capture of Col. Hugh Straughn, Commanding Officer of F.A.I.T., causing the loss of the father of said troops, the undersigned is now taking command and succeeding Colonel Straughn upon being designated by a certain general of the U.S. Army who has been also the immediate superior officer and Adviser of Col. Straughn.
2. Due to the surrender of some officers and enlistedmen of this troops, those said personnel are temporarily relieved of their duties and responsibilities, and when they are proven to be collaborating with the enemies for apprehension of the remnants of the F.A.I.T., they will be considered enemies.
3. Pursuant to the above statement, orders and regulations issued by Col. Straughn, shall be issued from this Headquarters from time to time.
4. There is no change in the old organization of F.A.I.T., and every Unit will function as usual; casualties and losses will only be replaced by officers authorized in this Headquarters.
5. All Officers appointed by Col. Straughn and enlistedmen given ranks by their commanding officer shall retain their old ranks. Promotion of officers will only be approved by this Headquarters thru proper recommendations.
6. Strict compliance of "LIE LOW BUT WATCHFUL WAITING" rule but keep on to intelligence work is hereby ordered, there should be no clashing with other independent Units.

Messages and reports of all field commanders shall be transmitted to this Headquarters thru special, confidential and reliable messenger only. All messages from C.O. of F.A.I.T., shall bear the serial number of the C.O. as address and serial number of the sender for his signature. All messages for C.O. of F.A.I.T., shall be done thru proper channel.

All Officers concerned shall be furnished by this Headquarters with a list of officers of the General Staff of the General Headquarters bearing their official names and serial numbers.

By Order of

EDMOND PAGE KILSWORTH, COL.
U.S.A. #0112201 Commander

(SGD) CHARLES B. PIERCE, COL.
#0112211, Chief of Staff.



TRUE COPY/

6

UNITED STATES PHILIPPINE ISLANDS FORCES
FIL-AMERICAN IRREGULAR TROOPS
UNDER COL. HUGH STRAUGHN, U.S.A.
.02515

26 April, 1945

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Policies

1. The Fil-American Irregular Troops, organized by Col Hugh Straughn, U.S.A. 02515, in 1942, is one of the leading Guerilla Units that has maintained outstanding resistance movements against the Japanese invaders, since the USAFFE forces surrendered in Bataan Peninsula up to the landing of the U.S. Armed Forces on Luzon. From then on units of the FAIT have joined the Liberators invariably in their combat operations. However, since the capture of Col. Hugh Straughn on Aug. 5, 1943, the FAIT commenced to operate under divided commands. The different units of the FAIT, therefore, will be directed to submit to a united Command under a Central General Staff compose of bona fide ranking officers of the organization.

2. The Central General Staff will initiate without delay, steps toward the induction of the FAIT by proper U.S. Army authorities, and to this end, the several unit commanders shall be directed to submit to the Central General Staff without delay, history of their respective units stating therein their different activities, especially as they refer to intelligence, battles, skirmishes, etc., participated in by any other matters needing special and immediate attention and treatment of higher authorities. These histories of units will appraise the FAIT resistance activities and will facilitate induction of the whole organization as a unit.

3. The enlisted grades that make the bulk of the FAIT, not to mention most of their officers including those holding field ranks, are now undergoing financial difficulties in one way or another. Like our honored dead who laid their lives with no thought of emoluments or compensations except the empty pride of a duty done, those of us who survived, deserve the immediate attention of the Central General Staff. A number of our units have fought hand in hand in the several combat zones of the U. S. Armed Forces, and more FAIT men have laid their lives in the fields of battles. The Central General Staff shall make representation to proper U.S. Army authorities for the activation of our needy members in the different U.S. Army labor pools and supply dumps, as overseers, capataces, guards, checkers and laborers; such activation to be in our organized units (as company, battalion, etc.) properly officered. Such activation of loyal Guerrilla Units, if realized, will prevent pilferage, theft, looting, combinations, et., now so rampant in the men-



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tioned U.S. Military establishment, and will place the FAIT on record as also actively working in the Allied war efforts until such time that the entire unit is finally inducted in the U.S. Armed Forces.

4. The Central General Staff will continue to work for the attachment of other FAIT units to U. S. fighting forces of the different combat zones, until all the units could have had combat experiences, or until such time that the induction of the entire FAIT into the U.S. Armed Forces, is realized.

(SGD.) MANUEL T. DIKIT
(Col. Manulik)
COLONEL, F.A.I.T.

(SGD.) BONIFACIO S.  (Gen. J. M. Bays)
Commanding General, FAIT

am:MTD

TRUE COPY/

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
FIL-AMERICAN INFANTRY TROOPS
Manila, Philippines

8 December 1945

SUBJECT: MEMORANDUM
TO: The Commanding General
U. S. Army Forces, Western Pacific

1. Reconsideration of the Communication of 17 November, 1945, re - denial of recognition of the Headquarters "FAIT" is hereby requested on the following grounds:
2. Some units belonging to this Headquarters have been recognized, namely:

<u>12th Inf. Reg. (FAIT)</u>	<u>Strength</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
1st Battalion	240	March 1945
2nd " " H. Q.	17	25 July 1945
" " H. Q. Company	99	25 " "
" " Company E	194	25 " "
" " " F	195	7 May "
" " " G	159	29 " "

Meycauayan Unit

Hq & Hq Company 163 13 Nov. 1945
and some small units from Batangas and Part of McKinley Division

3. It seems out of place, if not queer, that units belonging to this Headquarters and owing allegiance thereto are recognized and the Headquarters, the co-ordinating, directing and moving power behind all these units, is not recognized.
4. We reiterate our request for recognition dated 10 September 1945, copy enclosed, and finally
5. We reiterate our request contained in Memorandum dated 6 November, 1945.



