

EVACUEE REPORTS:

HARDER,

BENJAMIN M.

2 March 1945



**SUBJECT:** Report on Intelligence Activities.

**TO :** Brigadier General Courtney Whitney, U.S. Army.

The undersigned, 1st Sgt Benjamin M. Harder, ASN 32423772, 1st Reconnaissance (Special) was sent to the Philippines on an intelligence mission with Major Lawrence E. Philipps' intelligence unit. The party arrived in Mindoro, Philippines on November 13, 1943 and immediately started to work.

On November 19, 1943 Major Philipps sent me together with S/Sgt Arcangel Baniaras to Del Monte Pt., Cape Calavite, Mindoro, with a radio set to spot Japanese shipping movements passing through Golo Strait and through Verde Island Passage.

On January 17, 1944, T/4 Ramon D. Vitorio and myself were sent by Major Philipps to Calatagan, Batangas, Philippines with a radio set to spot all Japanese shipping coming and going into Manila Bay and passing through Verde Island passage. In addition our station was the clearing house for all important messages and intelligence reports going to Major Philipps' headquarters from Manila. We established our station in the lighthouse on Cape Santiago, Batangas.

On February 17, 1944 we contacted Major Philipps headquarters and were immediately told to close down. In the afternoon of the same day a Japanese patrol raided us but we were able to escape with our equipment. The Japanese knew of our presence because of the capture of some operators in Manila and guerillas in Mindoro who were working for Major Philipps. We were raided four more times from February 8, 1944 to March 2, 1944 but escaped unhurt

with our equipment.

It was getting too hot for T/4 Vitorio and myself so that we buried our equipment and made our way to Manila to lay low. We ran out of money so T/4 Vitorio went back to Balayan, Batangas with two guides to secure some but he was captured by the Japanese Military Police on March 30, 1944. By this time the Japanese had also caught around fifty guerillas who in some way or another had helped us in our work and six of them had already been killed. To save the lives of the rest they surrendered our arms and equipment to the Japanese. I also knew that Major Philipps was killed while S/Sgt Baniares and two other escaped American soldiers were captured during the mopping up operation in Mindoro by the Japanese.

After the Capture of T/4 Vitorio, I joined the President Quezon's Own Guerillas' intelligence unit. I trained operatives and operated in Manila and vicinity. Reports were rendered through Colonel Fertig and Lieutenant Commander Rowe.

I reported for duty to Commander Row last October 28, but he sent me back to Manila to operate with the President Quezon's Own Guerillas' intelligence Unit.

After the landing of American forces in Nasugbu, Batangas, I joined the combat unit of the President Quezon's Own Guerillas and was in the front lines for three weeks until I reported for duty with GHQ, SWPA on February 24, 1945.

Attached is compilation of debts incurred while operating independently.



*Benjamin M. Harder*  
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BENJAMIN M. HARDER, 3243772  
1st Sgt., U.S. Army

Name	Address	Period	Value in Jap Currency	Rate of Exchange	Equiv Value legal tender	Remarks
Dalio Macabuag	Calatagan, Batangas	Feb 18 - Mar 2, 1944	₱360.00	3 : 1	₱120.00	For food and Civilian Clothing
Estanislao Villasor	Manila	Mar 4 - April 14, 1944	610.00	5 : 1	122.00	Food and Clothing
Eduardo Manahan	San Mateo, Rizal	April 14 - May 4, 1944	100.00	5 : 1	20.00	Travelling Expenses to and from Manila
Benedicto Valenzona	Manila	May 5 - Oct 22, 1944	3,100.00	11 : 1	281.81	Clothing, travel and subsistence expenses while operating in Manila
Benedicto Valenzona	Manila	Oct 23 - November 17, 1944	8,500.00	40 : 1	212.50	Traveling and subsistence exp. while going to Mindoro to report for duty and render reports.

All good and incidental expenses while I was with the guerillas were given free of charge by the guerillas.



*Benjamin M. Harder*  
 BENJAMIN M. HARDER, 32423772  
 1st Sgt., US