

PHOTOSTATS

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AFD 883078

1. TERS VAINO MERSON
2. PALAWAN GRILA UNITS ACTIVITIES
3. BATAAN STRAGGLERS ON CUYO ISLAND
4. 48th MATERIEL SQUADRON

~~158~~
172

Palawan

ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
SIXTH MILITARY DISTRICT
CP O SB BN

24 Jan. '44

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Purchase on credit from Mr. De Toggia the following articles for the use of the army;

3 Note books.....at 40¢.....	2.00
7 Pads Gr. II.....50¢.....	3.50
Total	5.50 (Peson)

W. J. P. P. P.
WATSON PALM
Sgt. Infantry
On duty Bn E-2

\$5.50

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 883078

Commonwealth of the Philippines
MUNICIPALITY OF CUYO
PALAWAN
Office of the Mayor

January 21, 1943

Received from Mayor Pedro P. Ponce de Leon
of Cuyo, Palawan, Philippines, 1 (one) Winchester
Shotgun, Repeater No. 691548 owned by Mr. A. P. D.
Tonga for which I held myself responsible. It is
understood that said shotgun will be returned
either to Mayor Ponce de Leon or Mr. Tonga at the
earliest possible date.

#130.02

Ray W. Wilfon
Ray W. WILFON
Master Sergeant

U. S. A.

SIXTH MILITARY DISTRICT
PA (USAFPE)
CP O SP BN

17 July '44

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The following supplies have been purchased
on credit from Mr. A. D. Tonga for the use of
this organization:

10 notebooks, 48 leaves
15 rule pads, Gr. IV

18-42
10-54

Same will be paid when funds are available.

[Signature]
RESISTANCE LAGARON
Capt., Infantry
Acting QMS

10
\$20.50

B. E. Form 178
(Revised February, 1940)

(ORIGINAL)

Time of arrival _____

Time of departure _____

Municipality _____

School _____

Year }
Grade }

Teacher _____

Date _____

Army of the United States of America
IV Philippine Corps
G-2 Section

4-29-43

Commandeered from Mr.
A. F. Forga, of Cuyo, Palawan
1- Mauser 32 caliber pistol,
for the use of the Army.

P. Maloco
Tranquilino Maloco
1st Sgt. G-2 Operations
On Duty

S. No. 505261

\$75.00

To U. S. Army.

Feb. 4, 1943

This is to certify that we have received
from Antonio P. Tonga's Store (B) One
Hundred Pesos for rations and clothing
and other such needs.

Cpl. M. J. Vigoreux
U. S. Army 48th Material
A. S. N. 11026146.

P.F.C. Alfred Boucye
U. S. Army 48th Material
A. S. N. 11019961

P.F.C. J. J. Valenzano
U. S. Army 48th Material
A. S. N. 11019960

Sgt. James D. Beardus
U. S. Army 48th Mat.
A. S. N. 6970869

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Authority AND 883078

Jan 31, 1943

Paid four (4) hats .50 cents each.
for use of U.S.A. soldiers to be paid by any
authorized finance agent of the army. These
items were received by Master Sgt T. W. Wilson

Total - \$2.00

Mr. Sgt T. W. Wilson
U.S. Army
6454520

Army of the United States of America
Sixth Military District
C. P. F. Sp. Bn.

24 May 43

To Whom It may Concern:

I acknowledge to ^{have} received the following articles from
Antonio P. Jorjga, for the use of the C. P. F. Sp. Bn. in
Cuyo:

- 3 Quink Ink Bottles — 3.00
- 1 Red " " — 1.00
- 11 Roll pads grade IV — 7.70
- 9 " " " I. — 6.30
- 3 pencil 1st class — 3.00
- 2 " 2nd " — 1.00

21.00

Antonio P. Jorjga
Squad Lt., Inf.
C. P. F. Sp. Bn.

Sixth Military District
Phil. Army (Maaffe)
C.P.O. Sp. Co.
Official Receipt

24 June '44

Received from Mr. A. P. D. Sanga of Cuyo,
Palawan, the following articles for Army Use:
one (1) Battery, Wet, 20 volts, of "Oriental"

Restituto C. Laglagaron
Capt. Inf. Cdtg. QMS(S-4)

\$50.⁰⁰

Andres Sanchez
(Receiving Officer)

Prob. 3rd Lt. Inf. On duty S-4
(Designation)

DECLASSIFIED

Authority AND 863078

ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
SIXTH MILITARY DISTRICT
CO CP5 SP BN

11 June 43

To Whom It may Concern:

This is to certify that I have taken the typewriter (Underwood, portable) of Mr. A.P.D. Tonga for use in my office.

Vicente Catublas
Vicente Catublas

2nd. Lt. Infantry,
CO CP5 SP BN

~~130.10~~

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH ARMY
United States Army
Office of the Army Judge Advocate
APO 343

GFG/rgb

24 June 1945

MEMORANDUM: Report of Major GEORGE F. GUY for the period 18 June 1945 to 23 June 1945, Inclusive.

TO: Colonel J. A. MYATT, Chief of Claims Service, AFWESPAC, APO 707.

Done X

1. On 17 June I spent the day at Headquarters Eighth Army in a review of my liaison trip to Zamboanga and in further conference with Colonel Laughlin and with the engineer representatives of Eighth Army and of GENED. At the conclusion thereof, I submitted my written report on the Zamboanga trip to you. On 18 June I conferred further with Colonel Laughlin with reference to a liaison trip to the island of Palawan. It was concluded that a visit should be made to Palawan as soon as possible in view of the fact that the 186th RCT of the 41st Division, which had made the original landing on that island, would shortly be leaving the island for divisional assembly. I endeavored to arrange for a representative of GENED to accompany me, but was unable to do so. On Tuesday, 19 June, I completed arrangements for transportation to Palawan and spent the afternoon at Base "K" in consultation with Major Younger in connection with the cases involving Sixto Reas and the other cases which Colonel Tower had given me prior to leaving Manila. It was finally concluded that Major Younger's office would make a study of these claims and allied matters during my absence, and that we would work up on them after my return from Palawan.

2. On 20 June I departed under letter orders issued by Headquarters Eighth Army and arrived at Puerto Princessa, Palawan, at 11:00 o'clock A.M., and reported in to Headquarters, 186th RCT. During the afternoon I had a conference with Lieutenant Colonel William Rankin, RCT Commander. He advised me that a directive had been issued to all units in occupancy on Palawan, directing them to furnish all pertinent information relative to leases and occupancies of real estate and buildings by these units. A copy of such directive is enclosed. It is similar to the directive that had been issued by Headquarters 41st Division at Zamboanga. The directive was issued to Navy as well as Army units. Colonel Rankin pointed out that the Navy had requested him to "release" certain areas to them for occupancy purposes. He had had no information as to who was to do the actual leasing, that is, the Army or the Navy, and he would like to have clarification on this point. I informed him that in my opinion the leasing would be done by GENED and that I would take the matter up with GENED as soon as possible after my return. Colonel Rankin then made arrangements for me to see the representatives of PCAJ, Navy and the Philippine Provincial Government.

MEMO to Col MYATT (Contd)

3. On 21 June I had an interview with Lieutenant (S.G.) D. D. Corrough, who is Base Maintenance Officer of the Naval Section Base, Navy 3291, Service Force. Lieutenant Corrough was then in the process of making up a complete report on all naval buildings, occupancies and leases for submission in compliance with Colonel Rankin's memorandum. He also advised that he had received a directive from the Service Force, Seventh Fleet, asking for a complete designation of areas and facilities being occupied by the Navy at Palawan. There was no information in this directive as to how the leasing was to be accomplished. Therefore, that question is still up in the air. Lieutenant Corrough, however, believes that the section known as the "Philippine Sea Frontier, COM, Task Group Number 75" now at Manila may be handling the same as a joint Army-Navy matter. The Group under Commander Kerr at Palawan is designated as COM Task Group 75-8. A copy of Lieutenant Corrough's report to Colonel Rankin will be made available, and it is my intention to pass the same to Major Koster of GENED so that the leasing of Navy facilities can be properly disposed of between GENED and the Navy. From my conversation with Colonel Rankin and with Lieutenant Corrough, it was apparent that most all of the contentious matters involving these leases and acquisitions could be settled either by GENED or the collateral agency of the Navy. Lieutenant Corrough believes that some claims might arise which would have to be handled by Army Claims Officers, and ultimately by Claims Service. He cited the case of a 20-acre area on Palawan occupied by a CB Battalion, the Fleet Air Wing, and numerous diversified Army groups. He suggested that we talk to Lieutenant M. N. Inseo, Legal Officer for the Navy at the Port Director's Office. However, when contacted, Lieutenant Inseo indicated that Lieutenant Corrough had full authority to represent the Navy in these matters.

4. I then had an interview with Captain B. R. Garcia, Philippine Army, Executive Officer, Third Battalion, 51st Infantry, with Regimental Headquarters on Mindoro. Major Muyco, the battalion commander, had been called to Mindoro the day before and I did not get to talk with him. Captain Garcia stated that numerous claims had already been presented to him growing out of the operations of the guerrillas on Palawan prior to the liberation of the island. Typical of these claims was one for (P4,150) four thousand one-hundred-fifty pesos for a sail boat taken by the guerrillas. Captain Garcia explained that the operations of the guerrillas during the period of the Japanese occupancy made the use of numerous native boats imperative. He anticipated that there would be additional claims of this nature. He stated, however, that the 6th Military District of the Philippine Army had allotted funds in the amount of 88,000 pesos (P 88,000) for payment of these claims. Most all of the members of the 51st Infantry were former Palawan and Mindoro guerrillas and were the people who as guerrillas, had incurred these claims. He stated that a board of survey had been appointed in the battalion consisting of the CO, the S-1, S-3, the S-4 and the Provost Inspector. He stated further that he did not believe that the total of these claims would exceed 80,000 pesos, but that there was a possibility that they might go to 100,000 pesos. While there was definite agreement in some cases as to the amounts to be paid, there were many instances where properties were taken without any definite agreements as to compensation.