Benigno S. Arullo
BENIGNO S. ARULLO
Maj. Gen. (G-PA)
Commanding General

UNITED STATES FORCES IN THE PHILIPPINES
 GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
 FIL-AMERICAN IRREGULAR TROOPS
 PHILIPPINES

10 Sept 1945

Subject: MEMORANDUM

To : CHQ., APPAC, and
 THE HONORABLE, THE SECRETARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

1. The FAIT was organized by Col. Hugh A. Straughn, 02515, U. S. Army. It has units from Baguio in Northern Luzon to Casarines Sur in Sicolandia.
2. 28,453 FAIT officers and men remained loyal to the command of Maj. Gen. J. M. Bays. Cols. Dicit and Gellison who dispute the command are technically disqualified because of their voluntary attachment to the Marking's Guerrilla.¹
3. The succession of command from Col. Straughn (Aug. 5th, 1945 Straughn's capture) to Col. Edward P. Ellsworth (Major General Vicente Ima, U. S. Army, 0112201) to Col. James Whitlock Rouser (Brigadier General Sisson de Jesus, 04564, U. S. Army) and finally, to Major General J. M. Bays (R. S. Araullo) has been fully established beyond the shadow of a doubt.²
4. 28,453 FAIT officers and men pinned their hopes in the ultimate victory of the Allies. In the most trying, gloomy, and critical days of the Pacific Campaign when leaders of national stature began working with the enemy, 28,453 FAIT officers and men together with their friends, well-wishers, and families remained loyal to the cause of democracy.
5. Tortured in the chambers and gris walls of Fort Santiago, in the F. E. U. building, and in the different provincial and municipal garrisons, FAIT officers and men remained unshaken in their Faith, unbroken and unyielding in their spirit. . .
6. In 1944, when the order was "lie low", FAIT officers and men "lay low". When the order was "harass the enemy", they harassed the enemy. And, when on October 20th, 1944, Gen. MacArthur said: "For your homes and hearths, strike; For future generations of your sons and daughters, strike! In the name of your sacred dead, strike!" FAIT officers and men struck everywhere, and struck hard at the enemy.
7. In January, 1945, when the American Forces of Liberation landed in Lingayen, FAIT officers and men guided the spearheads; FAIT officers and men went into action with the G. I's; FAIT officers and men supplied information, materials, labor, etc.; and finally, FAIT officers and men helped in the mopping-up operations from Nueva Viscaya to Casarines Sur.
8. FAIT officers and men have been attached to the U. S. Army and many have received letters of commendation speaking highly of their invaluable services to the U. S. Army.³
9. All FAIT officers and men have been processed into the Philippine Army.⁴ About 200 have died in action and in mopping-up operations. The Commanding officer of the Nueva Ecija Unit died in the hands of the Japs. Hundreds have been tortured in the different provincial and municipal garrisons. And the remaining 24,000 officers and men have contributed their share in the preservation of the democratic way of life.⁵
10. The rosters, the brief history of the different FAIT units and their activities as required by the Guerrilla Affairs Section of the U. S. Army Training Group, APPAC have been submitted. The different units have been contacted and screened.
11. The CGS of the FAIT is as good as the CGS of any other guerrilla organization in the Philippines, in Europe, or elsewhere, if not better.⁶



12. Guerrilla organizations like the Ransay, Anderson, Lapham, Fertig, and Merding's have been recognized. But the FAIF, six months after the re-establishment of the Commonwealth of the Philippines and even after V-J Day, remain longing, hoping, and waiting for its recognition. And, FAIF officers and men begin to ask: Will it ever be thus?

13. Of course, FAIF officers and men joined the organization, performed their duties, rendered services, risked everything that is dear to them - home, children, wives, neither in the hope of obtaining monetary reward nor of receiving the plaudits of the multitude but in the honest and sincere belief that they were doing their duty to their country, the Pearl of the Orient Seas, and fighting for the cause of Four Freedoms!

14. 28,453 FAIF officers and men like to think that they did not join the resistance movement in vain; that they did not err in remaining loyal to the U. S. during her most trying, gloomy and critical months in the Pacific Campaign; that the FAIF officers and men who fought and died side by side with the G. I.'s did not give up their lives in vain; that the commendations they received are not empty words and meaningless verbiages profusely lavished on them, merely to flatter their ego and cajole them, at a time when their services were most needed; and finally, 28,453 FAIF officers and men like to think that the credit, the honor, and the recognition, which they so rightfully, so fittingly, and so honorably deserve, will not be denied them.

15. In view of the foregoing, this command is constrained to reiterate, as it hereby reiterates its request of August 25, 1945, (a) that the FAIF with all its units be recognized and (b) that the rank and grade of all FAIF officers and men in the different rosters as submitted be recognized.

