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DAVAO CLAIMS

a. Vehicle Claims

b. Wage Claims

Approved

DAVAO CLAIMS

LIST OF PAPERS

A. Data on Vehicle Claims

ITEM No.	DESCRIPTION	SUBJECT
A-1	Affidavit of Alexander Abercromfie Brown, (1 page)	Data on Davao Vehicle Claim
A-2	Affidavit of William Park (2 pages)	"
A-3	Affidavit of Leslie E. Stevens (1 page)	"
A-4	Affidavit of Lazaro M. Caspe (2 pages)	"
A-5	Affidavit of Leoncio Jabonette (5 pages)	"
A-6	Affidavit of Eustaquio Cabiltingan (6 pages)	"
A-7	Affidavit of Ildefonso Joven (16 pages)	"
A-8	C/S from L. Curry , Team 12 to Commission 57, dated 12 August 47	Affidavits of unbiased Davao Citizens
A-9	Ltr of Col. R. Hillsman to CG, PHILRYCOM, dated 7 July 47	War Claim Pro- 1399
A-10	Ltr of Col. R. Hillsman to Hq. Claims Service, dated 24 March 47	Claims of Davao City Residents for Motor Vehicles
A-11	Ltr of R. C. Sheldon to D.M. Burchfield, dtd 25 Feb 47, w/copies of receipts	Davao Vehicle Claims
A-12	Statements of D.M. Burchfield, w/other correspondence (26 pages)	Davao Vehicle Claims
A-13	Statement of Lt. M. Villares	Davao Vehicle Claims
	B. Data on Wage Claim	
B-1	Radiogram from COCS to Col. R. Hillsman, dtd 27 Aug 47	Davao Wage Claims
B-2	Ltr from W. Burchfield to Lt. Col. Tester, dtd 14 Sept 47	"
B-3	Ltr from M. G. Schofield to CG, PHILRYCOM, dtd 19 Sept 47	Claims and Accounts

DAVAO CLAIMS

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A-13	Statement of Lt. M. Villares	Davao Vehicle Claims
A-14	Affidavit of Ildefonso Joven (1 page)	Cars at Sosa Airfield
A-15	Affidavit of Merlie S. Robie (1 page)	"
A-16	Affidavit of Leslie E. Stevens, (1 page)	"
A-17	Affidavit of Joseph P. Perkins, (1 page)	"
A-18	Affidavit of William Park, (1 page)	"
A-19	Telegram from Director Davao Team to COCS, dtd 30 Oct 46	"
A-20	Telegram from Director, Davao Team to COCS, dtd 21 Oct 47	Claim of Mauricio Romas
A-21	C/S from Director, Team 12 to COCS, dtd 30 Oct 47	Transmital of Investigative Papers

DAVAO CLAIMS
LIST OF PAPERS

B. Data on Wage Claims

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B-3	Ltr from N. G. Schofield to CG, PHILRYCOM, dtd 19 Sept 47	Claims and Accounts

HEADQUARTERS
CLAIMS SERVICE, AFWESPAC, TEAM 4
Cagayan, Misamis Oriental, Mindanao

10 July 1946

SUBJECT: Report on Investigation of USAFFE Vehicle Procurements In Davao Conducted by Lt M. J. Kavanaugh on 9 July, 1946, in Davao City.

TO : Director, Team 4

1. The investigating officer found it impossible to obtain any reliable information concerning the "Davao Amotohau". It was not possible to contact any Americans that were in Davao at the outbreak of the war. However, from what information the investigating officer was able to obtain, it appears that the "Davao Amotohau" was not a US Army unit but was rather a group of civilians doing some kind of civilian defense work. It is suggested that Major Oliver, a former American resident of Davao, and at present the Allied Property Custodian of Mindanao and Sulu, be contacted and requested to give what information he may have concerning the "Davao Amotohau".

2. Efforts to locate former employees of the USAFFE motor pool were without results. These men are either dead or have left the Davao area.

3. The investigating officer was directed to contact and interview a Mr. Stevenson and a Mr. Pohl, both of whom were in Davao at the outbreak of the war and were connected with the USAFFE. The investigating officer was unable to locate either of the men as Mr. Stevenson is not in Davao at the time and Mr. Pohl was away on business.

4. It is suggested that Mr. Pohl be contacted by mail and requested to supply what information he may have concerning USAFFE procurements.

s/ Martin J. Kavanaugh
t/ MARTIN J. KAVANAUGH
1st Lieut., Infantry
Claims Investigating Officer

MJK/fss

DIS

Attorney Rec

Davao

Recd

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL: S.S.
MUNICIPALITY OF CAGAYAN)

A F F I D A V I T

WALTER C. TONG, of Davao, Davao, being duly sworn according to law, says:

That I am a citizen of the United States and have resided in Davao since 1931 as a representative of American Board of Foreign Missions.

When war broke out with Japan, I was in Davao City. My assistance was requested by Col. Roger Hilsman, together with other civilians, in aiding army activities. Mr. David Burchfield was assigned the task of procuring vehicles for the army and operating the motor pool. My assignment was to take charge of civilian hospitals, set up emergency hospitals, and assume control over Japanese owned drugstores. I occupied an office, together with Mr. Burchfield and others, in the Puericulture Bldg in Davao. Our activities extended from 9th December until morning of 20 December 1941 when Jap troops captured the city.

As I remember it, Ildefonso Joven was hanging around the motor pool and was helping Mr. Burchfield at the motor pool.

Mr. Burchfield did not requisition many cars. He only requisitioned PU cars, most of which had been abandoned. For instance, he did not requisition my car and nearly everybody put red cross tags on their cars so that they would not be requisitioned. Persons engaged in Red Cross work were allowed to retain use of their cars.

Atty. Tiburcio Cervantes headed the "Para-shooters", a civilian volunteer organization armed with shotguns, pistols and other weapons, and their ostensible purpose was to defend Davao from Jap parachute troops. Many cars were registered and used for this purpose, and therefore, were not requisitioned. Government officials had special plaques for their cars so that they would not be requisitioned and so they could get gasoline.

There was no wholesale requisitioning of cars as I undertand took place around Cagayan.

Except for Burchfield's trucks, a few Chinese trucks, most of the trucks in the motor pool were enemy property trucks and automobiles. For instance, Otah Development Co (Japanese-owned) had a fleet of 20 to 25 Fords which were seized, and Furokawa Plantation (Japanese-owned), had a like number of Chevrolets which were seized by Army and by individual Filipinos for their own use.

I knew John A Boyes very well, and I know he owned a Ford V-8 Sedan. He was directing the construction of trenches near a cabaret on Davao South Road until the very day Japs entered Davao and he was using his car in connection with that work. He was performing the work under order of Col. Roger Hilsman. His car, however, was not turned over to the Army since he was performing army work.

Carriedo and Lat had some trucks, but I am unable to state whether any were requisitioned.

File D15

Affidavit of Rec - Davao

Dr. Alejandro de Lara, as a doctor, came to see me a half dozen times to get drugs for his use around Kalinan, Davao. I don't recall whether he came in P.U. car of his own car, but doctors' cars as a rule were not requisitioned.

In my opinion, a very small percentage of the cars in Davao were requisitioned by USAFFE because so many cars were excused for various and sundry reasons, and there were so many things to do in the very few days that remained before Japs entered.

I have never heard of an organization known as "DAVAO AMOTOHUA".

s/ Walter C. Tong
t/ WALTER C. TONG

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 9th day of July, 1946, at Cagayan, Misamis Oriental, Mondanao.

s/ Max Rosenn
t/ MAX ROSENN
1st Lt, JAGD
Director, Team 4

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B. Wage Claims

HEADQUARTERS SIXTH ARMY
PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

AMAGM 150

19 SEP 1947

SUBJECT: Claims and Accounts

TO: Commanding General
Philippines-Ryukyus Command
APO 707, c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

1. Reference attached telegram received by Colonel Hillsman with reference to the claim of the Davao Autobus Company. Colonel Hillsman has stated that he does not have any information as requested and has referred this Headquarters to Mr. D. M. Burchfield, whose reply is attached as Inclosure No. 2.

2. In the event the original telegram was from your Headquarters, it is requested that any further correspondence on this matter be made direct with Mr. Burchfield.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

M. G. Schofield

M. G. SCHOFIELD
Captain, A.G.D.
Asst. Adjutant General

2 Incls:
1 Cpy telegram to Col Hillsman, dtd 27 Aug 47
2 Ltr fr Mr. D. M. Burchfield, dtd 14 Sep 47

19 SEP 1947

AMAGM 150

SUBJECT: Claims and Accounts

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FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

M. G. SCHOFIELD
Captain, A.G.D.
Asst. Adjutant General

2 Incls:
1 Cpy telegram to Col Hillsman, dtd 27 Aug 47
2 Ltr fr Mr. D. M. Burchfield, dtd 14 Sep 47

Philippines-Ryukyus Command
APO 707, c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

1. Reference attached telegram received by Colonel Hilleman with reference to the claim of the Davao Autobus Company. Colonel Hilleman stated that he does not have any information as requested and has referred this Headquarters to Mr. D. M. Burchfield, whose reply is attached as Inclosure No. 2.

2. In the event the original telegram was from your Headquarters, it is requested that any further correspondence on this matter be made direct with Mr. Burchfield.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

M. G. SCHOFIELD
Captain, A.G.D.
Asst. Adjutant General

2 Incls:
1 Copy telegram to Col Hilleman, dtd 27 Aug 47
2 Ltr fr Mr. D. M. Burchfield, dtd 14 Sep 47

AMAGM 150 19 SEP 1947

SUBJECT: Claims and Accounts

TO: Commanding General
Philippines-Ryukyus Command
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FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

M. G. SCHOFIELD
Captain, A.G.D.
Asst. Adjutant General

2 Incls:
1 Cpy telegram to Col Hillsman, dtd 27 Aug 47
2 Ltr fr Mr. D. M. Burchfield, dtd 14 Sep 47

WESTERN UNION

FV18 INTL FR:F MANILA VIA RCA 101 27 130P 1947 AUG 27 AM 8 41
COLONEL ROGER HILLSMAN:
SIXTH ARMY PRESIDIO OF SANFRANCISCO CALIF:

MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED CLAIMANTS HAVE FILED WAGE CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT OF WAGES PERFORMED FOR US ARMY AT DAVAO AUTOBUS COMPANY DURING PERIOD FACILITIES OF AUTOBUS COMPANY WERE TAKEN OVER BY US ARMY STOP CLAIMS SUSPENDED PENDING REPLY FOLLOWING QUESTIONS COLON WAS AGREEMENT MADE BETWEEN US ARMY AND DAVAO AUTOBUS COMPANY FOR US ARMY TO PAY DAVAO AUTOBUS LABORERS WHILE FACILITIES WERE UNDER CONTROL OF US ARMY STOP IF YES PLEASE INFORM NUMBER OF LABORERS CMA PERIOD WORKED CMA AND DAILY WAGE INCLUDED IN AGREEMENT STOP PLEASE EXPEDITE RADIO:

CHIEF OF CLAIMS SERVICE

C O P Y

FVIS INTL FR:F MANILA VIA RCA 1CI 27 1307 1947 AUG 27 AM 8 41

COLONEL ROGER HILLSMAN:

SIXTH ARMY PRESIDIO OF SANFRANCISCO CALIF:

MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED CLAIMANTS HAVE FILED WAGE CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT OF WAGES PERFORMED FOR US ARMY AT DAVAO AUTOBUS COMPANY DURING PERIOD FACILITIES OF AUTOBUS COMPANY WERE TAKEN OVER BY US ARMY STOP CLAIMS SUSPENDED PENDING REPLY FOLLOWING QUESTIONS COLONEL HAS AGREEMENT MADE BETWEEN US ARMY AND DAVAO AUTOBUS COMPANY FOR US ARMY TO PAY DAVAO AUTOBUS LABORERS WHILE FACILITIES WERE UNDER CONTROL OF US ARMY STOP IF YES PLEASE INFORM NUMBER OF LABORERS OMA PERIOD WORKED OMA AND DAILY WAGE INCLUDED IN AGREEMENT STOP PLEASE EXPEDITE RADIO:

CHIEF OF CLAIMS SERVICE

Victoria Hotel
BROADWAY AT TENTH
LOUISVILLE 3, KENTUCKY

Sept 14 1947

Lt Col. Tester,
Head quarters
6th Army.
Presidio of San Francisco.

Dear Sir:-

I have been away from Dawson Springs for quite some time, so the delay in answering your of Aug 28th re the Navas Auto Bus claim.

This aut fit seems to be trying to defraude them selves with claims. They filed a large claim with the Philippine Reparation Commaand for buses which I denied. If the auto buss is entitled to any thing at all it is for 8 days for I think 14 men

Incl #2

Victoria Hotel
BROADWAY AT TENTH
LOUISVILLE 3, KENTUCKY

When I turned the motor pool I told every man that helped me that it was his country we were fighting for and I did not think they should ask for a salary, and that I would see to it that they were fed. I must have had 100 men working and nothing was ever said about a salary.

I most certainly did not promise the auto busses any pay. I allowed them to run busses out of pocket.

I cannot see why they should be paid. I have moved to Louisville and my files are not here yet. If you so desire I will send you a copy of my

(over)

answer to their claim for the trucks.

My future address will be

1017 W Broadway
Louisville
Ky.

Yours very truly
H W Dougherty.

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A. Vehicle Claims

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, HUGH F. KENNEDY, O-890457, Major, Ch C, 11th Airborne Division Headquarters, APO 468, certified to the best of my knowledge and understanding, that:

In regard to the records of the Finance Officer and G-4, Cotabato-Davao Force of which the undersigned discussed in a statement made to Cagayan Claims Office about the 5th of July 1947, the following information may be added.

These records are supposed to be in a cave in the area of Dumalag, Km. 83, Bukidnon. I reached that point on Friday, 1 August 1947, and the jungle have so overgrown the road that it is impossible to recognize any of the old landmarks. Beyond this point the condition of the road would not permit a car as small as a jeep to proceed, although weapon carriers and 6 x 6 had gone as far as Km. 104.

On 5 August 1947, I was able to contact Juan Atillo presently employed by the Philippine Packing Corporation and a student in the Night College of the Ateneo de Cagayan. Atillo was confidential clerk by Joseph P. Vachon and recollects that the filing cabinets of General Vachon and Col. Burgess, G-4, were recollected from the Division Headquarters the night of 10 May 1942 at which time Gen. Sharp had ordered the surrender of the Island of Mindanao.

The only one who would have certain knowledge of the exact location of the spot where the records were placed is Lt. Layson, P. S.

The District Engineer and his assistants have men working in this area at present and they have volunteered the services of these men to inquire in the locality concerning any possible knowledge of the existence of this cave or the records that were in it; the terrain in this area is very rough and according to the local MPC is not out of danger from both Japanese strugglers and Magahats. The local MPC at Malaybalay have volunteered the services of the men in the Out Post to gather any available information they can concerning these missing records.

Hugh F. Kennedy
HUGH F. KENNEDY O-890457
Major, Ch C
11th Airborne Div Hq, APO 468, Sn F

I CERTIFY that the foregoing statement was made by the party signing the same voluntarily before me this 19th day of August 1947, at Cagayan, Misamis Oriental, Mindanao.

Howard C. Menzel
HOWARD C. MENZEL
Assistant Director
Cagayan Br O, Clms Sv, PHILRYCOM

E X T R A C T

I, ROBERT B. HARBISON, Major, JAGD, Assistant Director, Claims Investigating Service, hereby certify that the following is a true and correct extract from the claim of David Morton Burchfield, PRO 73, now on file in the Manila Office, Claims Service, AFWESPAC:

My garage and office was in Santa Anna. The motor pool, where I was in charge, was in Davao. When the Japanese started the invasion of Davao, Santa Anna was shelled by their Navy. All of my receipts and licenses were in a safe in my office, which was completely destroyed. I can not remember the license numbers. I furnished statements attached to my letter of March 9th of nine prominent Americans, all residents of Davao, which should be proof the truth of my claim. Of those Americans Mr JohnD. Stumbo, Division Siperintendent of Schools of Davao and Mr William H. Gohn, Vice President and General Manager of Davao Light and Power Co are in Manila or Davao.

X x x x x x x x x x x x x

When Colonel Hillsman came to Davao to organize its defenses, there was no equipment or personnel to help handle the organization so it was necessary for him to call on the American civilians of Davao. I was appointed as, in charge of transportation, all passes, and requisitioning of any item necessary for operation of the motor pool. I was given an appointment by Colonel Hillsman, which was printed on a card, and signed by him. Unfortunately the Japanese took all my papers. Trucks were badly needed, so I requisitioned 9 of my trucks. These of course were no where near enough but I was soon able to get enough trucks from other sources. When the Japanese invaded Davao none of my trucks were in the motor pool, and only about 20 of the 85 trucks I had were in. The rest were all out on various assignments. Some were over in Cotobato.

x x x x x x x x x x x x x

Witness my hand this 2nd day of October 1945.

Robert B. Harbison

ROBERT B. HARBISON,
Major, J. A. G. D.,
Assistant Director,
Claims Investigating Service.

ROBERT B. HARRISON,
Major, J. A. G. D.,
Assistant Director,
Claims Investigating Service.