MEMO to Col MYATT (Contd)

There were also some instances where boats were taken or rented by American officers, and I was shown one in particular where a boat was taken by a Captain Whitehead of the 26th Cavalry. I am sure this is a legitimate claim because Captain Whitehead's story has since appeared in the Cavalry Journal. This type of claim would of course have to be processed by a claims officer, and ultimately to Claims Service. The "Palawan Special Battalion," the name under which the guerrilla forces operated, was a recognized guerrilla unit. The question of what disposition should be made of remaining claims after the 88,000 pesos already allotted had been consumed was one that Captain Garcia could not answer. I believe it would be advisable to discuss this phase of the matter with Headquarters, Philippine Army, in Manila. Lieutenant Garcia also stated that there had been considerable commandeering of shotguns, rifles, and other small items from civilians by the guerrillas, and there had also been some acquisitions of caribou and other live stock as well as rice and foodstuffs.

5. I then had a further conference with Lieutenant Corrough after he had received further instructions from Lieutenant Inzeo with reference to his complete handling of the Navy's interest in such matters. He stated that up until that time at least, the Navy had no facilities for handling claims against it, and that they would have to await instructions from higher headquarters on this point.

6. My next conference was with Major Alfred E. Smith, Junior, Judge Advocate, XIII Fighter Commander, and with Major Nathan W. Garfinkle, Claims Officer, XIII Fighter Command. These gentlemen advised that no claims had as yet been received by their organizations under AR 25-25, and that it was their expectation that if any such claims were received they would be small in number. They did not believe that the claims situation within their command would require any special assistance from Claims Service.

7. Interview was then had with First Lieutenant Richard B. Appleton, 01308905, Infantry, Legal Officer of PCAU No. 12, then attached to 186th RCT. Lieutenant Appleton had been designated as the Claims Officer for the Army for Palawan, and he has already received and processed to Claims Service four (4) claims under AR 25-25. He anticipates a small volume of additional claims under AR 25-25, but believes that the greatest volume of such items will come from occupancy and leases and will be matters for disposition by GEMED. He estimates that there may be as many as a thousand of such occupancy claims. He was then superintending the assembly of the reports from the various Army units called for by Colonel Rankin's memo heretofore referred to. At the time of my departure from Palawan on Saturday, 22 June, 1945, organizations had submitted reports and 10 were still to come in. These reports will all be forwarded to Headquarters 41st Division, and will then be referred to the branch office of GEMED, now functioning at Zamboanga. Captain James Barnes of that office will refer any matters that are truly and properly "claims matters," to Claims

MEMO to Col MYATT (Contd)

Service, direct, or to our representative at Zamboanga if we have one. Lieutenant Appleton then made arrangements for an interview by himself and Lieutenant Corrough with G. E. Abordo, the provincial governor of Palawan.

8. On Friday, 22 June, the interview was had with Governor Abordo at Puerto Princessa. I first explained to him the set-up for the handling of claims in this theater, and then explained the functions being discharged by Lieutenant's Appleton and Corrough for the Army and Navy respectively. I explained further that it had been arranged that Lieutenant Appleton might remain behind with the PCAU unit after the 41st Division elements departed, for the purpose of functioning as claims officer for the Army for all matters of a claims category. Colonel Rankin was issuing an order appointing Lieutenant Appleton Claims Officer, and it is my intention to arrange with Headquarters X Corps for Lieutenant Appleton to be appointed Claims Officer by them following the departure of the 186th RCT on or about 1 July. At that time, PCAU will pass to the control of the X Corps. The Governor was gratified to learn of these arrangements, as he said he had had several inquiries from civilians pertaining to claims matters and that he had been completely in the dark as to just how these claims matters should be processed. Lieutenants Corrough and Appleton then explained the necessity of obtaining accurate information in the way of legal descriptions, true owners, etc., of the properties being occupied both by Army and Navy. Arrangements were then completed for Lieutenants Corrough and Appleton to work with the provincial engineers and with the provincial land and property office to obtain the most accurate information possible on these items. These further details will be made available to GENEED through Headquarters 41st Division.

CONCLUSIONS

9. From my survey of the situation at Palawan, it would appear that the greatest need there is for attention of GENEED. The great volume of items there pending are purely leases and occupancies, and I do not believe that the volume of items that are purely "claims" will be large; however, there will be a sufficient volume of such claims to justify attention by a representative of claims service, AFWESPAC, at some time in the future. My investigation confirms my previous opinion that an officer of Claims Service, AFWESPAC, should be detailed to Headquarters Eighth Army on temporary duty for duty at Zamboanga. From that point he could properly service the situation at Palawan.

MEMO to Col Myatt (Concluded)

10. My survey at Palawan confirmed the previous conclusion arrived at with reference to the detailing of a Claims Service officer for duty with Headquarters 41st Division at Zamboanga; in fact, the situation at Palawan simply reinforces that conclusion because that situation presents a small but additional volume of claims for such Claims Service officer at Zamboanga.

FURTHER PLANS

11. In view of the matters uncovered both at Zamboanga and Palawan with respect to the need for attention by GENED, and with respect to the situation presented by the guerrilla claims, and with respect to the GENED overall situation, I have concluded that it would be advisable to go to Manila before making the survey trip to Mindanao. This will enable me to contact GENED and the Philippine Army Headquarters, and to outline to you the general plan, and to request the immediate assignment of two officers and two enlisted men for temporary duty with Eighth Army. One of these "teams" can immediately go to Headquarters 41st Division, and the other team can accompany me to Mindanao. It is also anticipated that a team from GENED will accompany us to Mindanao. Full details of all of these matters will be discussed with you in Manila.

George F. Guy.
GEORGE F. GUY
Major, Cavalry

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Authority NND 883078

ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
IV PHILIPPINE CORPS
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER
IN THE FIELD

17 July 43

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Received from *W* Mr. V. Kerson the following
for use of the AUSA, at Brooke's Point, Palawan:

1 No. Typewriter, "Royal"

NOTE: This typewriter was *seized* ~~confiscated~~ by Mr. V. Kerson
from Chinese Piñga of Balabac, Palawan.

[Signature]
EMILIO TUMBAGA
3rd Lieutenant (Inf) AUSA
Commanding Officer

*Kyle - This may help some one
Dunaway
Menzel*

SECRET

VENS TAIVO KERSON, the claimant, testified that he had been employed by various mining and salvage companies in the Philippine Islands from 1937 to 9 December, 1941, and had acquired experience in demolition work, explosives and salvage operations. On 9 December, 1941, Captain C.J. Martin and Colonel Cook, U.S. Army, hired the claimant as a civilian employee of the U.S. Army, and from 9 December, 1941 until 16 May, 1942, the claimant performed demolition work in Cebu, and salvage operations on the "S.S. Panay" in Negros, at a salary of 450 pesos per month, and 90 pesos per month as per diem pay. From 16 May, 1942 to 13 August, 1942, the claimant was ill with malaria. From 13 August, 1942 to 17 October, 1942, the claimant, acting on orders by Major Abcede, a Filipino guerilla leader, attempted to reach South Borneo to obtain guns and ammunition for the guerillas but was unsuccessful. From 17 October, 1942 until 31 August, 1944, the claimant resided in Brooke's Point, Palawan, assisted municipal officials in their duties, and organized the guerillas. He was designated as Chief of the Guerilla Forces in Southern Palawan, and was recognized as such by military and civil leaders. He was evacuated to the mainland of Australia in September, 1944. The claimant testified that he has not received any salary from 16 May, 1942 until 31 October, 1944, and no per diem pay from 1 May, 1942; that he performed all his services in the belief that he was a civilian employee of the U.S. Army and entitled to the same rate of pay as he had last received, and that there is now due him from the U.S. Government the sum of 16,087.50 pesos. At the request of General Douglas MacArthur the claimant was employed by the U.S. Government under a written contract, dated 2 November, 1944, as a marine salvage diver at a salary of \$888 per year plus a bonus of \$233, and assigned to the Army Service Command, A.P.O. 358.

ALEXANDER M. SUTHERLAND

85th Station Hospital, A.P.O. 923.

ALEXANDER M. SUTHERLAND testified that he served as an independent missionary at Brooke's Point, Palawan, from May, 1935 until August, 1944; that prior to 17 October, 1942 there was no organized guerilla force in Brooke's Point; that on 17 October, 1942, Vens Taivo Kerson landed at Brooke's Point, and attempted to secure transportation to South Borneo in order to accomplish a special mission but was unsuccessful in obtaining transportation. Mr. Kerson remained at Brooke's Point until August, 1944, and took an active part in re-organizing the municipal government, and in organizing a guerilla force. Mr. Kerson was designated as Chief of the Guerillas in Southern Palawan and spent a good deal of his time in obtaining food for the soldiers. Mr. Kerson informed Mr. Sutherland that he, Kerson, was a civilian employee of the U.S. Army, and had formerly worked for the U.S. Army in Cebu and Negros doing demolition work and salvage work on the "S.S. Panay". Kerson indicated that his salary had been 450 pesos per month, and that the Government still owed him a certain amount of back pay. Mr. Sutherland stated that Mr. Kerson was a man of unquestioned loyalty and had often exposed himself to great danger while aiding the guerillas in Brooke's Point.

Private WILLIAM W. WIGFIELD, JR.

Camp Ascot, A.P.O. 923.

WILLIAM W. WIGFIELD, JR., stated that he arrived in the Philippine Islands on 20 November, 1941 as a member of the 27th Bomb Group. On 16 December, 1941, his unit, the 48th Material Squadron, which was part of the 27th Bomb Group, arrived at Mindoro. As a result of the invasion of Mindoro by the Japs the unit disbanded and escaped to the hills. He travelled to Panay and Guyo and arrived in Northern Palawan in August, 1942, and remained there until June, 1943. During this period of time he heard intermittent rumors that Vens Taivo Kerson was in charge of guerilla activities in Southern Palawan. During the latter part of March, 1943, Mr. Kerson and several men visited Northern Palawan to help unite the guerilla forces. From June, 1943

SECRET

(Continued - Summary of Pvt. Wigfield's statement)

to December, 1943 Private Wigfield travelled around Cuyo, Tablas, Panay and Cagayancillo in an attempt to obtain transportation out of the islands but was unsuccessful. During all this time he heard no reports concerning Mr. Kerson or his activities. In December, 1943, Pvt. Wigfield went to Southern Palawan and there met Mr. Kerson. He was informed that Mr. Kerson had organized the guerillas at Brooke's Point in 1942. Mr. Kerson told Wigfield that he was doing this work voluntarily, and Wigfield never heard Mr. Kerson claim any pay for his work. Mr. Kerson spent most of his time in obtaining food for the soldiers. Pvt. Wigfield believes that Mr. Kerson is honest and sincere.