Bonifacio S. Araullo
BONIFACIO S. ARAULLO
Maj. Gen. (G-PA)
Commanding General

1. FAIF Memorandum on The Brief History, Activities and Accomplishments, etc. of the FAIF To GHQ, AFPAC, and the Honorable, The Secretary of National Defense.
2. FAIF Memorandum on The Succession of Command of the FIL-AMERICAN IRREGULAR TROOPS To The Commander-in-Chief, USAFFE, GHQ, SEPA, dated May 26, 1945.
3. FAIF Memorandum on The Brief History, (copy) Aug. 25, 1945, page 57, section 23.
4. Op. c. t., page 40, section 24.
5. Op. c. t., page 41, section 24.
6. Op. c. t., page 41-44, paragraph 25.
7. Speech of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.
8. Memorandum to (copy footnote), page 44, sec. 3, sub. sec. 1 and 2, dated Aug. 25, 1945.



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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
Fil-American Irregular Troops
(Reorganized by Maj. Gen. Vicente Lina, Successor to Col. Hugh L. Straughn)
Manila, Philippines

Subject: MEMORANDUM

November 6, 1945

to General of the Armies Douglas MacArthur
C - in C, AFPAC, Tokyo, Japan

1. It is desired to register our protest to the direct communication made by the Guerrilla Affairs Section, USA Training Group, AFPAC, as attested by the enclosed letters of non-recognition endorsed by the units concerned to this GHQ. This protest is based on the fact that the contacts made by the Guerrilla Affairs Section were made through this GHQ on rosters submitted by it as required by the Guerrilla Affairs Section. Consequently, letters of recognition or non-recognition of these units it is believed, should have been coursed through this GHQ. Indeed, such step taken by the Guerrilla Affairs Section is most unethical and a flagrant violation of military rule.

2. It is also desired to bring to the attention of the Commander-in-Chief that the recognition or non-recognition of the guerrilla forces is not only a very delicate matter but also a very serious problem of far reaching consequences. The task being a delicate one, this GHQ is constrained to make the observation that the task should have been assigned to more mature, experienced and responsible officers. And while we do not question the integrity of the Guerrilla Affairs Section, still the actions of some of the officers therein are not only far from exemplary but also short of our expectations and of our concept of an American officer.

3. After the submission of the rosters as required of us, contacts were finally made. In the process of such contacts, encouragements were made by the contact team to the extent of alerting the men for they (contact team) said that the men may be ordered to march to camp or camps for eventual processing. This GHQ is at a loss to understand the sudden change in the attached letters.

Furthermore, let it be stated that when these letters were delivered to the unit commanders, the FAIT men were assembled and told that certain members of the General Staff of this HQ did not convey to the officers and men the information given to them by the Guerrilla Affairs Section. If this is true, this GHQ believes that it is entitled to know what information was given to it, for it knows of nothing having been given. As a matter of fact, the Guerrilla Affairs Section refused to commit itself on anything; refused to give any information; and even refused to sign for rosters submitted to it.

4. It is desired further to bring to the attention of the Commander-in-Chief that we have learned on good authority that the Guerrilla Affairs Section has established a criterion for the recognition of guerrillas; to wit, that only the guerrillas attached to U. S. Army will be recognized. It seems that this is a procedure which shows ignorance of the manner in which genuine guerrillas operated since not all those actually attached have been in the underground movement before the liberation. As a matter of fact, there are many guerrillas of the "1945 vintage" who have already been recognized by the U. S. Army and processed into the Philippine Army. Besides, we understand the word "Guerrilla" to mean the underground forces during the occupation by the enemy, and not those who having collaborated and being tortured by their conscience met the forces of liberation and succeeded in attaching themselves to the U. S. Army.



5. Let it be stated, in this connection, that the original members of the Fil-American Irregular Troops in joining the resistance movement swore allegiance to the U. S. Government and not to the Commonwealth Government. This fact accounts for our insistence on receiving our recognition from the U. S. Army.

6. It is suggested that, in order to solve this serious problem, recognition be extended to all bona fide guerrillas, whether attached or not, in order to place them under military control. And since guerrilleros are no longer needed, in view of the sudden termination of the war, let the guerrilleros be processed to determine their real status, ranks, etc., and then they be immediately reverted to civilian status.

Bonifacio S. Araullo
 BONIFACIO S. ARAULLO
 (GEN. J. M. BAYS)
 MAJ. GEN. G-PA
 Commanding General

Distributions:

- 1 - U. S. War Department
- 1 - CINCAPPAC
- 1 - Maj. Gen. Stiver
- 1 - G. A. S., UTG
- 1 - G-2, APPAC
- 1 - File



DECLASSIFIED
Authority: *100533018*

Sta. Mesa Unit, F A I T
556 Int. 4, Sta. Mesa, Manila
Oct. 11, 1945

To The Commanding General
Fil-American Irregular Troops
Manila, Philippines

S I R;

With respect to the status of my unit (Santa Mesa Unit) I am sending you this letter for your information and guidance.

I was contacted by the leader of the contact team Capt. Leo S. Wortman, Jr. on Aug. 11, 1945. He promised me and my men that our unit will be recognized without doubt. As an evidence I was given Forms on Table of Organization. So that Forms 253, Forms 254 and Forms 255 were fully accomplished and submitted on Aug. 17, 1945. I was told to wait for the letter of recognition.

I had waited too long, so that by Sept. 24, I went to the office of the Guerrilla Affairs Section. Lt. Charles P. Middleton told me that he had the letter for me but it was left at Poscrubio. He told me to see him again by Wednesday, Sept. 26, but he did not appear. I went again on Thursday and Friday. On Friday I was able to talk to him. He informed me that the letter was left in the camp. I was advised to stay in my place for he would take the trouble of going to my place to deliver the letter personally. But he failed to come, so I went to the office on Oct. 4, 1945. He again regretted and told me that the letter had been sent to the City Hall for signature. On Oct. 10, I approached him in the office at 11:30 A.M. I was told that the letter was lost, but finally opened the drawer and handed me the letter dated Sept. 8, 1945. To my discouragement, my unit had not been favorably considered for recognition.

