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TIRE 284 BANANTA BOLO UNIT



BAWANTA BOLO UNIT

ASTERIO D. SUBALA UNIT COMMANDING OFFICER

1. Complaints

1. Complaines

2. Investigating Officer's Notes

3. REQUEST FOR RECOGNITION - 13 MAR'46 4. NFC LTR - 25 MAY'46

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REMARKS:

CONFIDENTIAL



HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES WESTERN PACIFIC
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL

veme.

2d-Mr. Asterio D. Subala Bawanta, Luzon, P. I. 1700

2 5 MAY 1948

Dear Mr. Subala:

The Bawanta Bolo Unit, purporting to be a guerrilla organization under your nominal control, has not been 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 available 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. The unit was not maintained satisfactorily in the field in opposition to the enemy, during the occupation.

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

c. Unit did not show satisfactory continuity of activity and organization.

d. Many members apparently lived at home, supporting their families by means of farming or other civilian pursuits, and assisted the guerrilla unit on a part time basis only.

 Record of service was not established by sufficient acceptable evidence.

It is requested that you comply with the provisions of Executive Order No. 66, by the President of the Philippines, dated 26 September 1945, copy attached.

Sincerely yours,

W. P. MOORE Lt. Col., AGD Ass't Adj Gen

1 Incl: Executive OrderNo. 68.



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Lt. Col. H. L. Shaftoe:

The "Bawanta Bolo Unit," "A" Co, 121st Inf, was not favorably considered for recognition. The unit submitted a roster of 6 officers and 75 enlisted men.

2. BASIS FOR NON-RECOGNITION:

a. The following is a remark of Gol Fertig, Commanding Officer 10th Military District, USFIP, stating "recommend unfavorably due to the fact that subject unit was just a reserve from where replacements were drawn. Hen drawn and called to active service were paid for their service as soldiers but not as voluntary helpers."

The unit did not have men working on a full time basis.
 The unit had no weapons nor ammunition.

d. The men in the unit acted as reserve only.

e. The unit never functioned as a fighting combat unit either before or after the arrival of the Americans.

Camp Spencer, La Union 31 August 1946

SUBJECT: Bolo Units, North Luzon

TO : Commanding General, AFWESPAC, APO 707
(Attn: Guerrilla Affairs Division)

- 1. In order to clarify the many claims and questions concerning Bolo Units in North Luzon, I wish to enumerate the following:
 - a. These units were organized throughout North Luzon primarily for the purpose of labor.
 - b. They were organized on a voluntary bases without any promise for future remuneration.
 - c. These units rendered excellent service such as: unloading Submarines, cargadoring supplies and equipment, demolition work, and in some cases actual combat.
 - d. Many of these units sustained casualties.
- 2. After 9 January 1945, when USAFIP, ML was authorized to hire civilian laborers, the members of these units were given first priority in order to give them an opportunity to earn.

R W VOLCKMANN Colonel, Inf. AUS

HEADQUARTERS

ED STATES ARMY FORCES WESTERN PACIFIC
OPPTICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL

784

20/- Mr. Asterio D. Subala Bawanta, Luzon, P. I. APO 707 25MAY 1946

Dear Mr. Subala:

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- a. The unit was not maintained satisfactorily in the field in opposition to the enemy, during the occupation.
- b. Activities of the unit did not contribute materially to the eventual defeat of the enemy.
- c. Unit did not show satisfactory continuity of activity and organization.
- d. Many members apparently lived at home, supporting their families by means of farming or other civilian pursuits, and assisted the guerrilla unit on a part time basis only.
- e. Record of service was not established by sufficient acceptable evidence.
- It is requested that you comply with the provisions of Executive Order No. 68, by the President of the Philippines, dated 26 September 1945, copy attached.

