

14

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AND 813078

J. J. Mc.

Statements by Isla
Leaders re: Monetary and
Food Procurement

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AWO 883078

~~St. Louis, Missouri~~

THE LEGIONER
OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE PHILIPPINE LEGION
WALLACE FIELD, MANILA
TEL. 2-82-18

From the Desk of:

26 April 1943

LORRY B. CARRERA
ASSOCIATE EDITOR
The Claims Service
PHILRYCOM, U. P. Site
Quezon City

1. I desire to inform you that I was commanding officer of the 403d Guerrilla Infantry Squadron (LGAF), otherwise known as Tarlac East Sector. This unit is recognized and operated in Tarlac and was attached to the 37th Division US Army.

2. I repudiate all claims for food and money and all other stuffs which civilians and ex-guerrillas alike have been presenting to the Claims Service, PHILRYCOM. To the best of my knowledge, the above-named unit did not requisition from civilians. I shall contest the validity of any payments made in this connection.

3. I am sending a copy of this note to the CG, PHILRYCOM.

s/ Manuel E. Buenafe
t/ MANUEL E. BUENAFE
Editor

A TRUE COPY:


RICHARD KYLE

Lapham
Evidence

4045 Shenand Oak Ave
St. Louis, Missouri
10 April 1949

Re-Claim
G-2-141,204 - Juan L. Utleg: Claimant

Lt. C. McGree
Chief, Investigation Section
Adjustment Division.

Dear Lt. McGree

Your letter requesting information about the above claim, dated 18 March 1949 is inclosed under same cover, along with all the information I possess.

During the time this supposed loan was effected I was commanding Pangasinan Province, in the Luzon Guerrilla Army Forces, under the command of Maj Robert B. Lapham. The claimant Capt Juan L Utleg was elected by myself as head of the Pangasinan Military Area Intelligence Unit. He was selected because of his intelligence, integrity, loyalty and honesty. Along with other instructions I granted him permission to solicit freely given loans, to cover the numerous expenses required to operate such a large and important intelligence gathering unit. It was expected that all loans would be made payable by the Luzon Guerrilla Army Forces. I had no idea that Mr Utleg had made such a loan under his own name and hand until he informed me. But regardless, the loan was legal and should be repayed.

Mr Utleg and his family suffered greatly at the hands of the Japanese, and I might add that regardless of their suffering they went ahead, to become one of the most damaging factors to the enemy. This you could easily cross check through General Mac Arthur's Headquarters. Through tireless work, every secret of the enemy was relayed via radio and submarine to Pacific Headquarters. In fact original landing places were changed for Luzon at the last moment because of reports of enemy fortification which was gathered by Mr Utleg personally.

In direct answer to your four main questions,

1. Yes Juan L Utleg was authorized by myself to negotiate, not only a loan by loans in sufficient amounts of cover for spread intelligence work and this was sanctioned by Maj R. B. Lapham.

2. Claimant was reimbursed in maximum amount available to my headquarters. I cannot say how much money was sent via sub to our organization, but rest

- 2 -

assured it wasn't enough to operate a 15,000, man organization, of which I commanded 3,400. In fact money stood of least importance, where our activities could save an American life or destroy our enemy.

3. The answer to your third question is answered in 2 above. When funds should have been available.

4. Being a member of such an organization, but for a short time will teach anyone not to keep records which might fall into the hands of the enemy bringing death to all persons who supported the Guerrillas. It is for this reason I can't possibly give you a tabulated account of expenses. I realize its most difficult for anyone not connected with Guerrilla operations to understand some such things, but I request you try no matter how difficult it might be to understand, and to keep in everyway possible to repay those who are deserving. I understand many claims have been filed and collected, possibly some justified and others not so. I realize what a tiring job you have and how much you want to be correct, but even so its impossible to be correct always.

With this thought in mind I lastly request your consideration in the rewarding of this subject claim, because I honestly feel it justifiable.

Sincerely,

s/ Ray C. Hunt Jr
Major USAF
AO-2027343

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

Nicholas C. McGree

NICOLAS C. McGREE
Capt CAC

- 2 -

C E R T I F I C A T E

With reference to the services rendered by civilians to the Luzon Guerrilla Army Forces which unit was under my command, I certify that a number of persons estimated at a maximum of 1000 active, and possibly a few more were appointed as Special Agents whose duties mainly were to secure supplies from civilians in designated areas.

Aside from those services rendered by Special Agents, there were very few persons who rendered services as civilians to my unit. By services I am referring to labor performed under any contractual obligation to pay. No "cargadores", civilian guards, first-aiders, or any other category aside from those mentioned in the paragraph above were employed under any promise of repayment. In fact, aside from some members of the Women's Auxilliary Service and a few first-aiders, practically no civilians were employed to aid the Luzon Guerrilla Army Forces.

There will be undoubtedly some persons who will claim for the value of their services rendered in their capacity as guerrillas who were not recognized by Guerrilla Affairs Division, PHILRYCOM, as members of recognized guerrilla units. With reference to this group, I certify that none of them were promised payment for their services with the guerrillas during the occupation.

The Special Agents referred to in paragraph above had certain duties in addition to their duties as collectors of supplies, including at times collection of information needed by guerrilla units for security purposes. In some instances intelligence operatives were appointed, however, most of these persons were recognized as members of the guerrilla unit, and in all instances where they were not given recognition, they did not, in my opinion, merit recognition as members of the guerrilla unit nor did they merit payment for any claim they may present for services rendered as civilians. These latter group refers to intelligence operatives only as distinguished from the Special Agents who did some intelligence work in addition to their collection of supplies.

Subordinate commanders had authority to appoint Special Agents and procure supplies. No authority was given to my subordinate commanders to hire or appoint or promise pay in return for the hiring or appointment of persons other than those set forth in the above paragraphs.

Signed this 3rd day of September 1947 in the City of Manila, Philippines.

/s/ Robert B. Lapham
/t/ ROBERT B. LAPHAM
Major, Infantry

4 Incls
1 - Ltr frn Dir, G-3 Guer Aff
Div, PHILRYCOM, dtd 26 Aug 47 (On Dy Guerrilla Aff. Div.)
2 - Ltr frn Maj R B Lapham
dtd 16 Aug 47 w/incl list of
LGAF Off names & addresses
3 - Orig location of recog. LGAF Units
4 - Ltr frn Maj R B Lapham dtd 21 Aug 47
w/incl copies of receipts, sample
copies of SA appointments, and
sample copies of SA Oath of enlistment

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

/s/ Grant S. Wilcox
GRANT S. WILCOX
Acting Director, Team #2

REPORT ON
VOLUNTEER GUARDS AND
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

1. In late 1941 when war appeared imminent, a number of volunteer units were organized. Among these were Volunteer Fire Werdens, Red Cross Units and Home Guards or Volunteer Guards. These units were similar to those organized in England and the U. S. In some cases the Home Guard or Volunteer Guard Units became the nucleus for active Guerrilla Units. In most cases, though, they either disbanded or carried on passive resistance and police work.

2. During the Occupation similar organization were started by the Japanese thru the Kalibapi. These units were called "Neighbor Association". The plan of the Japanese was to establish guard posts throughout the country and barrios to report movements and locations of guerrillas. In actuality however the plan backfired on the Japs as these guard posts not only failed to report guerrillas but instead reported Jap movements and served as outposts for the guerrillas. The members of the Neighborhood Associations were on duty only at night. The Japs figured that guerrillas passing in daylight could be observed by anyone working in the fields. The various members worked in rotation being on duty perhaps one night a week. There were usually 4 or 5 assigned to guard post and they took turns remaining on guard. These units were of considerable help to the guerrillas but were not necessarily members of Guerrilla Forces. They were of further use to us in spotting Hukbalahap infiltrations. Although they were a great help to us, we did not consider them as members of the guerrillas and they were not given an official status by virtue of their being members of the Neighborhood Associations.

s/Robert B. Lapham
t/ROBERT B. LAHAM
Major, Inf., AUS

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

s/Charles T. Boyle
t/CHARLES T. BOYLE
Capt., Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

Raymond B. Licudine
RAYMOND B. LICUDINE
1st Lt., Inf.

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES IN THE FAR EAST
CLAIMS SERVICE, USAFFE

PWB/wb

APO 501
24 April 1945

MEMORANDUM TO: Chief of Staff, Hq USAFFE, APO 501.

SUBJECT : Delegation of Responsibility for the Adjustment and Settlement of Outstanding Obligations.

1. USAFFE Circular No. 33, dated 7 April 1945, delegates the responsibility for the adjustment and settlement of outstanding obligations arising out of agreements, whether express or implied, where procedural irregularities exist, or where determination, or investigation of facts may be required, to Contract Claims Commission, Claims Service, USAFFE. Par. 9 of USAFFE Claims Manual, dated 7 April 1945, in particular sets forth the scope of procurement claims and includes "claims arising out of the procurement of labor, or the purchase, rental, requisition, or use of real estates, personal property, services, or facilities and equipment." It is the opinion of this office that any claim of a nature outlined in the letter of Colonel Volckmann would be the responsibility of Claims Service, USAFFE. The initial investigation should be made by a Claims Officer appointed in accordance with par. 7d of AR 25-20, through the Base or Command in the area in which a claimant presents his claim.

2. In cases where there appears to be duly signed receipts or other positive evidence for supplies and foodstuffs obtained by proper authority, these should be presented in the form of procurement claims which would be processed by the unit claims officer, thru normal channels to a Contract Claims Commission.

3. This office is of the opinion that the check sheet of the Civil Affairs adequately sets forth the situation, in so far as the policy of the Command is concerned. Claims for labor when presented by individual claimants, would normally be for small accounts and the payment of any of them would have a tendency to promote what might well become a "racket", with claims pouring in by the thousands.

4. It would seem that all claims for labor services should be discouraged, unless the facts are very clear and convincing, and such claims were contracted for by properly authorized representatives of the Government.

/t/ LEON D. LATHAM, JR.,
Major, J.A.G.D.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

Raymond B. Licudine
RAYMOND B. LICUDINE
1st Lt. Inf
Investigating Officer

C E R T I F I C A T E

With reference to the services rendered by civilians to the Luzon Guerrilla Army Forces which unit was under my command, I certify that a number of persons estimated at a maximum of 1000 active, and possibly a few more were appointed as Special Agents whose duties mainly were to secure supplies from civilians in designated areas.

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Subordinate commanders had authority to appoint Special Agents and procure supplies. No authority was given to my subordinate commanders to hire or appoint or promise pay in return for the hiring or appointment of persons other than those set forth in the above paragraphs.

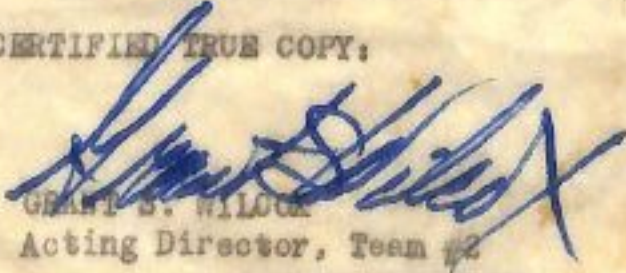
Signed this 3rd day of September 1947 in the City of Manila, Philippines.

4 Incls

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Div, PHILRYCOM, dtd 26 Aug 47
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47 w/incl copies of receipts, sample
copies of SA appointments, and
sample copies of SA Oath of enlistment

/s/ Robert B. Lapham
/t/ ROBERT B. LAPHAM
Major, Infantry
(On Dy Guerrilla Aff. Div.)

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:


GRANT S. WILCOX
Acting Director, Team #2

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
MUNICIPALITY OF BALER
PROVINCE OF QUEZON

11 June, 1948

The Commanding General
Headquarters, Philippines-Ryukyus-Command
Attn., Food Stuff Claim Division
Camp Balara, Quezon City

Sir:

In connection with the application for claim for Food Stuff filed for by Capt. Abdon Aquino and Capt. Valentin B. Cervantes of food obtained by the 103rd. Squadron, IGAF, during the occupation, we the undersigned have the honor to give the following for your information:

That we, officers and enlistedmen of the 103rd. Squadron, IGAF, have the honor to contest and complain against their application filed for, because of their unwise and selfish motives. The supporting papers which they have submitted were entirely fake and without truth. Most of time during the hectic days of the Japanese occupation were spent in Baler Area and that all kinds of foods used and needed by the guerrillas at that time were obtained from the civilians in Baler, Quezon. Cows, carabaos, pigs, chickens, eggs, fish, meat (dried), vegetables, fruits, and rice were obtained in this locality. The supply officer of the 103rd. Squadron have the records and knowledge of the foods used during the the operation of this outfit. The Commanding Officers, Capt. Valentin B. Cervantes and Capt. Abdon Aquino did not make any inquiry as to the foods used at the time. Because of their selfishness, they wanted that all the amount they could claim from that office be obtained by them exclusively.