I want to question the non-recognition of my unit and the delay of the letter. I had sworn the oath of loyalty to the United States of America and the Commonwealth Government of the Philippines to fight for the cause of Democracy. To the best of my ability and guidance, our unit had accomplished something which were detrimental to the Japanese administration. I am not begging anything but I want justice and I want them to recognize our past services. We had sacrificed our time, efforts and even our lives for four long weary years and at the end it amounts to nothing. Our necks were at the hands of the Japanese and they put a price on our head. Even then we were not afraid to face the cruel death and it was not our fault that we did not die during the Japanese administration.

We are going to continue fighting for our cause until

it is won. I and my men under my command will join hand in hand with the General Headquarters of the Fil- American Irregular Troops until we are recognized. If this were only a game of chance I am going to accept my defeat, even if it is unfair. But this is a struggle between life and death, righteousness and unrighteousness, light and darkness.

With due respect to the Commanding General, I wish that my case be brought to light to the GENERAL HEADQUARTERS U. S. ARMY FORCES, in the PACIFIC. I want to find out through this Headquarters why my unit is not accorded due recognition.

[Faint typed text, possibly a header or address line]

Respectfully,
Emilio G. Acdal
EMILIO G. ACDAL
Commanding Officer
Santa Mesa Unit



[Faint typed text, likely a body paragraph or a note of acknowledgment]

[Faint typed text, possibly a closing or signature line]

G. T. HULLBY
Capt, 1st
AM 1/49.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC

GM/jb

APO 500
8 Sept 1945

Mr. Emilio G. Acdal
People's Bank Building, Manila, P. I.
c/o Capt. Leo S. Wortman, Sr.
U S Army Training Group, AFPAC
APO 500, c/o FM, S.F., Calif

Dear Mr. Acdal,

The "Santa Mesa Unit, FAIT", guerrilla organization under your nominal control has not been favorably considered for recognition by this headquarters.

You will collect all arms, ammunition and United States Government equipment in your organization and turn such articles over to Captain Leo S. Wortman, Jr. You will then notify the organization of the decision rendered in paragraph 1, above, inform the personnel that they are on a civilian status and direct them to return to their homes

For the Commander-in-Chief;



D. W. DOOLEY
Capt, AGD
Asst.AG.

UNITED STATES FORCES IN THE PHILIPPINES
FIL-AMERICAN REGULAR TROOPS
3rd Regiment, 3rd Laguna Div.
OH Pagamanjan, Laguna

18 Sept. 1945

To General Bonifacio Arzullo
Commanding General (PAIT)
Manila

S i r :

We are transmitting to you herewith the letter of Capt. D. W. Dooley, Asst. AG, and our answer to the said letter which is self-explanatory.

In this connection, this matter is brought to your attention as Commanding General, for whatever action you may be deemed proper to take thereon.

For the Regimental Commander:



EMILIO NAVARRO
Capt. G-PA
Adjutant to RC

117 Int. B Tortuosa
Sampaloc, Manila
18 Sept. 45

The Commander-in-Chief
GHQ United States Army Forces, Pacific
(Thru Capt. D. W. Dooley, Asst. AG.)
M a n i l a

S i r :

I am in receipt of your communication dated 26 August with the information of non-recognition of our Guerrilla organization by that Headquarters.

This unexpected decision came as a shock creating deep regret and unrest on our part, knowing as we do that it was but a matter of time when we shall be duly recognized and processed. This obsession has been based on the assurance of Lt. Middleton who screened our unit on Aug. 17th and on several letters of commendation that has been kindly and generously accorded us by several units of the Army liberation forces on our sector.

Our activities, whatever they are, belong to history and stands as a shining monument for our past sacrifices and stands as a prime-facie evidence of blood, sweat, and tears nobly shed during the three brutal years of enemy occupation. It is needless for me to state here, that we have invested everything, everything that we have and everything that we are, in constant plucking and ceaseless warfare against the enemy and as God as witness we had devoted our body and soul for the cause of our country and America during those three dark and grim years.

Whatever efforts we have exerted towards the recognition of our unit is not based upon monetary rewards. It is just fairness and justice that we seek; an official recognition of our sacrifices, recognition for those sleepless nights we stood in the vigil in malaria-infested halls, for those uneven skirmishes and ambushes against the enemy, recognition for those who were wounded, for those widows and orphans of my command who died in brutal concentration camps and perished gloriously in action in defense of the very principles and creed that America has instilled in our resistance. It is but justice and fairness that we seek pure and simple. It is for the men who labored, fought and died that I am seeking recognition. For how could we solicit official compensation from the Government in behalf of those widows and orphans if recognition could not be granted by that headquarters?

In all sincerity, I know not of any grounds that prompted your headquarters to reject recognition upon our unit. Our history of activities up to the present that we were attached to the U. S. Army was submitted to the Guerrilla Affairs Section USAFFE. In black and white, we have set forth our case and facts as they occurred. Our commendations stands as a mute witness that we have aided the Army during their operations and that we have not prayed upon our peaceful citizens during the occupation.