W. P. MOORE Lt. Col., AGD Ass't Adj Gen

1 Incl: Executive Order No. 68.

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Authority NND 883078

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MALACANAN PALACE

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PUILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE CROER NO. 63

DEMOBILIZATION OF PLANENTS OF THE PHILIPPINE ARMY AND OTHER CUMPS IN UNITS IN THE PERID

WHYPPAS, the Commonwealth Government has been advised by the Commander-in-Whici, United States Arry Finces, Facility, of the termination of heatilities and the surrences of Journess Forces;

wHERMAS, the Government has further been advised by the Commander-in-Chief, United States Army Peaces, Facific, that this termimition of hostilities and surperder of the Universe forces has rendered unnecessary the maintenance for further field service of elements of the Army of the Philippinos in addition to regularly activated units and of those guarrilla units already recognized;

WHEREAS, continued assembly and maintenance of headquarters is not a prerequisite to recognition of guerrilla units; and

WHERE'S, the demobilization of guerrilla units in the field will not projudice the continuance of recognition of such guerrilla units as can produce evidence showing that they have maintained organized military forces in the field in effective opposition to the Jananese, which will be the basis for award of such benefits as may be authorized to members of such units:

NOW, THPRETORP, I, STRGIO OSMENA, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vosted in me by the Constitution and laws of the Philippines, do hereby order:

- 1. That all unrecognized guerrilla units be dishended and that all members thereo' return to their homes and engage in their normal civilian pursuits.
- 2. That all arms, armunitions, and military supplies and equipment in the possession of unrecognized guerrilla units or of individual members of such units be immediately turned in to the Commander of the nearest unit of the United States /rmy or of the Army of the Philippines.

E.O. No. 68 P. 1 3. That all records of urrecognised generalia units disbended is conferrity because it, insertion with any request for recognition and orderes is suremel of rush request. So securided and turned is no two because of the bridge of the Bridge States large or of the face of the Philippines for forwarding to Headquarkure, "Philippine army.

Done at the Gity of Warrie, this 26th day of Soptomber, in the year of Our Ford, whenever hundred and Porty-dive, and of the Commonwealth of the Priliprisa, No. teruh.

> (SOU) SERGIC OSERNA Prosident of the Philippines

By the Prosident:

(SCD.) JOSE S. REYES Secretary to the President

R.O. No. 68

/vld

G-3, PHILIPPINE AREY DIVISION .. GUERRILLA AFFAIRS BRANCH

Approval -Remark & Recomm

Information

:

Necessary Action

Note & Remark Signature

9. Draft Memorandum 10.

Indorsement 77. 12.

Letter Carrier Note

Add1 Copies



BASIC: Ltr fr HPM, (Ord Serv) dtd 13 Mar 46, Subj: Request for Recognition of Guerrilla Unit

1st Ind

/gb

HQ, USAFIP AREA COMMAND, Camp Spencer, APO 70 23 March 1946

TO: CG, AFWESPAC, APO 707

Recommend unfavorably due to the fact that subject organization was just a reserve from where replacements were drawn. Men drawn and called to active service were paid for their services as soldiers but not as voluntary helpers.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

PEDRO J NUVAL 1st Lt, Inf, PA Adjutant General

Incls:



BASIC: Litr IT HFA, (Ord Serv) did 13 Mer 46, Subj: Request

BoT for

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HQ, USAFIP AREA COMMAND, Camp Spencer, APO 70 23 March 1946

TO: CG. APPENSPAC, APO 707

Recommend unfavorably due to the feet that subject organization was just a recove from where replacements were drawn, then drawn and called to active savice were paid for their services as soldiers but not as voluntary before the services as soldiers but not as voluntary

OR THE COMMANDING OFFICERS

PETRO J MUVAL lat Lt, Inf, PA

Incles



Authority MND 883078

COLMONICALIN OF THE PHILIPPINES ARMY HEADQUARTERS OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ORDINARCE SERVICE

13 March 1946

SUBJECT: Request for Recognition of Guerrilla Unit

TO: The Commanding General, AFWESPAC, APO 707 Attention: Guerrilla Affairs Branch, PA Division, G-3 Section

1. Request recognition of the "BAWARTA BOLO UNIT" (Guerrilla) which was organized on 27 September 1944 at Bauang, La Union under orders from Reimental Headquarters, 121st Infantry, USAFIP, NORTHERM LUZON.

2. The Bawanta Bolo Unit was a reserve of "A" Co., 1st En., 121st Inf. It had performed the following activities in conjuction with other guerrilla units; (a) delivering military messages, (b) carrying of food and ammunition supplies, (c) doing guard and patrol duties, (d) gathering intelligence information about the enemy and (e) helping in the demolition of bridges.

3. The above bolo unit was intended as a compat company, but had not had the chance to be provided with arms. So it had only functioned as a service company. It is, however, stated that its members had been exposed to many dangers and experienced hardships like other guerrilla units.

4. Attached are pertinent papers; Roster of Troops, and History of its Organization and Activities.

There of Subala 2nd Lieut, OS

ACTIVITIES OF THE "BAWANTA BOLO UNIT"
Reserve of "A" Co., 1st En., 121st Infantry
USAFIP? NORTHERN LUZON

(27 September 1944 to 8 June '45)

Organization and Objectives:

The bombing of Port Poro, San Fernando La Union by more than one-hundred American planes on 22 September 1944 marked the beginning of the liberation of the northern provinces of Luzon. It has announced to the populace the proximity of the American troops whose coming was so eagerly awaited for. There was excitement everywhere. The guerrillas became more active, while the Japs adopted measures to counteract guerrilla activities. Innocent Filipinos, especially males, who were suspected as guerrillas or to have any affiliation with resistance movements were arrested and tortured the Japs reached the height of their cruelty. People from the towns had to evacuate to the mountains so as to escape the Jap attractives.

Around the month of September, 1944 there was an expected shipment of assumitions and weapons somewhere along the coast of the Elocas provinces. It was decided by the lelst Infantry, (Guarr) USAFIP, NORTHERN LUZON to have men ready at any time to carry these weapons and assumitions as soon as they arrived. It has also planned that enough men should be ready to handle and operate the arms without much delay in training. The lelst Infantry had therefore ordered the organization of bolo units as reserve companies with USAFFE men as instructors. In compliance with orders that emanated from Regimental headquarters, I organized the "BawATMA BOLO UNIT" on 27 September 1944 from the able-bodied males of barrio Bawanta and neighboring barrios at Bawang, La Union. My "bolo unit" was a reserve of "A" Co., 1st Bn., lelst Infantry.

Other objectives for which the "Bawanta Bolo Unit" was organized were to fill up vacancies and provide replacements for the 121st Infantry; to gather information about the Japs as to their positions, strenght, arms, and their probable direction of movement; to provide protection and security for the guerrillas as well as the civilians; to deliver military messages; to provide labor when needed; and to secure information of any pro-Jap spies at that time to be reported to Regimental Headquarters.

Training:

The first two months, 27 September 1944 to 30 November 1944, after the organization of the "Bawanta Bolo Unit" were devoted principally for the military training of the men. The instructors were the undersigned, a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy; Abraham Dumo who completed two years in College Reserve Officers Training Course; and Gregorio Mazon who finished military instructions in High School. For our references, we used the following; New Infantry Drill Regulations Field Manual, and Tactics and Techniques of Infantry, Vol. I Basic.

Theoretical and practical instructions were given in the following; Close and Extended Order Drill, Interior Gaard Duty, Scoating and Patrolling, Aiming and Sighting, Masketry, Bayonet training, and the Principles of Combat. Lectures an military courtesy and on the Articles of War were also given.

While some were receiving instructions, others bolo men in my unit were posted at places where the approach of Jap patrols would be seen so that the guerrillas would be warned at the proper time. Guarding was done twenty+four hours a day. At night time guards were increased and details were sent out for patrol duty. In case of the approach of Japs the civilians were also warned to give them time to hide their rice, chickens, pigs, etc. so as to prevent such from being taken by the Japs.

Activities from 1December 1944 to 8 June 1945:

The main activity of the Bawanta Bolo Unit during this period was the carrying of food and ammunition supplies to the Headquarters of the 121st Infantry which was located in Mountain Frovince. During this period the Japs were very busy doing patrol work and this necessited the freguent transfer of headquarters. Consequently, bolo men were very much wanted to provide labor.

On the eve of 24 December 1944 at about 2300 hours, Jap patrols in the guise of civilians surprized my guards at our guard-house at Bawanta resulting to the death of Private Saturnino Floresca who was one of the guards at that time and the arrest of some civilians who were with him. Two days later the Japs returned fully armed and reinforced and killed Pvt. Teofilo Pangan. The Japs also burned all the houses in the whole barrio of Bawanta. The inhabitants being homeless evacuated further inward to the mountains. I changed the location of my headquarters.

In early January, 1945 the Jap soldiers were jittery since they were busy moving from place to place. It was later discovered that the cause of this Jap action was the successful landing of American troops at Lingayen Gulf. I kept myself busy sending out details to gather intelligence information about the enemy as to their strength and disposition. On 31 January 1945 Lt. Abraham Dumo while leading a patrol at night in the town of Banang, La Union was shot to death by unidentified persons. It was believed that Lt. Dumo was killed by pro-Japanese spies.

In February 1945 there was a heavy fighting between the guerrillas and Japs east of San Fernando, La Union and the Bawanta Bolo members helped in delaying enemy movements by participating in the demolition of bridges. They also continued delivering important military messages *Ma and the risky job of carrying of ammunition and food supplies across Japs lines kept on. Continuous gathering of information about the enemy was performed. This information was reshed to generilla headquarters.

In March 1945 more and more Japs arrived at Bauang La Union and it became very difficult to continue our job of delivering military messages and carrying of food and ammunitions supplies. About the end of the month we were entirely separated from "A" Co. 1st Bn, 121st Infantry, My unit having no chance to be provided with arms, we stayed at the seashore at Pudoc, Bauang, La Union and waited for orders. In early April, 1945 my bolo men were again called to perform their usual work of carrying ammunition and other supplies. In May 1945 practically our services were not needed anymore and we stayed at Bauang, La Union waiting and hoping that our unit would be recognized as a part of the 121st Infantry, USAFIP, NORTH) ERN LUZON.

The Bawanta Bolo Unit although it did not have a chance to display an armed combat with the enemy, it had greatly heaped and contributed to the successful operations of the units it has served. It has been exposed to as many dangers as other units in the field since its field of operation was the front line.

ASTERIO D SUBALA Commanding Officer "Bawanta Bolo Unit"

I hereby certify that this report on the activities of the "Bawanta Bolo Unit" is true and correct.

2nd Lieut.,OS

"BAWANTA BOLO UNIT"
Reserve of
"A" Company, 1st En, 121st Infantry
USAFTP NORTHERN LUZON

ROSTER

OFFICERS

2.	CAPT SUBALA, 1ST LT DUMO, 2D LT BORJA, 2D LT HIPOL,	ABRAHAM VICENTE PABLO	-	Commanding Executive	31 J	ın 45)
5.	2D LT MAZON,	GREGORIO				

ENLISTED MEN

	SERGEANTS

6. 2D LT MAZON, ROMEO

1.	Abuan, Santos	6.	Mazon, Pedro - 1st Sg
2.	Dumo, Jesus	7.	Mazon, Teofilo
3.	Dumo, Zacarias	8.	Pulido, Avelino
4.	Elido, Buenafe	9.	Rimando, Jaime
5.	Mabalo, Patricio	10.	Subang, Mauricio

11. Subang, Pablo

1. Balagot, Do 2. Baladad, Ru 3. Caluza, Alf 4. Caluza, Lau 5. Corpuz, Lau	fino redo ro	7. 8. 9.	Corpuz, Lorenzo Dunpit, Jaime Duno, Victorino Mabalo, Ramon Mazon, Teodorico
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PRIVATES Abad. Pablo

1.	Abad, Pablo	28.	Dumpit, Telesforo	
	Aban, Bernardo		Dumpit, Tomas	
3.	Ancheta, Isidro	30.	Estigoy, Apolinario	
4.	Ancheta, Victorio	31.	Ferrer, Antonio	
5.	Baladad, Honofre	32.	Floresca, Maximino	
6.	Baladad, Patricio	33 .	Floresca, Saturnino	(Killed by
7.	Balagot, Dominador, 1st	340.	Hipol, Bernardo	Japs 25Deck
8.	Balagot, Mariano	35.	Hipol, Buenaventura	
9:	Bambao, Epifanio	36.	Hipol, Jose	
10	Cadano, Alvaro	37.	Juganas, Deogracias	
11.	Cadano, Benjamin	38.	Mabalo, Federico	
12.	Corpuz, Alejandro	39.	Madayag, Mauro	
13.	Corpuz, Francisco	40.	Madayag, Silvestre	
14.	Corpuz, Hilario	41.	Munar, Esteban	

 22. Dasalla, Vinancio
 49. Sibayan, Felix

 23. Dumo, Anastacio
 50. Subang, Monico

 24. Dumo, Crisogono
 51. Subang, Fedro (Died of sickness

 25. Dumo, Felipe
 52. Subala, Alajandro
 10 Oct 1,5)

 24. Dumo, Generoso
 53. Subala, Esteban

 27. Dumo, Santiago
 54. Subala, Juna

I certify that this roster of the "Bawanta Bolo Unit", Reserve, "A" Co, 1st Bn, 121st Inf, USAFIF ML is true and correct.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 883078

ASTERIO D. SUBALA 2d Lieut., OS (PA)





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