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GUERRILLA

RESISTANCE

MOVEMENT IN THE BICOL  
AREA, 1944

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THE GUERRILLA RESISTANCE MOVEMENT IN THE BICOL AREA

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THE GUERRILLA RESISTANCE MOVEMENT IN THE BICOL AREA  
7 November 1944

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY:

Covering the narrow peninsula that extends from southeast Luzon are the four Bicol provinces of Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, Albay and Sorsogon. The mountainous interior and marshy coast of the peninsula have never afforded great opportunity for industrialization, and its 1.2 million inhabitants generally live on the land, with some engaged in mining and lumbering. Legaspi, Albay, with a population of 40,000, is the largest city and the most important port.

On 12 December 1941, the Japanese landed at Legaspi as the starting point for their southern prong which was to push northward and join forces with those landed along Lamon Bay.

After some ineffectual resistance, most of the loyal public officials and Constabulary took to the hills. Wandering remnants of escaped and unsurrendered USAFFE soldiers and loyal civilians began to organize guerrilla units, each dominating certain areas within the provinces. While the larger units that emerged were typically committed to de facto preservation of law and order in their areas, several small units donned the guise of loyal guerrillas for purposes of banditry and forced tribute from civilians.

For a time active guerrilla resistance caused the Japanese considerable trouble; but gradually lack of funds and supplies hampered their activities. Smaller units dissolved or merged with more powerful groups and all units became principally concerned with the state of their own power and prestige. Intelligence received from the units in this area has generally been inferior to that received from other areas. These guerrillas will be of little assistance to friendly invading forces.

The Bicol resistance movement remains one of the most confused and least productive of any area in the Philippines. Fighting between units over matters of area command almost exceeds any fighting against the Japanese. The leaders have frequently asked for an appointed outside commander, knowing their own shortcomings and desiring to contribute something more concrete to their country, but no action has been taken to coordinate these units.

The principal local aspirants for command of the 5th Military District of which the Bicol is a large part, and for GHQ recognition are Lt. Col. ZABAT of Albay, Major LAPUS and Governor ESCUDERO of Sorsogon. All these have contacted at one time or another most of the units in the Bicol. The resultant picture is thus interlocked and distorted by shifting loyalties of the minor group leaders.

SUMMARY

Camarines Norte: The province is dominated by Major BOAYES and his "VINSONS Travelling Guerrillas". BOAYES is now accepting the command of ZABAT in Albay and it is estimated that this unit consists of 350-400 armed men. Another unit under a Col. MATA seems to exist in the northern part of the province. MATA's strength may be 75-100.

Camarines Sur: This province is principally controlled by three leaders: Major MIRANDA, Major PADUA and Capt. DIANELA. Small units belonging to Major SANDICO and Col. ZABAT are also probably in the

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province. MIRANDA is allied with LAFUS of Sorsogon and has a force of possibly 300 armed men in the Libmanan Vicinity. Major PADUA is in the San Miguel Bay area with an estimated 350 armed men; he claims a roster strength of 2000. PADUA accepts ZABAT's command. Capt. DIANELA is in the Caramoan-Catanduanes area with 150 men or more, armament not indicated. He is said to be connected with ZABAT and is known to have cooperated in several ventures with BOAYES and both have been at odds with MIRANDA.

Albay: This province is split between five groups with areas of operation overlapping with Sorsogon units. Col. ZABAT is probably the strongest, with an estimated 800-1000 men directly under him. Col. ZABAT claims several groups affiliated with his command in the Bicol area. His claims of being CO, 5th MD, and his methods of operation have aroused considerable animosity in other leaders of the district.

FLOR is said to be in the peninsula area of northeast Albay with some 50 men and cooperates with LAFUS. Faustino FLOR's brother may also be in the same area. In the Jovellar vicinity of southern Albay is the Bagong Katipunan under "General" OROBIA with about 200 men. Capt. TACERUA is on Burias Island with a small unit about which little is known.

Sorsogon: The picture in this province is highly colored by the LAFUS-ESCUADERO dispute. ESCUDERO controls most of the province and may be the more powerful of the two. He has been accused of nepotism in his extra-legal civil administration and is strongly influenced by several strong-willed assistants who have effectively prevented cooperation with other units. The strength of the command is estimated to be about 1500, partially armed.

As of August LAFUS is said to have controlled about 1500 poorly armed men. In October, he reported his organization embraced 2600 men, but this is believed exaggerated. His activities appear to extend over southwest Albay and the western coast of Sorsogon and part of Ticao Island.

## II. THE DEVELOPMENT OF GUERRILLA UNITS OF THE BICOL PROVINCES:

### Camarines Norte Province:

Gov. W. Q. VINSONS Travelling Guerrillas: The first guerrilla unit to be formed in the Bicol region was organized 18 December 1941 in Camarines Norte by Lt. Wenceslao Q. VINSONS, former governor of the province. Led by VINSONS' assistant, Sgt. Francisco (Turko) BOAYES, this force of about 100 armed men raided Japanese garrisons throughout January-July 1942, their most notable exploit being a three-day assault on the provincial capital of Daet, 30 April 1942, which resulted in the temporary capture of the town with severe losses to the Japanese defenders. BOAYES appears to be a rough fearless gang leader and is one of the best known anti-Japanese fighters in the Bicol; probably undisciplined.

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Increased pressure from the Japanese forced the unit to withdraw to Camp Abasig where it was practically disbanded. Supposedly trusted men of the group betrayed the position of the camp and on 8 July 1942, Lt. VINSONS was captured and it has since been reported he was executed by the Japanese.

With the capture of VINSONS many of the group surrendered but BOAYES recovered some of the arms and, together with some loyal followers, formed "The Hon. W. Q. VINSONS Travelling Guerrillas of the Philippines". BOAYES was elected CO of the unit and designated "Lieutenant" by his men.