In this communication, I ask for justice and fairness with the humble request that such a drastic decision be reconsidered in behalf of past sacrifices, in behalf of widows and orphans of my men who had given their lives for the cause of which America has defended on this respects. Let not this be a reason for us to lose faith and trust upon America's sense of fairness and fairplay. Trusting that your office will give due and just reconsideration of our case, I am

Very respectfully,

FIRMINO C. AGANIN
Lieutenant Colonel
Fil-American Irregular Troops
3rd Reg. 3rd Laguna Div.

Copy furnished:
Major Miller, Chief, GAS, USAFFE
Col. Victor Gomez, G-1, HPA
Co. 271-Field Artillery Bn. 1st Cavalry Div. (Tokyo)



GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC

AFD 500
26 August 1945

Mr. Fidelino C. Agawin
Pagsanjan, Laguna
c/o Lt. Charles P. Middleton, Jr.
U S Army Training Group, AFPAC
APO 500, c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

Dear Mr. Agawin:

The 3rd Regiment, 3rd Division, PAIF, guerrilla Organization under your nominal control, has not been favorably considered for recognition by this Headquarters.

You will collect all arms, ammunition and United States Government equipment in your organization and turn such articles over to Lt. Charles P. Middleton, Jr. You will then notify the organization of the decision rendered in paragraph 1, above, inform the personnel that they are on a civilian status and direct them to return to their homes.

For the Commander-in-Chief:



(Sgt.) D. W. DOOLEY
Capt. AGD.
Asst. AG.

(True Copy)
By:

Fidelino C. Agawin

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCE, PACIFIC

08/28

APC 500
8 Sept 1945
APO 500
28 August 1945

Mr. Jose Encarnacion
Mr. Marcelo R. Ibañez
Nagcarlan, Laguna
c/o Lt. Charles P. Middleton, Jr.
U S Army Training Group, APPAC
APO 500 c/o Postmaster
S. F. California

Dear Mr. Ibañez:

The "1st Laguna Regiment, FAIP", guerrilla organization under your nominal control has not been favorably considered for recognition by this headquarters. The "1st Laguna Regiment, FAIP", guerrilla organization under your nominal control, has not been favorably considered for recognition by this headquarters.

You will collect all arms, ammunition and United States Government equipment in your organization and turn such articles over to Lieutenant Charles P. Middleton, Jr. You will then notify the organization of the decision rendered in paragraph 1, above, inform the personnel that they are on a civilian status and direct them to return to their homes.

For the Commander-in-Chief:



D. W. DOOLEY
Capt, AGD
D. W. DOOLEY
CAPT, AGD,
Asst. AG.

Respectfully and ~~1st~~ **ENDORSED** to the Commanding General FAIP
Respectfully endorsed to the Commanding General FAIP
for his information and action.

MARCELO R. IBAÑEZ

DECLASSIFIED
Authority *WDS/STB*

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC

GM/jb

APO 500
8 Sept 1945 500
8 September 1945

Mr. Jose Encarnacion
1846 Oroquieta St, Manila, PI
c/o Capt Leo S. Wortman, Jr.
U S Army Training Group, AFPAC
APO 500, c/o FM, S. F., Calif
San Francisco, California

Dear Mr. Encarnacion:
Dear Mr. Allison:

The "Medical Detachment, FAET", guerrilla organization under your nominal control has not been favorably considered for recognition by this headquarters.

You will collect all arms, ammunition and United States Government equipment in your organization and turn such articles over to Captain Leo S. Wortman, Jr. You will then notify the organization of the decision rendered in paragraph 1, above, inform the personnel that they are on a civilian status and direct them to return to their homes.

For the Commander-in-Chief:

M. W. DOOLEY
Capt. AGD,
Asst. AG.
D. W. DOOLEY
Capt. AGD,
Asst. AG.

1st ENDORSEMENT
Respectfully endorsed to the Commanding General FAET for his information and action.
1st ENDORSEMENT
Respectfully endorsed to the Commanding General FAET for his information and action.



JOSE ENCARNACION
JOSE ENCARNACION

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC

GX/3b

AFPO 500
5 September 1945

Mr. Nazario M. Atienza
Caluan, Laguna
c/o Lt. Charles P. Middleton Jr.
U. S. Army Training Group, APPAC
APO 500, c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

Dear Mr. Atienza:

The "Laguna Tamarac Regt FAIT" Guerrilla Organization under your nominal control has not been favorably considered for recognition by this headquarters.

You will collect all arms, ammunition and United States Government equipment in your organization and turn such articles over to Lieutenant Charles P. Middleton Jr. You will then notify the organization of the decision rendered in paragraph 1, above, inform the personnel that they are on a civilian status and direct them to return to their homes.

For the Commander-in-Chief:

For the Commander-in-Chief:

D. W. DOOLEY
Capt, AGD,
ASST. AG.

S. V. DUNN
Capt, AGD,
ASST. AG.

1st INDORSEMENT
Respectfully endorsed to the Commanding General FAIT
for his information and action.



1st INDORSEMENT
Respectfully endorsed to the Commanding General FAIT
for his information and action.

NAZARIO M. ATIENZA
JOSE MARIAN

UNITED STATES ARMY

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC

GM/jb

AFPO 500
8 Sept 1945

Mr. Eustaquio A. Asuzano
People's Bank Bldg., Manila PI
c/o Capt. Leo S. Wortman, Jr.
U S Army Training Group, AFPAC
APO 500, c/o RM, S. F., Calif.

Dear Mr. Asuzano:

The "Corps of Engineers, FAIT", guerrilla organization under your nominal control has not been favorably considered for recognition by this headquarters.

