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UNITED STATES FORCES IN THE PHILIPPINES
HEADQUARTERS 10TH MILITARY DISTRICT
IN THE FIELD

19 May, 1943

To Major McGee,
Cotabato.

Sergeant Abo of the unit commanded by Major Matas reports that you were in Midsayap when he left. It is regretted that you did not come to this Headquarters with him, as I would have appreciated the chance to discuss various problems with you. Should this letter reach you, it is hoped that you will take advantage of the invitation. I need, desperately, an American officer to take command of the Cotabato area. This thing cannot be handled well by remote control, as witness the imbroglio of Pendatun.

Our American officer has just returned from Davao, and reports that the house on your plantation has not been molested. Your house in Davao is being used by the Japanese as a monitor station.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ W. W. Fertig
W. W. FERTIG
Lieut. Col. (CE) Inf., AUS
Commanding

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

R. B. Slade
R. B. SLADE
2d Lt, Inf
Actg Ass't Adj Gen
By G. L. Moser

UNITED STATES FORCES IN THE PHILIPPINES
HEADQUARTERS 10TH MILITARY DISTRICT
IN THE FIELD

28 May, 1943

In reply ref.
No. FM-2

- EXTRACT -

MEMORANDUM for-
C.O. 1st Prov. Bn., 116th Infantry.

1. Induction papers and records that were brought by Lieut. Desaville have been forwarded to AC of S, G-1, this HQ. A cursory study of them reveals that you have enlisted enough men to bring the company at Kiamba up to full strength. Your attention is called to the fact that you must have the necessary arms to justify the induction of these soldiers. As Captain Smith remembers, there are 19 rifles and 1 BAR with a few shotguns. If this is true, then there is no possibility of accepting the large increase in enlistment. We are definitely not building an Army of unarmed men. We are interested in a good force of armed men that may be utilized for guerrilla action.

(SGD) W. W. FERTIG
Lieut. Col. (CE) Inf., AUS
Commanding

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

/s/ F. Magsakay
F. MAGSAKAY
Captain, Inf., USFIP
C.O. 2nd Bn. 116th Inf. Regt.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

R. B. SLADE
1st Lt, Inf
Actg Ass't Adj Gen

UNITED STATES FORCES IN THE PHILIPPINES
HEADQUARTERS 10TH MILITARY DISTRICT
IN THE FIELD

1 June, 1943

To Major Frank D. McGee, Cav.,
In the Field.

In reply to yours of the 17th, it is regretted that you did not report personally to this Headquarters. I have been dissatisfied with conditions in Bukidnon, and have not failed to stress that point. However, I was unable to do anything about it at the time. As you undoubtedly know, Pendatun's assumption of rank is illegal and without precedent, inasmuch as he had knowledge of this organization at the time he assumed the rank. Following the visit of Commander Parsons to that area, it is hoped that this is water under the bridge.

The matter of utilization of a man of your ability has been referred to Colonel Bowler, and I am certain that he will take action thereon. I agree with your evaluation of the Cotabato situation. Regret that I have not had an competent American officer to sent to that area.

Captain Smith, who were from this area to Australia and return in the same party with Commander Parsons, passed your plantation. He saw the ty-Yearbook of your class, which gave ample evidence service in the previous war. I radioed that your house were still safe at that time. The Japs are recently ~~intention~~ sifying the campaign along that coast, largely under the command of Captain (?) Diel, who brought into the picture the Japs captured his father-in-law, Mr. Hughes. Your house in Davao is being used as a monitor station by the code section of the Kempe Tai. Captain Smith was able to get information concerning your property from your encargado.

WAS

Sincerely yours,

/s/W. W. Fertig
W. W. FERTIG
Lieut. Col. (CE) Inf., AUS
Commanding

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

R. B. Slade
R. B. SLADE
2d Lt, Inf
Actg Ass't Adj Gen

HE IS IN 109 TH DIV.

by G. A. Moser

UNITED STATES FORCES IN THE PHILIPPINES
HEADQUARTERS TENTH MILITARY DISTRICT
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
In the Field

4 August 1943

To Datu Gumbay Piang
Cotabato Area,

Your two officers should have acquired the necessary information whereby the organization of the companies of the Magindanao Militia Force may be undertaken. You will note that it is necessary for every applicant for induction in the M M F to be armed. We do not furnish the arms; the men furnish their own.

Yours very truly,

(SGD) W. W. FERTIG
Lt-Col, (CE) Inf, AUS
Commanding

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ (SGD) F. D. McGee
F. D. McGEE
Lt-Col, AUS
CO, 106th Div

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

R. B. SLADE
1st Lt, Inf
Actg Ass't Adj Gen

UNITED STATES FORCES IN THE PHILIPPINES
HEADQUARTERS TENTH MILITARY DISTRICT
Office of the Commanding Officer
In the Field.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 883078

29 August, 1943

To Lieut. Col. Frank D. McGee, CAV,
In the Field of Cotabato.

This letter is forwarded through the Mayor of Buldong, Datu Diron Tambilawan, in the hopes that it may intercept you on your trip to southern Cotabato. However, I have no idea of the route that you will follow, but can assure you that once you arrive in Lebak, Captain Magsakay will be able to arrange for transit down the coast, and eventually contact Major Page, whom I assume is an old friend of yours. If this is arranged, you will be able to see all the units of the 116th Infantry.

Major Page is badly cut off from the organization, his only contact being by radio. Discreet questioning will develop the location of radio sets in Cotabato. You will pardon the vagueness of this letter, since I have no idea how many people will read it before reaching you. As of 29 August, Lieut. Col. Bowler had reported good progress in the vicinity of Malaybalay.

You are operating in an area of which I have little personal knowledge and would appreciate a detailed report from one who is not only a competent officer, but also a trained observer and a writer. That Cotabato valley may be extremely important later, since it is the granary of Mindanao.

Datu Gumbay Piang, although a paroled prisoner of war, is interested in organizing a force. He desires to retain control of that force, and use it largely in his home area of Dulawan. He does not desire to be placed under the command of Major Salipada K. Pendatun for obvious reasons. A letter of authority to organize was sent to Datu Piang, but absolutely no promises were made to him. If he has organized the unit, it will appear more simple for command purposes to place it under control of the 109th Division, provided the command will meet the peculiar conditions that are common to Moro provinces, where family and civilian rank are more important than Army titles. Captain Magsakay was advised that if Datu Gumbay Piang offered to place his unit in the 116th Infantry, he was to be accepted. These statements appear to be contradictory, and if they are, it is because I am trying to work out an organization from map and from very little accurate information. This again proves the need for

such reports as are requested.

With my best personal regards and good wishes
for a successful trip, I am

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Wendell W. Fertig
WENDELL W. FERTIG
Colonel, AUS
Commanding

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

R. B. Slade
R. B. SLADE
2d Lt, Inf
Actg Ass't Adj Gen

by A. L. Moser

In reply ref:
#Rz1-8

UNITED STATES FORCES IN THE PHILIPPINES
HEADQUARTERS TENTH MILITARY DISTRICT
Office of the Commanding Officer

October 28th, 1943.

To Major Froilan Matas, Guerrilla Leader in the
Cotabato Area:

STATUS OF YOUR ORGANIZATION

It has come to the knowledge of this Headquarters that you are basing your claim to rank upon a letter addressed to you as "Major Froilan Matas". Such an address does not confirm your right to that rank, the address being used simply to assure its delivery to you.

You are requested to submit your organization to Lieut. Col. Frank McGee who has been designated Commander of the 106th (Infantry) Division. Upon the basis of work done, and leadership shown by you, you will be duly commissioned in whatever grade Lieut. Col. McGee recommends. You must understand that this organization is a part of the Army of the United States, and definitely will not tolerate dictation by subordinate units. We are interested in the unification of all guerrilla bands in the province of Cotabato, and such unification is to your distinct advantage. Without it you cannot pay your troops, your receipts for food will not be honored by the Army of the United States, your men and your commission will not be recognized. In other words, you will simply be classified as a group of bandits. By placing your troops under the command of Lieut. Col. McGee, you will eliminate these difficulties, your soldier will be inducted, your officers commissioned, and legal debts incurred by your unit will be honored.

It is believed that you are an intelligent man, and consequently will make the proper decision.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) WENDELL W. FERTIG
Colonel, AUS
Commanding

A TRUE COPY
for Lieut. Col. F. McGee.

A TRUE COPY:

/s/
Capt, Inf
108th Div.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

R. B. Slade
R. B. SLADE
2d Lt, Inf
Actg Ass't Adj Gen

Sgt. E. T. Derringer

(Continued)
UNITED STATES FORCES IN THE PHILIPPINES
HEADQUARTERS, TENTH MILITARY DIST.

Office of Deputy Chief of Staff

C P G

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 883078

19th Nov., 1943

Lt-Col. McGee,

C. O. 106th Division,

In the Field.

Dear Colonel:

The bearer of this letter is Lt. J. Ortega. I have known him for several years and have confidence in him. He has been instructed to deliver funds to you and other communication. Lt. Ortega has been with Matas in your sector since February. We have just now confirmed his commission and have instructed him to report to you. He has requested transfer to the 108th Division. This, however, is a matter for your decision.