Private ROBERT T. JOHNSTON, JR. - Camp Ascot, A.P.O. 923.

ROBERT T. JOHNSTON, Jr., testified that during May, 1942, he arrived in Cuyo, Province of Palawan, Philippine Islands, as a member of the 48th Materiel Squadron. The unit had been forced to flee from Mindoro as a result of the Jap invasion. The unit had disbanded and escaped to the hills. Pvt. Johnston escaped to Cuyo and remained there until September, 1942. During the latter part of his stay in Cuyo he heard rumors of a man called Kerson in Southern Palawan who had organized guerilla activities against the Japs. Johnston reached Northern Palawan in September, 1942. There was little guerilla activity going on in Northern Palawan during that time. From September, 1942 until March, 1943, Johnston roamed around Palawan and heard intermittent rumors of Kerson's activities in Southern Palawan. He heard that Kerson was organizing and leading guerilla activities against the Japs. In March, 1943, Johnston met Kerson in Northern Palawan where they discussed Kerson's activities in Southern Palawan. Johnston gathered from what Mr. Kerson told him that Kerson's services were being voluntarily performed, and that he, Kerson, had come to Northern Palawan to help unite the guerillas and to help liberate American prisoners at a Jap prison camp nearby. In March, 1943 Kerson returned to Southern Palawan, and Johnston returned to Cuyo, and from April, 1943, Johnston never again heard of Kerson or his activities.

Major CLAUDE E. FERTIG - Allied Geographical Section, APO 923.

Major CLAUDE E. FERTIG stated that he is an intelligence officer with the Allied Geographical Section, A.P.O. 923; that from February, 1942 to 20 March, 1944 he was Chief Engineer for the 6th Military District at Panay, Philippine Islands, which District included Palawan. In 1942 he learned that the "S.S. Panay", which had been sunk off Maricool Bay, Island of Negros, was being salvaged, and that V.T. Kerson was employed there in some capacity. A considerable amount of guns, ammunition and combat materiel were salvaged. He has no knowledge of who employed Kerson or his rate of pay.

LT (Jg) WILLIAM DE CARBONEL - Allied Geographical Section, APO 923.

LT (Jg) WILLIAM DE CARBONEL testified in substance as follows: From 1936 to September, 1944, he resided in the Philippine Islands and worked in the mining department of the Luzon Stevedoring Company. He lived in Northern Palawan during this period of time and had frequent dealings with the guerilla forces in Palawan. During 1942 to 1943 he heard that Venus Taivo Kerson was engaged in guerilla activities in Southern Palawan and was holding himself out as Chief of the Guerilla Forces in Southern Palawan. The Palawan Special Battalion, affiliated with the 6th Military District, was a guerilla organization comprised of guerilla forces in Palawan, Busuanga and Cuyo. Kerson was never recognized as Chief by the Palawan Special Battalion on the ground that they refused to recognize anyone but a Filipino as a leader. Kerson's activities were known to Col. Peralta, Commanding Officer of the 6th Military District

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(Continued - Summary of Lt. De Carbonel's statement)

As Staff Secretary to Col. Feralta, Lt. De Carbonel checked the reports submitted to the Colonel, but never saw any reports of guerilla activities submitted by Kerson to Col. Feralta.

Captain THOMAS W. JURIKA - GRQ-PSS-3/4 A.P.O. 500

Captain THOMAS W. JURIKA stated that Vens Kerson was hired by Captain C.J. Martin as a civilian employee for the U.S. Army. There was a pay scale instituted by Col. J.D. Cook, commanding the Cebu Advance Quartermaster Depot and General Sharp, Commanding General of the Visayan-Mindanao Forces, U.S.A.F.F.E., but this pay scale is unknown. Mr. Kerson was originally employed to lay demolition charges in Cebu, and later volunteered to do salvage work on the "S.S. Panay". It is not known whether this involved reemployment in a new capacity. Mr. Kerson was last known to be working for the Army on 10 April, 1942. He was evacuated from Palawan in September, 1944.

Colonel EDWARD M. GRIMM - Base Port Commander, A.P.O. 72.

Colonel EDWARD M. GRIMM stated that Mr. Kerson was working for the U.S. Army in Cebu after war was declared, and his job was neutralizing sea mines in the vicinity of Cebu. In March, 1942 Mr. Kerson was sent to do salvage work on the "S.S. Panay", and he was working on this project when Cebu surrendered to the Japs. Mr. Kerson was known to be working for the Army in the Cebu area from January to April, 1942.

SECRET

FINDINGS

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
Authority *AMP 883078*

On the basis of the evidence of record this officer makes the following findings of fact:

From 1937 to 1939, the claimant was employed by various mining companies in the Philippine Islands, and acquired experience in explosives and demolition work. From March, 1940 until 8 December, 1941, the claimant was employed by the Luzon Stevedoring Company, Manila, Philippine Islands, and performed various salvage operations for the company in Manila, Negros and Laguna.

On or about 8 December, 1941, the claimant was employed by the Luzon Stevedoring Company as a salvage superintendent in Suguijer, Philippine Islands and was ordered to proceed to Manila. On 9 December, 1941, the claimant arrived in Cebu, Philippine Islands, and was interviewed by Captain C.J. Martin and Colonel J.D. Cook, Commanding the Cebu Advance Quartermaster Depot, U.S. Army, with regard to his experience in demolition work and explosives. On 9 December, 1941, as a result of that interview, the claimant was employed by Captain C.J. Martin and Colonel Cook as a civilian employee of the U.S. Army. No written contract evidenced the employment nor is there any definite proof of the claimant's rate of pay other than what he himself has indicated. The claimant was ordered by Colonel Cook and Captain Martin to demolish certain installations in Cebu, and to neutralize sea mines in waters surrounding the Island of Cebu. From 9 December, 1941, until 6 January, 1942, the claimant performed demolition work in Cebu for the U.S. Army, and also supervised the construction of several thousand hand grenades.

On 6 January, 1942, General Sharp, U.S. Army, ordered the claimant to proceed to Negros, Philippine Islands, to determine whether the sunken "S.S. Panay" could be salvaged. It is not known whether or not this work involved re-employment in a new capacity. On 11 January, 1942, acting on the further instructions of Major Forte, U.S. Army, the claimant made a test dive on the "S.S. Panay", and determined that the boat could be salvaged. The claimant was ordered by General Sharp to obtain the necessary equipment for the salvage operations. The claimant complied with this order, and on 23 January, 1942, commenced salvage operations on the "S.S. Panay". The claimant supervised the operations, hired the men, fixed their rate of pay, kept the records and prepared the pay roll. The claimant's rate of pay was 300 pesos per month from 9 December, 1941, until 1 March, 1942, and 450 pesos per month thereafter. In addition, commencing on 11 January, 1942, the claimant received 90 pesos per month as per diem pay. Among the main items salvaged from the "S.S. Panay" were ammunition, guns and other combat material. Several months after the operations were begun the salvage contract was taken over by the Visayan Stevedore-Transportation Company, but the status of the claimant as a civilian employee of the U.S. Army remained unchanged, and he continued to supervise the salvage operations which were completed on 16 May, 1942. The claimant was last known to be working for the Army on 10 April, 1942, when the Japs invaded Cebu.

In May, 1942, the Japs invaded Iloilo and Negros, and the diving equipment was dismantled and hidden. The claimant received no salary from 16 May, 1942, to 31 October, 1944, and no per diem pay from 1 May, 1942, to 31 October, 1944. The claimant received only 112.50 pesos as salary from 1 May, 1942 to 15 May, 1942.

From 16 May, 1942, to 13 August, 1942, the claimant was ill with malaria and remained in hiding in Nusulao, Philippine Islands. On 13 August, 1942, the claimant was contacted and ordered by Major Abcede, a Filipino guerrilla leader, to proceed to South Borneo and obtain possession of guns and ammunition for the guerrillas. On 17 October, 1942, the claimant and

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DECLASSIFIED
Authority AND 883078

Mr. H.C. Garretson, an American associate of the claimant, arrived in Brooke's Point, Palawan, Philippine Islands, seeking transportation to Borneo. Alexander M. Sutherland, an independent missionary residing in Brooke's Point, attempted to aid the claimant in obtaining transportation by using his influence with Dattu Jolkipli, Deputy Governor, Southern Palawan. However, no transportation was available. The claimant remained in Brooke's Point, and assisted in the reorganization of the municipal government, and organized the guerilla forces in Brooke's Point, Palawan. In performing these services, the claimant was not acting under any orders.

In March, 1943, the claimant was designated as Chief of the Guerilla Forces in Southern Palawan by Gaudencio E. Abordo, Governor of Palawan, and by Pedro Manigque, Battalion Commander, IV Philippine Corps, Palawan.

During the period of time that the claimant was at Brooke's Point he held himself out as Chief of the Guerilla Forces in Southern Palawan. In orders which he issued, and in his correspondence with various officials, he signed his name as Chief of the Guerilla Forces. In addition, the claimant was regarded as Chief of the Guerilla Forces by various military leaders and municipal officials of Palawan. The claimant devoted a good deal of his time toward obtaining food for the soldiers. He spent his own money for this purpose, and also obtained ammunition and medicine for the soldiers. He was well liked by the men for his efforts in providing food for them, and for his services in organizing the guerillas. The Governor of Palawan issued 10,000 pesos to the claimant as emergency scrip to be used in paying the soldiers. The claimant established a system of patrols, and furnished reports to Colonel Feralta, Commanding Officer, 61st Division, concerning the guerilla activities in Brooke's Point. The claimant's authority as Chief of the Guerilla Forces in Brooke's Point was revoked by Major Pedro Manigque during the latter part of May, 1943, but the claimant remained at Brooke's Point, and continued to work with the guerillas until September, 1944, when he was evacuated to the mainland of Australia.