Late in July 1942, BOAYES was contacted by Captain Juan MIRANDA of Camarines Sur and agreed to join forces with MIRANDA and aid him in eliminating the Japs from that province. The ensuing raids upon enemy garrisons caused the Japanese to increase their forces in that province. Increased enemy pressure, combined with food supply difficulties, caused BOAYES to return to Camarines Norte in December 1942.

In late January 1943, BOAYES was asked by MIRANDA to return to Camarines Sur. BOAYES went, and while in Camarines Sur, aided the unit of Captain DIANELA of Camp Tinawagan in capturing Caramoan, 30 January 1943. In June 1943, differences developed between MIRANDA and BOAYES. MIRANDA accused BOAYES of plotting to depose him and take over his unit. According to BOAYES, MIRANDA killed two of his men. MIRANDA fled to Catanduanes and BOAYES, with half of his unit and part of DIANELA's, left for Catanduanes in pursuit. After BOAYES' return he participated in several joint actions against the enemy with the unit of Captain PADUA in the peninsular area of southeast Camarines Sur. By this time BOAYES had assumed the rank of Captain and claimed his unit now comprised some 200 men.

In August 1943, Captain ZABAT, an Albay guerrilla leader seeking recognition as CO of the 5th MD, secured a signed certificate from BOAYES and Major SANDICO, another Albay leader, by which they agreed to join forces with ZABAT. BOAYES, in return for his alliance, was to be CO of a regiment. ZABAT seems then to have dispatched BOAYES and PADUA in force to compel rival forces in Sorsogon to join the Zabat command.

BOAYES has been charged with committing several atrocities in Camarines Norte. However, it appears that he devoted most of his activities to fighting the Japs rather than seeking power in the 5th MD. The loyalty and respect of his men for BOAYES seems to have been solid and there is much testimony to the fighting ability of his unit.

In July 1944, Capt. Russell BARRIOS (Bicol representative of Major ANDERSON, guerrilla leader in Tayabas) reported a rumor that BOAYES had been killed and PADUA captured. However, an August 1944 report stated that BOAYES was still leading a group of 400 men in Camarines Norte.

MATA's Guerrillas: Little is known of this unit except that it has been operating in Camarines Norte, Tayabas and Camarines Sur with a Colonel MATA in command. In August 1944, MATA sent Lt. Ricardo REYES, his executive officer, to confer with ANDERSON with regard to joining ANDERSON's command. ANDERSON advised the unit to remain independent. The unit may have some affiliation with the MARKING Guerrillas in Central Luzon.

Camarines Sur Province:

Camp Isarog Guerrillas: This unit was organized in late December 1941 by Councilor Teofilo B. PADUA in the town of Goa, Camarines Sur. It grew rapidly and moved to larger quarters at Anawan, Pili, Camarines Sur. Here they united in March 1942 with the forces of Captain Faustino FLOR, of Carolina, Naga, Camarines Sur. FLOR, previously an EM in the Philippine Constabulary, was made CO of the group and this camp became known as Camp Isarog.



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At Camp Isarog the successful combined guerrilla attack of 2 May 1942 on the Jap occupied town of Naga was planned. Some thirty Americans and other prisoners who were about to be executed by the Japs were freed. Several more combined attacks upon the Japs were made during the month.

On 24 May 1942, Captain FLOR with several of his officers was persuaded by General FRANCISCO, then Commander of the puppet Bureau of Constabulary, to surrender. PADUA took over command of the unit and combined with the T.M.B.F. (Tagbon, Mausalay, Balaynan Federation) led by Lieuts CARO and OLINQUO. Camp Isarog II was organized with PADUA as Captain. Together with his brother Lorenzo who served as his executive officer, PADUA fought minor skirmishes with the Japanese in the vicinity of Naga. In several instances they cooperated with the MIRANDA unit from central Camarines Sur, and one engagement in combination with DIANELA's Camp Tinawagan unit and VINSONS' force. The unit does not appear to have been very active against the Japanese recently.

About July 1943, ZABAT from Albay started to persuade PADUA to join his command. Lt. AUREUS of MIRANDA's unit sent ZABAT a roster of the PADUA Guerrillas and stated that he and PADUA had agreed on areas of control, PADUA to cover the Partido District of Camarines Sur, including Calabang, Tinambac and Siruma, with three companies and AUREUS with two companies near Libmanan. Apparently the unification was effected and PADUA signed an agreement endorsing ZABAT as Colonel in command. There is evidence that this relationship still held as late as May 1944 but AUREUS had dropped out.

In August 1943, PADUA claimed he had four companies in training with but 40 arms; in early 1944 he submitted to the 6th MD an undated roster signing himself as Major T. B. PADUA, CO of the 53rd Regiment, 51st (ZABAT) Division, comprising over 2000 men. This figure probably includes reserves, with actual fighting strength nearer to 350 men. In July 1944, an unverified rumor was reported that the PADUA brothers had been captured.

A few months after Capt. FLOR surrendered, he broke his amnesty agreement and returned to the hills and formed a new unit, independent of PADUA. Initially he worked with his brother, Julian, but soon differences of opinion caused a split. ZABAT attempted to contact Faustino FLOR in late 1943 suggesting an area of control for him embracing Malilipot, Bacacay and Libog in Albay Province. FLOR declined to deal with ZABAT and instead considered a proposal of Major LAPUS of Sorsogon to join his unit. He has since been accused by ZABAT of being a spy in Japanese pay.

Nothing further is known of FLOR's activities except that as late as July 1944 he was believed to be operating somewhere between Camarines Sur and Albay with perhaps fifty men.

MIRANDA Unit: Before the Japanese occupation, Juan Q. MIRANDA was finance sergeant, PA, at Regan Barracks, Legaspi. In early 1942, MIRANDA organized a guerrilla unit which began its activities in the vicinity of Libmanan, Camarines Sur. A few months later MIRANDA absorbed a small unit under the AUREUS brothers in the same district and appointed Lt. Leon Sa AUREUS as his second in command.

