

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 83078

S/S "VAGAS"

SEE H.B. MILEY FOR RPT ON THIS SHIP

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
RECOVERED PERSONNEL DIVISION
ROUTING SLIP

8 Sept 1946

FROM C. Kraig

TO :

DIRECTOR _____
Asst Director _____
Executive Off _____
Control Section _____
Legal Section _____
Investigation Sec _____
Chief Clerk _____
Message Center _____
Publications _____

PA Liv Claims Sec (Contd)
"GH" _____
"IJKL" _____
"MN" _____
"OP" _____
"QR" _____
"ST" _____
"UVWXYZ" _____
PA Deceased Claims Sec _____

CASUALTY BRANCH _____

HQ COMMANDANT _____
Personnel _____
Supply _____
Utilities _____
A & R _____
PX _____
Motor Officer _____

PROJECT "J" BRANCH _____
Proj "J" Liv Claims Sec _____
AUS _____
PS _____
Civ _____
Proj "J" Dec Claims _____
Proj "J" Files & Rec _____

PHILIPPINE ARMY BR _____
PA Adm Section _____
PA Operations Sec _____
PA Liv Claims Sec _____
"A" _____
"B" _____
"C" _____
"D" _____
"EF" _____

FOR:
Approval _____
Information _____
Initials _____
Signature _____
Appropriate Action _____
Correction _____
Note & Return _____
File _____

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HEADQUARTERS AFWESPAC
Check Sheet

IR 4715
5750

Do not remove from attached sheets

File No. Subject: War Department employees interned
on the SS "VAGA"

(2) ~~(1)~~ FROM: Chief, Project "J" TO: Director, RPD DATE: 3 Sep 46
Branch

1. Recommend that the words "military control" be construed to mean direct U.S. Army control and that a person's status while in the hands of the U.S. Navy or Allied military or naval forces be considered as "Missing".

2. Further recommend that adjudicators be authorized to determine the credibility of affidavits for the purpose of establishing a POW status where official records are not readily available to this Division. It is believed that the delay in obtaining such records from the headquarters of another army would offset their desirability.

Incl: N/C

DML
D. M. L.

(3) FROM: Director TO: Chief, Project "J" Br 6 Sept 46

1. The words "military control" should be construed to mean that time or place when the individual is again placed upon the U.S. Government payrolls. This is a matter which will have to be determined in the adjudication of each case. Ordinarily mere rescue by the Navy, *and* transportation to a point where the claimant could report back to the Army, could be considered as a "missing" period.

2. Par 2, C/N #2 is approved.

Incl: n/c

MHM
M. H. M.

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HEADQUARTERS AFWESPAC

Check Sheet

Do not remove from attached sheets

File No. GSXRP 008

Subject: War Department employees interned
on the SS "VAGA"

(1) FR: OIC, Civilian Section TO: Director, RPD DATE: 31 Aug 46
THRU: Chief, Proj "J" Br

1. Transmitted herewith is a typical case representing the 35 cases of civilian employees of the War Department who were the crew on the USAHB "GEN. MILEY".
2. The brief history of the "MILEY" activities from 7 Dec 41 to 5 May 42 are: "The "MILEY" was bomb two times by the Japanese in the port of Manila. At the time of the first bombing it was tied up in the Pasig River, at the time of the second bombing it was tied up at Pier 1. After the bombing on Dec 25 at Pier 1, the "MILEY" was moved to Corregidor. Upon capitulation of Bataan the "MILEY" operated in and around Corregidor. On 5 May 42 the "MILEY" was bombed and sunk by the Japanese."
3. It appears that the crew of the "MILEY" escaped serious injury during the May 5 bombing. In any event crew of the "MILEY" was in Corregidor 6 May 42 when the forces on Corregidor surrendered to the Japanese.
4. Mr. Federico Narruhn, the Master of the "MILEY", upon orders from the Japanese, fitted a crew from the remnants of the "MILEY" crew for the SS "VAGA", a captured ship from the U. S. Navy. During Jul 42 Mr. Narruhn has taken off of the "VAGA" placed in internment in Sto. Tomas. Mr. Narruhn was an American citizen.
5. Throughout the occupation the Japanese operated the "VAGA" with 35 men crew until the "VAGA" was sunk by American bombing on 16 Apr 44 at Kudat, North Borneo. Apparently there were also Japanese guards and officers aboard the "VAGA". In Aug 42 when the VAGA was in Manila on Pier 1 two of the crew escaped. The two crew members were recaptured by the Japanese and placed on board the "VAGA".
6. After the "VAGA" was sunk in Borneo, subject crew was placed in the POW camp by the Japanese. Records indicate that a few of these persons were forced to work in Japanese hospitals. This POW status lasted until Aug 45. At the time the Australian Army entered North Borneo subject crew was released by the Japanese. It is believed that subject crew was brought under the jurisdiction of the Australian Army on 15 Aug 45. Due to exigencies of war subject crew was not repatriated to the Philippines until 16



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