You will collect all arms, ammunition and United States Government equipment in your organization and turn such articles over to Captain Leo W. Wortman, Jr. You will then notify the organization of the decision rendered in paragraph 1, above, inform the personnel that ^{they} are on civilian status and direct them to return to their homes.

For the Commander-in-Chief:

D. W. DOOLEY
Capt. AGD.
Asst. AG.

1st ENDORSEMENT

Respectfully endorsed to the Commanding General FAIT
for his information and action.



EUSTAQUIO A. ASUZANO

FILIPINO***AMERICAN IRREGULAR TROOPS
SOUTHERN LUZON, JUNE 20TH, 1943

GENERAL MEMORANDUM:

Owing to a considerable mis-information that has been directly given to a large number of citizens that have been enrolled or inducted into the Military Service, as represented by this organization and its co-operative organizations who have been and are still receiving advice, IT SEEMS ESSENTIAL THAT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION BE ISSUED, i.e.

1. Each and every officer who has been appointed to commissioned rank and to each and every enlisted man that has been enlisted or inducted into the service, there has been an oath administered sworn to and signed. BE IT KNOWN: That each and every commission accepted by not or deed carries the following positive agreement: To be sworn to loyalty in every respect in the President of the United States; to the President of the Philippine Commonwealth not to these individuals, but to that office, which in time of whatsoever becomes the Supreme commanders of all Military Forces of whatsoever nature. FURTHER the oath swear obedience to all officers, whomsoever appointed over you, and that likewise does not mean to the individual but to the office he commands, and reads in part: "I swear to obey all officers, appointed over me."

2. Organizations of the Ir-regular Troops, are based upon the orders issued by the U.S. War Department, and the territory is that formerly known as the "District of Southern Luzon". From the first beginning of the Guerrilla Units, when they came under the advice of this Headquarters, SECTORS were assigned, within which organizations would recruit, and definitely instructions given that they would not include any other territory, without prior authority. THIS ORDER IS STILL IN EFFECT.

3. TRANSFER OF OFFICERS OR OF ENLISTED MEN: Can be accomplished by mutual written approval of the organization commanders concerned, endorsed upon the applications of such personnel, if and when approved by this Headquarters and in no other way.

4. Those organizations that have attached themselves by their own agreement, for advice and other stated reasons, are in every respect required to comply with orders, advice and customs of the service. There are at this time, five (5) such organizations of which only "Markings" appear in written orders. Numerous requests have been received, stating that units of this organization have been discontinued, disbanded or no longer functioning. It ordinarily would be a Court Martial offense for any person connected with the Military service to make such a statement. Information comes from not less than three (3) separate distinct sources, that organizations are attempting to ruin the morale of some officers and enlisted men and cause them to sign oath of officers or as enlisted men with other organization. It seems sufficient to remind those concerned, THAT SUCH AN OFFENSE IS CONDUCT TO THE PREJUDICE OF GOOD ORDER AND DISCIPLINE, and that trial and proof is retro-

active; and that the sentence upon conviction is mandatory.

5. There have been no organization of FAIT or those subscribing thereto, that has been discontinued, disbanded or in any way overlooked in the preparatory requirements for Zero Hour.

6. Believing that Organization Commanders or their subordinate commanders and enlisted men have been passing mis-information through errors OF JUDGMENT due to over zealous desires to have as large a following as may be possible, IT SEEMS WELL TO ONCE MORE REMIND ALL UNITS THAT ENLISTMENTS WERE CLOSED MANY MONTHS PAST. (Other than to fill vacancies existing). That no outside Units would be taken into our commands, without the most careful consideration based upon the records, accompanying the request.

7. Again it is necessary that all Commanders be careful not to permit misinformation, without their taking correct actions. "THE TIME IS COMING" and the plans for distribution of all our Troops, are at the present moment in the hands of three (3) General Officers of the USAFFE who have the complete adjustment and assignments from the date they announce as preparation ZERO HOUR. In this respect let it again be positively known and understood, that the undersigned will not be among those considered for Field Command, because of OVER THE AGE LIMIT.

(Sgd) HUGH STRAUGHN
Colonel, U. S. A. 02513
Copies to all organizations FAIT

BE ISSUED

A TRUE COPY:
BONIFACIO S. ARAULLO
Maj. Gen.; FAIT (Gue)

FILIPINO --- AMERICAN IRREGULAR TROOPS JUNE 15th. 1943

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS - MEMORANDUM

THE TIME IS COMING It is more essential at this time than heretofore for each and every officer and enlisted man to be on the alert to secure all the necessary information and data that will be of aid or use to themselves and our reinforcement troops.

Since it seemm inadvisable to place on record, the definitely assigned Units of organization of FAIT and those belonging under the advice of this command, for military secrecy, it is intentional left out and must be considered no slight.

THIS WARNING MEMORANDUM, is to stress the importance of the real need to get closer together, more prompt reports, accuracy, coordination and cooperation. IN FACT WE add as an additional reminder; One for All and All for one. VICTORY.

Clean out the bad feeling, if any. Follow the advise that has been given. Eliminate jealous talk and remember THAT no squibbling must be permatted in official circles. Build for one purpose, make your own and your men's morale the highest possible and spread this throughout your sectors for our loyal citizens. Our aims are one and the same. Our cause is just and the same, therefore give your brothers officers credit for being honest, loyal and efficient, as you wish to be considered your own self. Don't set yourself up as a critic. THERE IS ONLY ONE PERMITTED and he may be replaced by higher command any time. Don't cherish that which belongs to another command. Don't infringe and attempt to make or belittle what your brothers officers have attempted to build. Perhaps your own back yard is still unclean. (Time will tell). If there is any differences, iron them out by a conference, if time permits. If no time, then you must give the other fellow the full considerations, as being just as good as you are and perhaps just a shade better. Don't try to claim those things which are untrue, because there is always a light shining and there are many thousand reports on file, and all of these reports are not talk BUT proof.