The claimant performed all of this work in the belief that he was a civilian employee of the U.S. Army, and would continue to receive the same rate of pay that he had been receiving while employed in the salvage operations of the "S.S. Panay", namely, 450 pesos per month as salary, and 90 pesos per month as per diem pay.

On 1 November, 1944, the claimant was employed as a marine salvage diver and assigned for duty to the Army Service Command, A.F.C. 356. This employment was at the personal request of General Douglas MacArthur. His salary for this employment as a marine salvage diver is 1,888 per year, plus a bonus of 1,233 upon leaving the mainland of Australia. This salary is comparable to that which he received while employed on the "S.S. Panay".

SECRET

SECRET

Jan. 26, 1942
BUGSUK IS.

To whom it may concern:

This is to certify that I, George Davis, recieved
from V. T. Kerson, \$15.00 for work in the field for U.S.A.F.P.E.

/s/ George Davis
U.S.M.C.

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2nd Lt. Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:


E. O. V. NELSEN,
Capt. Inf.

SECRET

SECRET

Oct 17 1942

Received Thirty $\frac{00}{1 00}$ pesos P30.00 for passage
V. Kerson & H. C. Garretson from Cagayan ville to
Brooks Point Palawan

/s/ Leon Floida

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2nd Lt. Inf.

OTW
CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E.O.V. NELSEN,
Captain, Inf.

SECRET

SECRET

Hda Maricalum
Cauayan, Occ., Negros
April 18, 1942

This is to certify that we owe Mr. Fred G. Pfleider for board and lodging from March 4, 1942 to April 18, 1942 inclusive, for three men (Mr. Van't Hoff, Mr. Garitson, and Mr. V. Kerson.)

The following is also some of the charges which is unpaid to Mr. Pfleider:

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 1. 2 Bolts | P. .60 |
| 2. 3 x 420 lumber | 1.60 |
| 3. 2 empty cement barrels | .40 |
| 4. 1 bottle coconut oil | .80 |
| 5. Rent of Bodega for March and April | 8.00 |
| 6. Chickens a/c of Capt. Xaudaro | 6.70 |
| 7. 2x4x10 lumber | .56 |

TOTAL P18.66

All the above bills are unpaid accounts of the Visayan Stevedoring Co. To Mr. Fred G. Pfleider for their salvage work here in Maricalum Re; the S.S. Panay.

- | | |
|---|---------|
| Total Bills as above | P.18.66 |
| Board and Lodging for 45 days of three men at
P.9.00 per day as per contract | 405.00 |
| (P.3.00 per man) | |

TOTAL..P.423.66

I certify that the above total has not been paid to Mr. Fred G. Pfleider.

Mr. V. Kerson
In Charge of Diving Operation
Of Visayan Stevedoring Co. Salvage Oper.
S.S. Panay at Maricalum, Occ.; Neg.

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2nd Lt., Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:
[Signature]

E. O. V. NELSEN,
Capt. Inf.

SECRET

EXHIBIT " 61 "

SECRET

October 27, 1942

Received from V. Kerson the sum of \$20.00 (Twenty
Pesos) in payment of Transportation from Tagusao to
Tausan

(thumb print)

MAKIT (His mark)

WITNESSED:

/s/ Alfredo Amis

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2nd Lt., Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E.O.V. Nelsen
E.O.V. NELSEN,
Captain, Inf

SECRET

SECRET

Dec. 3, 1942

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

We the undersigned hereby certify that received
from Mr. V. T. Kerson the amount of twenty pesos (P20.00)
for south patrol in taking the 30 cal. ammunition in
Tabod.

1. Pio (his cross)
2. Litas /s/ Litas
3. Imog (his cross)
4. Mangiopa (his cross)

Witnessed by:

/s/ George Davis
U.S.M.C.

(Signature illegible)
Staff Sgt., P.C.

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2nd Lt. Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E. O. V. Nelsen
E. O. V. NELSEN,
Captain, Inf

SECRET

SECRET

Dec. 5, 1942

To Whom It May Concern,

This is to certify that I received from
Mr. T. V. Kerson the amount of ten pesos (P10.00)
for hiring my cuspit in taking assassinations from
Tabod.

Marhaban
by Pio (cross)

Witness:

(signature illegible)
Staff Sgt., P.C.

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2nd Lt. Inf.

C
CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E.O.V. Nelsen
E.O.V. NELSEN,
Captain, Inf

SECRET

SECRET

HUGSUK ISLAND
Jan. 26, 1943.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Received from Mr. V. T. Kerson Commanding Guerilla
Activities South Palawan, the sum of (54.00) fifty four
pesos Philippine Currency for the expense of the soldier
assigned in the south patrol.

/s/ N. B. Mayor

Capt. N. B. MAYOR (PAR)
Commanding Balabac District
And Tarusan Palawan Patrol
U.S.A.F.P.E.

NBM/Tk

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2nd Lt. Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E. O. V. Nelsen
E. O. V. NELSEN,
Capt. Inf.

SECRET

SECRET

ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
GUERRILLA UNITS SOUTH PALAWAN
BROOKE'S POINT PALAWAN

April 8, 1943

Received from Mr. V. T. Kerson, Guerrilla Commander
South Palawan the amount of P5.00 for subsistence of the
following soldiers and volunteers this date:

1. Cpl. Opate, F.
2. Pvts. Cayabo, E.
3. " Abejo, E.
4. " Laab, B.
5. " Bacnotan, S.
6. Vol. Jagnis, R.
7. " Reid, J.
8. " Pinca, R.

/s/ F. Opate

FELIPE OPATE
(Incharge)

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2nd Lt. Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E.O.V. Nelsen
E.O.V. NELSEN,
Captain, Inf.

SECRET

SECRETBrooke's Point,
April 10, 1943TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
P5.00

This is to certify that the undersigned have received from the Commander of South Guerilla Forces, Mr. V. T. Kerson, the amount of FIVE PESOS, (\$5.00) as his ration from April 4th, 1943 to April 15th, 1943.

/s/ Jose Espano

/t/ SGT: PVT JOSE ESPANO
PVT INFANTRY U.S.A.

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2nd Lt. Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:


E.O.V. NELSEN,
Captain, Inf**SECRET**

General Form No. 8 (A) REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSE RECEIPT

Brooke's Point, Palawan April 7, 1943 NO. 39.

(Municipality - Province - Date)
RECEIVED OF V. T. KERSON

SECRET

(Name) (Official designation)
THE AMOUNT OF one peso and seventy centavos (P 1.70)
(in words) (in figures)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS: Payments for vegetables used for the soldiers food.
(Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)

WITNESS: (Signature of payee)
ADDRESS: ADDRESS:

READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR 10-290

General Form No. 8 (A) REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSE RECEIPT

Brooke's Point, Palawan April 8, 1943 NO. 40.

(Municipality - Province - Date)
RECEIVED OF V. T. KERSON

(Name) (Official designation)
THE AMOUNT OF Twenty pesos (P. 20.00)
(in words) (in figures)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS: unreadable.
Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)

WITNESS: Illegible (signature of payee)
ADDRESS: Taguasa, Brooke's Point ADDRESS:

READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR 10-290.

General Form No. 8 (A) REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSE RECEIPT

Brooke's Point, Palawan April 18, 1943 NO. 43.

(Municipality - Province - Date)
RECEIVED OF V. T. KERSON

Comdr. R. South Pal.
(Official designation)

(Name) (Official designation)
THE AMOUNT OF Ten pesos only (P/ 10/00)
(in words) (in figures)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS: advance cash for mess guerilla 5th. Palawan in charge of Cpl. E.G. Colain, U.S. Army Mess Sgt.
(Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel etc.)

WITNESS: (Illegible) Illegible (signature of payee)
ADDRESS: Brooke's Point. ADDRESS: Brooke's Point.

READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR 10-290.

SECRET

General Form No. 8 (A)

REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSE RECEIPT

Paritian, Palawan April 2, 1943 NO. 36
 (Municipality - Province - Date)
 RECEIVED OF V. T. ERICKSON
 (Name) (Official designation)

SECRET

THE AMOUNT OF Six pesos (P. 6.00)
 (in words) (in figures)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS: Ration cash expenses for 8 men transporting palay from Paritian to Brooke's Point.
 (Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)

WITNESS: (Illegible) Pascual de la Cruz (signature of payee)
 ADDRESS: Brooke's Point. ADDRESS: Brooke's Point.

READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR 10-290.

General Form No. 8 (A)

REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSE RECEIPT

Brooke's Point, Palawan April 4, 1943 NO. 37
 (Municipality - Province - Date)
 RECEIVED OF V. T. ERICKSON
 (Name) (Official designation)

THE AMOUNT OF Two pesos (P. 2.00)
 (in words) (in figures)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS: Hiring a cuspit from Paritian to Brooke's Point for transportation at a distance of 40 miles.
 (Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)

WITNESS: James Feid Abdul Cahal (signature of payee)
 ADDRESS: Brooke's Point, Palawan. ADDRESS: Brooke's Point, Palawan.

READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR 10-290.

General Form No. 8 (A)

REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSE RECEIPT

Brooke's Point, Palawan April 7, 1943 NO. 38
 (Municipality - Province - Date)
 RECEIVED OF V. T. ERICKSON
 (Name) (Official designation)

THE AMOUNT OF Three pesos & forty centavos (P. 3.40)
 (in words) (in figures)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS: Payment for 2 gantas at 1.70 each.
 (Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel etc.)

WITNESS: James Feid (signature of payee)
 ADDRESS: Brooke's Point, Palawan. ADDRESS: Brooke's Point, Palawan.

SECRET

READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR 10-290

(Continued)

General Form No. 8 (A) REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSE RECEIPT

Caruray, Palawan March 27, 1943 NO. 33
(Municipality - Province - Date)
RECEIVED OF V. T. KERMAN **SECRET**
(Name) (Official designation)
THE AMOUNT OF ten pesos (P 10.00)
(in words) (in figures)
THE EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS: Twenty gantas rice at .50 per ganta for our trip back to south.
(Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)
WITNESS: (Illegible) (Illegible) (signature of payee)
ADDRESS: Caruray, Pal. ADDRESS: Caruray, Pal.
READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR
10-290

General Form No. 8 (A) REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSE RECEIPT

Caruray, Palawan March 27, 1943 NO. 34
(Municipality - Province - Date)
RECEIVED OF V. T. KERMAN
(Name) (Official designation)
THE AMOUNT OF Six pesos & seventy five centavos (P 6.75)
(in words) (in figures)
THE EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS: 3 packages matches at 1.00 six package and five kilos sugar at
pile .75
(Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)
WITNESS: (Illegible) (Illegible) (signature of payee)
ADDRESS: Caruray, Palawan. ADDRESS: Caruray, Palawan.
READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR
10-290

General Form No. 8 (A) REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSE RECEIPT

Caruray, Palawan. March 27, 1943 NO. 35
(Municipality - Province - Date)
RECEIVED OF V. T. KERMAN
(Name) (Official designation)
THE AMOUNT OF Six pesos & thirty centavos (P 6.30)
(in words) (in figures)
FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS: 1 pig dress at .20 per kilo for our viand on trip to south.
(Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)
WITNESS: (Illegible) (Illegible) (signature of payee)
ADDRESS: Caruray ADDRESS: Caruray, Palawan
READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR
10-290

SECRET

General Form No. 8 (A)

SECRET

Tabon, Aberlan, Palawan March 2, 1942 NO. 30
 (Municipality - Province - Date)

RECEIVED OF V. T. Person
 (Name) (Official designation)

THE AMOUNT OF Two pesos only
 (in words) (P 2.00)
 (in figures)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS: One (1) tube tobacco; one bamboo tube 1/2 meter long, circumference 20 centimeters.
 (Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)

WITNESS: (Illegible) (Illegible)
 ADDRESS: Tabon, Aberlan, Pal (Signature of payee)
 ADDRESS: Tabon, Aberlan, Pal.

READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR 10-290

General Form No. 8 (A) REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSE RECEIPT

Tabon, Aberlan, Palawan March 2, 1942 NO. 31
 (Municipality - Province - Date)

RECEIVED OF V. T. Person
 (Name) (Official designation)

THE AMOUNT OF One peso only
 (in words) (P 1.00)
 (in figures)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS: Four gantas polish rice at ganta twenty five centavos food for our trip to communicate to north.
 (Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)

WITNESS: (Illegible) Gusbang Palawan (signature of payee)
 ADDRESS: Tabon, Aberlan, Palawan. ADDRESS: Tabon, Aberlan, Palawan.

General Form No. 8 (A) REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSE RECEIPT

Buenavista, Palawan March 11, 1942 NO. 32
 (Municipality - Province - Date)

RECEIVED OF V. T. Person
 (Name) (Official designation)

THE AMOUNT OF one pesos
 (in words) (P 1.00)
 (in figures)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS: Two bundles fish at .35 and eleven eggs .50 for use of food for north.
 (Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)

WITNESS: (Illegible) (Illegible) (signature of payee)
 ADDRESS: Buenavista, Pal. ADDRESS: Buenavista, Pal.

SECRET

General Form No. 8 (A)

REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSE RECEIPT

Isumbo, Brooke's Point, Pal. March 6, 1943 NO. 27
 (Municipality - Province - Date)

RECEIVED OF V.T. Eerson
 (Name) (Official designation)

SECRET

THE AMOUNT OF ten pesos (P. 10.00)
 (in words) (in figures)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS: Subsistence for Sidney Bright U.S. Marine Corps in his stay in the title of Isumbo to maintain peace and order.

(Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel etc.)

WITNESS: Fascual de la Cruz ADDRESS: Sidney T. Bright
Isumbo, Brooke's Point ADDRESS: Isumbo, Pal. P.I.

READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR 10-290

General Form No. 8 (A)

REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSE RECEIPT

Tabou, Aborlan, Palawan March 8, 1943 NO. 28
 (Municipality - Province - Date)

RECEIVED OF V.T. Eerson
 (Name) (Official designation)

THE AMOUNT OF Thirty centavos (P. 30)
 (in words) (in figures)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS: Dried fish worth 30 centavos for vains

(Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)

WITNESS: (Illegible) ADDRESS: (Illegible)
Tabou, Aborlan, Pal. ADDRESS: Tabou, Aborlan, Pal.

READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR 10-290

General Form No. 8 (A)

REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSE RECEIPT

Brooke's Point March 6, 1943 NO. 29
 (Municipality - Province - Date)

RECEIVED OF V. T. EERSON
 (Name) (Official designation)

THE AMOUNT OF twelve pesos (P. 12.00)
 (in words) (in figures)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS: Collection palay west coast from Tabou and Alfonso XIII

(Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)

WITNESS: ADDRESS:
Brooke's Point ADDRESS: Brooke's Point

SECRET

READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR

General Form No. 3 (A)

REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSE RECEIPT

Aborlan, Palawan

March 3, 1943

No. 24

(Municipality - Province - Date)

RECEIVED OF

V. T. Kerson

SECRET

(Name)

(Official designation)

THE AMOUNT OF

one peso only

(P 1.00)

(in words)

(in figures)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS:

Cargadois, four men from Aramaywan to Togbuan

Panacan, about 30 Km.

(Payments for subsistence, services, rental, or transportation should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)

WITNESS:

/s/ Simeon Vicenti

/s/ Pedro Bagome

(Signature of Payee)

ADDRESS: Togbuan, Aborlan, Pal.

ADDRESS: Aramaywan, Aborlan, Pal.

READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR 10-290

REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSE RECEIPT

General Form No. 3 (A)

Tabon, Aborlan, Palawan

March 8, 1943

No. 25

(Municipality - Province - Date)

RECEIVED OF

V. T. Kerson

(Name)

(Official designation)

THE AMOUNT OF

Fifty centavos

(P .50)

(in words)

(in figures)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS:

Two bundles fish @ .25 centavos for vaid in trip to north

(Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)

WITNESS:

/s/ Salahud Bayrula

/s/ Quiano Dar Juan

(Signature of Payee)

ADDRESS: Tabon, Aborlan, Pal.

ADDRESS: Tabon, Aborlan, Pal.

READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR 10-290

REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSE RECEIPT

General Form No. 3 (A)

Isumbo, Brooke's Point, Pal.

March 6, 1943

No. 26

(Municipality - Province - Date)

RECEIVED OF

V. T. Kerson

(Name)

(Official designation)

THE AMOUNT OF

Five, Twenty five

(P 5.25)

(in words)

(in figures)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS:

three kilos coffee one peso & seventy five centavos

(Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)

WITNESS:

Akil Moro (cross)

/s/ A. Hagan

(Signature of Payee)

ADDRESS: Isumbo, Brooke's Point, Pal.

ADDRESS: Panitian, Brooke's Point, Pal.

READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR 10-290

SECRETDECLASSIFIED
Authority NWD 883078

SECRET

REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSE RECEIPT

General Form No. 3 (A) No. 21
Brooke's Point Palawan Feb. 28, 1943

(Municipality - Province - Date)
RECEIVED OF V. T. Kerson (Official designation)

THE AMOUNT OF Twenty five centavos (Official designation)
(In words) (P. 25)
(in figures)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS: twelve (12) eggs @ .02 for our trip in north
(Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)

WITNESS: Digoman Palawan (cross)
(Signature of payee)

ADDRESS: /s/ Tanipacan Moro (Signature of payee)
Punang, Brooke's Point, Pal. ADDRESS: Paanan, Brooke's Point, Pal.

READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR
10-290

REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSE RECEIPT

General Form No. 3 (A) No. 22
Abarlan, Palawan March 2, 1943

(Municipality - Province - Date)
RECEIVED OF V. T. Kerson (Official designation)

THE AMOUNT OF one fifty (Official designation)
(In words) (P. 1.50)
(in figures)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS: one chicken @ .30, five eggs @ .02, sugar one chupa @ .10
eleven chupas all in all
(Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)

WITNESS: /s/ Ciriac G. Falay (Signature of payee)

ADDRESS: /s/ Simeon Vicenti (Signature of payee)
Bato Bato, Abalan, Pal.

READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR
10-290

REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSE RECEIPT

General Form No. 3 (A) No. 23
Tabon, Abalan, Palawan March 8, 1943

(Municipality - Province - Date)
RECEIVED OF V. T. Kerson (Official designation)

THE AMOUNT OF one peso & fifty centavos (Official designation)
(In words) (P. 1.50)
(in figures)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS: six (6) gantas polish rice per @ ganta .25 centavos for
subsistence to north
(Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)

WITNESS: /s/ Cecos Bekes (Signature of payee)

ADDRESS: /s/ Luciano Dan Juan (Signature of payee)
Tabon, Aborlan, Pal. ADDRESS: Tabon, Aborlan, Pal.

READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR
10-290

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AWD 883078

SECRET

(Name) _____ (Official designation) _____
THE AMOUNT OF thirty centaves (P .30)
(in words) (in figures)
FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS: one chicken for subsistence of our trip to consult
Major Magique at Carasay on official business
(Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive
dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)
WITNESS: _____ /s/ Asil Palawan (cross)
(Signature of payee)
ADDRESS: Carasanan, Brooke's Pt. Pal. ADDRESS: Carasanan, Brooke's Point, Pal

READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR
10-290

REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSE RECEIPT

General Form No. 3 (A) _____ No. 19
Brooke's Point, Palawan Feb. 26, 1943

(Municipality - Province - Date)
RECEIVED OF V. T. Kerson
(Name) _____ (Official designation) _____

THE AMOUNT OF one peso & 30 centaves (P 1.30)
(in words) (in figures)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS: 3 gantas rice, 2 chickens, and bunch bananas for our
trip, chicken each .30c, rice each .20c banana each .10c
(Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive
dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)

WITNESS: _____ /s/ Nonong Tompacon
(Signature illegible) (Signature of payee)
ADDRESS: Punang, Brooke's Point, Pal. ADDRESS: Punang, Brooke's Point, Pal.

READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR
10-290

REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSE RECEIPT

General Form No. 3 (A) _____ No. 20
Brooke's Point, Palawan Feb. 27, 1943

(Municipality - Province - Date)
RECEIVED OF V. T. Kerson
(Name) _____ (Official designation) _____

THE AMOUNT OF Thirty centaves (P .30)
(in words) (in figures)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS: one chicken @ .30 for our trip to north
(Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation
should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)

WITNESS: _____ /s/ Terosan Calibol
(Signature illegible) (Signature of payee)
ADDRESS: Punang, Brooke's Point. ADDRESS: Punang, Brooke's Point, Pal.

READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR
10-290

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AWD 883078

REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSE RECEIPT

General Form No. 3 (A)

Brooke's Point, Palawan

Feb. 25, 1943

No. 18

(Municipality - Province - Date)

RECEIVED OF V. T. KERSON

(Name)

SECRET

(Official designation)

THE AMOUNT OF thirty centaves

(in words)

(P .30)

(in figures)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS: one chicken for subsistence of our trip to consult

Major Magique at Caramay on official business

(Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)

WITNESS:

/s/ (Miss) Felicisima Pino

/s/ Asil Palawan (cross)

(Signature of payee)

ADDRESS: Carasanan, Brooke's Pt. Pal.

ADDRESS: Carasanan, Brooke's Point, Pal

READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR
10-290

REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSE RECEIPT

General Form No. 3 (A)

Brooke's Point, Palawan

Feb. 26, 1943

No. 19

(Municipality - Province - Date)

RECEIVED OF V. T. KerSON

(Name)

(Official designation)

THE AMOUNT OF one peso & 30 centaves

(in words)

(P 1.30)

(in figures)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS: 3 gantas rice, 2 chickens, and bunch bananas for our

trip, chicken each .30c, rice each .20c banana each .10c

(Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)

WITNESS:

(Signature illegible)

/s/ Nonong Tompacon

(Signature of payee)

ADDRESS: Funang, Brooke's Point, Pal.

ADDRESS: Funang, Brooke's Point, Pal.

READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR
10-290

REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSE RECEIPT

General Form No. 3 (A)

Brooke's Point, Palawan

Feb. 27, 1943

No. 20

(Municipality - Province - Date)

RECEIVED OF V. T. KerSON

(Name)

(Official designation)

THE AMOUNT OF Thirty centaves

(in words)

(P .30)

(in figures)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS: one chicken @ .30 for our trip to north

(Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)

WITNESS:

(Signature illegible)

/s/ Terosan Galibol

(Signature of payee)

ADDRESS: Funang, Brooke's Point.

ADDRESS: Funang, Brooke's Point, Pal.

READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR
10-290

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 883078

SECRET

Brooke's Point, Palawan, Feb. 15, 1943

No. 15

(Municipality - Province - Date)

RECEIVED OF

V. T. KERSON

(Name)

SECRET

(Official designation)

THE AMOUNT OF

three pesos

(P 3.00)

(in words)

(in figures)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS:

Cananas and squas worth three pesos

(Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation

should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)

WITNESS:

(Signature illegible)

/s/ Bernabe Solita

ADDRESS: Brooke's Point

(Signature of Payee)

ADDRESS

Brooke's Point, Pal.

READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR
10-290

REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSE RECEIPT

General Form No. 3 (A)

Brooke's Point, Palawan

Feb. 17, 1943

No. 16

(Municipality - Province - Date)

RECEIVED OF

V. KERSON

(Name)

(Official designation)

THE AMOUNT OF

five pesos

(P 5.00)

(in words)

(in figures)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS:

Payment of two sacks of Camotes for 2 pesos a sack and one
santa of salted shrimps for soldiers food.(Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive
dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)

WITNESS:

/s/ Pascual de la Cruz

/s/ H. Paalaga

(Signature of payee)

ADDRESS:

ADDRESS: Brooke's Point

READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR
10-290

REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSE RECEIPT

General Form No. 3 (A)

Brooke's Point, Palawan

Feb. 17, 1943

No. 17

(Municipality - Province - Date)

RECEIVED OF

V. KERSON

(Name)

(Official designation)

THE AMOUNT OF

thirty centav as

(P .30)

(in words)

(in figures)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS:

For the payment of eggs for subsistence of V. Kerson

(Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation
should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)

WITNESS:

(Signature illegible)

/s/ Awang More

(Signature of payee)

ADDRESS:

ADDRESS:

READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR
10-290**SECRET**DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 883078

SECRET

REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSE RECEIPT

General Form No. 3 (A)

Balabac Pal. Jan 30, 1943 No. 12
 (Municipality - Province - Date)

RECEIVED OF V. T. KERSON Cond. S.P.
 (Name) (Official designation)

THE AMOUNT OF Ten Pesos (P 10.00)
 (in words) (In figures)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS: Tobacco for THE SOLDIERS
 (Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive dates, purposes, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)

WITNESS:

 (Signature of payee)

Address:

Address:

READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR
 10-290

General Form No. 3 (A)

REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSE RECEIPT

No. 13

Brooke's Point, Palawan Feb. 4, 1943

(Municipality - Province - Date)

RECEIVED OF V. KERSON (Official designation)
 (Name) (P 10.00)

THE AMOUNT OF ten pesos (P 10.00)
 (in words) (In figures)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS: Payment for hiring a cumnit from Brooke's Point to Bugsuk at a distance of 50 miles round trip
 (Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)

WITNESS:

(signature illegible)

/s/ Pascual de la Cruz
 (Signature of Payee)

ADDRESS: Brooke's Point

ADDRESS:

READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR
 10-290

REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSE RECEIPT

General Form No. 3 (A)
Brooke's Point, Pal. Feb. 4, 1943 No. 14

(Municipality - Province - Date)

RECEIVED OF V. T. KERSON (Official designation)
 (Name) (P 10.00)

THE AMOUNT OF Ten pesos (P 10.00)
 (in words) (in figures)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS: Ration, cash expenses, in Trip from Brooke's Point to Bugsuk Island and back, to take the Soldiers to Bugsuk
 (Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)

WITNESS:

(signature illegible) Sgt. USA

/s/ Pascual de la Cruz
 (Signature of payee)

ADDRESS: Brooke's Point

ADDRESS: Brooke's Point

SECRET

SECRET
REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSE RECEIPT

General Form No. 3 (A)
Brooke's Pt., Pal. April 12, 1943 No. 44
(Municipality - Province - Date)

RECEIVED OF Mr. V. T. Kerson Comdr. Guerilla S. Pal
(Name) (Official designation)
THE AMOUNT OF Five Pesos ONLY (P 5.00)
(in words) (in figures)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS: Hire of kumpit for patrol in Isumbo to confiscate arms of the Moros on April 8, 1943 and back, (Pfc. Opaté & 4 soldiers & 4 volunteers)
(Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)

WITNESS: /s/ Lije Milusin
(Signature of payee)
ADDRESS: /s/ E. E. Alanis, Cpl. USA ADDRESS: Cagayan, Sulu

READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR
10-290

REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSE RECEIPT

General Form No. 3 (A) -----
Brooke's Point, Pal. Apr. 19, 1943 No. 45
(Municipality - Province - Date)

RECEIVED OF V. T. Kerson (Official designation)
(Name) (P 10.00)
THE AMOUNT OF Ten Pesos (in figures)
(in words)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS: For open market purchases for USA soldiers
(Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)

WITNESS: (Signature illegible) (Signature illegible)
(Signature of payee)
ADDRESS: ADDRESS: Brooke's Point

READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR
10-290

REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSE RECEIPT

General Form No. 3 (A) -----
Brooke's Point, Pal. April 20, 1943 No. 46
(Municipality - Province - Date)

RECEIVED OF V. T. Kerson (Official designation)
(Name) (P 2.00)
THE AMOUNT OF two pesos (P 2.00) (in figures)
(in words)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS: For tobacco for U.S.A. soldier
(Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)

WITNESS: (Signature illegible) (Signature illegible)
(Signature of payee)
ADDRESS: ADDRESS: Malir, B. Point, Pal.

READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR
10-290

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NWD 883078

SECRET

REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSE RECEIPT

General Form No. 3 (A) Brooke's Pt. May 3, 1943 No. 47

(Municipality - Province - Date)
RECEIVED OF V. Kerson (Official designation)

THE AMOUNT OF Two Pesos ⁸⁰ (P 2.00)
(in words) (in figures)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS: Trip to Tarosan for USAFFE Palay
(Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)
WITNESS: /s/ Pascual de la Cruz (Signature of Payee)

ADDRESS: /s/ H. Ganetson ADDRESS:

READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR

REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSE RECEIPT

General Form No. 3 (A) Balobac, Pal. May 3, 1943 No. 48

(Municipality - Province - Date)
RECEIVED OF V. T. Kerson Comd. S. P. (Official designation)

THE AMOUNT OF Ten pesos (P 10.00)
(in words) (in figures)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS: Tobacco for the soldiers (word illegible)
(Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)
WITNESS: _____ (Signature of Payee)

ADDRESS: _____ ADDRESS:

READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR

10-290

REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSE RECEIPT

General Form No. 3 (A) Brooke's Pt., Pal. May 10, 1943 No. 49

(Municipality - Province - Date)
RECEIVED OF Mr. V. T. Kerson Comdr. S.E. Bal (Official designation)

THE AMOUNT OF One peso only (P 1.00)
(in words) (in figures)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS: Subsistence of patrols from Tarasoc to Macagba & back
(Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)
WITNESS: /s/ E. B. Alain, Cpl. USA (Signature of Payee)

ADDRESS: Brooke's Pt., Pal. ADDRESS:

READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR

10-290

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AMD 883078

Brooke's Point, May 15, 1943. NO. 50.

(Municipality - Province - Date)

RECEIVED OF

V. T. KERRON

SO. Aguilas

(Name)

(Official designation)

THE AMOUNT OF

Seventy-five pesos

(P 75.00)

(in words)

(in figures)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS: Purchase medicine for the soldiers here in Brooke's Point.
 (Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)

WITNESS:

(Illegible)

(Illegible) (signature of payee)

ADDRESS:

ADDRESS: Brooke's Point.

READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR
 10-290

Canipaan, Brooke's Point, August 18, 1944. NO.

(Municipality - Province - Date)

RECEIVED OF

V. T. KERRON

Civilian

(Name)

(Official designation)

THE AMOUNT OF

Twenty-one pesos & eighty-four centavos

(P 21.84)

(in words)

(in figures)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS: Payment for 5 cavans & 6 gantas palay for the subsistence of the Americans Australian boys.
 (Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)

WITNESS:

Illegible

Insani (signature of payee)

ADDRESS:

Canipaan.

ADDRESS: Canipaan.

Canipaan, Brooke's Point August 16, 1944 NO. 19

(Municipality - Province - Date)

RECEIVED OF

V. T. Kerron

Civilian

(Name)

(Official designation)

THE AMOUNT OF

Two pesos

(P 2.00)

(in words)

(in figures)

FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS: Payment for fourteen and a half gantas palay for subsistence of the American Australian boys in Brooke's Point.
 (Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)

WITNESS:

Illegible

Illegible (signature of payee)

ADDRESS:

ADDRESS:

READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR
 10-290

SECRET

(Continued)

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority NND 883078

Canipaan, Brooke's Point, Palawan
(Municipality - Province - Date)**SECRET**

NO. 17

RECEIVED OF V. T. KERDON
(Name)Civilian
(Official designation)THE AMOUNT OF Four pesos
(In words)(P. 4:00)
(In figures)FOR EXPENSES AS FOLLOWS: Payment of 1 cavan and 4 gts palay for subsistence of American Australian boys.
(Payments for subsistence, services, rental or transportation should show inclusive dates, purpose, distance, inclusive points of travel, etc.)

WITNESS:

Illegible

Dadula (signature of payee)

ADDRESS: F.P.ADDRESS: Canipaan.READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT BY THE AUDITOR
1C-290

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN,
2nd Lt., Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E. O. V. Nelsen
E. O. V. NELSEN,
Captain, InfEXHIBIT 52DECLASSIFIED
Authority AMP 883078**SECRET**

SECRET

UNITED STATES ARMY IN THE FAR EAST
VISAYAN MINDANAO FORCE
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER
SUB-DEPOT

Dumaguete, Negros Oriental
February 15, 1942

MEMORANDUM -
Mr. V. Kerson

For your guidance and to aid in clearing payrolls thru the quartermaster in Dumaguete the following general suggestions are made:

1. Always see that the payroll is made on regular Army form No. 10-426
2. Pay your crew only on the daily basis set by Major Forte in the initial payroll. The changing of rates and methods of paying will interfere with army regulations and delay action on payment.
3. There is a specified daily rate plus a ration allowance for each man. Over this there can be no change at the present time.
4. This period payroll from Feb. 1-15 inclusive was submitted differently from the proper initial payroll and has been changed to correspond with the first. Several computation errors were noted in the payroll submitted. This is readily understood when hours and fractional money rates are the basis of payment. Note the payroll returned and have it signed by Lt. Wright.
5. Your payroll for Feb. 16-28 (except for monthly rates) should be No. of days and daily rates.
6. A days work as agreed with Major Forte was 2 dives per diver in the morning and 2 dives per diver in the afternoon.
7. Everything is being done to make your present task enjoyable for yourself and your men. If you desire personal supplies from Dumaguete send a duly signed note. We will purchase and deduct from your coming payroll.

/s/ Capt John H. Macon

CAPT. J. MACON

Acknowledged

V. KERSON (typed)

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:


E. O. V. NELSEN,
Capt. Inf.

A TRUE COPY:

/s/

Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2nd Lt., Inf.

EXHIBIT #51

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AND 883078

SECRET

A TRUE COPY:

Iloilo,
April 7th . 1942

Murray J. Rosen

MURRAY J. ROSEN
2nd Lt. Inf.

Mr. V. Kerson
Maricolum, Occ. Negro

Dear Kerson:

As you are well aware we have this contract with U.S. Army authorities, and one of the points agreed was to hire as many divers as necessary to speed up the work and arrange so each diver will perform two dives everyday on the basis of 12 dives daily per raft, that is, if conditions permit it.

A copy of every report that comes here specifying the name of the diver, time used while diving and amount of gear salvaged in each instance has to be turned over to the Army auditors for checking up. Included are the lists with the names of the divers and amount of dives which every one performed between the dates shown on each list. If you check up some of the names you will see that while some divers seldom fail on their dives, some other ones take it easy and let the other men do the work.

As you can easily see by the lists, in No. 2 hatch for the period as from March 4th. to 12th. a total of 8 days, 88 dives were performed during that time and should have been more or less as per agreement 96 dives. On the other hand on hatch No. 3 from March 9th. to 12th. a period of 4 days a total of 48 dives were performed which makes an average of 12 dives per day.

As you have on your payrolls more than 12 divers an effort should be made to keep as much as possible within the 12 dives per day per raft. Shown on ther attached lists and for the periods from March 13th. to 17th. and from 18th. to 23rd. respectively a 4 and 5 days periods in No. 2 hatch 33 dives, No. 3 hatch 37 dives and No. 2 hatch 42 dives No. 3 hatch 51 dives were made respectively, which in both instances were well below the average.

That discounting accidents and breakdowns, will, undoubtedly cause us some trouble with the Army auditors about accepting our payrolls, so, for the future please arrange to explain in your reports of any delay or difficulty in performing the 12 dives daily, and also to show on each diver more or less the same amounts of dives as the rest of them.

Will there be any possibility to start No. 1 hatch slowly before you finish Nos. 2 and 3 hatches? If there is, please do so to finish before any bad weather comes in, as we may still have bad luck and have a typhoon any time after May.

Hoping that this letter will find you in excellent good shape, I remain
Yours,
R. XAUDARO

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: AWD 88-3078

EXHIBIT 50

Telephone 393
P.O. Box 239

SECRET

Cable Address
"Vistranco"

VISAYAN STEVEDORE-TRANSPORTATION CO., INC.
Main Office: Iloilo, P. I
Manila Agents: Luzon Stevedoring Co., Inc.

Mr. Kerson
Maricopa.

Dear Mr. Kerson,

Received your letter of the first of March & Captain Kaudaro is leaving here tonight with the answer to your prayer. If you need anything additional please let Kaudaro know & we will attend to it.

We are taking over the job so Kaudaro will explain everything to you. Van't Hoff is also going down to assist you. He will work under you & will take orders from you only.

Some smokes will be handed to you by Kaudaro, hope you enjoy them.

Should you come into Iloilo for a spell please feel free to come out to the Company house at Sta Barbara where we will always have chow, beds & drinks for you & the pleasure will be mine.

Wishing you the best of luck I am,

yours very truly

/s/

A TRUE COPY: /s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2nd Lt. Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E.O.V. Nelsen
E.O.V. NELSEN,
Captain, Inf

DECLASSIFIED
Authority *NMD 883078*

EXHIBIT "49"

SECRET

SECRET

April 12, 1942

This certifies that V. Kerson has been working on a U.S. Army project at Mericalum Negros since January of this year. He is remaining to recover and store equipment.

/s/ Donald A. Amend
Capt. U.S. Army

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2nd Lt. Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E.O.V. Nelsen
E.O.V. NELSEN,
Captain, Inf

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AWD 883078

SECRET

EXHIBIT "48"

SECRET

Mericalum, Oc. Negros
April 26, 1942

DECLASSIFIED
Authority *NWD 883078*

Commanding Officer, U.S.A.F.F.E.
Oc. Negros

Sir:

I have been in charge of salvage work at Maricalum since January 1st directly under the Army then with the Visayan Stevedore Trans. Co., Inc..

On April 11th the Visayan M/V TRABAJADOR left Mericalum for Iloilo expecting to return April 15th. Until now we have had no word from Visayan S. T. Co.

On April 12th the DNES arrived with instruction for the Military unit here.

On April 13th (Monday) the Military unit left Mericalum removing practically all supplies of gasoline, oil, etc.

We had the rafts towed into the river and camouflaged but not dismantled still hoping for some word from Visayan S.T. Co.

On Thursday April 16th part of the Military unit returned and it was understood that work was to be resumed.

At high tide the rafts were towed back to position. We found some breakage in equipment and had to make repairs.

April 17th, P.M., we were informed of the invasion of Panay and after consulting Capt. Amend, Lt. Wright, it was decided to again suspend operations for the following reasons:

No transportation for salvaged materials;
There was no word from Visayan S.T. Co.;
Salvaged materials might be captured by the enemy;
Men on rafts were getting panicky and it doubtful if we could hold them; and

We had no funds with which to pay labor;
No. 2 hold seemed to more or less washed up; and in
No. 3 hold the guns (2.95) were so tangled that a five-ton pull would not move them.

This time the rafts were dismantled. The equipment taken down. Equipment parts separated so that any one would have difficulty in using equipment, and all equipment as well concealed as possible.

The men have been unpaid since April 1st. I am submitting a payroll which covers the daily wage but does not include subsistence or the bonus for divers. Can you not arrange for funds to meet this payment?

We also request that you issue to us one rifle to be used in guarding equipment.

V. KERSON

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2nd Lt. Inf.

SECRET

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E.O.V. NELSEN
E.O.V. NELSEN,
Captain, Inf

EXHIBIT " 47 "

SECRET
UNITED STATES ARMY OFFICES IN THE FAR EAST
VISAYAN - MINDANAO FORCES
QUARTERMASTER SUB-DEPOT
Bacolod, Occidental Negros

May 8, 1942

MEMORANDUM

To : MR. V. KERSON
Maricalcan, Occ. Negros

1. We are enclosing herewith duly accomplished payroll for yourself and the men under you for the period April 1-21, 1942 to take the place of the time sheets which you have sent to this office thru Mr. Pio Villose. Please accomplish the following on the said payroll:

(a) First six (6) copies to be signed by the persons concerned. Please take note that the signature to be affixed on the payroll must read exactly the same way as it was type-written, i.e., Patricio Bilbao must be signed as such, not P. Bilbao nor Patricio C. Bilbao. In the event that a person cannot sign his name, his thumb-mark must be witnessed by two signatures.

(b) The 7th and 8th copies will not be signed.

(c) The 9th copy will be for your file.

(d) Sign the certificate duly accomplished on the back of the 8th copy. Eight (8) copies of this payroll and the original of the time sheet must be sent back to this office.

2. Please strive to keep this payroll as neat as possible.

3. We are enclosing sufficient number of payroll forms so that in the future all payrolls will be accomplished at your end in the same way as these were prepared.

/s/ Richard I. Jones

RICHARD I. JONES
Lt. Col. Infantry
Sub-Depot Commander

EUF/cpe
Encls.

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2nd Lt. Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E. O. V. NELSEN
E. O. V. NELSEN,
Captain, Inf

SECRET

EXHIBIT #46

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: NND 883678

REPORT OF CLAIMS OFFICER
(Claims under AR 25-25, 25-26, 25-220)

Use additional sheets if necessary and number to correspond with box numbers

Forward in triplicate

SECRET

Headquarters BASE SECTION, U.S.A.S.C.S.

Base or Unit

Place A.P.O. 923. 10 January, 1945

1. ACCIDENT OR INCIDENT			
Date	Hour Place		
2. CLAIMANTS			
Name	Address	Date Filed	Amt. Claimed
WINS TAIVO KORSON	Civilian Barracks, Victoria Park, A.P.O. 923.	3 Nov. 1944	16,007 pesos
3. GOVERNMENT PROPERTY AND PERSONNEL INVOLVED - PAR 8e(5) and (8), AR 25-20			
Property - Make, Type, U.S. number, Amount, Location, etc.		Personnel - Name, Grade, Serial No. Address and Organization, etc.	
4. PRIVATE PROPERTY AND PERSONS INVOLVED - PAR. 8e, AR 25-20			
Property - Make, Type, Model, Amount, Location, etc.		Persons - Name, address, and relation to incident, e.g. owner, driver, passenger, bailee, tenant, etc.	
5. DAMAGE			
Nature and extent of damage, cost of repair, and, if pertinent, value before and after damage, value of salvage, etc. Par. 8c(1) and 8c(8) and (9), AR 25-20 and Par. 3b(1), AR 25-220			
GOVERNMENT PROPERTY		PRIVATE PROPERTY	
PERSONS INJURED OR KILLED			
6. Name, address, nature and extent of injury, hospital, attending physician, etc. Par. 8c(2) and 8c(11), AR 25-20 and Par. 3b(2), AR 25-220			
WITNESSES (ATTACH STATEMENTS)			

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6. POLICE INVESTIGATION
Was Police investigation conducted? Yes No
If made, attach copy of report. State facts as to arrests and results of any trials by civil or military courts.

9. SCOPE OF EMPLOYMENT
Was Government personnel acting within scope of employment? Yes No
State basis for answer

10. FINDINGS
Give full details in narrative form, with special attention to:
In Traffic Cases - Direction of travel; speed; view obstructions; width of road; skidmarks; traffic signs and signals; traffic and weather conditions. See par. 8e(19), AR 25-20.
In Mail Cases - Registration or insurance receipt number; declared value; actual value of contents; fee paid; origin and destination. See par. 8e(20), AR 25-20.

See attached "Findings"

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11. RECOMMENDATIONS
It is recommended that Claim, if filed, (Check applicable clause):
 Be approved in the amount of \$ _____
 Be disapproved.

Reasons for Recommendations:

It is recommended that this claim be held in abeyance pending receipt of further corroborative evidence.

12. EXHIBITS
Number and list exhibits, including, if pertinent, the claim, driver's report, repair bills and estimates, hospital, medical and burial expense bills, estimates of value, diagrams, photographs, extract of traffic regulations, statements by claimant and witnesses, registration or insurance receipt, and if possible, statement by claimant officer if such amount is less than amount of claim. (Extent of damage will dictate scope of investigation)

- Exhibit 1 - Order appointing Lt. Murray J. Rosen as Claims Officer.
 - " 2 - Statement by Claimant - Vera Taive Kereon.
 - " 3 - " Alexander M. Sutherland.
 - " 4 - " Pvt. William H. Higfield Jr.
 - " 5 - " Pvt. Robert E. Johnston, Jr.
 - " 6 - " Major Claude E. Partig.
 - " 7 - " Lt. (Jg) William De Carbonal
 - " 8 - Letter from Lt. Rosen to Captain C.J. Martin
 - " 9 - " " " Commander Charles Parsons.
- (Exhibits continued on attached list)

REPORT APPROVED: _____, 19____ (Signature) *Murray J. Rosen*

Commanding

CLAIMS OFFICER
MURRAY J. ROSEN,
(Name typed)
2nd Lt., Infantry
(Grade and Branch)

SECRET

(Continued)

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Authority *AMDP 883078*

12.

EXHIBITS

- Exhibit 10 - Letter from Lt. Rosen to Captain Thomas W. Jurica
" 11 - " " Captain Thomas W. Jurica to Lt. Rosen
" 12 - " " Lt. Rosen to Colonel Edward Grimm
" 13 - " " Colonel E.M. Grimm to Lt. Rosen
" 14 - Statement by T.H. Edwards - 30 August, 1944
" 15 - " " D.M. Jolkipli Marrasid, Deputy Governor,
Southern Palawan - 28 August, 1944.
" 16 - Letter from V.T.Kerson to Captain Nazario B. Mayor, Commanding
Officer, Sector D, PA, USAFFE - 29 May, 1944.
" 17 - Travelling Expense Voucher - 25 March, 1944 to 4 May, 1944.
" 18 - Statement by D.M. Jolkipli Marrasid, Deputy Governor,
Southern Palawan - 28 March, 1944.
" 19 - Statement by S.C. Moreno, Municipal District Mayor, Brooke's Point,
Palawan, 26 March, 1944.
" 20 - Statement by Captain Nazario B. Mayor - 25 March, 1944.
" 21 - Memorandum to Lt. I. Rodriguez, S-4 from Capt. Nazario B. Mayor,
Acting Commanding Officer - 25 March, 1944.
" 22 - Statement by D.M. Jolkipli Marrasid, 2 March, 1944.
" 23 - Memorandum from Lt. Marcel San Juan to V.T.Kerson - 23 Feb. 1944.
" 24 - Statement by 1st Lt. Marcel San Juan - 20 February, 1944.
" 25 - Statement by 1st Lt. Marcel San Juan - 3 January, 1944.
" 26 - Statement by 15 soldiers as to receipt of ammunition - 15 May, 1943.
" 27 - Letter from Lt. Col. Alejandro Suarez, Inf (PG), United States
Army Forces in the Philippines, Headquarters,
Sulu Sector to Mr. V.T.Kerson, Commanding Officer,
South Palawan - 11 May, 1943.
" 28 - Letter from Gaudencio E. Abordo, Governor of Palawan, to Mr.
V.T.Kerson, Commander Guerilla Forces, South
Palawan - 8 May, 1943.
" 29 - Memorandum for Mr. V.T.Kerson from Major Pedro Manigque, Battalion
Commander, IV Philippine Corps - 26 April, 1943.
" 30 - Inventory of Medicines at Balabac, Palawan - certified correct by
V.T.Kerson, USAFFE Commander South Palawan
Guerilla - 25 April, 1943.
" 31 - Letter from E.A. Vallapa, Municipal District Treasurer, Brooke's
Point, Palawan to Acting Commander, P.I. Brooke's
Point, Palawan - bearing notation by Kerson,
Commanding Guerilla Forces, South Palawan, 17 April,
1943.
" 32 - Minutes of a meeting of the Civil Activities Committee - 17 April, 1943.
" 33 - Memorandum to Mr. Kerson from Major Pedro Manigque, Battalion
Commander, IV Philippine Corps - 30 March, 1943.
" 34 - Statement by Gaudencio E. Abordo, Governor of Palawan - 24 March, 1943.
" 35 - Statement by Major Pedro Manigque, Battalion Commander, IV Philippine
Corps - 24 March, 1943.
" 36 - Statement by Major Pedro Manigque, Battalion Commander, IV Philippine
Corps - 24 March, 1943.
" 37 - Letter from V.T.Kerson, Commanding Guerilla Activities of the USAFFE,
South Palawan, to Col. Peralta, Commanding Officer,
61st Division, 23 March, 1943.
" 38 - Report from V.T.Kerson, Commanding Guerilla Activities of the USAFFE,
South Palawan to Col. Peralta, Commanding Officer,
61st Division, 23 March, 1943.
" 39 - Report from V.T.Kerson, Commanding Guerilla Activities of the USAFFE,
South Palawan to Col. Peralta, Commanding Officer,
61st Division re: List of Guerrillas at Bugeuk,
Palawan - 23 March, 1943.
" 40 - Report from V.T.Kerson, Commanding Guerilla Activities of the USAFFE,
South Palawan to Col. Peralta, Commanding Officer,
61st Division re: Location of posts of guerilla
forces - 23 March, 1943.

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- Exhibit 41 - Report from V.T.Kerson, Commanding Guerilla Activities of the USAFFE, South Palawan to Col. Peralta, Commanding Officer, 61st Division re: List of guerillas stationed at Brooke's Point, Palawan - 23 March, 1943.
- " 42 - Statement by Civilian Activities Committee - 17 February, 1943.
- " 43 - Statement by 11 Philippine Constabulary soldiers - 27 January, 1943.
- " 44 - Orders for guerilla patrol issued by V.Kerson, Commander Guerilla Forces, Southern Palawan.
- " 45 - Payroll - salvage crew - "S.S.Panay" - 1 May, 1942 to 16 May, 1942.
- " 46 - Letter from Lt.Col. Richard I. Jones, Sub-Depot Commander, Visayan-Mindanao Forces, Quartermaster Sub-Depot, to Mr. V.T.Kerson - 8 May, 1942.
- " 47 - Letter from V.T.Kerson to Commanding Officer, USAFFE, Negros - 26 April, 1942.
- " 48 - Statement by Capt. