

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AND 883078

A F F I D A V I T

I, CANDIDO MALIG, of legal age, married, presently employed in the Office of the District Engineer of Pampanga as General Foreman, and a resident of Bacolor, this province, after having been duly sworn to according to law declare and depose:

That on or about November 16, 1941, I was called into the Office of Mr. Arturo P. Nitorreda, then District Engineer of Pampanga, who told me that he was lending me to the United States Army under the supervision of U. S. Army Officers, one of whom was 1st Lieut. Stewart, Corp of Engineers, to work as General Foreman in the construction of the Army air-field located at the Barrio of Prado, Municipality of Lubao, Province of Pampanga; that on that same day I accompanied Lieut. Stewart to the site of the work and took over the supervision of about 1,000 civilian laborers in the said air-field; that among the capataces of the civilian laborers, as far as I can remember, are Abelardo Dabu and Roman Belleza; that among my office mates who were also assigned to the Prado air-field were Roadroller Machinist Jacinto Gabriel, and Asst. Roadroller Machinist Fortunato Hugo; and that I finished my assignment in the said air-field on or about November 30, 1941;

That on or about December 1, 1941, I was again borrowed from the District Engineer of Pampanga by Lieut. Richard Allen Keasey, 14th Engineers, USED, to supervise the construction and repair of bridges leading to the Army Camp in the Barrio of Cabalantian, Municipality of Bacolor, Province of Pampanga; that the Head Carpenter employed by me in this assignment is one Valeriano Galura of Bacolor; and that I was transferred from the said assignment on or about December 15, 1941, altho my 20 laborers continued to work until dispersed by Japanese advance into the province;

That on or about December 16, 1941, at the request of Lieut. Col. Hughes and Capt. Hammer, who came to the Office of the District Engineer of Pampanga, I was again loaned to the United States Army to supervise the work of about 400 laborers belonging to the Labor Battalion to prepare the McArthur Line which runs from the bank of Parua River down to the northern slope of Mount Arayat and beyond the said mountain to Candaba Swamps;

That on December 31, 1941, when the enemy troops had penetrated the McArthur Line and enemy shelling was already whistling around us and the USAFFE soldiers had already withdrawn from the said Line, and the Candaba Suspension Bridge had already been blasted by USAFFE troops, I dispensed my men and told them to retreat from the line and go to their homes;

That for my work in the Prado air-strip and on the bridges in the Barrio of Cabalantian, Municipality of Bacolor, I collected my pay from the Provincial Government of Pampanga;

That for my work in the McArthur Line, I was not paid my salary of ₱150.00 per month and ₱2.00 per diems for the reason that when I arrived at San Fernando on January 1, 1942, the Provincial Treasurer had already evacuated his office;

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That I am not aware of any payment made to my laborers in the Prado Air-strip Project, in the Cabalantian Bridges Project and in the Mc-Arthur Line Project; and


That as supporting evidence of my claim as a civilian employee of the War Department, I am submitting hereto attached a certified true copy of the correspondence initiated by the present District Engineer of Pampanga, and answered by 1st indorsement by Mr. Arturo P. Nitorreda, formerly District Engineer of Pampanga, which certifies to the assignment of public works personnel to the United States Army during the immediately pre-war and early war days.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto signed my name this 10th day of September, 1945, in the Municipality of San Fernando, Province of Pampanga.


CANDIDO MALIG

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 10th day of September, 1945, the affiant having exhibited his Residence Certificate No. A-0754253 issued at San Fernando, Pampanga, on June 16, 1945.




AMADEO YUZON
Acting Clerk of Court, Pampanga

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A F F I D A V I T

I, DIONISIO N. ESCOBAR, married, and of legal age, a Civil Engineer employed in the Office of the District Engineer, San Fernando, Pampanga, after having been duly sworn to according to law, deposes and declare the following:

1. That a few days after the outbreak of the war, December 8, 1941, the office of the District Engineer received instructions from the Director of Public Works to organize a demolition gang and labor battalion to be ever ready in case the U.S. Army may need. Also the Office of the District Engineer must be opened twenty four (24) hours every day to receive instructions or messages from Manila and from the Army.

2. That on December 24, 1941 at about 5:00 P.M. the office received telephone message from Camp Olivas, located at San Fernando, this Province, requesting the District Engineer to confer with Col. Kearsey, who temporarily holds his office at said Camp.

3. That, upon receipt of the message, I was immediately informed because the District Engineer was out of town, and having the blanket authority to act in his stead during his absence, I at once proceeded to Camp Olivas and met Col. Kearsey ~~who~~ who was in his office together with Lt.Col. Navarro both of the U. S. Army.

4. That during the conference, I was instructed to mobilized the labor battalion and to recruit and increase the number to as many as could be available to be distributed at San Luis, Candaba, Arayat, Magalang at the foot of the Arayat Mountain toward Magalang and at the Bamban bridge.

5. That on December 25, 1941 the labor battalion were transported first to Arayat, at the Arayat bridge and the work started. The following day all available field personnel of the office of the District Engineer were assigned to a certain section of the proposed defense line to be constructed, to supervise laborers to be assigned to them and were all immediately dispatched to their respective sections. I was given the assignment to make general supervision of the undertaking.

6. That with my duty as general supervisor of the work, I have to recruit laborers from the different municipalities and Capt. Balao of the U. S. Army was with me. Besides, I have to inspect and contact assistant engineers, foremen at their sections to see the progress of the work and to know their needs in matter of tools and food and to provide them as fast as they could be secured.

7. That several American junior officers of the rank of lieutenants and captains were with the men in the field and the highest ranking officer whom I

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met at Magalang in the course of my inspection was Lt. Col. Johnson.

8. That the nature of the work undertaken was the clearing of a strip 700 meters wide along the proposed defense line, digging foxholes and placing wire entanglements.

9. That the work was stopped upon the approach of the enemy and the defense line was not made use because the big force of the Japanese Army took the Tarlac-Nueva Ecija-Bulacan route.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed this affidavit this 12th day of September, 1945, in the Municipality of San Fernando, Province of Pampanga.


DIONISIO N. ESCOBAR
Affiant

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA

s. s.

I, CIRILO DIZON, of age, filipino, married to Zoila A. Santos and a resident of the municipality of Arayat, province of Pampanga, Philippines, being duly sworn, depose and say:

That, on or before December 15, 1941, I was, as Foreman of the Arayat QUARRY, Pampanga, instructed by the District Engineer of Pampanga, to move all laborers at the said quarry to a place near the Arayat-Cabiao bridge where I shall receive instructions from U. S. Army officers in charge of the work on the GENERAL MACARTHUR'S LINE OF RESISTANCE on what my laborers and I shall do;

That, on the following day, pursuant to said instruction of the District Engineer, I brought all laborers at the said quarry to a place about fifteen (15) meters from the said Arayat-Cabiao bridge;

That, immediately thereafter my laborers were given assignments to make clearings along the Pampanga River starting from the foot of the bridge to Santol and therefrom to the base of Mount Arayat, with the further instruction that as soon as we get thru with the clearings, we shall dig foxholes and lay out barbed wires at places to be designated by officers in charge;

That, besides said quarry laborers there were other able-bodied inhabitants from different barrios of Arayat, who joined my men; from time to time

That, on the afternoon of December 31, 1941, as per order of the U. S. Army officers in charge thereof, I told all the men working under me not to come back the following day;

That, as my laborers were not paid for the days they have worked, I have prepared a list of their names with their corresponding days of work, which is, to the best of my knowledge, true and correct;

That, among the officers or officials supervising the work of my men were Assistant District Engineer Dionisio Escobar of Pampanga and one Major Ver, a Philippine Scouts officer.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 15th day of September, 1945, at Arayat, Pampanga.

Cirilo Dizon
CIRILO DIZON

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 15th day of September, 1945, at Arayat, Pampanga, affiant exhibiting his Res. Certificate No. A-0750618, issued at Arayat, Pampanga, on June 6, 1945.

Francisco P. Pongco
FRANCISCO P. PONGCO
Acting Mayor
Arayat, Pampanga.



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MACARTHUR DEFENSE LINE

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