When Colonel Hilliamen came to Dayao to organize its defenses, there was no equipment to perform quick medical of first aid to the American civilians of Dayao. I was necessary for him to call on the American civilians to assist in the erection of temporfortifications, all bamboo, and repairs was appointed as, in charge of transportation. All bamboo was brought to the motor pool. I afforded to give necessary for operation of the motor boat. I assigned as a no bated time as was brought on a navigation officer of the Colonel Hilliamen, which was brought up to headquarters of the Japanese took all my papers. Furthermore the Japanese cars, and signed by him. I or 9 bamboo to my force. These Force were badly needed, so I requisitioned a boat which was completely destroyed. Some of course were on where near enough but I was soon able to get enough to some bamboo scaffolds. When the Japanese invaded Dayao none of force did not come to the motor pool, and only about 25 of the 85 forces in the force at all. The rest were all out on various assignments. Some I had were in Cotabato.

x x x x x x x x x x x x x

Witness my hand this 2nd day of October 1945.

x x x x x x x x x x x x x

When Colonel Hilliamen came to Dayao to organize its defenses, there is no equipment to perform quick medical of first aid or mobilize the organization so it was necessary for him to call on the American civilians of Dayao. I was necessary for him of all to assist in transportation, all bamboo, and repairs was appointed as, in charge of transportation, all bamboo, as bamboo was brought to the motor pool. I afforded to give necessary for operation of the motor boat. I assigned as a no bated time as was brought up Colonel Hilliamen, which was brought on a navigation officer of the Japanese took all my papers. Furthermore the Japanese cars, and signed by him. I or 9 bamboo to my force. These Force were badly needed, so I requisitioned a boat which was completely destroyed. Some of course were on where near enough but I was soon able to get enough to some bamboo scaffolds. When the Japanese invaded Dayao none of force did not come to the motor pool, and only about 25 of the 85 forces in the force at all. The rest were all out on various assignments. Some I had were in Cotabato.

x x x x x x x x x x x x x

I, ROBERT B. HARRISON, Major, JAGD, Assistant Director, Claims Investigating Service, hereby certify that the following is a true and correct extract from the claim of David Norton Burchfield, ERO 13, now on file in the Manila Office, Claims Service, AFWESPAC:

My records and office was in Santa Anna. The motor pool, where I was in charge, was in Dayao. When the Japanese started the invasion of Dayao, Santa Anna was shelled by their Navy. All of my receipts and licenses were in a safe in my office, which was completely destroyed. I can not remember the license number. I furnished affidavits affected to my letter of March 19th of nine prominent Amerians, all residents of Dayao, which should be proof the truth of my claim. Of those Amerians Mr. John D. Schmid, Schmid, District Superintendent of Schools and Mr. William H. Cohn, Vice President and General Manager of Dayao and Mr. William H. Cohn, Vice President and General Manager of Dayao Light and Power Co are in Manila to Dayao.

x x x x x x x x x x x x x

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
PROVINCE OF DAVAO) S.S.
MUNICIPALITY OF MATI)

A F F I D A V I T

I, Juan C. Andrada, of legal age, married, a filipin citizen and resident of the Municipality of Mati, Province of Davao, after being duly sworn in accordance to law depose and say;

That on or after the liberation when the various soldiers and Lt. Jovito B. Pedraya returned to Mati, from the field. Various owners of cattles, carabaos, horses, Corn, Palay, chicken, pigs, etc; commandered by the 3rd. Davao Company under Capt. Florentino Asis, Sergeant Jovito Pedraya now a Lieutenant (P.A) Usaffe Jaime Barrientos, and Efren Dominguez Corporals and Mess Sergeant; came to the undersigned requesting for help relative to their claims (various owners) relative to their cattles, horses, carabaos, etc. taken during the war. Many of these claimants do not know English and how to prepare their claims.

The following persons whom I remember requested for help are Mrs. Agusta de Lim, Sapaon Moro, Francisco Rocamora, Eduardo Gonzales, Herederas de F. Sainz, George Kalitas, Francisco Yaptiala, Rafael Yaddiong, and many others that I cannot remember from Mati and even from the East Coast Municipalities.

That said persons first approached Lt. Pedraya, Efren Dominguez and Jaime Barrientos; presenting their old receipts issued to them. These receipts were too old, torn, were mare scratch of papers perhaps pick up here and there by the commandering officers, others are not legible. These receipts were all reproduced by the undersigned, typewritten and presented to Lt. Jovito Pedraya, Efren Dominguez, and Jaime Barrientos for their signatures. The later two soldiers, were under the direct command of Lt. Jovito Pedraya and the late Eusebio Trinidad and stationed at Mati during the dark days.

That each claimant once their papers are prepared, they went to Davao City either personally or thru their Attorney-in-fact and presented to the QADM SERVICE OFFICE, AFWESPAC sometimes last year.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed this 18 day of September, 1947.

SIGNED IN THE PRESENCE OF:

Santiago P. Rebesura

Jesus R. Ramos

Sig. of Juan C. Andrada
cut out for Sig. C. File.

I certify that the foregoing statement was made by the party who signed this same voluntarily before me this 18th day of September, 1947.

Leo B. Curry Jr.
LEO B. CURRY jr.
Investigator

CERTIFICATE

I, JOSE S. TUVILLA, of legal age, married, a resident of Tigato, Davao City, Davao, do depose and state:

That on 14th December 1941, I was inducted into the service of the USAFFE;

That from 14th December to 20th December 1941, I was Junior Officer of "H" Company, 2d Davao Provisional Battalion; after 20 December 1941, which was the invasion of Davao by the enemy, I have been attached to different units until I reached Cotabato sometime in April 1942, where I was assigned Junior Officer of "A" Company, Replacement Battalion, 101st Division, until 10 May 1942, which was the general date of surrender; I did not surrender but managed to look for other units which have not surrendered, until I met Colonel Laureta who was then still operating in Capalong sometime in September 1942 and had decided to join his outfit; I was then appointed Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, Davao Guerrilla Forces which later became 130th Infantry Regiment. I held this post until about the middle of January 1945 when I assumed command of the 111th Provisional Battalion, relieving Captain Owen P. Wilson;

That this statement is given with reference to persons who have filed claims with Claims Service for various foodstuffs which were procured in the area of the 111th Provisional Battalion after I assumed command of same Battalion about the middle of January 1945. The operation area of the 111th Provisional Battalion during my command covered the East Coast of Davao, starting from Cateel in the north and Lupon in the south. From the beginning of my command of 111th Provisional Battalion in January 1945 to August 31, 1945 when the Battalion was dissolved, we received ample funds to cover all food procurements. This fund (emergency notes) were received by the company commanders from Agent Officer of the 107 Division. It was my policy to allow company commanders to make payments for all food procured for their respective company;

That on or about the middle of May 1945, my battalion began receiving food supplies from the Division Headquarters. These food supplies were American food supplies which our Division received from the 24th Division, U.S. Army. In my opinion, all food procurements made by my command after the middle of May 1945, were unecessitated except, perhaps from some corn and rice which were part of our diet which we did not receive in American rations. It is my opinion, that all large cattle procurements made after the middle of May 1945, were unauthorized invalid procurements and that if, such were procured at any time during my command of the 111th Provisional Battalion, they should have been paid for by the company commanders with the funds previously mentioned.

(Sgd.) /s/ JOSE S. TUVILLA
/t/ JOSE S. TUVILLA

I certify that the foregoing statement was made by the person signing same before me this 25th day of September 1947 at the City of Davao, Davao.

(Sgd) /s/ Leo B. Curry, Jr.
/t/ Leo B. Curry, Jr.
Claims Investigator

A true copy:

LEO B. CURRY, JR.
Claims Investigator

HEADQUARTERS PHILRYCOM
CLAIMS SERVICE MOBILE TEAM
DAVAO CITY, DAVAO
MINDANAO

GSCLI.12
SUBJECT: Transmittal of Investigative Papers vtr:jmj

FROM: Director

30 October 1947

TO: Chief of Claims Service
Manila

ATTN: Director, Investigation
Division

1. Pursuant to your telegram dated 24 October 1947, statements have been secured from William Park, Joseph P. Perkins, Leslie E. Stevens, Merle S. Robie and Ildefonso Joven, with respect to obtaining information requested therein.

2. Telegram has been transmitted your office, 30 October confirming compliance of your request.

VINCENT T. RICEVUTO

5 Incls-
1. Affdvt of William Park
2. " " Joseph P. Perkins
3. " " Leslie E. Stevens
4. " " Merle S. Robie
5. " " Ildefonso Joven

Reg# 9238

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

Bureau of Posts

95 KZDV GU RJ 330 PM 66 CHARGE
DAVAO OCT 21/47
CHIEF OF CLAIMS SERVICE
DIRECTOR INVESTIGATION DIVISION
QUEZON BLVD AND ZURBARAN STREET
M A N I L A

REURAD TWENTY OCTOBER EUSTAQUIO CABITIGAN INTERROGATED RE CLAIM OF 3W
MAURICIO RAMOS AND HIS STATEMENT AIRMAILED THIS DATE STOP STATEMENT APPEARS UNCERTQIN WHETHER VEHICLES OF RAMOS WERE ACTUALLY POOLED UNDER BURCHFIELD AND WHETHER SAME WERE TAKEN TO SASA AIRFIELD END

VINCENT T RICEVUTO DIRECTOR
CLAIM SERVICE MOBILE TEAM DAVAO
CITY DAVAO MINDANAO

TELEGRAN RECEIVED

Bureau of Posts

18 KZDV GR RN 910AM 112 CHARGE
DAVAO OCT 30, 1946
CHIEF OF CLAIMS SERVICE
DIRECTOR INVESTIGATION DIVISION
QUEZON BLVD AND ZURBARAN ST MANILA

REURAD TWENTY FOUR OCTOBER SHORT AMERICAN CIVILIAN OF INTERNATIONAL
3W
HARVESTER MENTIONED IN AFFIDAVIT OF EUSTAQUIO ARRIETA IDENTIFIED

AS WILLIAM LADD STOP COLONEL HILSMAN SPECIFICALLY APPOINTED LADD TO

SUPERVISE PLACING OF CARS AT SASA AIRFIELD STOP NO INFORMATION AVAIL-

ABLE AS TO WHETHER LADD HAD AUTHORITY TO COMMANDEER CARS STOP STATE-

MENTS SECURED FROM JOSEPH P PERKINS CMA WILLIAM PARK CMA LESLIE E

STEVENS CMA ILDEFONSO JOVEN AND MERLE S ROBIE SUPPORTING OUR FIND-

INGS IN THIS MATTER CMA AIRMAILED THIS DATE STOP WILLIAM LADD IS NOW

DECEASED END.

VINCENT T RICEVUTO
DIRECTOR CLAIMS SERVICE MOBILE TEAM DAVAO
CITY DAVAO MINDANAO

1021AM

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
: S.S.
CITY OF DAVAO)

A F F I D A V I T

I, WILLIAM PARK, a British subject, of legal age, married, presently Asst. Manager of Ker & Co., Ltd, residing in Davao City, Davao, after having been duly sworn do hereby depose and say:

That at the outbreak of war, I was in the employ of Ker & Co., Ltd, Davao City, Davao, and was appointed by Colonel Roger Hilsman after the outbreak of war as Assistant Fuel Administrator with J.C. Johns;

With reference to Claims Service representative query as set forth in wire transmitted to Director, Davao Branch Office, dated 24 October 1947 by Chief of Claims Service, the following information is hereby submitted in compliance thereof:

I have definite knowledge that the "short American civilian of International Harvester Co", mentioned in aforesaid wire was, WILLIAM LADD. Mr. Ladd was appointed directly by Colonel Roger Hilsman to render the SASA AIRFIELD in a manner so as to preclude any possible landing by enemy aircraft by means of placing wreck or junk cars on the field;

That I know definitely that this appointment was made by Colonel Roger Hilsman inasmuch as Mr. Ladd informed me personally of this assignment, and I am sure that the other Americans appointed to similar positions were cognizant of this appointment;

That it is my belief that Mr. Ladd was able to fullfil this mission of obtaining the cars he needed from the USAFFE Motor Pool of Mr. Burchfield;

That Mr. Ladd is now deceased;

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Sig. of William Park cut out
for Sig. C. File
M.A.E.

I certify that the foregoing statement was made by the party signing same voluntarily before me this 29 day of October 1947 at Davao City, Davao.

Vincent T. Ricevuto

VINCENT T. RICEVUTO
Director
Claims Service Mobile Team 12

vtr:jmj

Incl 1

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
: S.S.
CITY OF DAVAO)

A F F I D A V I T

I, JOSEPH P. PERKINS, American citizen, of legal age, married, residing at Tomas Claudio Street, Davao City, Davao, after having been duly sworn do hereby depose and say:

That at the time of the outbreak of war, I was operating my own sawmill in Davao City;

That upon outbreak of war, I offered my services in the manner in which American authorities saw fit to place me. Mr. David Burchfield, in charge of the USAFFE Motor Pool, assigned me to Sasa Airfield where I helped repair an American plane and also to align disabled vehicles in the airfield to obstruct potential Japanese landings;

With reference to the query set forth by Claims Service Investigator regarding the wire transmitted by Chief of Claims Service, to Director Davao Branch Office, the following is hereby submitted:

"The short American civilian of the International Harvester Co", referred in the aforesaid wire, was BILL LADD. Mr. Ladd was in the employ of the International Harvester Co at that time. He is now deceased;

That I have no knowledge as to whether Mr. Ladd had authority to commandeer cars from private garages. However, I know that he was directing operations of towing disabled cars to the Sasa Airfield;

That I have no recollection as to whether some of the disabled cars towed to the Sasa Airfield belonged to Eustaquio Arieta. However, the car assigned by Mr. Burchfield to me was a vehicle belonging to Eustaquio Arieta;

That I do not know who appointed Mr. Ladd in the aforesaid capacity;

I have no further information on this subject.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Joseph P. Perkins
JOSEPH P. PERKINS
Affiant

I certify that the foregoing statement was made by the party signing same voluntarily before me this 29 day of October 1947 at Davao City, Davao.

Vincent T. Ricevuto
VINCENT T. RICEVUTO
Director
Claims Service Mobile Team 12

vtr:jmj

Incl 2'

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
: S.S.
CITY OF DAVAO)

A F F I D A V I T

I, LESLIE E. STEVENS, American citizen, of legal age, married, residing at Davao City, Davao, after having been duly sworn do hereby depose and say:

That at the time of the outbreak of war, I was a resident in Davao City, in the capacity of manager of a plantation in the Province of Davao;

That I have been approached by Claims Service representative regarding this matter set forth in telegram dated 24 October 1947 from Chief of Claims Service, to Director, Davao Claims Service Branch Office. It is my belief that,"short American civilian of International Harvester Co" refered to in aforesaid wire is Mr. UMSTEAD. However, I have no definite knowledge as to the exact duties assigned Mr. Umstead during the period shortly after the outbreak of war, other than he was connected with the staff consisting of American members formed by Colonel Roger Hilsman;

That it is my belief, however, Mr. PERKINS who was actually working at the Sasa Airfield as mechanic, might be of assistance in answering queries set forth in aforesaid wire;

That I can state that all of the vehicles towed to Sasa Airfield were not in running condition and could be described as "JUNK".

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Sig. of Leslie E. Stevens
cut out for Sig. Card. File
M. A. E.

I certify that the foregoing statement was made by the party signing same voluntarily before me this 29 day of October 1947 at Davao City, Davao.

Vincent T. Ricevuto
VINCENT T. RICEVUTO
Director
Claims Service Mobile Team # 12

vtr:jmj

Incl 3

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
: S.S.
CITY OF DAVAO)

A F F I D A V I T

I, MERLE S. ROBIE, American citizen, married, of legal age, residing in the City of Davao, after having been duly sworn, do hereby depose and state:

That at the time of the outbreak of war, I was residing in the City of Davao and in the employ of the Columbian Rope Co;

Relevant to the query set forth by Claims Service Investigator as to, "short American civilian of International Harvester Co allegedly commandeered cars from private garages", it is my opinion that Eustaquio Arieta in his affidavit refered Mr. H. U. UMSTAD. Mr. Umstad is now deceased;

I recall that he was working with Mr. David Burchfield in transportation work of Colonel Roger Hilsman. I do not know what authority he had for commandeering vehicles. I have no definite knowledge what American supervised the placing of cars at Sasa Airfield;

Another American of the International Harvester Co who was at Davao City at the time of the outbreak of war, was Mr. BILL LADD. He is also deceased. I do not have definite knowledge of his activities relevant to the foregoing matter at the time of the outbreak of war;

I believe that query should be directed to Mr. Burchfield in satisfaction of the above-stated requirement.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Sig. of Merle S. Robie
cut out for Sig. Card file
M.A.E.

I certify that the foregoing statement was made by the party signing same voluntarily before me this 29 day of October 1947 at Davao City, Davao.

Vincent T. Ricevuto
VINCENT T. RICEVUTO
Director
Claims Service Mobile Team 12

vtr:jmj

hd 9'

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
) S.S.
CITY OF DAVAO)

A F F I D A V I T

I, ILDEFONSO JOVEN, Filipino, of legal age, a resident of Bonifacio Street, Davao City, after having been duly sworn do hereby depose and say:

Regarding the query set forth by Claims Service Investigator as to the activities relevant to the placing of cars at Sasa Airfield, the following represents my knowledge of this matter:

I do not recall the date but I know Mr. Burchfield had ordered that any vehicle that was not in running condition should be towed to Sasa Airfield;

Americans whom I constantly saw at the army motor pool, were Mr. Stevens, Mr. Jones and Mr. Robie. I do not know whether they were carrying orders of Mr. Burchfield relevant to the foregoing matter;

I recall seeing a Mr. H. U. UMSTAD, who was employed with International Harvester Co, Davao City, at the motor pool with Mr. Burchfield. I do not know anything concerning his activities.

I have no further information on this subject.

Mr. Burchfield had sent me to the Philippine Constabulary barracks area to transfer cars and trucks they had commandeered to the USAFFE Motor Pool. I recall speaking to a First Lieutenant of the P.C. in order to carry out Mr. Burchfield's orders. However, this Officer informed me that it was impossible to carry out this order inasmuch as they had urgent need for transportation themselves. This information has been submitted by specific request of Claims Service Investigator, relevant to statements taken from former P.C. personnel in the Exequiel Labao file claim.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Sig of Ildefonso Joven cut out for File

I certify that the foregoing statement [illegible] party signing same voluntarily before me this 29 day of October 1947 at Davao City, Davao.

Vincent T. Ricevuto

VINCENT T. RICEVUTO
Director
Claims Service Mobile Team # 12

Incl 5

BASIC: Ltr fr T. C. Dukes, Acting Director of Claim Service PHILRY-COM Manila Branch dtd 8 May 1947 subj: "Re Information about the Automobiles commandeered by the US Army in Davao.

- -

HQSVZX 1st Ind MV/cdr

HQ MEG CCO PROV MPC (AP), Bacolod City, 17 June 1947

TO: Acting Director of Claim Service PHILRYCOM, Manila Branch

Returned with the following information:

a. At the outbreak of the war, 8 December 1941, I received an order from the Provincial Inspector, PC, of Davao, then Major Gregorio Ferriol, to gather and concentrate more than 6,000 Japanese in my district. I was the Commanding Officer of the 6th Davao Company PC with only 40 men stationed at Camp Ventura which is about 30 kilometers from Davao City. We have no transportation at all to gather all these Japanese and transport them in the various provisional concentration camps. Lt-Col Feliciano Torres, who commanded the Davao PC Forces, ordered me to use all available transportation that we could secure to transport all those Japanese to the concentration camps in the district. Later, another order came to transport all male Japanese to Davao City.

b. I remember there were several automobiles that we used in transporting the Japanese from the different provisional concentration camps to the permanent concentration camps and some of those automobiles were sent to Davao City. I also remember that some of the automobiles of Mr. Exequiel Labao were used, in fact I even rode on one of his Ford automobiles. But as to the exact number of automobiles taken from him, I cannot remember, as all our records were totally destroyed. During our retreat to Malaybalay, Bukidnon on 20 December 1941, we were not able to bring with us the records about those automobiles.

c. Lieutenant Colonel Gregorio Ferriol, then Major, assigned in Headquarters Army of the Philippines, Camp Murphy, Quezon City has a knowledge of this.

Sig. of M. Villares
cut out for File

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 883078

4-45

File: Claims claim

For- Statistic Branch

Lt. Col. Geo. Ft. Ellis
Asst Insp for Trans

HEADQUARTERS
Fort Knox, Kentucky

AIDIJ 150 8 May 1947

SUBJECT: Davao Vehicle Claims.

TO : Commanding General, Philippines - Ryukyus Command, APO 707, c/o Postmaster, San Francisco, California.

1. On 30 April 1947 the following cable message was received from your headquarters:

"G Three Eight Zero One Two GSCL Paren From Chief of Claims Service; Pass to David Burchfield CMA Four One One Kegan Street Dawson Springs Kentucky END Paren Report on Davao Vehicle Claims Urgently Needed Request You Advise Through Army Communication Media Expected Date of Forwarding Information."

2. A letter was addressed to Mr. Burchfield, Dawson Springs, Kentucky, quoting your message. See copy of letter made an inclosure hereto.

3. Copy of reply by letter from Mr. Burchfield is attached.

4. This headquarters is unable to proceed further until the meaning of your message is clarified.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

S. S. SOGARD
Lt. Col, AGD
Adjutant

2 Incls:
Ltr, Hq TAC, 30 Apr 47
Ltr, Mr. Burchfield, 2 May 47

A TRUE COPY:

PEDRO A. GINETE
1st Lt., Inf.
Administrative Officer
Records and Fiscal Division

A-1

7

Louisville,Ky
October I6,I947

Chief of Claims Service
Quezon Boulevard & Zubaran Streets
Manila

Dear Sir:

Yours of September 25th with claims received. As I have moved to this city there has been an unavoidable delay in my reply.

(A) Mindanao Sales and Service-File No I2- Io45
I did get some parts from the Mindanao Sales,but if I remember rightly it was battery work mostly. I did not have time to repair any vehicles,except such repairs as could be done quickly.
Nothing was ever taken from the Mindanao Sales without a written order. I doubt very much that the amount claimed is correct.
For repairs done for Lt Francisco del Castello- This should not be paid. The Mindanao Sales knew he had no authority to order repairs.

(B) Sui Bean Hoo
I know this outfit very well. They were not in town when the fighting started. The whole lot of them moved to the interior. I do not remember their turning in a truck. If he turned in his truck what did he use to move with? I do not believe this claim.
As for the claim for food, I never had anything to do with food. This was handled by Mr Merle Robie. I have been in Hoyu Ho's place hundreds of times and I am sure I never saw anything like the stock he is claiming. I do not believe any part of this claim,however Mr Robie of Columbian Rope should know.

(E) Nicolas V. Pacifico- File No I2- I065
I never saw this man. I know him. He worked for me for a short time. I was told that a Tagalog reported he was in charge of USAFFE War Bulletin. I do not believe this claim.

(F) Rosario L. Espera- File No I2- I066
There have been ten times more cars claimed for than I had. I do not remember this amn and very seriously doubt his claim. It is very strange how all of these claims lost their receipts.

Chief of Claims Service.

(G) Maria Tolentino* File No I2-I067
I do not know this person and do not believe the claim.

I trust this will be of service. You can get a general idea of the situation by reading my report "Comments and History of the Motor Pool"

The Sui Bean Hoo claim is I think entirely false and I very much doubt the rest.

Sig. of David M. Burchfield
cut out for Sig. Card file.

M.H.E.

411 Keigan Street,
Dawson Springs, Ky.

The Commanding General,
Philippine Ryukyus Command,
APO 707, Care of Postmaster,
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Sir:

Attn. Chief of Claims.

Herewith are my "Remarks on Davao Vehicles Claims" "Comments and History of the Motor Pool" Sworn statement Answering the questions contained in your letter of Feb. 25, copy of my letter to Col Hilsman.

These papers would have gone forward to you much sooner, but I had to go to the hospital in Henderson, for a short time.

I believe the letter to Col Hilsman is self explanatory My idea is that in case some reference to him is necessary it can be handled by wireless, and save time.

I have gone into great detail hoping that I might make the whole picture as it was plain to you. I trust this will make the work of the Claims Service easier.

Yours very truly,

s/ David M. Burchfield
t/ DAVID M. BURCHFIELD

true copy/

Remarks on Davao Vehicles Claims.

I.Igmedio Antonio

Claim- I939 Chrysler Sedan

I do nor remember having a Chrysler Sedan. As the cars I had were mostly old and in bad condition I believe I would remember a I939 Chrysler. The date is before the motor pool was established.

2.Nocolas Gotera and
Mindanao Sales &
Service Co.

Claim-2-I930 Ford Phaeton
4-I936 Ford Phaeton
4-I936 Ford Sedan
I-I937 Ford Phaeton
I-I939 Ford Phaeton

Statement of claimants driver,Fructuoso Tukib,is not true. I do not believe an American soldier stopped him and he did not turn anything over to a volunteer guard.That so called "guard" was a farce and I would not allow them to touch anything if I could help it. Statement refers to one car,not twelve-very doubtful.

3-Candido Abrina

Claim-3-I936 Ford Sedan
I-I935 Ford Sedan

Candido Abrina- I had considerable confidence in this man. He worked as automobile salesman for the Furawaka Plantation Co. He was of help to me in securing equipment. It was Abrina who wold me of the trucks,cars,gas and oil which were in the Furukawa bodegas. I do not understand his losing the receipts of three cars and retaining a receipt for one. One car is without a doubt a legitimate claim.

Basilio Monroe

Claim-2- I935 Ford Touring
2- I940 Chev. Sedan

I never heard of this man to the best of my memory. The claim for 2 Chev.Sedans I940 I do not believe. I did not have any good cars to speak of. This claim is very doubtful. The Ford Touring could have been turned in but I do not remember it.

5- Hao Sui

Claim- Ford turck

Where receipts are shown I do not see that there is any question.

6- Rosario de Timbol

Claim- I940 Oldsmobile
Sedan

This claim is seriously doubted. I never saw Mrs Timbol at any time during December. I doubt that she was in Davao.

7- William Alba

Claim- I939 Chev Sedan

To the best of my knowledge no American Officer ever took any equipment, without asking me for it. Every unit which was sent out on a permanent assignment had to be listed in a record for that purpose. No one just took cars. Torres would have taken the officers name. I do not believe this claim.

8* Luciano Puyod

Claim- I938 Ford Sedan
I94I Chev. Sedan

I cannot remember any new cars being turned in. I doubt this claim.

9- Lucia M.Vda de Franco
by Vicnete Martinez

Claim- I939 Chev. Sedan

I very distinctly remember this case. Garcia was a Capt. then and in charge of the guard of one of the Jap camps. Capt Garcia asked me for a car. I told him he did not need it and that I did not have any good cars anyway. I refused him. Two days later I saw him driving a car and asked him where he got it. He said he had made a deal with Mrs Franco. Martinezand his relative, the brother of Mrs Franco, seemed to fare very well under the Japanese. Mrs Franco has no claim.

10- Lee Yong

Claim- International truck 1937

If Lt Villafuerte took this man's truck then there is no claim of any nature on the Army. The motor pool was known and how it operated. Lt Villafuerte's action was not correct. He knew he was supposed to get his equipment from the pool.

11- Sofronio Pañenas

Claim- 1936 Ford Phaeton
1937 Ford Sedan
1936 Chev. Phaeton
1940 Ford Phaeton

I do not remember this case. The date must be a mistake. The Japs had Davao on December 21,1941. I suggest that Lt Estella settled for the car he took, he had no orders to do so that I know of. I cannot remember of any person turning in more than one car. I doubt this claim.

12- Davao Lumber Co

Claim- 6 Chev.trucks
1 Ford V-8 automobile

I remember the two trucks which were turned in. The Davao Lumber Co would not have kept one receipt and lost the other if they had, as claimed, turned in 7 units. I think they would have been listed on one receipt. The car may have been turned in as per Jones note to me. If Davao Lumber turned in their trucks what trucks were they using to evacuate? The car most likely was returned to them as per Jones' request

13- Bienvenido U. Poblete

Claim- 2- 1932 Ford Phaeton
1- 1936 Ford Phaeton

This claim seems to be legitimate.

14- Pedro M.Lat.

Claim- 4- 1939 Chev. Sedans

If I remember correctly Lat was operating cars under other names than his own. He either owned the cars and not the P.U. permit or owned the P.U. permit and sold the cars to the driver. I do not believe I ever issued receipts to Lat. I would remember if I had. Lat was the only filipino who volunteered anything he had to help me. He may have turned in the cars in some other name.

I5- Carriedo & Lat
Transportation

Claim- I- I934 Chev truck
IO- I937 Chev.trucks
3 - I938 Chev trucks
2- I939 Chev.trucks
2- I937 G.M.C. trucks

I used about I6 of these trucks for about one week. They were volunteered by Lat and they were a great help,as outside of my own trucks,they were about the only good trucks I had. The trucks however,were not commandeered,they returned to his garage each night and were driven by his own men. I saw some of them on the road while I was a prisoner in Davao. The only claim Lat has is rental. If they had been at the pool they would have been destroyed as I had every truck that was in damaged so they could never be used by the Japs. I am sorry I cannot help Lat as he was the only filipino in Davao who helped. The rest who had good cars and trucks hid them.

I6- Lim Sui & Co
by Lim Chan

Claim - I- I940 Studebaker Sedan
I- I94I Ford V-8 truck
I- I940 Internation truck

I do not think I had a Studebaker Sedan and I do not remember the trucks but it is possible I did receive the trucks.

I7- Ngo Lee

Claim- I- I936 Chev.Coupe

This was not handled through my office.

I8- Leon C. Garcia

Claim- I- I938 Studebaker Sedan
I- I935 Ford Sedan

I believe I have confused this man with Gregorio Garcia. I do not remember Leon Garcia's cars at all but Gregorio Garcia must have turned in his cars as he had receipts.

I9- Concepcion B Panganiban

Claim- I- I939 Ford Fordor Sedan

This car was probably brought in and registered and was issued a sticker,but was not taken in. The so called"Red Cross" was organized and had good cars before I was called by Col. Hillsman.

20- Paciano Bangoy

Claim- I- I940 Ford V-8 Sedan

This car was probably used by the Army and taken up direct.

2I- Pedro R. Santos

Claim- I- I936 Chev. Sedan

I know nothing about this car. I know Capt Santos but he would not have turned in his car to my pool. It may have been handled direct.

22- Alfredo Pichon

Claim- I- I94I Chev.truck
I- I933 Ford turck

I do not believe this claim. They may have been turned in to some P.A. outfit which is no obligation of my outfit. Jovan was not with me Dec I8. I did not start the pool until, I think the I2th.

23- Dr Vicente Lagroaa

Claim- I- I937 Ford Coupe

I do not remember this man at all

24- Lim Kay Chong

Claim IO I928 Ford Roadster

Mr Parks comment I believe is sufficient.

25- Davao Light & Power

Claim- I- I940 Lincoln Zephyr
I- I940 Ford Sedan
I- I939 Ford V-8 truck
I- I939 Ford Jitney

Joven's statement is not correct. He never requisitioned anything from Davao Light and Power and Joven was not in the motor pool on Dec 8. I had considerable repairs done at the Davao Light and Power shops and the German in charge was very careful to get purchase orders. I do not have any memory of cars taken from the firm. Headquarters may have taken them. The motor pool was not organized until Dec I2th.

26- Delfin Hofilena

Claim- 1935 Chev. Sedan

I do not remember this case.

27- Jose J. Ventosa.

Claim- I-Studebaker Sedan

If I remember correctly I never issued but one car to the air raid wardens. Every little barrio had one and they all had car. I told them to register the cars and get a sticker so they could be identified by the sentries. That was the "Civilian Emergency Transportation". I do not rememver who I issued the car to. Those who already had cars and were issued registration stickers certainly were not taken into the possession of the motor pool nor did the registeration in any way imply that the Army would pay for them.

28- Tiongo Tahil.

Claim- I- 1937 International Jitney.
The statement that I issued him the Jitney to apprehend Japanese fishermen is not true. Mr Bob Crytser was supposed to be in charge of that work. I never at any time was connected with any other work than the Army transportation. Suggest you see Crysler regarding with Luzon Stevedoring, Manila.

29- Francisco Ferriols

Claim- I- International truck
I think this claim is legitimate.

30- William Park.

Claim- I- 1940 Ford Club Coupe

I know Mr Park was using a car in connection with his work on the fuel and food committee.

31- Estate of Mauricio Ramos

Claim- I- 1929 Ford Sedan
I- 1939 Ford Sedan
3- 1936 Opel Sedan
I- 1934 Essex Coupe
I- 1937 Chev.Sedan

I did not know that Mrs Ramos owned so many cars. Some of them may have been turned in to some army unit other than the pool. I never saw the Opel,and the paratrooper defense was organized before the motor pool and I know nothing about it.

32- Gregorio S.Garcia

Claim- I- 1939 Ford V-8 Sedan
I- 1941 Chev. Sport Sedan

With receipts there is no question. I think I had this man confused with Leon Garcia in my former denial. I believe this claim is right.

33- Teh Chung San

Claim- I- 1940 Chev.truck

I believe this claim is right.

34- Elpidio Valderama

Claim- I- 1938 International Station wagon.

This seems to have been a transaction between the claimant and the P.A. The motor pool was not extaablished until the 12th and I do not think I took in any units until the 15th

35-- Anastacio C. Campo

Claim- I- 1933 Chev.truck

I believe this truck was turned in by Ng Tan.

36- Ng Loo

Claim- I- 1940 Ford V 8 truck
I- 1937 International Jitney

The "Civ Emergency Adm." pass was an order on my garage to allow the bearer to eat there. I ran a mess for the drivers and allowed them to sleep in my offices. If car No TI8-387 is in Ng Loos name, the claim must be legitimate.

37- Santiago Magbanua

Claim- I- 1938 Ford V-8 Phaeton

Joven never issued the receipts. The clerks name that did that work was, if I remember rightly, Torres. This man could have turned his car over to Capt Gallardo direct.

38- Perfecto Cuevas

Claim- I- 1932 Ford V-8 Coupe

I think this claim is legitimate.

39- Emilio Ferranil

Claim- I- 1934 Plymouth Coupe
I- 1936 Pontian Coupe

This must be a part of those organization before my time. The prisoners camps were turned over to John Stumbo about the 12th. What he found was bad. as example He found a dead infant beside its mother. The child had been dead for over 24hours. These cars were no part of the motor pool.

40- Ching Hoc

Claim- I- 1928 Ford Jitney

Transactions of this nature were never reported to me. I know nothing about this case.

41- Casiano Sales

Claim- I- 1939 Studebaker Sedan

I believe this case is correct.

42* Mamerto Bacamente

Claim- I- 1939 Ford Sedan

Where receipt is shown there is no question.

43- Alex A.Brown

Claim- I- 1940 Chev. Sedan

This car was used by one of the committee although it was not passed through my office

44- Gabriel Gravador

Claim- I- 1932 Ford truck

I do not remember this case,but most of my trucks were old so this could have happened.

45- Tomas D.Doromal

Claim- I- 1937 Ford Coupe

I do not remember this claim

46- Estate of Alejo S. Ong

Claim- I- 1938 Buick Sedan
I- 1936 International jitney

As previously stated,the Red Cross was already organized. They had their cars and they were the best in town. I had them registered and stickers issued but nothing more. I doubt this claim.

47- Exequiel Labao

Claim 2- I929 Ford Phaeton
I- I935 " V-8 Sedan
4- I937 " Phaeton
4- I938 " V-8 Sedan
4- I939 Chev. Sedan
2- I939 Ford V-8 Sedan
I- I939 Mercury Sedan
6- I94I Chev.Sedan
I- I94I Ford V-8 Sedan

Some of these cars may have been turned in. It does not seem possible that I would commandeer 25 cars and not remember it. I doubt two thirds of this claim.

48- Vicente Libron

Claim- 3- I936 Ford V-8 Phaetons
2- I930 " Sedans
I- I930 Ford Phaetons
2- I929 " "
I- I932 " "
I- I937 " V-8 "

This case is the same as Labaos.

49- Davao Autobus Co

Claim- II International jitneys
55 " I½ ton busses
4 " 2½ " "

I do not know all the facts in this case. There seems to be no doubt about the Philippine Army taking the jitneys. I saw many of them along the road when the Japs were working us.

The Davao autobus operated as a separate unit and it was efficiently run. There were three main army units when I came into the picture.

Headquarters, the cadre about 4 kilometers north of Davao, and the caberet about 3 kilometers south of Davao. There were in the two camps, I think, three battalions. I can be wrong in this as I never went to either post, but I think 6 busses were kept at each post with drivers. That would be I2 busses and one bus was kept at Headquarters which made, to the best of my memory, I3 busses in all.

I began to get reports of private cars doing a passenger business out oftown at exorbitant rates. The town was filling up with laborers etc from near by plantations . I had to get them out of town as the food problem would soon become a very serious one. I sent for the bus manager and told him I wanted two runs reopened, one north to the Tagum river and another to the northern part of Mindanao over the Sayre highway. He was glad to do this as paying his men was a very serious problem without any income.

word was passed out that passes would be given to any one desiring to leave Davao and that bus runs would be established . There were, I think, about 500 people carried in a short time out of town. How many busses were used I do not know. I do not know what the status of the jitneys were under the Philippine army and I do not know if the USAFFE is obligated to pay for more than the ones which were detailed to specific places. It would seem that some officer from those posts could be found who would know of the number of busses detailed to the post. Many of the following claims were out of my area, and others were handled without my knowledge.

50- Est. of Salvador P. Lopez

Claim- I- 1934 Studebaker Sedan
I- 1938 Chev Sedan
I- 1937 Ford V-8 truck

I have heard that Lopez was assisting the Japs and was killed by the guerillas. I have never verified the rumor.

51- Matea Almendras

Claim- I- 1937 Chev truck
I- 1938 Chev Sedan
I- 1939 " "

I know this woman. That area was under Major McGee I think. I denat this.

52- Juan A. Sarenas

Claim- I- 1939 Commander Sedan

I know Mr Sarenas and the two lieutenants but I know nothing of the transaction.

53- Luis Rabat

Claim- I- 1934 Ford Sedan
I- 1931 " truck

This is in Mati. I know nothing.

54- Francisco Rocamora

Claim I- 1939 Chev Sedan automobile
Mati.

55- Felicidad A. Castro

Claim- I- 1937 Studebaker automobile
I know nothing about this claim

56- Juan Belisario

Claim- I- 1935 Ford V8 truck

I know nothing of this claim

57- Lee Nai Sun

Claim- I- I935 Ford V-8 Sedan

I know nothing of this claim.

58- Estate of Alejandro de Lara

Claim- I- I938 Chev.Sedan

I know nothing of this claim

59- Julio Rocamora

Claim- I- I936 Ford Sedan
mali

6Ø- Gregorio Pena

Claim- I- I939 Ford Roadster

I know nothing regarding this claim

6I- Davao Chinese Educational Association

Claim - I- I936 Ford truck
I know nothing regarding this claim

62- Ramon Te Ho

Claim- I- I94I International truck
I know nothing regarding this claim

63- Leoncio Demicais
Claim- I- I936 Ford V8 Phaeton
I- I936 " " Sedan
I- I937 " " Phaeton
I know nothing of this claim

64- Tan San
Claim- I- I939 International truck
I know nothing

65- Luis Nuere
Claim- I- I938 Ford V-8 de luxeSedan
I know nothing of this claim

66- Heirs of Francisco Sainz
Claim- I- I935 Ford truck
I know nothing of this claim

67 Estate of P ascuala Rasay
Claim- I- I940 Studebaker Sedan
I know nothing.

Model Brot	Chev forward	Ford	Studebaker	Chysler	Olds	Total
	(1) 10	(4) 56	(1) 1	(1)		(7) 67
1939	6	(1) 9	1	1		(1) 17
1940	3	5	2			10
1941	8	(5) 1				9
	27	(5) 71	(1) 4	1 (1)		(6) 103

Models	Plymouth	Pontiac	Essex	Opel	Buick	Graham	Total
1928							
1929							
1930						(1)	
1932							
1933							
1934	(1) 1		1			(1)	2
1935							
1936		1					1
1937							
1938					1		1
1939				1			1
1940			1				1
1941	(1) 1	1	2	1	1	1 (1)	6 (2)

Note: Figures ( ) are claims that have been paid.
You will note that the claims pending on cars (which are models of 1938 to 1941) amount to 50 cars, paid claims, 2 cars (in very good condition) or a total of 52. I did not have those cars. I doubt very much if I had more than 10 good cars.

Trucks are out of line too but not so far.

Model	Chev	Int	Ford	Total
1933	1		1	2
1934			1	1
1935				
1936	(1)	1	(1)	1
1937		2	10	12
1938		2	3	5
1939	6		(1) 3	9
1940	1	1	1	3
1941	1		2	3
	119	(7) 6	(3) 21	(11) 36

Pending claims 36. Paid claims 11, total 47, Add to that Jap trucks which were I think, about 20 and 2 from international Harvester make a total of 69 trucks. I did not have that many, I feel sure that many cars and trucks were taken by outside posts, such as Dalison, Malalag, etc. but I had nothing to do with them and I do not know for sure that any equipment was taken up. I feel reasonably sure that 90% of these claims for late models are not legitimate. They may have been used in some filipino organization of which I know nothing, or amy officers may have taken them, but I did not have that many good trucks. These comments are up and including claim No 49.

There are several claims that seem very doubtful, as an example claim No 52 Juan A. Sarenas. Lt Cole was stationed in Cotabato and Lt Williams in Davao. Where was the car when allegedly taken?

A large number of filipinos evacuated to a lumber mill operated or managed by Turno, half way between Digos and Cotabato. I believe the Sarenas family went there. What car was Sarenas' son using when he was shot by a P.A. guard on the Digos, Cotabato road?

I note that many cars were taken after Davao fell on Dec 20th. Where were those cars? The only part on Mindanao not held by the Japs in that area was Digosto the Junction of the Sayre highway in Cotabato. That was held by Colonel McGee and he held it successfully against the Japs until the general surrender.

I cannnt understand what became of those junk cars which we caught running on the roads. I took up. There does not seem to be any claims filed for them. Those cars had a general value of about 200 to 400 pesos. We stripped one to make a good one generally.

The Davao Light claim should be referred to Colonel Hillsman. I know his staff had cars, but I do not know where he got them. I have it on very reliable information that the records of the Davao Light are intact. If I took those cars they would have receipts.

My own car which was used by the Motor pool was in the Davao Light shops for spring repairs. I distinctly remember giving them a work order for it. They were very careful to get orders for every thing they supplied. Incidently I have not filed a claim for my car.

I suggest that dates and lication are of great importance in acting on these claims. Mati for example was not destroyed. Where are their receipts? No cars were in use after the 20th. Why were they taken up? I believe Colonel McGee is alive and in the U.S. His comments should be of help.

true copy/

411 Keigan Street,
Dawson Springs, Ky.
August 2, 1947.

Col. Roger Hilsman,
128 West Magnolia Street,
San Antonio, Texas.

Dear Col. Hilsman:

The Davao claims are beyond all reason. I have been doing what I can to help for the past two years. This last list is really a big one.

In as much as I have referred to you several times I believe it will help the Claims Service if you have a copy of my comments, so if anything is referred back to you, you will know what has gone before it.

A persons hind sight is always better than his fore sight, but I wish I had kept a copy of my records and burried them. I had detailed records.

I trust you are not suffering any ill effects from those years in the hands of the "slant eyes".

Yours very truly,

David M. Burchfield

True copy/

Dawson Springs, Ky
August 1, 1947

I the undersigned, do hereby solemnly and truly declare that, as near as I can remember, the statements contained in this report consisting of "Comments and History of the Motor Pool 4 pages" Remarks on Davao Vehicles claims, II pages, and this affidavit of Pages, making a total of pages are true and correct.

A- Exactly what was Emergency Transportation in Davao?

Before I formed the motor pool several organizations had been formed and were using many cars. There seemed to be no central control. In order to get those cars registered and allowed to run, if I considered it necessary, I formed what was called the Civilian Emergency Transportation.

When they were registered a sticker was given them. This sticker has a registration number and stated what organization it was connected with. To avoid any possibility of imitation I sigend each sticker.

B- How was it related to army activities?

The Civilian Emergency Transportation was connected with the army only in that the Philippine army headquarters seemed to have authorized the forming of organizations such as Paratrooper defense, Red Cross etc. In commandeering vehicles for the motor pool the name Civilian Emergency Transportation was used on the receipts given. Some name had to be used and it did not seem right to state United States Army. The vehicles commandeered by me were definitely for army use. The ones used by Red Cross etc. in know nothing about, and as for collecting for them unless Colonel Hillsman authorized the taking of those vehicles outside of the motor pool, they should not be paid for. I sued the term Philippine Army in referring to that organization before Col Hilsman took command.

C- Who authorized its establishment?

The motor pool was authorized by Colonel Hillsman. For purposes of identification of vehicles I used the name of Emergency Civilian Transportation.

D- What were the specific terms of the authority granted as to mission and function?

I was placed in charge of all transportation. I was my duty to see that all army posts had transportation when needed. To transport prisoners, food, and laborers working in trenches, Control of gasoline permits, and issuing passes.

E- What were the implications of registrations at the motor pool?

The registtation of a vehicle at the motor pool was required as sentries would stop it otherwise. Due to low stock of gasoline no private vehicles were allowed to run.

There was no promise of payment in the registration of a vehicle. That was very clearly understood.

F- What promises were made to owners of vehicles with respect to payments for the vehicles?

I made no definite promises of payment. To most of them I said "Do not lose this receipt and you can get your car back when the American Army drvies the Japs out and if destroyed some settlement will be made." No question of price ever came up..

G- Was it contemplated that vehicles for Red Cross activities, fuel control, C E A activities, and other enterprises not of a military nature should be supplied with vehicles requisitioned by the army? Did the aforementioned organizations requisition vehicles of their own?

I do not know what Colonel Hilsman's opinion is on the subject. I do not know who formed such organizations. They were formed before I organized the motor pool. During the period Dec 12 to Dec 20 no one was supposed to commandeer any vehicle except me. That was very clearly understood.

H- Was any record retained of (1) registration of vehicles at the motor pool? (2) requisition of vehicles? I so who may now be in possession of such a record?

Records of vehicles commandeered were kept. Records of truck assignments, when they left, and when they came back, and work done was kept. I am afraid that all records were destroyed. I.B. Joven of Davao may know what happened to them. He was dispatch clerk.

(Sgd.) David M. Burchfield
Signature of Affiant
David M. Burchfield

State of Kentucky
County of Hopkins, SCT
I.Hal Harned, Notary Public Hopkins County, Ky do certify that the foregoing instrument of writing was produced to me by D.M. Burchfield and adknowledged and sworn to by him.
Witness my hand this the 1st day of August, 1947
My commission expires Feb. 26, 19450.

(Sgd.)Hal Harned, Notary Public
Hopkins County Ky

C O P Y

411 Keigan Street,
Dawson Springs, Ky.
August 2, 1947

The Commanding General,
Philippine Ryukyus Command,
APO 707 Care of Postmaster,
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Sir:

Attn. Chief of Claims, Pro 390

Regarding the trucks of Yutivo, I do not believe that I had these trucks. I know the trucks and I am sure I never saw them.

Mr Tan took his family, (wife and two children) and I think others of the firm, and went to some place up the Tagum river, a distance of roughly 80 klms. Yutivo did not have a car, if he had moved after the twelveth he would have been stopped by guards. He must have moved before the 12th, and used his trucks to move.

I do not believe those trucks were turned in.

Yours very truly,

s/ David M. Burchfield
t/ DAVID M. BURCHFIELD

A true copy/

Norris, Tenn.
May 29, 1946

Lieut. Colonel Wade
Director, Claims Investigating Service
APO 707

Dear Sir:

In answer to yours of May 7th regarding the claim of Gloria J. de Sta Marina,
I am well acquanted with Mrs. Sta Marina, but I cannot remember her turning her car. I am not all sure that she did not turn in her car.

With reference to the list contained in Mr. Joven's affidavit I doubt that those cars were turned in, and as for the Davao Amotohua, I never heard of that outfit before.

As explained in my letter of April 25th to Maj. Oberreich cars which were operating for so called defense organizations were registered and allowed to run. That registration in no way took possession of the carfor the army, nor did it promise any payment later.

Mr. Joven's statement (last paragraph) "as a matter of fact pratically all cars and trucks in Davao were commandeered by the USAFFE" is not true. After five years it is ofcourse impossible to remember every detail, but I feel sure that I did not have more than fifty cars, and they were mostly old PU cars. I remember I had trouble in furnishing tha army good cars. I think I had about fifty trucks.

To get a check on the number of cars and trucks I had, I would suggest that you have some old resident American contact Eustacio Cabitigan, and ask him, without letting him know why the information is wanted, about how many cars and trucks I had in the pool. Cabitigan was my No. 1 mechanic. Another man who might remember is L. Caspe. He was my No.1 driver and was on one of my trucks at the pool. Caspe is now working for Hanson Orth Stevenson, in Davao.

It might be a good idea to ask any one making a claim, what organization used his car. If he says "Red Cross" "Para Shooters" then be sure that the car was not turned into the pool. Knowing the Filipino as I do it is hard for me to believe that the receipts for their car was lost.

I suggest that you have Mr. H. W. Pahl, now in Davao make some inquiries, on the quiet, for you.

I trust this will be of help.

Respectfully,

/s/ D. Burchfield

A TRUE COPY:

HEADQUARTERS
CLAIMS SERVICE, PHILRYCOM
CONTRACT CLAIMS COMMISSION NO. 57

APO 707
28 May 1947

Mr. David Burchfield
411 Kegan Street
Dawson Springs, Kentucky

Dear Sir:

This office is in receipt of your letter of May 2, 1947, which reached us through the slow stages of Army correspondence.

Although this office has no jurisdiction as to payments of salary of permanent employees, I appreciate your feelings as to the difficulties of getting in touch with the proper authorities who have power on this matter. All such payments are handled by the Recovered Personnel Division, Headquarters, PHILRYCOM. I have obtained from them the necessary forms and I am now sending with these forms a copy of a letter received from Colonel Roger Hilsman to whom I wrote at the same time I sent you the file on the motor vehicle claim. Colonel Hilsman's letter may be of value in presenting your claim for back salary. If you will fill out the application form in triplicate and return this to me, I will forward it to the Recovered Personnel Division together with a copy of Colonel Hilsman's letter and a statement with respect to the value of your testimony in connection with the claim for the motor vehicles. Your affidavit covering the whole picture of the motor pool situation is needed badly because in view of Colonel Hilsman's statement, we cannot proceed to separate the good ones from the bad ones without further help from you. Why not enclose your application together with your affidavit and our other papers in the addressed stamped air-mail envelope which I sent you in February?

Yours very truly,

RICHARD C. SHELDON
Contract Claims Commission No. 57

2 Incls:
1. Application form RPD (in trip)
2. Copy letter of Colonel Hilsman.

HEADQUARTERS THE ARMORED CENTER
Office of the Staff Judge Advocate
Fort Knox, Kentucky

30 April 1947

Mr. David Burchfield
411 Kegan Street
Dawson Springs, Kentucky

Dear Sirs:

This headquarters is in receipt of a cablegram from the CG, PHILRYCOM, in reference to a claims matter.

"Report on Davao vehicle claims urgently needed request you advise through Army communication media expected date of forwarding information"

If you have any information regarding the above quoted cablegram, will you please forward it to this headquarters; and we will in turn forward it to the CG, PHILRYCOM through Army Cable Service.

Very truly yours,

MERLE E. TAYLOR
Captain, MAC
Claims Officer

A TRUE COPY:

PEDRO A. GINETE
1st Lt., Inf.
Administrative Officer
Records and Fiscal Division

CONTRACT CLAIMS COMMISSION NO. 57

APO 707
25 February 1947

Mr. David M. Burchfield
Jellico, Tennessee

Dear Sir:

During the past twenty months various representatives of this Office have requested your comment on the requisitioning of certain vehicles by the Davao USAFFE Motor Pool. Your responses have proven of high value. The number of claims filled by residents of Davao grew so out of proportion to the number of vehicles operated by the Pool that it became necessary to withold action until the diverse statements of Mr. Ildefonso Joven and other "suspect" witnesses could be fully complied and probed.

A composite list of claims now reveals that demands have been filed for more than three times the number of vehicles you recall requisitioning. For the purpose of doing justice to the ownres of vehicles properly requisitioned for use of USAFFE, and to protect the U. S. Treasury from false claims, your evidence is urgently needed in the form of specific comment as to each claim. We are inclosing a copy of the consolidated list showing:

a. Name of the claimant.
b. Description of the vehicle allegedly requisitioned.
c. Date of alleged requisitioning.
d. Claimant's assertion as to whether or not receipts were furnished.
e. Gist of Mr. Ildefonso Joven's statement.
f. Gist of statement of other alleged witnesses.

With the above information to refresh your recollection, we request that your prepare an affidavit setting forth in detail, item by item your specific recollection as to each claimant, stating (1) if your remember the owner of the vehicle, and (2) stating if you remember having requisitioned the vehicle or if you remember specifically that you did not requisition the vehicle claimed. It is requested that you make a specific comment, in terms that you remember or that you do not remember. To aid identification we inclose a copy of each of the ten receipts submitted by the eighty eight claimants. Any information formal of informal in nature indicating the points on which your specific recollection rests is also desirable.

Further evidence is needed toestablish the nature and scope of the commitments made on behalf of USAFFE at Davao. We request there-

fore that you start your affidavit by setting out the whole picture with respect to the folloeing:

a. Exactly what was Civilian Emergency Transportation in Davao?
b. How was it related to army activities?
c. Who authorized its establishment?
d. What were the specific terms of the authority granted as to mission and function?
e. What were the implications of registration at the motor pool?
f. What promises were made to owners of vehicles with respect to payment for the vehicles?
g. Was it contemplated that vehicles for Red Cross activities, fuel control, CEA activities and other enterprises not of a military nature should be supplied with vehicles requisitioned by the enemy? Did the aforementioned organization requisition vehicles on their own?
h. Was any record retained of (1) registration of vehicles at the motor pool? (2) requisition of vehicles? If so who may now be in possession of such a record?

To enable you to provide consistent evidence we are inclosing a copy of all letters which prior to this time you have sent to us on this matter.

Your affidavit will be of the greatest value in enabling this office to prevent what appears to be a broadside attack on the United States taxpayers and to do justice to the individuals who have a proper claim. In view of the urgency of the situation, we send this request Air Mail with an inclosed envelope stamped for return. We request that you prepare your affidavit at your earliest convenience with due care in view of the principles and the large sums involved and that you register the envelope on return.

Sincerely yours,

RICHARD C. SHELDON
Contract Claims Commission No. 57

3 Incls.
to be returned:
1 - Consolidated list of Davao Vehicles Claims.
2. -Copy of statement of Burchfiled
3 - Copies of receipts.

A TRUE COPY:

PEDRO A. GINETE
1st Lt., Inf.
Administrative Officer
Records and Fiscal Division

TRUE COPIES OF RECEIPTS SUBMITTED WITH VEHICLE CLAIMS

CIVILIAN EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION
CITY OF DAVAO

December 13, 1941

Received from Rao Sui one Ford Truck No. T-9630 for use of civilian transportation.

LT. COL. R. HILSMAN

by: /s/ D. M. Burchfield
/t/ D. M. Burchfield
Chief Transportation

* * * * * * * * * * * * * *

CIVILIAN EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION
CITY OF DAVAO

Davao, 15th December, 1941.

RECEIVED one (1) Chevrolet 1936 Model PU-1813 from Agustin Plaza of Lapanday for use of Civilian Emergency Transportation.

LT. COL. ROGER HILSMAN

By: /s/ D. M. Burchfield
Chief Transportation

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

RECEIVED One (1) FORD V8 1936 PU-1886 Model Sedan from J. T. Ortiga of Davao, for use of the Civilian Emergency Transportation.

LT. COL. ROGER HILSMAN

No Key
(confirmed by Mechanic)

By: (Sgd) D. M. Burchfield
Chief Transportation

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Davao, 16th, December 1941

RECEIVED One (1) Ford V8 1935 Model PU 2034 from C. ABRINA of Davao for use of Civilian Emergency Transportation.

LT. COL. ROGER HILSMAN

By: (SGD) D. M. Burchfield
Chief Transportation

Pencil notes:
Key in switch
Received: Car is all right
initialed - NB

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Davao, 17th December 1941.

RECEIVED one (1) FORD V8 Model 1939 PU-1860 from M. Bacamante for use of Civilian Emergency Transportation. This car is now being detailed to the Cadre.

Pencil notes: "Co. A2
Initialed: I.J.

LT. COL. ROGER HILSMAN
By: (Sgd) D. M. Burchfield
Chief Transportation

A TRUE COPY OF A TRUE COPY:

PEDRO A. GINETE
1st Lt., Inf.
Administrative Officer
Records and Fiscal Division

SIXTH ARMY

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA ORGANIZED RESERVE CORPS INSTRUCTOR GROUP
OFFICE OF THE SENIOR INSTRUCTOR
PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

AIR MAIL

AMORC 151

24 March 1947

SUBJECT: Claims of Davao City Residents for Motor Vehicles

TO: Headquarters, Claims Service, PHILRYCOM
Contract Claims Commission No 57
APO 707, c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

1. Reference your communication to me of 25 February 1947 regarding claims of more than a half million pesos by residents of Davao City for motor vehicles allegedly requisitioned between December 10 and 20, 1941, by USAFFE under my command, I certify that the following statements are true to the best of my knowledge and belief:

a. I assumed command of the Davao Sector on or about 10 December 1941. At that time my command had approximately 15 vehicles which were partly Army and partly civilian, same having been brought with my command from Malaybalay. Shortly after my assuming command of this Sector, I placed in concentration camps some 10,000 or more Japanese nationals - men, women and children. In order to properly feed this large concentration camp it was necessary for me to requisition vehicles from local inhabitants of the City of Davao as there were no motor pools of Government vehicles on the Island of Mindanao. In addition to the supply of food to interned Japanese nationals, my command began the construction of some 5 kilometers of defense works along the beaches of the Gulf of Davao. This construction work also required a number of vehicles for transporting workers and material.

b. I had only one Staff officer available to me, namely an adjutant. This fact compelled me to make use of civilian committees formed of local American businessmen and Allies. To the best of my recollection, a Mr. D. M. Burchfield was placed in charge of all my motor transportation. All of this transportation, although administered by a civilian, was directly under Army control and utilized by Army orders. I have no recollection of the authorizing of the use of the name "Civilian Emergency Transportation". Notwithstanding that fact,

this transportation was under Army control. In order to augment the small supply of motor vehicles that I brought with me, certain civilian-owned transportation was requisitioned. The majority of this transportation was alien-owned (Japanese), being taken from local Japanese residents and mostly from the Japanese plantations in the vicinity of Davao of which there was a large number.

c. Only a very limited number of trucks or motor cars were requisitioned from local Filipino citizens. [In all cases, with exception of Japanese requisitioned vehicles, proper receipts were given and proper estimates of value at the time the vehicles were requisitioned were made.] In all cases where proper requisitions were made the owners of vehicles were informed that they would be given reasonable rental and same returned to them in first-class condition, otherwise the United States Government would make proper payment for vehicles lost or destroyed. It was not contemplated that these vehicles would be used for Red Cross, fuel control, civilian emergency activities, or other enterprises not connected with the Army. These vehicles were used by the Army on any type of work that was considered necessary for the defense of the City of Davao.

d. It is my understanding that these records, together with other records, were lost or destroyed during the defense of Davao, or in subsequent operations or surrender of the Philippine Islands. It is believed that Mr. Burchfield should be in a position to give additional vital testimony regarding this situation.

e. Approximately 8 vehicles (mostly Japanese-owned) were moved from Davao to Malaybalay to fill a requisition of the Commanding General at Malaybalay.

f. I am positive that any claim for 290 vehicles is false. And it is my opinion that less than 50 vehicles were in use by my headquarters, the majority of same were secured from the Japanese residents.

g. It is recommended that no claims be approved by your headquarters regarding payment for any vehicles unless claims are properly supported by a valid receipt or requisition signed by Mr. Burchfield, and in all cases these receipt should be verified by Mr. Burchfield. The

claim of local residents of Davao for as high a number as 290 vehicles is ridiculous and in line with other claims which have been referred to the undersigned for verification. It is a clear case of local individuals attempting to secure payment from the United States Government for personal property taken by the Japanese.

Any further information I can give regarding these unjust claims will be gladly furnished.

Please note my proper address as correspondence addressed to me at 128 West Magnolia Street, San Antonio, Texas, is greatly delayed in reaching me.

Roger Hilsman

ROGER HILSMAN
Colonel, Infantry
Senior Instructor

AMORC-CO 151

7 July 1947

SUBJECT: War Claim PRO-1399

TO: The Commanding General
Philippines Ryukyus Command
APO 707, Care of Postmaster
San Francisco, California
ATTN: Chief of Claims Service

1. Reference your letter of 27 May 1947 regarding the claim of Exequiel Labao, I submit the following information:

2. In the second paragraph of Major Ausejo's affidavit he states he received orders from Colonel Nelson to commandeer vehicles. Col Nelson was in command at Cotobato and had no jurisdiction over the Davao Sector, which I commanded from 9 December to 21 December 1941. In the third paragraph of Major Ausejo's affidavit he states that he commandeered three Chevrolet cars belonging to Mr Labao and then turned them over to Colonel Nelson at Cotobato. Naturally I would have no knowledge of any of these transactions as I had nothing whatsoever to do with the Cotobato Sector.

3. I am unable to verify Major Jaime's statements as he was acting on orders from Colonel Torres. I did not issue an order to commandeer all vehicles in Davao. Unfortunately, Colonel Torres, I am informed, was executed by the Japanese.

4. Reference the affidavit of J C Jones, he was appointed by me on 10 December 1941 as Fuel Administrator for the Davao Sector. I am not in a position to make any statements regarding the station owned by Mr Labao, but I do know when gasoline was requisitioned proper receipts were given for same. It is my belief that that particular station was not taken over by the Army. If so, it was done without my knowledge or consent and it is my opinion that Mr Labao should be requested to produce receipts for any fuel taken from his station.

5. With reference to Mr D M Burchfield's letter, I consider his

File: Hellemann Boys
Davao Claims

AMGRO-CO 151

7 July 1947

SUBJECT: War Claim PRO-1299

TO: The Commanding General
Philippines Ryukyus Command
APO 707, Care of Postmaster
San Francisco, California
ATTN: Chief of Claims Service

1. Reference your letter of 27 May 1947 regarding the claim of Expedito Labao, I submit the following information:

2. In the second paragraph of Major Anselo's affidavit he states he received orders from Colonel Nelson to commandeer vehicles. Col Nelson was in command at Cotobato and had no jurisdiction over the Davao Sector, which I commanded from 9 December to 21 December 1941. In the third paragraph of Major Anselo's affidavit he states that he commandeered three Chevrolet cars belonging to Mr Labao and then turned them over to Colonel Nelson at Cotobato. Naturally I would have no knowledge of any of these transactions as I had nothing whatsoever to do with the Cotobato Sector.

3. I am unable to verify Major Jaime's statements as he was acting on orders from Colonel Torres. I did not issue an order to commandeer all vehicles in Davao. Unfortunately, Colonel Torres, I am informed, was executed by the Japanese.

4. Reference the affidavit of J C Jones, he was appointed by me on 10 December 1941 as Fuel Administrator for the Davao Sector. I am not in a position to make any statements regarding the station owned by Mr Labao, but I do know when gasoline was requisitioned proper receipts were given for same. It is my belief that that particular station was not taken over by the Army. If so, it was done without my knowledge or consent and it is my opinion that Mr Labao should be requested to produce receipts for any fuel taken from his station.

5. With reference to D Mercofield's letter, I consider his

statements to be the most accurate of any submitted to me with this claim and I also very much doubt the accuracy of Mr Labao's claim.

6. In reply to the questions contained in your letter:

a. I issued orders that only necessary vehicles would be commandeered in the City of Davao. Many of these vehicles came from the Japanese residents of Davao, and it is my belief that a very small number were commandeered from Filipino owners.

b. Mr D M Burchfield was placed in charge of the Davao Motor Pool. This was necessitated by the fact that I had only two or three officers in my command and they could not be spared from combat duty for staff duty.

c. The Motor Pool was formed on or about 10 December 1941 and the purpose was to supply necessary motor transportation for use of the Army in the Davao Sector. No government-owned vehicles were available. In addition to the supplying of the Army needs, around 10,000 Japanese civilians had been concentrated in camps and it was the duty of the Army to supply them with food and essentials.

d. These vehicles were all abandoned on 20 December 1941 when my small force was compelled to evacuate the City due to the lack of ammunition and being outnumbered. It is my opinion that those vehicles that were not destroyed were taken over by the Japanese.

e. In answer to question five, it is my belief that no gasoline stations and their stock were commandeered by anyone connected with my force. In lieu thereof requisitions were issued on these gasoline stations for the necessary gas.

7. In conclusion, it is believed by me that Mr Labao's claim in regard to the Davao Sector is excessive and without foundation.

ROGER HILSMAN
Colonel, Infantry
Senior Instructor

ROGER HILSMAN
Colonel, Infantry
Senior Instructor

a. Three aerplanes were all embarked on 25 December 1941 when the Malay Force was compelled to evacuate the City due to the lack of ammunition and petrol combined. It is my opinion that those aeroplanes that were not destroyed were taken over by the Japanese.

b. In summary to direct pilot, it is my belief that no Reconnaissance aeroplane has flown across the Malay Peninsula since the Japanese occupied the Malay Peninsula. No Japanese reconnaissance aeroplane flew over Penang Island on the 16th July 1941 when the Japanese landed at Tanjong Tuan and Kuala Lipis.

c. In order to supply the Malay Regiment with food and essentials, Malay aeroplanes were used to drop food and essentials.

d. Malay aeroplanes were all embarked on 25 December 1941 when the Malay Force was compelled to evacuate the City due to the lack of ammunition and petrol combined. It is my opinion that those aeroplanes that were not destroyed were taken over by the Japanese.

e. In order to direct pilot, it is my belief that no Reconnaissance aeroplane has flown across the Malay Peninsula since the Japanese occupied the Malay Peninsula. No Japanese reconnaissance aeroplane flew over Penang Island on the 16th July 1941 when the Japanese landed at Tanjong Tuan and Kuala Lipis.

f. In conclusion, it is believed by me that Mr Lepson's claim is exaggerated and without foundation.

g. Mr D M Entwistle was placed in charge of the Naval Motor Boat. Only two of these vessels could be spared for the Naval Motor Boat. Mr Entwistle was transferred to the Malay Regiment and the Naval Motor Boat officers in my command and the boat could not be spared. Three Chinese Motor Launches were also transferred to the Malay Regiment for the same reason.

h. The Motor Boat was formed on or about 10 December 1941 and the purpose was to supply necessary motor transportation for use of the Malay in the Naval Sector. No Government-owned aeroplanes were available. In addition to the supplying of the Malay Regiment, approx. 2,000 refugees civilians had been concentrated in Penang and it was the duty of the Malay to supply them with food and essentials.

i. Three aeroplanes were all embarked on 25 December 1941 when the Malay Force was compelled to evacuate the City due to the lack of ammunition and petrol combined. It is my opinion that those aeroplanes that were not destroyed were taken over by the Japanese.

j. I trust other that only necessary aeroplanes should be commandeered in the City to Naval Sector Penang to transport essential refugees and I am of opinion that it is my belief that a Malay Force Lieutenant were commandeered from Kilinchu onwards.

k. In regard to the questions contained in your letter:

a. I have other that only necessary aeroplanes should be commandeered in the City to Naval Sector Penang to transport essential refugees and I am of opinion that it is my belief that a Malay Force Lieutenant were commandeered from Kilinchu onwards.

b. Three aeroplanes were all embarked on 25 December 1941 when the Malay Force was compelled to evacuate the City due to the lack of ammunition and petrol combined. It is my opinion that those aeroplanes that were not destroyed were taken over by the Japanese.

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CLAIMS SERVICE MOBILE TEAM
DAVAO CITY, DAVAO
Mindanao

Do not Remove From Attached Sheets

Subject: Affidavits of unbiased Davao citizens

12 August 1947

FROM : L. Curry, Jr.
Mobile Team # 12
Davao City, Davao

TO : Commission 57

1. Immediately after our arrival in Davao City, Davao, Mr. Justiniano and I made an all-out-effort to contact all American and British citizens who held positions of indesputable repute in Davao previous to the critical days of December 1941, and men (the same) who were assigned responsible and key positions in the war emergency committees set up by Colonel Roger Hilsman on the date of his arrival in Davao, December 1941 up to December 20th, the date of Japanese entry into Davao City.

A-8

2. Secondly, we approached the persons who actually worked within the Motor Pool, namely the dispatcher and mechanics who were in a position to see and work on the vehicles which were used and retained by the Pool. These aforementioned persons are all mentioned by Burchfield in his correspondence with the Claims Service or being reliable sources of information, with the exception of one (Jabonette).

3. These men whose affidavits were obtained and are herewith attached to this sheet, present facts and opinions which we believe give the best and most complete overall picture of the commandeering of vehicles in the Davao City area in December 1941 that is to be had or obtained at this date.

4. Though their statements vary and there is a definite difference in opinion, we nevertheless feel that these are the statements of men who have honestly and in good faith tried to reconstruct conditions of December 10-20, 1941, to the best of their knowledge and recollections.

5. Finally, we respectfully submit these affidavits for any probative value they may have towards aiding Commission 57 in adjudicating the Davao Vehicle Claims.

Leo B. Curry Jr.
LEO B. CURRY, Jr.
Claims Service Investigator

7 Incls-
1. Affdvt, I. Joven dtd 16 July 1947
2. " E. Cabitingan dtd 29 July 1947
3. Stmt. L. Jabonette dtd 31 July 1947
4. " L. Caspe dtd 30 July 1947
5. " L. Stevens dtd 30 July 1947
6. Affdvt, W. Park dtd 4 August 1947
7. " A. Brown dtd 5 August 1947

(6) statement of Burchfield can be added to this Master Reference File when submitted to Manila Office - WR

L
B

HEADQUARTERS, PHILRYCOM
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LB

CITY OF DAVAO) s.s.
)

A F F I D A V I T

I, ILDEFONSO J. VEN, after having been duly sworn do hereby depose and say:

I am a Filipino, 53 years, and a resident of Bonifacio st, Davao City,

This statement is made to modify, clarify and revise previous statements and affidavits made by me in claims for motor vehicles which took place in Davao City.

From 1920 to 1935 I was employed by David Morton Burchfield. In Davao City I worked as Manager of his land and water transportation until I took up employment with Carriedo and Lat as Manager of land transportation, which position I held until the outbreak of the war in December 1941. When the trucks of Carriedo and Lat were requisitioned by Mr. Burchfield, acting as director of motor transportation in Davao, I went with the trucks to the Army Motor Pool, where Mr. Burchfield asked me to work for the Army under his direction. He had already installed Porfirio Torres, who had been working as manager of the Burchfield company, as dispatcher of the Motor Pool; and Mr. Burchfield instructed me to work with Mr. Torres in the related functions of dispatcher and clerk. My duties were flexible. I helped generally with whatever was needed in the registration and dispatching of vehicles. When Mr. Torres was away from the pool, I took over. When he was there, we worked together. I worked for about seven (7) days before the Japanese came on the 20th of December 1941. I received all my instructions from Mr. Burchfield. Before I came, the motor pool had already begun to register all motor vehicles in the area. This registration was done on long sheets of Manila paper. The name of the owner, the type of vehicle, the day of registration and the purpose for which the owner was permitted to use his car were all written down. On the day I started work, Mr. Burchfield got a number of printed stickers on which the purpose for permission to operate the vehicle was indicated. The stickers that I remember were printed as follows: "Parashooters," "warden," "For Fuel," and "Red Cross." These stickers were about four (4) inches by 12 (twelve) inches and I believe that some of them were printed by the Davao Times. These stickers indicated the purpose for which each owner was allowed to retain and operate his car. When Mr. Torres or I registered a car which Mr. Burchfield said was to be left with the owner for one of these purposes, we would issue two stickers one for the front window and one for the rear one. As I understood it the effect of these stickers was to keep the car from being picked up and commandeered.

At the dispatcher's desk was kept a dispatch book for the trucks used by the Army men and also the automobiles so used. There were more trucks than automobiles used by the Army. In this dispatch book we would write down the name of the Army men taking the truck, the destination, andthe time out. When the vehicle came back, we would write the time in. This dispatch book was a bound record book with ruled pages, whereas the sheets of registration for recording the names of individuals who were allowed to operate their own cars were large Manila sheets. Nearly all of my work was in registering the privately owned vehicles on the large sheet for operation by the owners. Mr. Torres did most of the work in dispatching the vehicles used by the Army and I made entries in the Army dispatch book only when Mr. Torres was not available.

All of the receipts issued by the Army Motor Pool bore Mr. Burchfield's signature and as far as I know he handed out each receipt himself to the owner or the driver of the car. Each receipt that he handed out was typewritten either by Mr. Burchfield or Mr. Torres.

A-7

This was a time of great confusion in Davao. A few days before the Japanese Army came some members of the Philippine Constabulary undertook to commandeer vehicles on their own, but I do not know where they got authorization for this. When I try to register some of the vehicles they had taken, I put down P. C. to show that a member of the Philippine Constabulary had the car. Mr. Burchfield did not issue a receipt for any of the vehicles taken by members of the Philippine Constabulary. As a matter of fact, Mr. Burchfield did not issue many receipts during those seven (7) days. In the last days some cars were taken on the streets by members of the local police and I do not know who authorized this, certainly not Mr. Burchfield. He did not authorize anybody to issue receipts for motor vehicles. Most of the taking of the vehicles on the public street was done by private individuals , who without authorization were trying to separate the Japanese residents. Most of the confusion over the taking of vehicles in Davao was caused by private individuals who went wild in their efforts to round up the Japanese residents.

When I left the motor pool on the day the Japanese Army came, the dispatch book was left on the desk and I have never seen it again. As best as I can remember, the registered sheets were burned out at the time we were destroying the vehicles in the motor pool.

Taking up one by one each claim as to which I have given information before, I wish to add the following clarifications:

On all claims for which I executed affidavits, I did not prepare any of these many affidavits. Each and every one of them was prepared and brought to me for my signature either by the claimant or his attorney or his friend. I intended nothing wrong. My only purpose in signing these many affidavits was to do as much good as possible for my fellow town people. I never receive any money for my signing of these prepared affidavits. I am now furnishing this free and voluntary statement for the purpose of withdrawing all improper claims which I have mistakenly supported by my affidavits.

My assignment by Mr. Burchfield was assistant dispatcher. Mr. Porfirio Torres, the dispatcher, is dead. I am submitting my permit signed by Mr. Burchfield on December 15, 1941-two or three days after I commenced working-as proof of my official assignment. I have never been paid anything for approximately seven days of hard work as assistant dispatcher.

/s/ Ildefonso Joven
/t/ ILDEFONSO JOVEN

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 16th day of July 1947. Affiant exhibited his Residence Certificate No. A-738050 issued on January 2, 1947, in Davao City.

/s/ Roman A. Leorente
/t/ ROMAN A. LEORENTE
Notary Public
Until December 31, 1947

Doc. No. 389;
Page No. 79;
Book No;
Series of 1947.

I certify above to be a true and correct copy of excerpts from the statement of Ildefonso Joven, dated 16 July 1947 at Davao City, Philippines, which statement is presently retained in the files of the Director, Investigation Division, Claims Service, PHILRYCOM, APO 707.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
:
CITY OF DAVAO) s.s.

A F F I D A V I T

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All of the receipts issued by the Army Motor Pool bore Mr. Burchfield's signature and as far as I know he handed out each receipt himself to the owner or the driver of the car. Each receipt that he handed out was typewritten either by Mr. Burchfield or Mr. Torres.

This was a time of great confusion in Davao. A few days before the Japanese Army came some members of the Philippine Constabulary undertook to commandeer vehicles on their own, but I do not know where they got authorization for this. When I try to register some of the vehicles they had taken, I put down P.C. to show that a member of the Philippine Constabulary had the car.

ing. I marked the purpose of registration"for ditching". Then this man and the one accompanying him drove the two cars away and I do not know what happened to them. I remember that one car was a Ford V8 Sedan and one was a four-cylinder Ford Sedan. I don't know if the rest of his cars were taken by anyone. No receipt was issued by Mr. Burchfield for either of the cars I registered.

3. Candido Abrina - Mr. Abrina brought some of his cars to the motor pool, wearing, as I well remember a warden's armband. I registered these cars showing the purpose of his use of them as "Warden". He then took his cars away and I do not know what finally happened to them. I do not remember if Mr. Burchfield issued receipts to Mr. Abrina.

4. Basilio Monroe - Mr. Basilio Monroe was a neighbor and a friend of mine. I knew that he had four P.U. cars. After all the trouble had begun, he talked to me about what he should do with one of his Chevrolet sedans. He said his other cars had been picked up on the streets by parties unknown. I advised him that it was of no use for him to keep his car and suggested that he turn it over to the Army. I remember that his driver brought it to the motor pool where I registered it and it was retained at the motor pool. I do not remember whether or not Mr. Burchfield gave a receipt.

5. Hao Sui - I reaffirm my identification of Mr. Burchfield's signature on the receipt presented by Hao Sui.

6. Rosario de Timbol - I remember that Mr. Timbol was one of the first who brought a car to the pool for registration. It was a new car but I do not remember the type. He wore his armband as warden and I registered his car for use by him in his activities as warden. He drove the car away and I do not know what finally happened to it.

7. William Alba - I remember that Mr. Alba had some position with the organization of the city for defense. I do not now remember whether he was a warden or parashooter. I remember that when Mr. Alba drove his car to the motor pool for registration, he was

the motor pool.

17. Ngo Lee - I have no specific recollection that the car of Ngo Lee was brought to the motor pool, and I have no knowledge what happened to this man's car.

18. Leon Garcia - I remember that Mr. Garcia was a warden or one of the parashooters. When he brought his car to the motor pool for registration he was wearing an armband. I remember registering his car and issuing to him the appropriate stickers. I do not remember what type of car he drove except that it was a large sedan. I do not remember that he brought his second to the motor pool at any time.

19. Concepcion B. Panganiban - As stated in my affidavit of 8 November 1945 I personally pasted the Red Cross stickers on the car of Dr. Panganiban. After I registered it for Red Cross activity, she drove her car away and I do not know what finally happened to it.

20. Paciano Bangoy - I remember that Paciano Bangoy, a farmer, brought in his car for registration, and I registered it for his work as a warden. He drove his car away and I do not know what finally happened to it.

21. Pedro R. Santos - As Mr. Santos was a doctor well known in the community, I remember that I registered his car for his work and supplied him with Red Cross stickers. He brought the car to the motor pool himself and drove it away and I do not know what finally happened to it.

22. Alfredo Pichon - I remember that Mr. Pichon was a member of the parashooters and that he retained his vehicle. I do not remember his bringing them to the motor pool.

23. Dr. Vicente Lagrosa - As Mr. Lagrosa was a doctor well known in the community, I remember that I registered his car for his work and supplied him with Red Cross stickers. He brought the car to the motor pool himself and drove it away and I do not know what finally happened to it.

24. Lim Kay Chong - I remember that Lim Kay Chong, who had an old Ford Roadster, brought in his car for registration for his activities in fuel control. He received the necessary stickers so that he might retain his car and I do not know what finally became of it.

25. Davao Light & Power Co. - I do not remember that any of the vehicles of Davao Light & Power Co. were ever brought to the motor pool for registration or any other purpose. It is my understanding, gained from hearsay, that cars on the premises of the Davao Light & POwer Co. which had been repossessed from purchasers in default were seized by parties unknown.

26. Delfin Hofilenia - I will remember that Judge Hofilenia came voluntarily to register his vehicle. I registered his vehicle and then, because of his position in the community, he was allowed to retain his car. He drove it away and I do not know what finally became of it.

27. Jose J. Ventosa - Mr. Ventosa brought his car voluntarily to the motor pool for registration to his activity as warden. He was permitted to retain his vehicle because of his official duties as warden and I do not know what finally happened to his vehicle.

28. Tiongco Tahil - I have no specific recollection of the registration of the car of Mr. Tahil. At present I do not remember ever seeing him or his car altho perhaps I could recognize him were I to see him. He came to me with an affidavit for my signature dated 11 March 1946.

29. Francisco Ferriols- I do not remember that Mr. Ferriols brought his truck to the motor pool himself. Possibly it was confiscated on the outside but I have no knowledge of any of the circumstances. I do not remember seeing Mr. Ferriols or his truck during the days the motor pool operated.

30. William Park - Mr. Park was active in fuel control. I remember registering his car for this purpose. He retained the use of his car and I do not know what finally happened to it.

31. Est. of Mauricio Ramos - Mr. Mauricio B. Ramos, since deceased, was a member of the parashooters and he wore an armband showing his defense assignment. I remember registering his cars which he brought himself to the motor pool. He drove his cars away and I do not know what finally became of them.

32. Gregorio Garcia - I reaffirm my identification of the signature of Mr. Burchfield on the receipt presented by Mr. Gregorio Garcia. I remember that his car was assigned with Dr. Monfort for use in his physicians duties with the army. Dr. Monfort was

assigned to the South Sector of the Red Cross.

33. Teh Chung San - I have no specific recollection of the registration of the car of Mr. Teh Chung San. I do not remember ever seeing him or his car altho perhaps I could recognize him were I to see him.

34. Elpidio Valderama - Mr. Valderama was a warden and therefore was allowed to retain his vehicle after I registered it and furnished him the appropriate stickers. I do not know what finally happened to his vehicle.

35. Anastacio C. Campo - I reaffirm my identification of the signature of Mr. Burchfield on the receipt presented by Mr. Campo. Mr. Campo was a member of the Philippine Constabulary, now retired. I recall that his vehicle was dispatch on army work.

36. Ng Loo - I have no specific recollection of the registration of the car of Mr. Ng Loo. I do not remember him or his car altho perhaps I could recognize him were I to see him.

37. Santiago Magbanua - Mr. Magbanua was a professional driver, the owner of a rather old model Ford car. He came voluntarily to the pool, registered his vehicle and then offered his services in the driving of the emergency officials about their tasks. I recall that he kept his vehicle at the motor pool for several days, and drove officials on various small trips. Mr. Magbanua retained the use of his vehicle to the last and just before the Japanese Army entered Davao he did not have it at the motor pool. I do not know what finally became of his vehicle.

38. Perfecto Cuevas - I remember registering the vehicle of Perfecto Cuevas and I indicated its use as for supply activities. Mr. Cuevas busied himself in confiscations of foodstuffs under the direction of Robert Socks. For this purpose he retained the use of his vehicle and I do not know what finally happened to it.

39. Emilio Ferranil - I remember registering the runabout of Mr. Ferranil which he brought in for registration after he had been appointed warden. At one time Mr. Ferranil told me that he had been ordered by Mr. Burchfield to commandeer P.U. cars and other cars on

the street. However, I never heard Mr. Burchfield issued out such an order. I do not remember that Mr. Ferranil brought in a second car for registration and I do not know what happened finally to any of his vehicles.

40. Ching Hoc - I have no specific recollection of the registration of the car of Mr. Ching Hoc. I do not remember him or his car altho perhaps I could recognize him were I to see him.

41. Casiano Salas - Mr. Salas is a farmer and he is either a warden or parashooter. I remember registering his car but he retained the use of it and I do not know what finally happened to his car.

42. Mamerto Bacamante - I reaffirm my identification of the signature of Mr. Burchfield on the receipt presented by Mr. Bacamante.

43. Alex A. Brown - I remember that Mr. Brown brought in his car for registration and that I indicated that the car was authorized for use in food supply work. Mr. Brown therefore retained his car and I do not know what finally happned to it.

44. Gabriel Gravador - Mr. Gravador brought in his old truck for registration and I indicated that the car was authorized for use in Mr. Gravador's work as a warden. Mr. Gravador therefore retained the use of his truck and I do not know what finally became of it.

45. Tomas D. Doromal - I recall that Mr. Doromal,an attorney, was active in the organization of the parashooters. He brought in his car for registration to his activity as parashooter and therefore retained the use of his car.

46. Alejo S. Ong - Mr. Ong brought in his car for registration to his Red Cross activities and he therefore retained the use of his car. After registering his car, he drove away with it and I do not know what finally became of it.

47. Exequiel Labao - I do not know anything about Mr. Labao's vehicles. All that I remember is that I did not see him even before the war. Neither do I remember about gasoline, tires, and oils which he alleges were requisitioned from him. I never saw any of his property at our motor pool.

48. Vicente Libron - Mr. Libron was an operator of P.U. cars. I do not remember that he brought any of his automobiles to the motor pool. I do remember about P.U. vehicles in general that many ofthem had been taken from the owners on the streets by parties unknown to me and that quite a few had been abandoned on the streets by those who took them from their rightful owners. Mr. Burchfield gave an order that these abandoned vehicles should be picked out and driven to the landing field at Sasa and there placed to hinder landing of Japanese planes. Some of these vehicles were driven there by men from our own motor pool. I do not know if Mr. Libron's vehicles were taken in this manner nor do I know what finally became of them.

49. Davao Autobus Co. - ~~None~~ Few of the vehicles of the Davao Autobus Company were ever brought to the Army motor pool for registration or for any other purpose. At one time I saw many of the vehicles of the Davao Autobus Company lined up on San Pedro street extension and I was told by someone whom I do not now remember that members of the Philippine Constabulary were taking these buses for transferring troops to Bukidnon and Cotabato. I personally have no specific knowledge as to how these trucks were taken, when, why or by whom, if indeed they were taken at all. I know that ~~none~~ few of them were brought to our motor pool. I did see some of the buses go thru the streets loaded with Japanese prisoners but I do not know who ordered this. These buses may have been used thru instructions of Mr. Burchfield but if this is accurate it must have occurred before I came to the Motor pool, because nothing was done at the motor pool about these vehicles while I was there. The affidavit which I signed on the 4th day of December 1945 was brought to me by Mr. Ponce, Manager of Davao Autobus Company, for my signature and I had nothing to do with the preparation of it.

50. Eriberto Gonzales - I remember having registered the car of Mr. Gonzales but he was allowed to retain the use of his vehicle in line with his work as electrician. After registering his vehicle, Mr. Gonzales drove it away and I do not know what finally became of it.

51. Cipriano Villafuerte - The two funeral cars owned by Mr. Villafuerte were not registered, as far as I can remember, because of their nature. I recall that Mr. Villafuerte registered one of the two cars used by his family and after I marked it on the registration for his use as a member of the P.C. he kept his car and I do not know what happened to it later. Mr. Villafuerte's son, an attorney, registered the second family car and retained it for his use in one of the defense organizations.

52. Ramon Joaquin - I remember having registered Mr. Joaquin's car but because of his activities as a warden, he retained the use of his car and I do not know what finally happened to it.

53. Est. of Gaudencia Rasay - Mrs. Gaudencia Rasay, since deceased brought in the vehicle for registration. Inasmuch as her son was active as a warden, I issued the warden's stickers to her. Then she drove the car away and I do not know what finally happned to it.

54. Bernardino Bosque- Mr. Bosque was a P.U. operator. I do not remember that he brought any of his automobiles to the motor pool. I do remember about P.U. vehicles in general that many of them had been taken from the owners on the streets by parties unknown to me and that quite a few had been abandoned on the streets by those who took them from their rightful owners. Mr. Burchfield gave an order that these abandoned vehicles should be picked out and driven to the landing field at Sasa and there placed to hinder landing of Japanese planes. Some of these vehicles were driven there by men from our own motor pool. I do not know if Mr. Bosque's vehicles were taken in this manner nor do I know what finally became of them.

55. Elizalde & Co. - I do not have a specific recollection that Mr. Luis Rotaeche brought or sent to the motor pool any vehicle other than a jitney. I do not remember the make of this jitney. It is my best recollection that this jitney was used by members of the motor pool on official business and that it was in the pool at the time the Japanese Army took over.

56. Ngo Su Lian - I have no specific recollection of the registration of the car of Ngo Su Lian. I do not remember him or his vehicle altho perhaps I could recognize him were I to see him.

57. Helen Schlinger - I remember that Mr. Schlinger brought in a Sedan which was registered by me, giving his activity in a defense organization as the reason for his retention of the car. he drove the car away and I do not know what finally happened to it. Mrs. Schlinger sent her jitney to the motor pool where we retained it for the use of army transportation. It was driven by motor pool drivers. I recall that at one time it was use for hauling ice for army use. Altho I do not recall Mr. Burchfield deliver a receipt, I believe he gave one for this vehicle.

On all claims for which I executed affidavits, I did not prepare any of these many affidavits. Each and every one of them was prepared and brought to me for my signature either by the claimant or his attorney or his friend. I intended nothing wrong. My only purpose in signing these many affidavits was to do as much good as possible for my fellow town people. I never receive any money for my signing of these prepared affidavits. I am now furnishing this free and voluntary statement for the purpose of withdrawing all improper claims which I have mistakenly supported by my affidavits.

My assignment by Mr. Burchfield was assistant dispatcher. Mr. Porfirio Torres, the dispatcher, is dead. I am submitting my permit signed by Mr. Burchfield on December 15, 1941- two or three days after I commenced working as proof of my official assignment. I never had any discussion with Mr. Burchfield or with anyone else about the amount of salary that I was to receive in my assignment. I have never been paid anything for approximately seven days of hard work as assistant dispatcher.

ILDEFONSO JOVEN

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 16th day of July 1947. Affiant exhibited his Residence Certificate No.A-738050 issued on January 2, 1947, in Davao City.

ROMAN A. LEORENTE
Notary Public
Until December 31, 1947

Doc. No. 389;
Page No. 79;
Book No. I;
Series of 1947.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
: S.S.
CITY OF DAVAO)

A F F I D A V I T

I, EUSTAQUIO CABITINGAN, after having been duly sworn, do hereby depose and say:

I am a Filipino, of legal age, and a resident of Claveria Street, Davao City, Davao.

Prior to the outbreak of the war in December 1941, I operated an automobile shop under the trade name of Davao City Repair Shop. Mr. Burchfield knew that I am familiar with motor mechanics and on 10 December 1941, he personally came to my shop and asked me to take over the job of Chief Mechanic at the army motor pool. At the time I came to the motor pool, there were no vehicles and commandeering began on or about 12 December 1941.

All vehicles which could be located were registered at the motor pool. All P.U. cars and trucks which were registered were actually commandeered and retained at the motor pool. Cars of private individuals were for the most part allowed to operate for their own use in civilian defense activities such as the "Air Raid Wardens," "Parashooters", Red Cross," etc. Public officials and defense organizations stated above were allowed to retain the use of their cars. Cars of P.U. operators who were not in any way engaged in the so-called defense organizations were retained at the motor pool. Some of these cars were issued by the motor pool for use in the defense organizations and some of them were issued to Army officials for official army use. Mr. Burchfield was the official army representative who determined whether a vehicle was to be retained at the pool or to be permitted to operate by the owner. There was a great deal of confusion at this time regarding the taking of vehicles along the highways by civilian volunteer guards. There was no organized system of commandeering by these volunteer guards and they

Sig. of Eustaquio Cabitingan
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took almost any vehicle found in the highways. These vehicles were taken in at the motor pool and receipts were issued by Mr. Burchfield in the event the owners appear at the pool and ask for such receipts. Sometimes the receipts were issued to the drivers of the car, however there were many instances where no receipts were issued either because the owners did not appear at the pool or because their drivers did not go with the car to the pool. I know that the authority of these volunteers to commandeer cars along the highways originated from the Office of the Mayor and from the Provincial Commander of the Philippine Constabulary. The Philippine Constabulary did a lot of commandeering on their own and I do not know whether or not receipts were issued for these vehicles. The issuance of gas was under the exclusive control of Mr. John Clayton Jones and no gas was issued unless the vehicle was used by the Army or by the defense organizations.

Gualaguio Galatang

With reference to the list of Davao Vehicle Claims, the following statements are my recollection as best as I can remember:

1. Igmedio Antonio - I know that Mr. Antonio Was a P.U. operator but I am not sure whether or not his vehicles were commandeered.

2. Nicolas Gotera - I know that several of Mr. Gotera's cars were brought and retained to the pool but I cannot state with certainty how many of his vehicles were actually taken in. I know that some of his vehicles were commandeered because these vehicles bore his name on the sides of the cars.

3. Candido Abrina - I know that Mr. Abrina was connected with one of the defense organizations and he was allowed to use for such activities one of his P.U. cars. Some of Mr. Abrina's P.U. cars were taken in and I know that these were issued either to the Army officers or to the civilian defense activities.

4. Basilio Monroe - I know Mr. Monroe to be one of the P.U. operators who has no connection with any of the defense organizations. I remember having seen Mr. Monroe's name on a vehicle that was retained at the pool.

5. Hao Sui - I do not know any specific instance where a receipt was issued by Mr. Burchfield and I do not know anything about the vehicle of Hao Sui.

6. Rosario de Timbol - I do not know anything about this man's vehicles.

7. William Alba - I remember that we received Mr. Alba's car at the pool but I do not know whether he was allowed to use it or whether it was assigned to any of the defense organizations.

8. Luciano Puyod - I know that Mr. Puyod has no connection with any of the civilian defense activities. I am familiar with his car because we were neighbors. His car was in good condition and was retained at the pool when it was sent in for registration. I saw Mr. Puyod when he came personally to the pool to have his car registered. I do not know whether this car was assigned to Army use or for use of the civilian defense organizations.

9. Lucia Vda de Franco - I know that Mr. Franco was a "Parashooter" and I saw him using one car. I am not sure whether this car was his own because there was no identification on the sides. I know that some of his P.U. cars were taken in but I am not sure whether they were used by the Army or by the defense organizations.

10. Lee Yong - I do not know Mr. Lee Yong or anything about his car. I do not recall having seen his car at the motor pool.

11. Sofronio Parenas - I do not know Mr. Parenas or anything about his vehicles. I do not recall having seen his cars at the pool.

12. Davao Lumber Company - I remember that two or three trucks of the Davao Lumber Co. were retained at the pool. I cannot recall whether we received any automobile from this company but I know that this company owned a Chevrolet car.

Constantino Sabatinger

13. Bienvenido U. Poblete - I do not know Mr. Poblete personally but I recall having seen a name Poblete on one vehicle in the pool.

14. Pedro M. Lat - I recall having seen the name of Mr. Lat on Chevrolet P.U. cars at the pool but as to the number I do not know. I know that these cars were retained at the pool but I do not know what use was made of his cars.

15. Carriedo and Lat Transportation - I recall having seen one truck of this company that was sent to Cotabato but as to the others I do not know. The truck was sent to haul rice for the Army.

16. Lim Sui & Co. - I know that Lim Sui & Co. owned two International trucks which were in good condition. I know that these trucks were actually in the service of the motor pool because I saw them being sent out to haul supplies from Cotabato and Malaybalay and all trucks that were sent out passed through me for checking.

17. Ngo Lee - I do not know Mr. Ngo Lee and do not recall having seen his vehicle at the motor pool.

18. Leon Garcia - I know that Mr. Garcia was a "Warden" and he owned a private car but I do not know whether he used his own car or whether it was taken in by the army motor pool.

19. Concepcion B. Panganiban - I know that the husband of Dra. Concepcion B. Panganiban was an army doctor with the rank of Lieutenant. In such capacity he was allowed to retain the use of his car.

20. Paciano Bangoy - I know that Mr. Bangoy owned an automobile but I am not sure whether or not his vehicle was turned in the pool.

21. Pedro R. Santos - I recall that Mr. Santos owned a car but I have no knowledge whether or not this vehicle was brought to the motor pool. I know Mr. Santos is a doctor.

22. Alfredo Pichon - I know Mr. Pichon personally and the fact that he owned at least two trucks. I am familiar with his vehicles and I am sure that his two trucks were retained at the

Gustaquio Gabatino

pool. I remember having inspected his Chevrolet truck which was in very good state of repair.

23. Dr. Vicente Lagrosa - I do not know Dr. Lagrosa and do not recall having seen his vehicle at the pool.

24. Lim Kay Chong - I do not know Mr. Chong and do not recall having seen his vehicle at the pool.

25. Davao Light and Power Co. - I do not know whether or not any vehicles of this company was commandeered. This company is an agent of Ford cars and trucks and as long as there is no identification on the sides of the vehicles there is no way for me to know the owners of such cars.

26. Delfin Hofilena - I know Judge Hofilena owned a car and because of his position he might have retained the use of his car. I do not recall having seen his vehicle at the pool.

27. Jose J. Ventosa - I know Mr. Ventosa to be a registered owner of a car and that he was engaged in defense activities. I do not recall having seen his car at the pool.

28. Tiongco Tahil - I do not know this man and do not recall having seen any of his cars in the pool.

29. Francisco Ferriols - I know this man personally and the fact that he owned an International truck and a car. I recall having seen his truck and car at the pool. The truck was used by the Army in hauling supplies but I do not know what use was made of the car.

30. William Park - Mr. Park was working with Mr. Jones in fuel control. I cannot recall having seen his car at the pool.

31. Est. of Mauricio Ramos - Mr. Ramos/a is P.U. operator and his cars were mostly old Ford cars and at least two small Olimpian cars. These cars were sent to the Sasa airfield to prevent Japanese landings.

32. Gregorio Garcia - I do not now remember having seen his vehicles at the pool.

33. Teh Chung San - I know Mr. San owned a car but I do not remember whether or not his car was brought to the pool.

34. Elpidio Valderama - I remember that his International truck

Testimony of Habitg

was commandeered and was assigned to bring supplies at Toril for the civilian volunteers. I know he has other trucks but do not know whether or not they were taken to the pool.

35. Anastacio C. Campo - I do not know Mr. Campo and do not recall having seen his vehicle at the pool.

36. Ng Loo - I know Ng Loo was a carpenter but do not remember whether or not his truck was commandeered.

37. Santiago Magbanua - I know this man owned a car but cannot recall whether or not he turned in his vehicle. I do not recall having seen his vehicle at the pool.

38. Perfecto Cuevas - I do not know this man and do not recall having seen his vehicle at the pool.

39. Emilio Ferranil - I know Mr. Ferranil was a Warden but have no knowledge anything about his cars. I do not recall having seen his cars at the pool.

40. Ching Hoc - I know Ching Hoc owned a truck but do not recall whether or not his truck was brought to the pool.

41. Casiano Salas - I know Mr. Salas owned a brand new car and I personally saw the car turned in the pool. I do not know what disposition was made of his car.

42. Mamerto Bacamante - I do not know this man and do not recall having seen his vehicle at the pool.

43. Alex A. Brown - I know Mr. Brown owned a car but do not know whether or not his car was brought to the pool.

44. Gabriel Gravador - I have no knowledge of Mr. Gravador's vehicle.

45. Tomas D. Doromal - Mr. Doromal was an attorney and he retained the use of his car in his defense activities.

46. Alejo S. Ong - Mr. Ong is a Philippine Constabulary Lieutenant and he retained the use of his car.

47. Exequiel Labao - I do not know Mr. Labao or anything about his vehicles.

48. Vicente Libron - Mr. Libron was a P.U. operator and he

Eustaquio Bautista

owned several old P.U. cars. Some of his old cars were towed to the landing field to hinder Japanese landings.

49. Davao Autobus Co. - As best as I can remember, no vehicle of this company was ever turned in the motor pool, however, I know positively that all available buses of this company were pressed into the service of the Army including the drivers. I do not know under whose authority these vehicles were taken but I do know that some of these buses were used in evacuating civilians.

50. Eriberto Gonzales - I do not know this man and do not recall having seen his vehicle at the pool.

51. Cipriano Villafuerte - Mr. Villafuerte was a Lieutenant in the Philippine Constabulary. I know he owned an old Ford car and several funeral cars. Since he was a Lieutenant he retained the use of his car in his official duties. I know he was in charge of the forces at Matina. I saw his driver driving his car for him. I do not have any recollection regarding the funeral cars.

52. Roman Joaquin - This man is a surveyor and I know he owned a car. Since he was one of the officials of a certain defense organization, I believe he might have retained the use of his car.

53. Est. of Gaudencia Rasay - Mrs. Rasay was the wife of a certain Army Captain. I know she owned a car but I cannot recall whether or not her car was taken into the pool.

54. Bernardina Bosque - Mr. Bosque is a planter at Bunawan and I know he had several good P.U. cars. I remember having inspected two or three of his good cars which were retained at the pool. These cars were brought to the pool by his drivers and I do not know what disposition was made of these cars. As best as I can recall, he owned Chevrolet and Ford cars.

55. Elizalde & Co. - I am familiar with the vehicles of this company and I know our men in the pool took a truck, a car and a jitney which were retained and used by the Army.

56. Ngo Su Lian - I know this man personally and I remember he owned a Fargo truck which he used in his business as a merchant.

Eustaquio Flotango

I remember that men from the motor pool took this vehicle from this man's store where this vehicle was hidden. It was a very good truck and I am pretty sure it was sent out to Cotabato bringing soldiers and in coming back bringing foodstuffs.

57. Helen Schlinger - This person owned a Chevrolet car and an International jitney. I cannot recall having seen these vehicles at the pool but I saw the jitney being driven by civilian guards carrying volunteers. I also saw this jitney a number of times when it was driven to the pool where gas was issued. I do not know exactly whether this jitney was taken for Army or civilian use.

58. Eustaquio Arrieta - I know this man to be a P.U. operator. He owned a few good cars and several old Fords between 1929 and 1935 models. I am quite certain that I saw several of his Fords retained at the pool. These vehicles were taken by men from the pool. Some of his vehicles were used by the Army and some by the defense organizations. Some of the vehicles which were turned back to the pool were left there when the Japanese forces took over. I know that a few of his old Fords were taken to the landing field at Sasa to hinder Japanese landings. I do not know anything about this man's connection with any defense activity.

Eustaquio Arrieta

59. Pedro Barriga - Mr. Barriga owned a few good P.U. Fords. I remember having seen his name on a vehicle at the pool but I cannot now remember how many were retained at the pool. I do not know this man's connection with any defense activity.

60. Juan Arkoncel - This man is a lawyer and he owned a car the type of which I cannot now recall. This car was brought to the pool for registration but I do not have any knowledge whether the car was returned to the owner or retained at the pool. I do not know this man's connection with any defense activity.

61. Est. of Maximino Danton - I know Mr. Danton owned a car but I do not know whether or not his car was retained at the pool. His car is a private car and has no mark or name on the sides which

made it impossible for me to identify the numerous private cars in the pool. I do not know his connection with any of the defense activities.

62. Paulo C. Ramirez - I do not know this man and cannot recall having seen any of his vehicles at the pool.

63. FelipeR. Royeras - I do not know this man and cannot recall anything about his vehicle.

64. Emiliana Campo - I know this woman was the wife of Captain Campo of the Army. I do not know anything about this car but I believe Captain Campo used it in his Army duties.

65. Helen Ponce - I cannot recall this person nor anything about her car.

66. Uy Huan Ishi - I do not know this man nor anything about his vehicle.

I am in a position to give the above statements because all cars and trucks that were taken by the motor pool were inspected by me to determine whether or not the car was in good condition. Practically all good trucks and cars were retained at the pool. I am also able to identify most of the Chinese claimants because they were my pre-war customers in the repair shop and almost all Chinese trucks were taken by us. All junk cars which I think could not be of use were towed to the landing field to prevent Japanese landings. I still remember that this operation took two days of continuous towing.

All of these vehicles that were retained at the pool were at the disposal and exclusive control of the Army regarding its respective assignments. These vehicles were returned to the pool upon the completion of its mission. They were all garaged at the old market place which is about two hundred square meters in size. When I left the pool on Friday night 19 December 1941, this market place was full of cars and trucks. To the best of my recollection, there were some 200 vehicles at the pool which include about thirty Japanese trucks from Furukawa Plantation, about forty Japanese trucks from Ohta Development Company, around twenty trucks

from other Japanese firms and the rest were privately owned cars, trucks, and P.U.cars. I know we received orders to destroy all vehicles before the Japanese came but the invasion was so sudden and the Japanese forces took over at about four oclock in the morning. I believe some of these vehicles were destroyed but some of them were used by the Japanese army.

My position in the motor pool enables me to give the testimonies I stated in the preceding pages. I have no personal reasons for making these statements which were made solely through the request of Claims Service representatives. I worked for the Army motor pool at the request of Mr. Burchfield from 10 December until the Japanese came. I offered Mr. Burchfield the use of my repair shop but I was not paid any compensation either for the use of my shop by the army or the services I rendered as Chief Mechanic.

Eustaquio Cabitingan

EUSTAQUIO CABITINGAN

I CERTIFY that the foregoing statement was made by the party who signed the same voluntarily before me this 29th day of July 1947.

Leo B. Curry Jr.

LEO B CURRY JR.
Claims Service Investigator

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
CITY OF DAVAO)

S T A T E M E N T

I, LEONCIO JABONETE, a Filipino, of legal age, and a resident of Tomas Claudio street, Davao City, do hereby depose and state:

For ten (10) years prior to the outbreak of the last war, I owned and operated an auto repair shop under the trade name of Jabonete Auto Repair. On or about 10 December 1941, I was requested by Mr. Burchfield to work for him at the army motor pool located along Claveria Street. I was assigned assistant to Eustaquio Cabitingan who has been appointed as Chief Mechanic. I have in my possession a pass signed by Col. Hillsman which reads as follows: "ALLOW BEARER, LEONCIO JABONETE TO PASS ANYWHERE" Because of my varied duties as assistant mechanic and the procurementof spare parts, I became acquainted with some of the vehicles that were commandeered and which I remember having seen at the army motor pool. With reference to the list of Davao Vehicle Claims, the following statements are true and correct to the best of my recollection:

1. Igmedio Antonio - I know heowned a car but I do not recall having seen his car at the motor pool.

2. Nicolas Gotera - I saw two of Gotera's new Fords with his names on the sides. These cars were retained at the pool but I do not know what disposition was made of these cars.

3. Candido Abrina - I saw three or four of this man's Fords model 1935 and 1936 at the pool. He owned some other P.U. cars and a privately used car. I know his good car was retained by him in his activity as a "Parashooter."

4. Basilio Monroe - I recall seeing Monroe's 1935 Ford and a new Chevrolet the model of which I cannot now recall. I saw Mrs. Monroe accompanied by her drivers when she delivered the cars to the motor pool where it was retained.

5. Hao Sui - I do not know this man or anything about his vehicle.

6. Rosario de Timbol - I know she has an Oldsmobile but I do not recall having seen this vehicle at the pool.

7. William Alba - I cannot recall seeing his vehicle at the motor pool.

8. Luciano Puyod - I know this man owned two cars but I do not recall seeing them at the pool. However, I do recall seeing one of his cars parked in front of his house before the Japanese came.

9. Lucia Vda de Franco - I know Mrs. de Franco's P.U. cars were worn out and were not taken by the motor pool. She has a good car but I am not sure whether or not this car was taken by the pool.

10. Lee Yong - I know this man personally but I cannot remember anything about his vehicle.

11. Sofronio Parenas - This man is a P.U. operator who owned several good cars. I recall having seen two of Parenas' cars retained in the pool. As best as I can remember, one was an old Ford and a model 35 or 36 Chevrolet.

12. Davao Lumber Co. - Two trucks of this company were retained at the pool. These were good Chevrolet trucks. I also took various spare parts we needed in the pool from this company. I remember having signed some of the invoices.

13. Bienvenido U. Poblete - Mr. Poblete had three (3) model A Fords but I do not recall having seen any of them at the motor pool.

14. Pedro M. Lat - I do not recall having seen any of Lat's P.U. cars at the pool.

15. Carriedo & Lat Transportation - I heard all trucks of this company were taken but I am not aware of the actual facts and do not know what use were made of these trucks.

16. Lim Sui & Co. - I am familiar with the cars and trucks of this company. I remember having seen the Ford and International trucks of this company at the pool.

17. Ngo Lee - I do not know Mr. Lee or anything about his vehicle.

18. Leon Garcia - I do not recall having seen any of Garcia's vehicles at the pool.

19. Concepcion B. Panganiban - She has a Ford which I believe was used by her personally.

20. Paciano Bangoy - I know this man has only one car but I cannot recall having seen it at the pool.

21. Pedro R. Santos - I believe he used his own vehicle in as much as he is a doctor.

Sig. of Leonio Jabonete
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22. Alfredo Pichon - I know Mr. Pichon, a rich planter, who owned two good trucks. It is possible that these trucks may have been taken because of their condition but I do not have any knowledgeof the actual taking.

23. Dr. Vicente Lagrosa - I do not know this man or anything about his vehicle.

24. Lim Kay Chong - I do not know this man or anything about his vehicle.

25. Davao Light & Power Co. - I do not know whether or not the vehicles of this company were taken by the army. However, this company was very cooperative in giving us the spare parts we needed . I remember having signed invoices on these spare parts.

26. Delfin Hofilena - I know Judge Hofilena owned a car but do not have any knowledge about his car having been turned to the pool.

27. Jose J. Ventosa - I do not know this man or anything about his vehicle.

28. Tiongco Tahil - I do not recall having seen any vehicle of this man at the pool.

29. Francisco Ferriols - I do not know thisman or anything about his vehicle.

30. William Park - I believe I saw this man using his own car but I do not know his connection with any of the defense activities.

31. Mauricio Ramos - This man owned at least seven (7) P.U. cars. They were old Fords and an old Chevrolet. I remember having seen two of his Ford P.U. cars in the pool. How it was brought there and who brought it, I do not know.

32. Gregorio Garcia - I do not know this man or anything about his vehicles.

33. Teh Chung San - I do not know this man or anything about his vehicle.

34. Elpidio Valderama - I know this man owned an International jitney but I did not see his vehicle at the pool.

35. Anastacio C. Campo - I do not know this man or anything about his vehicle.

36. Ng Loo - I know this man owned a truck but cannot recall having seen his vehicle at the motor pool.

Jesus Lahmet

37. Santiago Magbanua - I do not know this man and cannot recall anything about his vehicle.

38. Perfecto Cuevas - I know the late Mr. Cuevas but do not recall having seen his vehicle at the motor pool.

39. Emilio Ferranil - Mr. Ferranil owned two cars but I cannot recall having seen them at the motor pool.

40. Ching Hoc - I do not have any knowledge of this man's vehicle.

41. Casiano Salas - I do not have any knowledge of this man's vehicle.

42. Mamerto Bacamante - I do not know this man or anything about his car.

43. Alex A. Brown - I know he owned a car but I cannot recall having seen his car at the pool.

44. Gabriel Gravador - I believe this man owned an old truck but I have no knowledge about this vehicle having been brought to the pool.

45. Tomas D. Doromal - This man is an attorney and he owned an old Ford car. I do not recall having seen his car at the motor pool.

46. Alejo S. Ong - I know the late Lt. Ong and I believe he was allowed to use his car in his army duties.

47. Exequiel Labao - I remember having seen one of Labao's 1938 or 1939 Chevrolet in the motor pool. I do not know anything about the rest of his vehicles.

48. Vicente Libron - I know this man owned several old PU cars, but I do not recall having seen any of them at the Motor Pool.

49. Davao Autobus Co.- I have no more knowledge of the buses of this company other than the fact that majority of them were used by the Philippine Constabulary in evacuating civilians.

50. Eriberto Gonzales - I know this man owned an old model car. I do not recall having seen his vehicle at the Motor Pool.

51. Cipriano Villafuerte - I cannot recall anything about the cars of Lieut. Villafuerte, but I believe his funeral cars were not taken by the Army.

52. Gaudencia Rasay - This woman owned a car but I do not know what happendd to her vehicle.

53. Bernardino Bosque - Mr. Bosque was a PU Operator who owned several good cars. I remember having seen his name on a Model 37 Ford or Chevrolet retained at the Pool.

54. Elizalde & Co. - I know this firm owned several vehicles, but I do not recall having seen any of them at the Motor Pool.

55. Ngo Su Lian - I do not know this man or anything about his vehicle.

56. Helen Schlinger - I have no knowledge about this woman's vehicle.

57. Eustaquio Arieta - I know Mr. Arieta operated at least 10 PU cars. I remember seeing his cars lined side by side on one corner of the Motor Pool. They were all Ford cars with Arieta's name on the sides. I am pretty sure that less than seven (7) of his PU Fords were taken and retained at the Motor Pool. I do not know this man's connection with any of the Defense Organizations.

58. Pedro Barriga - I know this man owned several cars but I have no knowledge what happened to his cars.

59. Juan Arkoncel - I do not know anything about this man's vehicle.

60. Maximino Danton - I do not know anything about this man's vehicle.

61. Paulo C. Ramirez - I do not know this man or anything about his vehicle.

62. Felipe Royeras - I know this man was a PU Operator, but I do not recall having seen any of his vehicles at the Motor Pool.

63. Emiliana Campo - I do not know this woman or anything about her vehicle.

64. Helen Ponce - I donnot know this woman or anything about her vehicle.

65. Uy Huan Ishi - I do not know this man or anything about his vehicle.

Leoncio Jabonete

LEONCIO JABONETE

I CERTIFY that the foregoing statement was made by the party who signed the same voluntarily before me this 31st day of July 1947.

Leo B. Curry Jr.

LEO B. CURRY JR
Claims Service Investigator

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
:
CITY OF DAVAO)

S T A T E M E N T

I, LAZARO M. CASPE, a Filipino, of legal age, and a resident of Sta. Ana, Davao City, depose and state:

I am presently employed as truck driver of Hanson Orth and Stevenson. Prior to the outbreak of the last war, I worked as driver in the transportation company of Mr. David M. Burchfield. I was his No. 1 driver at that time. A few days after the outbreak of the war in December 1941, Mr. Burchfield's entire fleet of ten trucks which were all in running condition were taken to the Army motor pool and pressed into the service of the army. I continued to drive one of Mr. Burchfield's truck for the army hauling soldiers and army supplies in and about the outskirts of Davao.

Mr. Burchfield was in charge of all army and civilian transportation. I know he ordered that all vehicles should be registered with the motor pool. All trucks which were registered were retained in the pool for transporting soldiers and bringing food supplies. A small percentage of good P.U. cars operating were likewise retained at the pool. All P.U. cars which were not in running condition were towed to the Sasa airfield the purpose of which I do not know. Cars of private individuals were for the most part allowed to operate for their own use in civilian defense activities such as the "Wardens", "Parashooters", "Red Cross" and"Fuel Control! However, cars of private individuals and P.U. operators who were not engaged in any defense activity were taken by the motor pool, and assigned either for the use of the army or for the use of other individuals engaged in defense activities. Under whose authority these various civilian defense organizations were formed, I do not know. Civilian volunteer guards who knew how to drive vehicles took vehicles along the highways and turned these vehicles at the pool. I do not know where they got authorization for such actions. No gasoline was issued to any vehicle without the order of Mr. Burchfield because it was he who determined whether a vehicle was to be used in civilian defense activities or to be issued to the Army. All vehicles that were issued for official

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
CITY OF DAVAO)

S T A T E M E N T

I, LESLIE E. STEVENS, an American citizen, of legal, and a resident of Davao City, Davao, depose and say:

I was a Captain, CE in the 1st World War and was a reserve officer for several years after the 1st World War. At the outbreak of the last war, I was manager of a plantation in Davao. On 10 December 1941, Colonel Hillsman who was then in command of the Davao area requested me to serve as his Engineer Officer with the rank of Captain. In such position, I saw the order of commandeering all transportation in the province of Davao. Of the trucks and automobiles that were registered under this order with the motor pool that was set up by Colonel Hillsman, all of the trucks (cargo) were kept in the pool while some of the automobiles were returned to their respective owners. Majority of the privately owned cars were retained at the motor pool while a great bulk of the P.U. cars were returned to their owners. I would say that not less than ninety five (95) percent of all trucks within the city of Davao were taken by the army motor pool and placed under exclusive army control. Of the P.U. cars, it is my belief that not over ten (10) percent were retained by the army. There were a lot of old vehicles lined up on the Sasa airfield but majority of these were not in operation and were towed into the field. I got five (5) trucks from the Mintel area which were registered in Mr. Burchfield's motor pool. Practically all of these cars and trucks that were retained at the pool were pasted posters in big letters such as U.S. Army or U.S. Army Property. The private cars were used by the civilian staff of Col. Hillsman in carrying out various orders of his office such as "Food Procurement,""Fuel Control,""Red Cross,"and "Intelligence Service." It is my opinion that these private cars were actually commandeered by the army. Cars of private individuals not engaged in defense activities were taken and assigned to civilian volunteers engaged in such activities. All civilian defense organizations from 10 December 1941 up to the time the Japanese forces took over were operating under military orders.

Leslie E. Stevens
LESLIE E. STEVENS

I CERTIFY that the foregoing statement was made by the party who signed the same before me this 30th day of July 1947.

Leo B. Curry Jr.
LEO B. CURRY JR.
Claims Service Investigator

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
CITY OF DAVAO)— S.S.
----------)

A F F I D A V I T

I, WILLIAM PARK, of legal age, a citizen of GREAT BRITAIN, having resided in the City of Davao from 1935 to 1943 and 1946 to 1947, upon being duly sworn in accordance with law, depose and say:-

1. - That from 1936 to the out-break of war, I was employed by Messrs. Ker & Co. Ltd., Davao, in charge of the Asiatic Petroleum Co. (P.I.) Ltd., now Shell Co. of P.I. Ltd., Agency in Davao.

2. - That on or about 12th December on arrival of Lt.-Col. Roger S. Hilsman to assume command of the Davao Area I was appointed as Deputy Fuel Controller in company with Mr. John Clayton Jones, then resident manager in the former Puericulture Center at time of appointment. As Deputy Fuel Controller, as with other defence committee appointments, to wit, Food and Supplies Committee, Japanese Internment Camp Committee, Demolition Committee, Transportation Committee, cards were issued and signed by Lt.-Col. Roger S. Hilsman after a meeting which was held in the Davao American Club of all American and British male residents of the city. While I cannot recollect the exact wording of this authority, the following is as close a reconstruction as I can possibly give at this time:

"TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:-

The bearer is hereby appointed my personal Aide and his orders will be carried out under penalty, etc., etc.

Sgd. Lt.-Col. Roger S. Hilsman
Commanding Officer U.S.A.F.F.E.
Davao Area"

Cards were of course destroyed before capture by the Japanese.

3. - That in connection with the use of my automobile detailed in accompanying Affidavit this, after recording in the Motor Pool records, was issued to me for use of fuel control committee.

4. - That I had the opportunity to select another automobile which was confiscated from a Japanese warehouse at Daliao to wit, a Chevrolet 1941 Sedan, but preferred to use my own conveyance.

5. - That each member of a defence committee was issued with a sticker for their respective automobiles personally owned or otherwise, to indicate that vehicle was on official business. The sticker, which was placed on windshield of vehicle, was a simple black sign on white background marked "Official".

As nearly as I can recollect, the following individuals were connected with one or other of the committees mentioned above and were appointed in manner prescribed:

Americans

1. D.M. Burchfield-Transportation
2. J.A. Burgers - Transportation
3. J.C. Jones - Fuel Control
4. P.J. Frank - Demolition
5. S.B. Frank - Demolition
6. H.C. Wills - Demolition
7. J.D. Stumbo- Internment Camps
8. M.S. Robie - Food & Supplies

British

1. J.A. Boyes (Deceased) Internment Camps
2. A.A. Brown-Internment Camps
3. W. Park - Fuel Control
4. R.F.W. Bennet-Food & Supplies

6. - That in connection with other committees and organizations formed during the emergency such as "parachuters", "Red Cross", "Air Raid Wardens", etc., etc., I have no exact knowledge of individuals appointed to form such committees, but have recollection that such organizations were under jurisdiction of the City Mayor. Since martial law was in every sense declared during the emergency this may have bearing on whether such organizations were a part of the Army command. I personally can not give a concrete statement of this issue.

A-1

7. - If the taking over or confiscation of vehicles by the transportation officer appointed by the commanding officer, USAFFE, implies commandeering, then a rough estimate of vehicles taken over by the Motor Pool allowing 30% for vehicles under repair or non compliance with order are as follows:

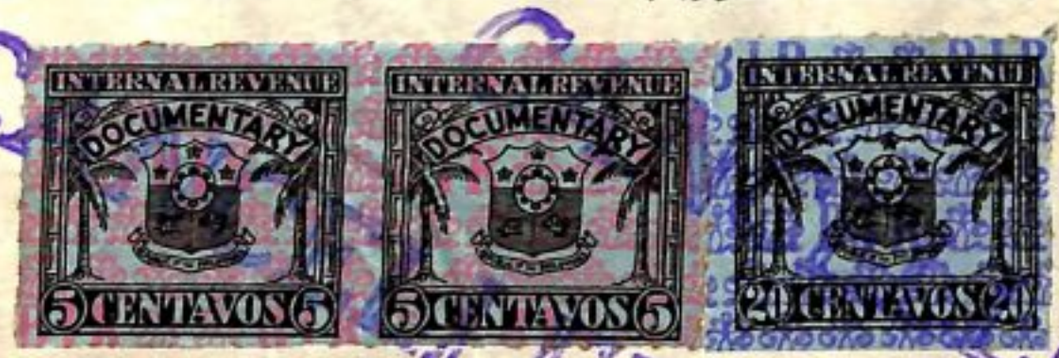
Trucks	--- 70%
P.U. Cars	--- 70%
Private Cars	--- 70%

However, it is my opinion that each individual case should be examined to ascertain how many vehicles were under repair or not in running condition and an estimate made of say, 20% for non compliance which embraces vehicles used for evacuation of civilians and their property, along with those who were successful in evading the order and able to continue operating at perhaps exorbitant charges.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 4th day of August, 1947, in the City of Davao, Philippines.

WILLIAM PARK

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 4th day of Aug., 1947, in the City of Davao, Philippines. The affiant exhibited to me his Res. Cert. No. A-743311 issued at Davao City on Jan. 21, 1947.



TEODORCIO S. CERVANTES
Notary Public
Until Dec. 31, 1948

Inst. No. 218
Page No. 56
Book No. II
Series of 1947.

A F F I D A V I T

I, Alexander Abercrombie Brown, of legal age, a citizen of Great Britain, having resided in the City of Davao from 1940 to 1942 and from 1946 to the present time, upon being duly sworn in accordance with law, depose and say:-

A-1

1. That at the time of the outbreak of war between the United States of America and Japan, I was a Director of Ker & Co., Ltd., and in charge of their Davao Branch.

2. That shortly after the arrival of Lt. Col. Roger S. Hilsman to assume command of the Davao Area, he summoned all male American and British citizens, and appointed them as members of various Defence Committees. He appointed me to the Japanese Internment Camp Committee. This Committee consisted of Mr. J.A. Boyes, who was later killed by the Japanese in the hills behind Davao City when trying to escape, Mr. John Stumbo, Superintendent of Schools, and myself.
The authority I was given was a card, signed by Lt. Col. Hilsman, to the effect that my orders were to be carried out as being backed by his authority. This card I destroyed for obvious reasons, before being captured by the Japanese.

3. To the best of my recollection a general Order went out from Lt. Col. Hilsman's Headquarters commandeering all cars and trucks. However, it was considered necessary that I should have the use of a car in connection with my duties on the Internment Committee, and I was allowed to use my own car for this purpose. My car was turned in to the Motor Pool and recorded, after which it was returned to me. I was issued with an official sticker for the car which read "Official - Internment Camp Committee". To the best of my recollection this sticker was issued by Lt. Col. Hilsman's Headquarters.

4. When the Japanese Army took over Davao, they confiscated the car.

5. The details of the car which forms the subject of this claim are contained in the affidavit previously submitted on my behalf.

DAVAO, 5 August, 1947.

Sig. of Alexander Abercrombie Brown cut out for file

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th. day of August, 1947, at Davao City, Philippines. Affiant exhibited to me his Residence Certificate No. A-746984, issued at Davao City, on January 29, 1947.

Antonio Habana Jr.
ANTONIO HABANA, JR.
Notary Public
My commission expires on December 31, 1947.

Doc. No. 27
Page No. 7
Book No. 1
Series of 1947.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Alexander Abercrombie Brown, of legal age, a citizen of Great Britain, having resided in the City of Davao from 1940 to 1942 and from 1946 to the present time, upon being duly sworn in accordance with law, depose and say:-

1. That at the time of the outbreak of war between the United States of America and Japan, I was a Director of Ker & Co., Ltd., and in charge of their Davao Branch.

2. That shortly after the arrival of Lt. Col. Roger S. Hilsman to assume command of the Davao Area, he summoned all male American and British citizens, and appointed them as members of various Defence Committees. He appointed me to the Japanese Internment Camp Committee. This Committee consisted of Mr. J.A. Boyes, who was later killed by the Japanese in the hills behind Davao City when trying to escape, Mr. John Stumbo, Superintendent of Schools, and myself.
The authority I was given was a card, signed by Lt. Col. Hilsman, to the effect that my orders were to be carried out as being backed by his authority. This card I destroyed for obvious reasons, before being captured by the Japanese.

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4. When the Japanese Army took over Davao, they confiscated the car.

5. The details of the car which forms the subject of this claim are contained in the affidavit previously submitted on my behalf.

DAVAO, 5 August, 1947.

Alex A Brown

ALEXANDER ABERCROMBIE BROWN.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th. day of August, 1947, at Davao City, Philippines. Affiant exhibited to me his Residence Certificate No. A-746984, issued at Davao City, on January 29, 1947.

Antonio Habana Jr.
ANTONIO HABANA, JR.
Notary Public
My commission expires on December 31, 1947.

Doc. No. 27
Page No. 17
Book No. 1
Series of 1947.