In July 1942, MIRANDA contacted Captain BOAYES of VINSONS Guerrillas and arranged to join forces to resist the Japanese in Libmanan vicinity. Their joint action lasted until December 1942 and later from January to June 1943. Strained relationships developed between the two leaders which finally led to an outward rupture in June 1943. MIRANDA fled with some of his men to Catanduanes Island with a unit of BOAYES in pursuit. Apparently some of MIRANDA's men had remained behind at the

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time of his flight and Lt. Sa AUREUS assumed acting command of this remnant. In July 1943, AUREUS placed his command under that of ZABAT.

Towards the end of 1943, MIRANDA returned to Camarines Sur and seems to have resumed command of the unit with AUREUS, and reinstated AUREUS second in command. As far back as February 1943, Major LAPUS of Sorsogon had been attempting to persuade MIRANDA to link with him, though MIRANDA's response had been only luke-warm. AUREUS had been dealing with ZABAT, and MIRANDA probably because of his hatred for BOAYES who had joined ZABAT's command, changed AUREUS' policy abruptly upon his return and signed an agreement with Major LAPUS in January 1944. In June 1944, it appears that the agreement between LAPUS and MIRANDA still hold with the latter maintaining his unit at Camp Tanciong Vaca in Camarines Sur.

The strength of the MIRANDA unit was reported to have been about 300 armed men in August 1944, and has often been referred to as the "55th Regiment". MIRANDA's unit was designated part of LAPUS' 54th Regiment and then later abrogated his agreement with SANDICO. It is believed that their activity is confined to northeast Camarines Sur and limited to harassing the enemy. Only a small amount of intelligence data has been received from the unit.

Camp Tinawagan Guerrillas: This unit was formed in the vicinity of Caramoan, Camarines Sur in March 1942 by Dinasco O. DIANELA, 1st Lt. R. F. PABICO and several escaped USAFFE officers. DIANELA who claims to have been serving (unstated capacity) with the U.S. Army, adopted the rank of Captain and assumed command.

In May 1942, the unit sent 65 men to participate in the assault on Naga with other units previously mentioned. In June 1942, the Japanese sent increased forces to Caramoan to wipe out the guerrillas there. To avoid destruction of the town by the Japanese, and perhaps annihilation of themselves, the unit made arrangements with the Japs to "lie low" and the Japanese retired leaving only a platoon to garrison the town.

In November 1942, DIANELA charged the Japanese with violation of the agreement by unwarranted arrests and abuses of civilians, and again initiated attacks upon the enemy garrison. Sporadic action continued until the end of January 1943 when the Japanese decided to temporarily quit the town. During this time some arms had been received from Captains PADUA and FLOR. In late February 1943, BOAYES' unit arrived and remained several months in expectation of another enemy penetration.

In July 1943, while part of DIANELA's and BOAYES' units were chasing MIRANDA on Catanduanes, the Japanese attacked the Caramoan vicinity in some force. Fighting broke out in all the area but with the aid of a unit rushed in by Captain PADUA, many casualties were inflicted upon the Japanese, with minor losses to the guerrillas. The Japanese withdrew after killing civilians and burning down many barriers in the area.

Albay Province:

Major SANDICO's Guerrillas: Prior to the outbreak of the war with Japan, Major Francisco SANDICO was Provincial Inspector of Albay and the senior constabulary officer in the Bicol. At the time of the Japanese landing at Legaspi he went into hiding with several men and two of his subordinates, Captain D. J. CAMUA, CO of the Albay PC Company, and Capt. J. MERCADO, Assistant Provincial Inspector, who later became members of his guerrilla unit.

In March 1942, SANDICO emerged from hiding with a unit organized mostly from remnants of former USAFFE regiments in the area and was rumored to be connected with Colonel STRAUGHN's Fil-American-Irregular Troops of central Luzon. Up to early 1943, it is believed that SANDICO engaged Japanese patrols frequently with Major LAPUS of Sorsogon.

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In August 1943, Montano ZABAT who had ambitions for recognition as CO of the Bicol, contacted SANDICO with a proposal to combine their units. SANDICO refused. One month later SANDICO was approached by LAPUS, also ambitious for the post of CO, 5th MD, and purportedly acting under instructions from Panay to effect a unification of the Bicol.

LAPUS proposed that SANDICO take the post of Military Governor of the Bicol provinces and he, LAPUS, command his own 54th Regiment and SANDICO's unit, to be redesignated the 55th Regiment. SANDICO refused on grounds that the absence of martial law in the Philippines prevented his taking such a post. LAPUS thereupon offered to fuse his regiment with SANDICO's to form a 52nd Division with SANDICO as CO and LAPUS as Executive Officer. SANDICO agreed to this plan. The links of this association never became very strong, however; soon trouble developed and LAPUS left the command.

SANDICO with his aides later requested a meeting with ZABAT regarding unification. At the conferences at ZABAT's camp, SANDICO claimed he and guerrilla chiefs, LELIS and CAPIYAS, were surrounded and forced to sign a certificate submitting themselves to ZABAT's command. SANDICO himself had ambitions for recognition by GHQ and felt that with the aid of the 6th MD he could effect this and refused to acknowledge the validity of ZABAT's command over him.

SANDICO seems to lack forthrightness and decision. He has apparently not felt strong enough to break off the association with LAPUS entirely. On the other hand his actions have not shown the almost unscrupulous aggressiveness exhibited by other guerrilla leaders anxious to be recognized as CO of the 5th MD. Both his desire for unification and his expressed willingness to subordinate himself to a GHQ accredited commander appear sincere.

So far as is known, SANDICO is still operating a "55th Regiment" in Albay and on the southwest coast of Camarines Sur with perhaps four hundred men.

Bagong Katipunan (Loyal Brotherhood) Unit: This unit is headed by Gerardo P. OROBLA, a 27 year old former itinerant artist. At the outbreak of war OROBLA with his three brothers fled from Legaspi to Camalig and organized the Bagong Katipunan, or Loyal Brotherhood and later expanded to the barrios of Guinobatan vicinity, Jovellar, Ligao and Matara. OROBLA claims that barrio lieutenants and officers in Albay recognized his power. He also claims to have aided Major SANDICO, Captains MERCADO and CAMUA of the Provincial Constabulary of Albay.

About May 1942, his men kidnapped and executed the pro-Jap puppet mayor of the town of Oas and strong Japanese forces sent out against him forced him to retire to the Jovellar branch camp. There they were betrayed by pro-Jap Filipinos and moved back to Quinogatan, but were again raided in August 1942. After several temporary encampments they settled at Floresta near Jovellar and joined forces with a small unit headed by Leon MONTILLA former mayor of Jovellar. A conference was also held with Major SANDICO and a cooperative understanding was reached. Major LAPUS states that at a conference held in August 1943 in SANDICO's camp, OROBLA was present and agreed to join him. There is no other information concerning this agreement.

In July 1944, the OROBLA unit was thought to be still operating around Floresta. It is likely that the unit is comprised of from 150 to 200 guerrilla fighters, armed only with bolos, bows and arrows.

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Colonel M. M. ZABAT Guerrilla Unit: The Camp Balintawak guerrilla group of Albay is headed by self-styled Lt. Col. Montano M. ZABAT, pre-war 1st Lieutenant, Traffic Officer of Albay and Sorsogon. Shortly after the Japanese landings in Legaspi he reported to the Headquarters of the Philippine Constabulary in Manila, then returned to Albay.

After the surrender on Bataan, he organized a guerrilla unit in Albay with the assistance of former Mayor REMPILLO of Oas and Lt. LLENARIZAS, a former Constabulary officer. Reports indicate that the activities of the group in 1942-43 in raising funds and supplies were indiscriminate and his reputation among civilians none too savory. According to Gov. ESCUDERO he later weeded out bad elements in his group but his reputation remained shady.

ZABAT sent REMPILLO and LLENARIZAS to 6th MD headquarters in Panay in May, 1943, attempting to secure recognition of his command. In March 1943, Colonel SERRAN, G-2, 6th MD, Panay, had encouraged LAPUS to unify the Bicol. The ZABAT emissaries informed SERRAN that LAPUS had not been successful but that ZABAT had actually effected the unification of all but Sorsogon Province.

ZABAT's representatives returned from SERRAN bearing encouragement for ZABAT to continue his organizing of the district. In June, ZABAT went to LAPUS' temporary headquarters on Ticao Island, to discuss unification. Apparently after ZABAT arrived, he demurred ambitions as CO of the 5th MD and assured LAPUS he would constitute his unit as an Albay battalion to be incorporated under LAPUS' command. LAPUS later received letters from Col. SERRAN expressing dissatisfaction with the job he had been doing and proffering ZABAT's representatives earlier charges against him. The ZABAT-LAPUS association thereupon broke up in August 1943. ZABAT was later invited to a conference between SANDICO, LAPUS and others, but declined to enter.

In July 1943, ZABAT had made overtures to the ESCUDERO unit of Sorsogon. The Governor himself was away at the time and his son, Antonio ESCUDERO, replied that he would send officers to ZABAT for a conference. The outcome of this conference is not known but it appears that Gov. ESCUDERO never acknowledged ZABAT's candidacy although he has been favorably inclined towards him.

In August 1943, ZABAT, through Captain CAMUA, attempted to bring over the SANDICO unit to his plan but did not meet with encouragement. In the same month ZABAT did succeed in bringing a few small independent units into his organization. He persuaded AUREUS, then acting CO of the MIRANDA Unit, and PADUA who was working closely with AUREUS at the time, to accept his authority. ZABAT also managed to wean BOAYES into joining him with the promise that BOAYES would command a regiment.

In August 1943, MIRANDA returned from Catanduanes, resumed command of his unit, and immediately broke off AUREUS' negotiations with ZABAT. PADUA and BOAYES, however, were persuaded to remain with ZABAT as head of a 53rd Regiment and BOAYES a 54th, (not the same as LAPUS' 54th in Sorsogon) and in November both signed a certificate "nominating" ZABAT for promotion to Lt. Colonel and Commanding Officer of the Bicol Free Forces.

ZABAT's increasing force caused the Japanese in January 1944 to offer him through Mayor VELASCO of Libon an amnesty if he quit his activities as a guerrilla. He refused the amnesty and called another conference inviting SANDICO and his aides to see him. ZABAT emerged from this conference with the signatures of Majors SANDICO, LELIS and CAPAYAS on an affidavit recognizing ZABAT as CO; whereupon he happily communicated this to Col. SERRAN. SANDICO later stated he and his aides had been forced to sign the affidavit. Since then there has been no evidence to show that SANDICO has collaborated with ZABAT. ZABAT, on the other hand, has continued to maintain that the document is valid. LELIS and CAPAYAS still hold important positions on ZABAT's staff.

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SERRAN wrote ZABAT that if he could now whip LAPUS, MIRANDA, ESCUDERO and FLOR into line he would have effected the unification of the Bicol and the 6th MD would then support his case for recognition by GHQ as CO, 5th MD. Accordingly in February 1944 ZABAT dispatched BOAYES and PADUA to force LAPUS and ESCUDERO to settle their rift and sent a force under a Captain GARCIA to compel MIRANDA to join him.

LAPUS opposed the move and informed ZABAT that the earlier 6th MD instructions for LAPUS to unify the Bicol still held and that MIRANDA was indissolubly with him. LAPUS further told ZABAT that the SANDICO endorsement was invalid since he and SANDICO were still in agreement. The result of ZABAT's expedition under BOAYES is not known but is believed to have been abortive.

In June 1944, LAPUS attempted to force MOLINAS, one of ZABAT's leaders into leaving ZABAT and joining his organization, with no success. In retaliation, ZABAT with 90 men on July 21 raided the town of Manito in LAPUS' area killing several of the latter's followers and mistreating civilians.

Crafty and unscrupulously zealous in his efforts to capture command of the 5th MD, ZABAT has left few stones unturned in the effort to realize his ambition. It is obvious that he does not consider his failure to reconcile the Sorsogon groups a breach in the effectiveness of his ability to control the Bicol. Rather he apparently hopes that a fait accompli authorization of his command by GHQ will bring such a reconciliation about. He has submitted several intelligence reports for GHQ (signing himself Lt. Colonel, CO, 5th MD). He is still believed to be operating in the Tabaco-Tiwi-Malinao area with from 800 to 1000 men.

On Burias Island a unit under Captain TACERUA has been reported. No data are available on the organization of this guerrilla force. ZABAT has reportedly contacted the unit with favorable reply to his unification proposal but this report has not been verified. It is supposed that PADUA and LAPUS have also had some contact with TACERUA.

A Major AGUILAR has also been reported as operating with a unit in the Tabaco-Tiwi zone. Nothing else is known about this unit except that it has contributed minor intelligence items.

Sorsogon Province:

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Major LAPUS' Guerrillas: On 12 December 1941, Major Licerio P. LAPUS, Provincial Inspector of Sorsogon PC, received orders from Manila to evacuate the town of Sorsogon and wait for aid in the hills.

In company with Sgt. HINTO, agent ALTAREJOS and other guerrillas who later joined LAPUS, the group harassed enemy communications and stole supplies from the enemy. In February 1942, 1st Lt. Burgos T. SAYOC, former Medical Inspector PC from Legaspi, came into the unit as medical officer.

By the first week of April 1942, the Sorsogon BC unit was incorporated into the USAFFE Leyte-Samar sector under Colonel Thomas CORNELL. According to LAPUS, he was at this time designated CO of the USAFFE in the Bicol pending contact with Major SANDICO, then senior officer in the region. When SANDICO was contacted in May, the USAFFE Leyte-Samar organization had surrendered. During this period, however, LAPUS had increased the size of the unit substantially by absorbing men from disbanded units.

Soon Japanese punitive operations in strength forced LAPUS to move camp from Carohayon to Dolos. There LAPUS decided to disband his unit until the situation had eased. However, he kept ten of his men with him and detailed 17 to Gov. ESCUDERO as a bodyguard and to aid him in maintaining his extra-legal government.

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Meantime, increasing friction had begun to develop between LAFUS and Lt. SAYOC. In September LAFUS charged SAYOC with instigating intrigues against him and summarily ousted SAYOC. SAYOC had been dealing secretly with Gov. ESCUDERO, who during LAFUS' "lie-low" period, had developed military ambitions of his own and went over with him. By now feeling between ESCUDERO and LAFUS became an open break, and charges and counter-charges between the two became more intense. This rift later assumed serious proportions.

In December 1942, LAFUS received a request from Colonel RELUNIA, then Chief of Staff of PERALTA's IV PI Corps, regarding setting up an intelligence net. LAFUS was then having his hands full avoiding the Japs, reorganizing, and fighting ESCUDERO. In March 1943, LAFUS was finally in a position to seriously entertain the proposal of the RELUNIA emissary: To constitute a recognized unit as the 67th Infantry Regiment under jurisdiction of the IVth Corps. LAFUS agreed and established regular contact with the headquarters at Panay and began funneling intelligence to them. The IVth Corps was dissolved shortly after, but LAFUS maintained the 6th MD contact, his unit redesignated the 54th Regiment to conform with the GHQ program of reconstituting military districts, the Bicol region comprising part of the 5th MD.

At a conference in August at the camp of SANDICO, LAFUS relinquished his designation as CO of his unit in favor of SANDICO for the sake of harmony and called it the 56th Regiment. SANDICO asserts that he had at first been approached to serve as military governor of the region but had declined saying that martial law did not legally exist. ESCUDERO also charged LAFUS at this time with the unlawful declaration of martial law. After the break, LAFUS went to the 6th MD in Panay for assistance.

The 6th MD encouragement alternatively of LAFUS, ZABAT and ESCUDERO to unify the Bicol with the winner getting the friendly hand from 6th MD, may have increased the amount of intelligence flowing into their headquarters, but it also led to a competitive race that fostered disruption within the Bicol area. By August 1943, each of these guerrilla leaders could prefer letters from Panay implicitly acknowledging him as CO of the 5th MD once the unification each had initiated was completed. Yet when the 6th MD would be appealed to by a leader to settle the confusion, that headquarters would aver it had no right to meddle in the internal affairs of the 5th MD.

LAFUS met with this answer and its usual attendant double-talk upon his visit to Panay in November 1943. He returned in January 1944 and started the skeleton of the unification of the Bicol provinces also. He contacted MIRANDA and persuaded him to join up as a battalion of the 54th Regiment in Camarines Sur. A few smaller leaders were also brought into the fold.

The following February LAFUS was able to get in touch with Lt. Col. Charles SMITH on Samar, an SWPA agent. In February 1944, SMITH radioed that LAFUS had the foundation of a good intelligence net started and that he had given LAFUS financial assistance. In the next month he wired that it appeared ESCUDERO had managed to oust LAFUS from the province despite LAFUS' claim that he had the support of the people.

In April LAFUS contacted Colonel ANDREWS in Negros and arranged to transmit intelligence through Negros facilities, as his contact with SMITH had become a little more difficult. He further cemented his friendship with MERRITT on Samar and MIRANDA in Camarines Sur, and in July wrote Major ANDERSON that he had succeeded in incorporating several more small units into his command. By this time, despite SANDICO's assertion that their earlier agreement still held, LAFUS was operating as virtual CO of the 54th Infantry.