Your attention is especially directed to General Orders dated June 14th. 1943.

(Sgd.) HUGH STRAUGHN
Colonel U. S. A. 02515

A TRUE COPY:

BONIFACIO S. ARAULLO
Ma. J. Gen., FAIT (Gue)

GENERAL ORDERS:

I. Let there be no further mistaken ideas;

The above designation is official, of records in the bureaus of the Government of the United State and the Philippine Islands, and will not be changed or altered, other than use of the authorized abbreviations.

2. For the general information; Marking's Guerrillas came into existence through the combination of some forty-five (45) residents of Manila, who took vacation out of Manila, when the Japanese took over control of the City. The leader was chosen by his men and acted as a free lance until the later part of May 1942, When accompanied by eleven men, this leader appeared at my house and made proposition towards the taking over of the direct handling of this Unit, which was becoming larger as days went by. It was agreed THAT I, Hugh Straughn, Colonel U. S. Army, O25I5, would take upon my official responsibility the advising and directions by advice the cementing of this Guerrilla Unit, to come within the scope of a Military organization but remain an Independent Unit under its commander. Thus Marking's Guerrillas became and has so remained under advice of the undersigned, Military Commander, with it definitely made a part of the agreement that he would operate as an independent Field Commander until the arrival of the re-enforcement Troops, when at such time, his identity would be that as was this headquarters. Instructions have frequently been issued to cause this organization to operate within the laws of the United State and the Philippine Island, both military and civil, and thus making it apparently plain that Marking's Guerrillas remained an Independent Unit and the Commander thereof, entirely responsible for all the acts of his personnel and command, That all credit for things accomplished by said organization would go to that Unit, providing that positive reports and records were furnished, in due time of happening and that all commissioned officers appointments or promotions would be signed at this headquarters.

THIS STILL REMAINS WITHOUT CHANGES.

3. The undersigned, Hugh Straughn, left Manila under a special assigned duty on December 4th, 1941 and proceeded to the designation as per letter dated November 16th, 1941. On December 23rd, 1941, a message was received, of a state of War ordered from retirement status to active duty under rank Colonel of Infantry and assigned as Intelligence in the field.

4. FAIT came into existence because of the large number of loyal citizens of the Philippine Island, who desired to be prepared for future service, all believing in the certainty of the redemption of the Philippine Islands. The ordinary citizenry from the commencement of organization, desired name other than Marking's Guerrillas, and thus voted for Filipino-American Irregular Troops, Southern Luzon (Including Manila and all provinces of the Island of Luzon south, as per former W. D. Designation).

Paragraph 5. No unit of FAIT nor Markings Guerrillas, or other units now belonging to and under the advice and direction of this Headquarters have ever been given Police authority nor assigned to control over any section of the Philippine Islands. No officer can honestly have any such mistaken idea. Our units of organization are primarily Military, assigned to specific duties and preparation for the reinforcement Troops AND definitely and fully covered in order from the beginning that they had no civil functions. That the citizen coming into any Military unit, was then definitely under orders and subject to be trained under a regulation for a purposes.

Each Unit, however was given an area, for special work of building an organization and no grant of other powers of any nature.

Unfortunately some organizations have failed to keep their assignments in mind, and are hereby reminded that they will be the Commanders who must answer.

(sgd) HUGH STRAUGHN

Colonel U.S. A. (02515)

A TRUE COPY:

BONIFACIO S. ARAULLO
Maj. Gen. FAIT (Gue)

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND IS NOT TO BE DISCLOSED TO ANY OTHER PERSONS UNLESS SO ORDERED BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER.

ORIGINAL ORDERS:

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: *WDS/30015*

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
Fil-American Irregular Troops
Philippines

AUGUST 15, 1944

SUBJECT: PROCLAMATION
TO : ALL REGIMENTAL COMMANDERS, F.A.I.T.

IN THE COURSE OF AN ANTICIPATED STRUGGLE AGAINST A FOREIGN ENEMY WHO HAS BEEN ENDEAVORING FOR ALMOST THREE YEARS TO ENSLAVE OUR COUNTRY, IT HAS PLEASED GOD TO SEND THESE ISLANDS FURTHER BITTER TRIALS.

INTERNAL TROUBLES HAVE THREATENED TO COMPROMISE THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR, THE DESTINY OF THE PHILIPPINES, THE HONOR OF THE HEROIC AMERICAN-PHILIPINO ARMY, THE HAPPINESS OF HER PEOPLE AND THE WHOLE FUTURE OF OUR BELOVED COUNTRY, DEMANDS THAT AT ALL COST VICTORY MUST BE WON.

THE ENEMY IS MAKING HIS LAST EFFORTS AND THE MOMENT IS NEAR WHEN ALL OUR GALLANT TROOPS FROM THE MOUNTAINS AND ABROAD IN CONCERT WITH THEIR GLORIOUS ALLIES, WILL FINALLY OVERTHROW HIM.

