

CEBU PROJECTS

**DECLASSIFIED**  
Authority NND 883078

AIRFIELD CONSTRUCTION - CEBU

**DECLASSIFIED**  
Authority NND 883078

HEADQUARTERS AMSTAFAC  
Cebu, Cebu

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FILE NO. 2022 Subject: Classes of Airfield Construction Workers  
in Cebu

TO: The Chief, Bridge Section, The Director, DATE: 8 April 40  
RFD

# AIRFIELD CONSTRUCTION WORKERS ON CEBU

1. The following information was obtained from the Bureau of Public Works, Cebu District, on 2 December 1940, regarding the construction of airfields on Cebu. Three airfields were supposedly under construction in Cebu during the year 1940.

2. The project is being supervised by the District Engineer, Bureau of Public Works, Cebu District.

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5. The project is being supervised by the District Engineer, Bureau of Public Works, Cebu District. The project is being supervised by the District Engineer, Bureau of Public Works, Cebu District. The project is being supervised by the District Engineer, Bureau of Public Works, Cebu District.

6. A study of enclosed affidavits indicates that the majority of engineers, inspectors, surveyors, etc., were employed by the Bureau of Public Works. Affidavits indicate that these men were former employees of the Bureau of Public Works, and retained Bureau of Public Works salaries while working on the project.

HEADQUARTERS AFWESPAC  
Check Sheets

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File No. GSXRP Subject: Claims of Airfield Construction Workers  
on Cebu.

(1) FR: OIC, Civilian Section TO: Director, DATE: 8 April 46  
RPD

1. We have received approximately 450 claims from persons on Cebu claiming to be employed by the War Department on Airfield Construction between 8 December 1941 and 10 April 1942. Three airfields were supposedly under construction: Lahug, Medellin and Tuburan.

2. a. ANTONIO D. ASENEIRO, Civil Engineer, Bureau of Public Works states:

"That I was a Civil Engineer, Bureau of Public Works, Cebu District. On 8 December 1941 I was in charge of constructing the extension of Lahug Airstrip. My immediate superior was J. L. Panis, District Engineer. That during the clearing of the extensions, we were employing from 300 to 600 men. We were using the cabo or capataz system of employing laborers."  
(Incl 1, Tab A)

b. DAVID M. CANETE, capataz, states:

"I was hired as a capataz under the cabo system from 1 Jan 1942 to 28 Feb 1942." (Incl 2, Tab B)

c. JUAN A. ESCRUPULO, capataz, Lahug Landing Field states:

"My immediate superiors were Engineers Ramos and Aquino. The nature of the work was to construct a tunnel 20' wide, 10' high and 25' deep. I do not exactly know the use of the tunnel because it was suspended by Joaquin L. Panis, District Engineer of Cebu. The job ceased on 3 February 1942 because the project was suspended by the District Engineer."  
(Incl 3, Tab C)

3. A study of inclosed affidavits indicates that the majority of Engineers, timekeepers, surveyors, etc., were employed by the Bureau of Public Works. Affidavits indicate that these men never assumed status of USAFFE employees, but remained Bureau of Public Works employees while supervising the project.

HEADQUARTERS AFWESPAC  
Check Sheets

Do not remove from attached sheets

File No. GSXRP Subject: Claims of Airfield Construction Workers  
on Cebu. (Cont'd)

(1) FR: OIC, Civilian Section TO: Director, DATE: 8 April 46  
RPD

4. a. In view of foregoing information, it is recommended that laborers and capataz be considered cabo system employees, intermittent, part time and casually hired and determined as not entitled to benefits under the Missing Persons Act.

b. It is recommended that Engineers, surveyors and paymasters be determined as being employed by the Bureau of Public Works and therefore Non Project J.

3 Incls  
Incl 1 - Affidavit, Aseniero  
Incl 2 - Affidavit, Canete  
Incl 3 - Affidavit, Escrupulo

  
S. J. S.

HEADQUARTERS AFWESPAC  
Check Sheets

Do not remove from attached sheets

File No.                      Subject: Claims of Airfield Construction Workers  
on Cebu.

(2) FROM: Legal Officer                      TO: Director, RPD                      14 May 46

1. I concur that laborers hired on the project under the cabo system should be classified as local labor casually hired on a per diem basis.

In view of the fact that these projects were apparently under the Bureau of Public Works I believe the determination should include a statement that evidence available indicates that employees were employees of Philippine Army.

2. Recommend that determinations be handled in these cases the same as those of employees covered by C/N on other Engineering Projects on Cebu.

3. I do not concur in determining that all Engineers and Time-keepers were employees of Bureau of Public Works at present time. If facts show they were employed and paid as employees of the Bureau of Public Works such a determination is clearly proper. Others were apparently paid on Army Payrolls (see statement of Mr. Panis attached to C/N on engineers). It is my belief that further investigation will reveal that all were being paid from Philippine Army or Commonwealth Funds, but the available evidence does not clearly establish such fact.

4. Recommend suspension of cases involving individuals who were not laborers hired on the cabo system and those who worked continuously for 30 days or more and until enemy action terminated employment, until additional information is obtained and evaluated.

3 Incls: n/c

*H. W. R.*  
H. W. R.



3. The majority of the troops in the souther Islands appear to have been Philippine Army Units. These units having been called into service of the Armed Forces of the United States have been commonly referred to as "USAFFE" from the beginning. Therefore, although, a person, alleges in his claim that he was employed by USAFFE it does not mean that he was not actually an employee of the Philippine Army, and being paid by Philippine Army Finance service Officers from the appropriation for the operation and maintenance of the Philippine Army.