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DECLASSIFIED Authority NWD 892038

FILE NO. 189

NAME Custodio's Intelligence

Service USABFE

SIGNATURE

DATE

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File - 189 CUSTODIO'S INTELLIGENCE SERVICE USABFE

DECLASSIFIED Authority MWD 833038

~~CUSTODIAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE USAFFE~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NAME OF UNIT

MELECIO CUSTODIO
UNIT COMMANDING OFFICER

1. Complaints
2. Investigating Officer's Notes
3. Request for Recognition dtd 14 Mar '46
4. NFC ltr w/TLR dtd 24 Mar '47

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REMARKS:



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HEADQUARTERS
PHILIPPINES-RYUKYU COMMAND
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL

GSCFU 091 FI / 494

APD 707

Mr. Melecio Custodio
4 V. Cruz, San Juan
Rizal, P. I.

24 MAR 1947

Dear Mr. Custodio:

The Commanding General has directed that you be informed that the Custodies Intelligence Service USAFFE, purporting to be a guerrilla organization under your nominal control, is not favorably considered for recognition as an element of the Philippine Army.

A set of general requirements for guerrilla recognition, established by General MacArthur during the liberation of the Philippines, has been used as a guide in considering the record of this unit. After careful investigation and full consideration of all substantiating records and testimony of witnesses having pertinent knowledge, recognition of this guerrilla unit is not deemed to be warranted because of reasons mentioned below:

- a. Record of service was not substantiated by sufficient acceptable evidence.
- b. The unit was not maintained satisfactorily in the field in opposition to the enemy.
- c. Activities of the unit did not contribute materially to the eventual defeat of the enemy.
- d. A definite organization was not established.
- e. Adequate records were not maintained (names, ranks, dates of joining, and necessary related information).
- f. Performance of the units did not indicate adequate control by its leader, because of:
 - (1) Desertion of personnel to join other units.
- g. Unit did not show satisfactory continuity of activity and organization.

24 MAR 1947
U.S. ARMY
PHILIPPINE COMMAND

G-3 Comeback copy
19 March 47
CLH/rbh
Tel U 330

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This decision on the proposed unit roster does not preclude submission for casualty recognition by those individuals who are qualified and feel justified in entering such claims. Upon request by interested individuals, appropriate forms will be forwarded.

Your attention is invited to Presidential Executive Order No. 68, Commonwealth of the Philippines, copy of which is attached, for any necessary action in connection therewith.

Sincerely,

1 Incl:
Executive Order No. 68

THOMAS J. BROWN
CWO, USA
ASST ADJ GEN

Col Gerald F Lillard:

1. Custodies Intell Service USAFFE consisting of 14 men, has not been favorably considered. 2 members have previously been recognized with II Corps PQOG.
2. This unit does not fulfill the requirements of the five basic points for recognition. See attached Team Leader's Report.
3. No useful purpose will be accomplished by further investigation of this unit.
4. All worthy members have been recognized and the unit suffered no casualties.

Charles G. Hollwood
Lt CHARLES G. HOLLWOOD
1st Lt., Cavalry

1. Concur: *S.C. Buchanan*
Capt S.C. Buchanan
Chief, Southern Luzon
2. Concur: Maj C.H. Wentzell
Actg Chief, Unit Branch

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Report on Custodies Intelligence Service, USAFFE

1. 1st Lt Charles L Homewood on 8th March 1947, examined the unit file on Custodies Intelligence Service USAFFE under the command of 1st Lt Melecio Custodio.

2. ALLEGED HISTORY: (See attached unit file)

3. FINDINGS:

a. No field investigation was deemed necessary after careful examination of the unit file.

b. Record of service was not substantiated by sufficient acceptable evidence. There are no records other than one roster which is dated 14 March 1946.

c. The unit was not maintained satisfactorily in the field in opposition to the enemy. The unit does not claim any contact with the enemy.

d. Activities of the unit did not contribute materially to the eventual defeat of the enemy. The members of this unit claim to have gathered information on how the Japanese were treating the civilian population, but had no way of relaying their information to the proper authorities.

e. A definite organization was not established. There are no records to show where an organization existed.

f. Adequate records were not maintained, names, ranks, dates of joining and necessary related information. None of the above listed information could be found in the unit file.

g. Performance of the unit did not indicate adequate control by its leaders because of desertion of personnel to join other units. Members listed on the unit roster have been recognized with other units (PQOG).

h. Unit did not show satisfactory continuity of activity and organization. There are no records to show that the unit ever had any activities or organization.

i. No useful purpose will be accomplished by further investigation of this unit. There are no members worthy of recognition and the unit claims no casualties.

4. POLITICAL ASPECTS: This unit does not appear to have any political affiliations or aspirations.

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5. RECOMMENDATIONS: It is recommended that the Custodies Intelligence Service USAFFE be not considered for recognition.

Charles L. Homewood
CHARLES L. HOMEWOOD
1st Lt., Cavalry

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF, MILITARY INTELLIGENCE
USAFPE UNIT, MANILA
CUSTODIO'S INTELLIGENCE SERVICE
M a n i l a

14 March 1946

SUBJECT: Recognition, Request for

TO : CG, Guerilla Affairs Section, AFWESPAC, APO 707

1. Request is respectfully made for the recognition of the CUSTODIO'S INTELLIGENCE SERVICE, a unit of the military intelligence unit, Manila, initiated by Gen. BASILIO J. VALDEZ under the direct command and supervision of the undersigned.

*Read
Invest.*

2. This unit is composed of fourteen (14) members composed of Officers (Regular and Reserve, Phil. Army) and Civilian Operatives, P.A. They are charged with the duties of gathering information on the treatment of Filipino civilians by the Japs during the occupation of Manila and neighboring provinces as well as vital military information.

3. Attached hereto is the history of this unit, consisting of its activities and pertinent papers thereof.

4. The attached unit roster, this service shows that all members are classified as OPERATIVES, their ranks in the Army of the Philippines, notwithstanding.

5. Should this application for recognition meet your favorable approval, members of this unit are available for screening and reorganization to conform with the T/O & E as required.

[Signature]
MELICIO CUSTODIO
1st Lt, Chief, Military
Intelligence, Manila
Asst. to A.C. of S, G-2, P.A.

Read 14 Mar 46

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF, MILITARY INTELLIGENCE
USAFME UNIT, MANILA
CUSTODIO'S INTELLIGENCE SERVICE
M a n i l a

14 March 1946

SUBJECT: History of the CUSTODIO'S INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

TO : CG, Guerilla Affairs Section, AFWESPAC, APO 707

1. On 7 February 1942, Gen. BASILIO J. VALDEZ called me from Bataan to Corregidor with instructions to cross the enemy line and observe the treatment given by the Japanese to the civilian population and the Japanese activities in Manila and neighboring provinces. In the evening of the same day, I took a boat from Corregidor to Carabao Island, then to Cavite Province. I hiked and crossed the mountains of Cavite, arriving in Manila on 10 February 1942. In Manila, I instructed the PA Operatives, who were working under me, to make a complete report about the Japanese treatment of the civilian population and Japs activities in Manila and surrounding provinces.

2. About the middle of February 1942, all my operatives rendered their reports to me, except HIRAM RAMOS, whom I sent to the southern provinces. About the third week of March 1942, he arrived and informed me that he was delayed because he was caught by the Japanese and was required to do force labor in Guinayangan, Tayabas. After rendering his reports to me and reports on hand, I proceeded to Hagonoy, Bulacan to cross Manila Bay for Bataan, but due to the strict surveillance of Jap patrols in Manila Bay and when the banca I hired was spotted by the Japs in the mouth of Hagonoy river, the Japs began to fire their machine guns towards us, so that I made my way back to Manila. The next step I took was to reach Bataan via Cavite but while in the latter province, the Japanese detained and questioned me for six (6) hours at Maragondon, for civilians were then prohibited to cross their line. Afterwards, the Japanese forced me to go back to Manila. From that time on, there was no more means of going to Corregidor.

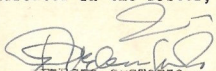
3. When Bataan fell on 9 April 1942, I called on DINDO GONZALES to activate an underground movement composed of operatives with the help of HANS MENSI. It was agreed by us that we would open a sari-sari store to disguise our purpose and mission but due to some loose talk of some of the members, they were apprehended by the Jap Kempei-Tai, which resulted in the confinement of FERNANDO PEREZ; HANS MENSI and HIRAM RAMOS at Fort Santiago. I received information that the Japs ransacked my house in Lucena, Tayabas, searched for me and took my pictures and brought them to Fort Santiago for identification by my subordinates. When the Japs could not apprehend me, they made copies of my pictures and offered a

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reward of five Thousand (₱5,000.00) pesos for my capture, dead or alive.

4. Reports of Operatives, this unit, are made from time to time to the undersigned up to the liberation of manila, compilation of which had been submitted for what they may be worth in connection with collaboration cases to Gen. BASILIO J. VALDEZ. Copies of compiled reports especially on treatment of the Japs of the civilian population, are furnished the CID (Counter Intelligence Corps) of the United States.

5. The members of this unit who are still alive had returned to military control as indicated in the roster, submitted hereto.


ELECCIO CUSTODIO
1st Lt, Chief, Military
Intelligence, Manila
Asst. to A.C. of S, G-2, P.A.

A F F I D A V I T

I, BASILIO J VALDES, of legal age, married, Filipino, a Major General in the Philippine Army, with residence and postal address in the City of Manila, Philippines, upon being duly sworn to in accordance with law depose and say:

That, during the Battle of Bataan, on or about February 7, 1942, I ordered the then Lt. Melecio E. Custodio of the Military Intelligence Service in Bataan to report to me in Corregidor;

THAT, upon reporting to me I instructed him to proceed to Manila incognito, and observe how the Japanese Military Authorities treated the civilian population and also observe important Japanese activities in Manila and hereby provinces;

THAT, in accordance with my instructions, Lt. Custodio proceeded to Manila via Cavite in the evening of 7 February 1942 to perform the confidential mission I required him to do, but due to the tight surveillance of the Japanese Forces of all water routes to Corregidor as well as of all entrances to Bataan, Lt. Custodio was not able to return;

THAT, on March 25, 1945, upon my return to Manila, Lt. Custodio presented himself to me and gave a detailed report of all his observations from the time I send him to Manila up to the liberation of the capital;

THAT, the stay of Lt. Melecio E. Custodio (now Capt. Melecio E Custodio) from February 1942 up to the time of the liberation of the City of Manila was authorized by me as Chief of Staff of the Philippine Army.
Further affiant sayeth not.

SGD BASILIO J VALDES
Major General, Philippine Army

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 14th day of January 1946, in the City of Manila.

SGD/ LUIS S BERNARBE
(Administering Officer)

1st Lieut., JAGS

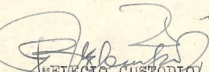
A True Copy:

Satt
SATURNINO A ABES
Administrative Of. G-2

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF, MILITARY INTELLIGENCE
 USAFFE UNIT, Manila
 CUSTODIO'S INTELLIGENCE SERVICE
 M a n i l a

14 March 1946

<u>Name</u>	<u>Army Rank</u>	<u>Date Joined</u>	<u>Present Status & Office</u>
1. MELECIO CUSTODIO	: 1st Lt.(PA)	: 10 Feb. 1942	: Capt. CID, G-2, HPA
2. LEON C. RODRIGUEZ	: 3rd Lt.(PAR)	: 15 February '44	: Sp. Agent, CID? AFWESA C
3. SATURNINO ABES	: 1st Lt.(PAR)	: 22 June 1943	: 1st Lt. CIC, G-2, HPA
4. ALFREDO ANDAL	: Capt.(PAR)	: 30 August 1943	: Capt. Promotion Board, HPA
5. LUIS HIZON	: Civ. Operative(PA)	10 Feb. 1942	Reporter, Civilian
6. DIOSCORO FRANCISCO	: -do-	: -do-	: Press Officer, MPD.
7. GONZALO ALBERTO	: Sgt. (PA)	: -do-	: Sgt. MPC, Hq & Hq
8. ILDEFONSO RONES	: Civ. Operative	: -do-	: Employee, Bu. of Census
9. PEDRO BARTOLOME	: -do-	: -do-	: Civilian - None
10. HIRAM RAMOS	: -do-	: Military Operative	: status unknown
11. HANS MENSF	: 2nd Lt.(PAR)	: 20 April 1942	: Major, MPC, Hq & Hq
12. DINDO GONZALES	: -do-	: -do-	: 1st Lt. PA (Pangasinan)
13. FERNANDO PEREZ	: Civ. Operative	: 10 February 42	: Major, PA (Guerilla)
14. FERNANDO B. NUEVO	: 3rd Lt.(PAR)	: 31 Oct. 1943	: 2nd Lt. CIC, G-2, HPA


 MELECIO CUSTODIO
 1st Lt, Chief, Military
 Intelligence, Manila
 Asst. to A.C. of S, G-2, P.A.

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