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On 30 April 1944, a conference between the LAPUS-ESCUADERO factions was arranged between representatives of both groups in Irosin, Sorsogon. Antonio ESCUDERO and Lt. MEDINA of the Governor's faction were conciliatory; the Governor stated almost anyone but LAPUS would be accepted by him as CO, but the powerful SAYOC-OLONDRIZ-OCAMPO clique of the ESCUDERO unit were hostile to any unification and the conference was a failure.

Also in April, LAPUS re-sent through SMITH a message to GHQ requesting P500,000 in cash or authority to print the sum in emergency currency, which he had earlier submitted to PERALTA and found had not been transmitted. GHQ thanked LAPUS for his work and urged him to continue his intelligence operations. He was told that it was not feasible to afford him the material assistance requested at the time. SMITH, in July, gave LAPUS an additional P8,000 for intelligence purposes.

LAPUS has been one of the most energetic aspirants for GHQ recognition as CO of the 5th MD and although he has not been above committing several questionable acts, it does not appear that his actions have been as wantonly aggressive in asserting his command as ZABAT's. He seems sincere in his desire to unify the Bicol for optimum pursuance of the common cause.

On 19 October 1944, LAPUS requested the immediate appointment of a district commander in the Bicol to end the dispute there, stating he was willing to subordinate his units under any GHQ appointee. Pending such action, he asked for official recognition of his 54th Infantry and authority to function independently.

As of 31 August he claimed the active strength of the 54th Infantry was 2600 officers and men, with a division in reserve. This figure is thought to be exaggerated, however. Presumably LAPUS was now making his headquarters in Albay Province, since ZABAT raided the town of Manito, Albay, in July 44 in reprisal for the local aid to LAPUS and LAPUS' activity against him. A report to Captain ANDERSON by one of his investigating officers, Capt. BARROS, found the LAPUS troops the "most military" he had met in the Bicol. Considerable intelligence has been sent by LAPUS to GHQ.

Resume: Designation of LAPUS, ZABAT and SANDICO Regimental and Divisional Units:

LAPUS	Jan - Mar 43	67th Regiment (cooperating with Panay?)
	Mar - Sep 43	54th Regiment (cooperating with Panay?)
	Sep - ? 43	56th Regiment (under SANDICO)
	Jan 44	51st Division (CO LAPUS)
		54th Regiment (CO LAPUS)
		53rd Regiment (CO MIRANDA)
ZABAT	Aug 43	51st Division (CO ZABAT)
		53rd Regiment (CO PADUA)
		54th Regiment (CO BOAYES)
		52nd Regiment (CO SANDICO)
		(proposed only?)
SANDICO	Sep 43	52nd Division (CO SANDICO)
		54th Regiment (CO unknown)
		55th Regiment (CO SANDICO)
		56th Regiment (CO LAPUS)
		(LAPUS Unit now withdrawn)

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LAPUS organization changed designations as unit cooperated with other commands or developed its own ambitions. All three proposed the respective divisions in expectation of GHQ recognition as Bicol commander.



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Governor ESCUDERO's Guerrilla Unit: In June 1942, Major LAPUS decided to disband his unit at Dolos until the Japanese pressure had relaxed. Governor Salvador ESCUDERO was to keep intact the extra-legal civil government and round up funds and supplies for such time as the "Army" could reorganize.

ESCUDERO did contribute a substantial amount of aid including P20,000 in checks from the provincial government. Toward the close of 1942, the ESCUDERO-LAPUS unit began to break up. ESCUDERO later charged LAPUS with misuse of the supplies and funds. LAPUS denied the charges and asserted he could offer documentary evidence of his innocence, including the uncashed checks.

Whether ESCUDERO's ambition was the result of LAPUS' "embezzlement and banditry" as charged by ESCUDERO, or whether it stemmed from ESCUDERO's desire for personal aggrandizement, as LAPUS asserts, is not clear. One report states that ESCUDERO was fired with ambition by one Crisoldo de la PAZ a civilian engineer who allegedly represented Col. STRAUGHN. De la PAZ was supposed to have told ESCUDERO that in exchange for an important post in ESCUDERO's organization he could arrange to get him a commission as a Colonel in STRAUGHN's FAIT.

Using the few men LAPUS had given him as a nucleus and managing to obtain arms from several of LAPUS' disbanded men, ESCUDERO was able to build up a sizeable group. LAPUS had begun to rebuild his own unit about this time and pitched battles often occurred between the two factions. In March, Gov. ESCUDERO became ill and evacuated to Samar to recuperate. During this time, LAPUS was able to make some headway in strengthening his unit and then persuaded MERRITT to drive ESCUDERO off Samar.

ESCUDERO returned to Sorsogon and proceeded to tighten up his organization. By June 1943, ESCUDERO sent his son, Antonio, to Panay for the usual pilgrimage to ask for authority to organize the entire Bicol region. Panay had now taken the attitude of non-interference with internal affairs of the 5th MD but stated they would aid in securing recognition for anyone who could accomplish unification.

ESCUDERO claimed an active unit of some 300 men by June 1943, exclusive of reservists, but he apparently did not feel strong enough yet to attempt the unification project. Antonio ESCUDERO was inclined to view ZABAT's candidacy as CO of the region with favor. Reconciliation with LAPUS, in line with Col. RELUNIA of the 6th MD's suggestion, was out of the question. SAYOC was apparently against the ZABAT alliance and the matter was dropped.

In July 1943, Gov. ESCUDERO announced the receipt of an order from Col. STRAUGHN of FAIT in Rizal Province promoting him to Colonel and he warned Panay that he would not tolerate their recognition of LAPUS. Since he did represent law and order and retained a substantial degree of power, he was able by early 1944 to gain increasing support from the wealthier people of Sorsogon. In March, he drove LAPUS' group from the province leaving him small ineffectual bands of sympathizers, mostly in Bulan and Pilar.

In early 1944 also, ESCUDERO established contact with Major SMITH on Samar and by April he was channeling intelligence to SMITH. His connections with ANDERSON in Tayabas were also amicable at this time.

In April 1944, LAPUS again sent out feelers for a conference at ESCUDERO's headquarters in Irosin. Largely due to Antonio ESCUDERO, the suggestion was accepted and cautiously LAPUS sent representatives to Irosin. Again the influence of SAYOC, OCAPIPO and OLONDRIZ on the Governor blocked the effort to effect a reconciliation.

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In May 1944, ANDERSON sent Capt. BARROS to the Bicolis with the idea of reconnoitering the situation; he also suggested that BARROS see what could be done to close the LAPUS-ESCUADERO rift. In July, BARROS sounded out Gov. ESCUDERO with no success.

The situation has remained in this state to the present time with each faction maltreating the other's civilian adherents and killing the opponent's men at any opportunity. ESCUDERO has not neglected to contribute a flow of intelligence material to GHQ, however.

Obstinate, and under the influence of the embittered SAYOC, Governor ESCUDERO has not shown himself an easy man to deal with. Yet he still carries a considerable amount of prestige in the province of Sorsogon due to his political connections, and no doubt, due to his unit's present strength. His greatest power is concentrated in the Irosin-Juban area. As of a few months ago he was reported to have over a thousand men in his camp, probably half of whom were armed.

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III. INDEX AND LIST OF PERSONALITIES

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AGUILAR, Major	Leader of small unit in Albay.	8
ALINDOGAN, Lt Alonso	Trusted officer of LAPUS'.	
ALTAREJOS, Lt A.	ESCUADERO officer. LAPUS accuses him of complicity in murders of several of his men.	8
ANDERSON, Maj B L	Guerrilla leader in Tayabas; BARROS his Bicol agent.	3,9,11,12
ANDIA, Daniel	ESCUADERO man.	
AUREUS, Lt Leon Sa	Second in command of BOAYES' unit.	4,5,7
AVILES, Sgt	In LAPUS' unit. Charges that ESCUDERO abducted his father and son.	
Bagong Katipunan		6
BARROS, Lt R. C.	Sent by Maj ANDERSON to look over Bicol situation.	3,10,12
BOAYES, Maj F., "Turko"	Former finance sergeant. Now leading VINSONS Travelling Guerrillas.	1,2,3,4,5,7,8,10
BUDELL, Capt	Assertedly American officer connected with LAPUS.	
CABRERA, Lt Pacifico	Former Sorsogon PC officer. Believed to still be with LAPUS.	
Camp Balintawak		7
Camp Isarog		3,4
Camp Tinawagan		4,5
CAMUA, Maj D. J.	Former PC officer in Albay. Now with SANDICO.	5,6,7
CAPAYAS, Maj I. M.	Former PC officer in Albay. Now Chief of Staff for ZABAT.	6,7
CASTILLO, Lt	With LAPUS.	
CARO, Lt	Former joint leader with Lt OLINQUO of T.M.B. Federation Guerrillas in Camarines Sur. Now with PADULA.	4
CASTRO, Manuel de	LAPUS sent in application for commission for this man.	
CASTRO, Lt	In July 44, 6 PAMC pilots under Lt CASTRO reported to ESCUDERO for duty.	
CORNELL, Col	Former USAFFE officer in command Leyte-Samar area. Surrendered to Japs.	8
DAEP, Mayor	LAPUS follower. Former mayor of Bulacan. Loyal.	
DELGO, Lt	LAPUS officer bayoneted to death by Japs.	
DIANELA, Capt Dinasco	Guerrilla leader of Camp Tinawagan unit of Camarines Sur.	1,3,4,5
DINO, Teodosio	Undersecretary of National Defense. Loyal. LAPUS backer.	
DISCAYA, 3rd Lt Nicasio	LAPUS officer.	
DONATO, Capt	Masbate guerrilla leader whom LAPUS attempted to get to join him.	
ELLSWORTH, "General" Edmund	Supposedly replaced Col STRAUGHEN as head of FAIT, central Luzon guerrillas. ESCUDERO claimed "authorization" from him. Nothing known of background. Possible fraud or alias.	
ENCISO, Cesar	LAPUS follower. LAPUS recommended this man for a commission.	

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ESCUADERO, Antonio	Son of Governor ESCUDERO and appointed Deputy Governor of 1st District, Sorsogon, by him.	10,11
ESCUADERO, Manolo	Son of Governor ESCUDERO. Alleged by LAFUS to have been implicated in several crimes.	
ESCUADERO, Salvador, Gov	Loyal pre-war governor of Sorsogon and leader of guerrilla unit there.	1,2,7,8,9,11,12
ESPINAS, Lt Sergio	Small unit leader associated with SANDICO whom LAFUS tried to coerce into joining with him.	
VELASCO	Mayor of Libon, 1944.	7
FAJARDO, Lt R.	ESCUADERO officer.	
51st Division (ZABAT)		4,10
52nd Division		6,10
54th Regiment (LAFUS)		5,6,9,10
55th Regiment (SANDICO)		6,10
55th Regiment (MIRANDA)		5,10
53rd Regiment (PADUA)		4,7,10
54th BOLYES Regiment		7,10
56th LAFUS Regiment		9,10
FLOR, Capt Faustino	Formerly with PADUA unit. Now leader of small unit in Albay. Pre-war corporal, PA.	1,3,4
FLOR, Capt Julian	Formerly with brother, Faustino. Now leader of small unit in Albay.	
FLORES, Lt	LAFUS officer. Was at conference with ESCUDERO, April 1944, as representative.	
FRIVALDO, Sgt	An ESCUDERO man, alleged to have been beaten by some LAFUS men.	
FUTALAN, Lt	LAFUS officer. Accused of crimes by ESCUDERO.	
GARCIA, Capt	Under ZABAT. Was dispatched by Z.B.T to force MIRANDA "into line".	8
GUARIN, Pacifico	Pre-war mayor of Juban. Loyal.	
GORDENKER	American. Cited by OROBLA as being a bandit leader. Now thought to be with DIANELA.	
GUCHUICO, 1st Lt Ricardo	Former district Surgeon, 5th MD. Was with LAFUS. Sent to Leyte and never heard from again.	
GUTIERREZ, 2nd Lt Augusto	Important in LAFUS' unit.	
HERNANDEZ, Capt	Former guerrilla leader, possibly of Camarines Norte. Would not join ZABAT. Said to have been executed by Japs.	
HINTO, Sgt	In LAFUS' unit. Emissary of LAFUS. LAFUS has applied for a commission for this man.	8
HONASAN, 1st Lt Romeo	S-2 with LAFUS unit.	
HUBILLA, Rafael	Prominent LAFUS sympathizer.	
HUEVOS, Andres	Prominent LAFUS sympathizer, allegedly shot by ESCUDERO's men.	
LAFUS, Maj Liserio	Formerly PC head in Sorsogon. Now leader of unit in Albay and Sorsogon.	1,2,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12
LAREZA, Capt Luis	Former QM officer, PA. Executive Officer to LAFUS.	
LELIS, Maj	Former small unit leader. Now G-3 for ZABAT.	6,7