IN THESE DAYS OF CRISIS WE HAVE CONSIDERED THAT OUR NATION NEEDS THE CLOSEST UNION OF ALL ITS FORCES FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF VICTORY. IT HAS BEEN OUR GREATEST MISFORTUNE TO LEARN THAT MOSTLY THROUGH TREACHERY AND BETRAYALS, MOST OF THE MEN WHO HAVE GLADLY TAKEN UPON THEIR SHOULDERS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CARRYING ON THE TASK IN RESPONSE TO THE CALL OF PATRIOTISM IN ORDER THAT THEY MAY CONTINUE THE STRUGGLE FOR OUR GLORIOUS LIBERTY, ARE NOW EITHER BEHIND THE BARS OR MAY HAVE MET DEATH GALLANTLY IN THE PURSUANCE OF THEIR DUTY AND ARE NOW AT REST IN GRAVES UNKNOWN AND UNMARKED, BUT THIS MISFORTUNE SHOULD NOT IN THE LEAST DISMAY US. ON THE CONTRARY, ON THE FACE OF ALL ODD AND EVENTUALITIES, WE SHOULD RESOLVE TO LEAD OUR MEN TO THE FRONT WITH A FIRM DETERMINATION TO FIGHT TO THE LAST MAN.

CONSCIOUS OF THE SACRED DUTY CONFERRED UPON ME BY MAJ. GEN. EDMOND P. ELLSWORTH, COMMANDER OF THE GUERRILLA FORCES OF THE MIDWEST PACIFIC, PHILIPPINES, BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR AN UNKNOWN DESTINATION, I ENJOIN UPON ALL FAITHFUL MEMBERS OF THE FIL-AMERICAN IRREGULAR TROOPS AS WELL AS OTHER GUERRILLA FORCES OF THE WHOLE PHILIPPINES TO FULFILL THEIR SACRED DUTY OF DEFEATING THE ENEMY AND DEFENDING OUR BELOVED PHILIPPINES, AT THIS PAINFUL MOMENT OF NATIONAL TRIAL.

BY VIRTUE OF THE POWER VESTED UPON ME AS LEGITIMATE SUCCESSOR TO MAJ. GEN. E.P. ELLSWORTH, I ACKNOWLEDGE THIS AS THE GREATEST HONOR TO ASSUME COMMAND OF THE GUERRILLA FORCES OF THE MIDWEST PACIFIC, PHILIPPINES EFFECTIVE TODAY AUGUST 15, 1944. IN THIS CAPACITY, I FURTHER ENJOIN ALL MEMBERS OF THE F.A.I.T. TO REFRAIN FOR THE PRESENT IN SEEKING TO KNOW MY PERSONAL IDENTITY NOR TO SEEK ANY PERSONAL INTERVIEWS IN VIEW OF THE STRICT VIGILANCE EXERTED BY THE SPIES OF THE ENEMY UPON ALL ARMY OFFICERS, AND THE OBVIOUS NECESSITY OF MAINTAINING THE UTMOST SECRECY. LET IT SUFFICE THAT FOR THE PRESENT, PLACE ALL YOUR



DECLASSIFIED

Authority: *W.D. Brown*

SUGGESTIONS WITH REFERENCE TO ORDERS, APPOINTMENTS, ETC. DIRECTLY TO THE CHIEF OF STAFF, COL. J.M. BAYS WHO WILL ACT IN MY CAPACITY IN ALL MATTERS REQUIRING IMMEDIATE DECISION. AT THE SAME TIME, I EMPOWER COL. J.M. BAYS TO APPOINT ALL OTHER MEMBERS OF THE STAFF AND ALL THE IMPORTANT BRANCHES OF THE ORGANIZATION IN ORDER TO INSURE ITS SYSTEMATIC FUNCTIONING AND FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE WHOLE ORGANIZATION IN GENERAL.

I HAVE FOUND IT NECESSARY TO TAKE THE ABOVE MENTIONED STEPS WITH A VIEW TO ELIMINATING ALL OR ANY LOOPHOLES AND/OR MISTAKES THAT MAY HAVE BEEN COMMITTED IN THE PAST WHICH HAS RESULTED IN UNFORTUNATE INCIDENTS LEADING TO THE APPREHENSION OF SEVERAL OF OUR RANKING OFFICERS, THE MOST OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF WHICH WAS THE CAPTURE OF COL. HUGH STRAUGHN FORMER COMMANDER OF THE PAIT. ALL THESE HAVE BEEN DUE TO THE DEFECTION OF SOME UNSCRUPULOUS MEMBERS WHO SEEK NO MORE THAN SELF AGGRANDIZEMENT AND MATERIAL ADVANTAGES TO THEMSELVES. IT, THEREFORE, NOT NECESSARY FOR ME TO STRESS THE OBVIOUS FACT THAT WE SHOULD LEARN LESSONS OF THE PAST.

THEREFORE, HAVING ACCEPTED THE SACRED DUTY AND HIGHEST HONOR OF SUCCEEDING MAJ. GEN. E.P. ELLSWORTH IN HIS CAPACITY AS COMMANDER OF THE FIL-AMERICAN IRREGULAR TROOPS, PHILIPPINES, MIDWEST PACIFIC, EFFECTIVE THIS DAY, AUGUST 15, 1944, I SOLEMNLY SWEAR TO DISCHARGE MY DUTIES TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY, SO HELP ME GOD.

(SEAL)

JAMES WHITLOCK JONES, COL., U.S. ARMY
#04754 - COMMANDING R.A.I.T.



true copy
26 May 45

9

DECLASSIFIED

Authority

W085016

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: *WDS/BJB*