That we, who knew not of their application for food stuffs claim learned it from a member and co-officer in the squadron. He revealed that their application is nearing and assuming your immediate approval. If this is true, we further request that this application be withheld pending investigation and the truth in their application. These two commanding officers took refuge and lived abundantly and happily here in Baler during the occupation.


To substantiate the above informations, we have the honor to request that their supporting papers be examined carefully and that the persons concerned be investigated personally. They are aware of their affidavits.

That we beg your honor to let us know the amount claim^d for by them and from whom they obtained the affidavits. These are requested so that we can inform them accordingly. Ex-Capt. Valentin B. Cervantes had made so many false certifications and affidavits of the officers and enlistedmen who drew their liberation and arrears in pay. Reference to this case is Mr. Wenceslao Yaranon, an ex-officer and surrender guerrilla to the Japanese Authority. From the time he surrendered, he lived in a civilian life and have never joined our outfit, 103rd quadron Guer. Bn. Those officers and enlistedmen who made active participation during the occupation were deprived from the revised roster.

It is hoped that you will kindly expedite your kind consideration in the matter.

Your spontaneous response in the matter is highly appreciated.

Very respectfully,


NICOLAS C. INGARA
Ex-1st. Lt. Inf., 103rd.
Squadron

Ornel M. Nieva
1st Lt. Inf. 103rd

Benancio B. Ingara
1st Lt. 103rd Guerilla Bn.
Supply Officer

Bas

pg # 547

Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija
April 17, 1948

File under 1-2-48

His Excellency
The United States Ambassador for
the Philippines
U. S. Embassy, M a n i l a

S i r :

Attention of your Excellency is hereby respectfully invited with a request that the matter be seriously looked into inasmuch as it involves enormous sums of money covering false claims through downright racketeering as follows:

False claims for big sums of money were presented by the following persons allegedly given to the guerilla regiments and duly certified by the Treasurer, Mayor, and guerilla officers who are in connivance with each other in order to push through their rackets and other nefarious activities in their desire to amass big fortunes, these people all being from Zaragoza, Nueva Ecija:

1. Diogracias Abelle
2. Captain Zamora
3. Pedro Balutan
4. Macario Calderon
5. Ricardo Bernardino
6. Eduardo Mesina
7. Cerilo Acosta
8. Alfonso Embuscado
9. Sotero de Guzman
10. Adela Belmonte
11. Lt. Lieut. Jose Morales
12. Isidro Aurelio

The above listed persons are only a few of the false claimants, considering so many more who could not be mentioned here for lack of space.

Particular attention is invited to Eduardo Mesina, No. 6 above. He was a defeated candidate for Mayor in the last election and is now actively engaged in the nefarious racket business, acting as liason in almost all the fraudulent claims.

Lieutenant Jose Morales, No. 11, now in Camp Murphy, was a dealer of war materials during the Japanese occupation. He is now a zealous agent in this claim racket activity, acting as liason between the American officers assuring the approval of claims and the false claimants.

Isidro Aurelio, No. 12, was penniless, only a poor driver before the war, but was able get cars left by the Japanese before the liberation. He presented big claims covering thousands of pesos allegedly given to the guerillas while in fact he had not given a cent. His claims were duly certified like those of others by the Treasurer, Mayor, and guerilla officers.

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

Armeniano Bernardino, Supply and Procurement Officer of the guerillas under Major Angelo Jimenez of the Lapham Regiment, was assigned to such duty by Major Jimenez about the close of December, 1944, just a month prior to the liberation, February, 1945. Within so short period of time, how could this Bernardino certify to have received from the people of Zaragoza amounts ranging from P3,000; P5,000; P20,000; P100,000; P200,000, etc.? That these amounts were given by particular persons as aid to the guerillas?

There were those who claimed to have given to the guerillas as many cavanes of rice as would cost thousands of pesos duly certified by this Bernardino, the Treasurer, and the Mayer. How could so much rice be given by the people to the guerillas while the rice harvests of the whole province of Nueva Ecija were under the control of the Japanese. Dr. Aniceto Belmonte, occupation Mayer, cooperated whole-heartedly with the Japanese Army in buying the rice using his warehouse for storage of same in Zaragoza. This Dr. Belmonte is the brother-in-law of Lieut. Jose Morales. These two were partners in the buy-and-sell of war materials during the occupation and were not connected with any guerilla activities.

Even during the early period of the occupation the people of Zaragoza can not claim to have given help of enormous sums to the guerillas inasmuch as there were no guerilla outfits existing in Nueva Ecija in such period.

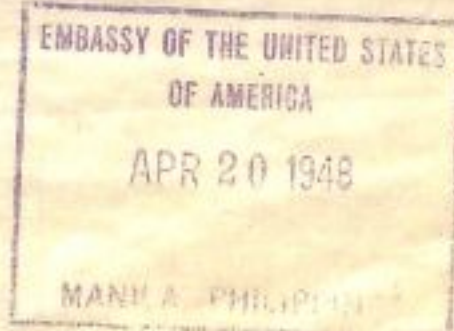
It is hereby suggested that the financial status of the claimants above listed be investigated by way of looking into their income tax filed with the Bureau of Internal Revenue. It is believed that their income annually cannot be so much as to enable them to extend aid to the guerillas in astronomical amounts as are now being claimed by them. Most of these claimants are of the low-income group and as such are exempt from paying income tax. Therefore, it is evident their claim for having given thousands of pesos to the guerillas cannot be accepted as true in any light whatsoever. These people were urged to file such big claims by corrupt American officers in connivance with the Supply and Procurement Officer of the guerillas, the treasurer, and the Mayer under certain share percentage that has to go into their pockets.

In the light of the above facts, it is reiterated, that the claimants above listed and such others who have their claims filed be very carefully looked into so that rackets of this nature may be stamped out and the guilty parties punished to the full extent of the law.

Very respectfully,

JOSE MOETHS

CONFIDENTIAL



- 2 -

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JOSE MOYER

CONFIDENTIAL



HEADQUARTERS
PHILIPPINES COMMAND
ADJUSTMENT SECTION
ARREARS IN PAY DIVISION

Do not removed from attached sheet

FILE NO.

SUBJECT: Col Pedro Viudes

DATE: 26 Jan 49

FROM: 1st Lt J. H. Manzano

TO: Maj J. B. Chesson

1. The following is a report on Mr. Pedro Viudes:

a. The undersigned first met Pedro Viudes in December 1942 at the Angat Iron Mines in Bulacan when he (Viudes) reported to Col Bernard L. Anderson with a request to organize guerrillas. At this time, Viudes was authorized to form a company of guerrillas in the vicinity of San Ildefonso, Bulacan.

b. In 1944, Viudes was assigned Chief of Staff of the Bulacan Military Area of which Alejo S. Santos was then commanding. On or about February 1945, Alejo S. Santos was designated Governor of Bulacan by the U. S. Army and Viudes took over command of the guerrillas in the area.

c. The undersigned has personal knowledge and can produce *witnesses* *JH* affidavits to the effect that Viudes and his wife have made an enormous amount of money by swindling widows of veterans and including illiterate negritos on rosters and collecting this pay. Furthermore, certain documents at Claims Service, pertinent to the procurement of the Bulacan Military Area, have been shown to the undersigned and it may be clearly shown through this that attempts have been made to defraud the U. S. Government.

d. It is worthwhile mentioning that Enrique Viudes, brother of Pedro Viudes, recognized as a Lt Col with the Bulacan Military Area and present municipal Mayor of San Ildefonso, Bulacan held up civilian trucks along Highway # 5 in the San Ildefonso-San Miguel Area in Bulacan during the occupation and robbed these trucks of goods with emphasis on the rice. This man also has attempted to support several illegal claims at Claims Service.

2. Recommend that any affidavits presented by these people in support of claims be disregarded.

3. The undersigned has personal knowledge of the above having been the Executive Officer of the overall command of the Anderson's Guerrillas, of which the BMA was an integral part thereof, during the period of enemy occupation.

JH
J. H. MANZANO
1st Lt, Inf

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
MUNICIPALITY OF BALER
PROVINCE OF QUEZON

*File in 103rd Sqdn
LGAF*

11 June, 1948

The Commanding General
Headquarters, Philippines-Ryukyus-Command
Attn., Food Stuff Claim Division
Camp Balara, Quezon City

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Nicolas C. Angara
NICOLAS C. ANGARA
Ex-1st. Lt., Inf., 103rd.
Squadron

Angat M. Yaranon
7th Lt. Inf.

Remancio B. Angara
1st Lt. 103rd Guer. Bn.
Supply Officer.

One

Felvarino Domingo
Cpl. 103rd. LGAF

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LGAF
Statements & Reports

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AND 883078

Stoneman, Gertrude E.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority *AND 883078*