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LLENARIZAS, Maj A. P.	Former PC officer. Now G-2 of ZABAT's unit.	7
LOMERO, Capt Antonio	Important officer on LAPUS' staff. Accused of murder of ESCUDERO man by ESCUDERO.	
MARKING Guerrillas	Central Luzon guerrilla organization.	3
MARQUEZ, Lt Igmedio	On LAPUS' staff.	
MATA, Lt Col	Camarines Sur guerrilla.	1,3
MEDINA, Lt	Governor ESCUDERO leader. Amicable to union with LAPUS. According to a 6th MD report he was beaten and tortured by some LAPUS men.	10
MERCADO, Capt J	Former assistant Provincial Inspector, Albay PC. Now with SANDICO.	5,6
MERRIT, Capt Pedro	Leader of unit on Samar. Friendly with LAPUS.	9,11
MIRANDA, Capt Juan	Former sergeant, PA. Leader of unit in Camarines Sur. Associated with LAPUS.	1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9,10
MOLINAS, Lt	Leader of small unit under ZABAT.	6,8
MONTILLO, Leon	Pre-war mayor of Jovellar. Loyal. Had small unit. Now with OROBLA.	
OCAMPO, Capt Alfredo	Adjutant General on ESCUDERO staff. Member of SAYOC-OLONDRIZ-OCAMPO clique.	10,11
OLINQUO, Lt	Formerly joint leader with Lt CARO of T.M.B. Federation guerrilla unit. Now with PADUA.	4
OLONDRIZ, Manuel	Former Sorsogon civil official. Now G-4 for ESCUDERO unit.	10,11
OROBLA, "General" Gerardo	Former itinerant artist. Now leader of unit in Albay.	2,6
PABICO, Lt	Important officer on DIANELA's staff.	5
PADUA, Capt Teofilio	Leader of Camp Isarog Unit in Camarines Sur. Former councillor with ZABAT.	1,2,3,4,5,7,10
PAZ, C. R. de la	Purported civil engineer said to have connections with STRAUGHN, at present with ESCUDERO.	11
PLANCA, Lt Carlos	Assistant G-2, 52nd Div, 5th MD.	
RELUNIA, Lt Col L. R.	Former Major, USAFFE. Chief of Staff to PERALTA, 6th MD.	9,11
REMPILLO, Mayor	Former mayor of Oas, now officer on ZABAT's staff.	7
RUIVIVAR, Capt A.	Commands a ZABAT unit in Tawi-Tabaco area, Albay.	
REYES, Lt Dominador	Important LAPUS junior officer.	
SANDICO, Maj Francisco	Former Provincial Inspector PC, Albay. Now leader of a guerrilla unit in Albay.	1,3,5,6,7,8,9,10
SANIN, Maj J. R.	ZABAT officer in command of a "regiment".	
SANTOS, Capt	Former PC officer. ESCUDERO hostile to BARROS' suggestion that SANTOS be compromise choice for CO, 5th MD.	
SAUNAR, Capt	ZABAT staff officer.	

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SAYOC, Lt Col B. T.	Former PC medical lieutenant.	8,9,10,11,12
SERRAN, Lt Col P.	Now Chief of Staff to ESCUDERO. G-2 to PERALTA, 6th MD, Panay, until March 1944.	7
67th Infantry (LAPUS)		9,10
SMITH, Lt Col C. M.	A.I.B. representative on Samar.	9,10,11
STRAUGHN, Col Hugh	Original leader and founder of Filipino-American-Irregular Troops in central Luzon. Cap- tured by Japanese. ESCUDERO claims to have received colonelcy from STRAUGHN.	5,11
TACERUA, Capt	Guerrilla leader on Burias Island.	8
Tagbon-Mausalay-Balaynan Federation		4
TOBIANOSA, P.	Was named by LAFUS as the Acting Engineer Officer in a tentative organization plan for the 5th MD. Puppet mayor of Libon	7
VELASCO, Mayor	LAPUS officer.	7
VERA, Luis de, 3rd Lt	Guerrilla leader in Masbate.	
VILLAOJADO	Declared "enemy" by 6th MD.	
VILLASENOR	No other details known regard- ing this guerrilla except that he refused to accept an offer by ZABAT to join him.	4
VINSONS Guerrillas		4
VINSONS, Hon W. T.	Former governor of Camarines Norte, founder of VINSONS Travel- ing Guerrillas originally in Camarines Norte. Unit now headed by BOAYES, "Turko".	1,2,3
ZABAT, Lt Col M. M.	Former PC Constabulary traffic Lt. Now leader of unit in Albay.	1,2,3,4,5, 6,7,8,10

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