We have made no promises to Matas but have instructed him to contact you and that any induction or commission that you may give him is a matter for your own decision. It appears however, that he is well armed and has sufficient men for one Battalion. This, of course, must be investigated by you. I do feel that you can rely on any information that Lt. Ortega may give you concerning the situation and the attitude of Matas towards the present organization. I am forwarding a copy of a letter to Matas from the C.O. of the 10th Military District. This letter is self-explanatory and places the entire matter in your hands. Our C.O. has instructed me as DC of S of the 10th M.D. to advise and assist you in anyway possible. I have no idea of what value my advice would be to you as conditions are undoubtedly much different in your area than those of the 108th Division. However, you may feel free to call on me for any assistance required.

I have requested the C.O., 10th MD, to supply you with a radio transmitter immediately when one becomes available

For your information Lt.-Col. Bowler has been relieved from command of the 109th Division and has been assigned as Chief of Staff of the 10th MD. Lt-Col. James R. Grinstead assigned C.O. of the 109th Division.

By order of the C.O., 10th MD, I have placed at your disposal P120,000.00. I presume that this is probably more than you will require at the present time. Transportation of this fund to your Hq. is your own responsibility and must necessarily be carried out by strong armed guards. I have discussed the matter of communication between your Hq. and that of the 10th MD. with Lt. Ortega. I am of the opinion that the

(Continued)

most advisable route to follow is thru Cotabato via Buldon and Lanao. I have made tentative arrangement with Major Mindalano, C.O. of the 127th Infantry to furnish escort between Lumbatan, Lanao and Buldon. I am of the belief that Lt. Tambilawan Diron can furnish protection for this courier service in the Buldon sector but from your Hq to there, it will be necessary for you to use your own judgement in the matter. I shall be very interested to learn your reaction to this suggestion. Lt. Bernard Ehrick will accompany Lt. Ortega with Lt. Aguilar. These two officers are temporarily on duty with GHQ. They have instructions to observe and assist you as they are familiar with the MMF organization in Lanao. They must, however, return to this Hq as early as possible with such information and messages as you may wish to send. Lt. Ortega has with him P35,000.00 for your Division. You will dispose this as you see fit and relieve him of the responsibility in order that he may clear his account with the District Finance Officer. His assignment, when this mission is completed, will be at your discretion.

This Hq is also interested in recommendations by you as to the best way to handle the 116th Infantry which I believe is too far from your Hq to be handled efficiently by you. This is also a matter for your recommendation. I am of the opinion, however, that the 116th Inf. should be placed directly under this Hq and remain independent. It is your decision. Col. Bowler agrees with me in this matter.

Your recommendations for commission of officers will be acted immediately on receipt by this Hq.

Col. Bowler advised me that you are without shoes and clothes. If you will furnish me with size and needs, I will endeavor to supply you. Requisition for supplies should also be submitted. It is unlikely that you will receive everything you need but will do no harm to ask for it.

With most sincere good wishes for the success of your mission, I remain

Sincerely,

/s/ C. W. Hedges
 C. W. HEDGES
 Lieut-Col., Infantry,
 BC of S, 10" MD.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

R. B. SLADE
 2d Lt, Inf
 Actg Ass't Adj Gen

(For and in the Absence of the CO)

CWH:cmp.

UNITED STATES FORCES IN THE PHILIPPINES
HEADQUARTERS, TENTH MILITARY DISTRICT
Office of the Chief of Staff
C P G

In the Field
21 Nov 43

TO: Lt. Col. Frank D. McGee,
CO, 106th Division

1. You will receive a letter from Col. Hedges which covers practically everything I had intended to tell you.
2. If Lt. Ortega gets to the CP of the 109th Div. in time, he will pick up some money and take it to you. The Lieutenant with him has been instructed to return by way of Buldong. It might be a good idea if you send back your couriers with Lt. Erick so they can learn the trail. It makes no difference which trail you use for your couriers just so you keep them coming at least twice a month, and more if possible. By the time you can get your couriers up here we will have money ready to send to you.
3. A radio will be sent to you at the earliest opportunity. It is impossible for us to send any operators to your division, so you will have to furnish them yourself.
4. If you have any use for real Philippine Currency for propaganda or intelligence purposes, we can spare you P5,000. This will have to be receipted by you personally and used carefully.
5. It is difficult to know just what is the exact situation in your Division because of the slow communication. So let us know as soon as possible what success you are having in organizing your Division.

/s/ R. V. Bowler
R. V. BOWLER
Lt.-Col., AUS
Chief of Staff

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

R. B. Slade
R. B. SLADE
2d Lt, Inf
Actg Asst Adj Gen

[Signature]
Sgt E. T. [Name]

DECLASSIFIED

Authority *MND 883078*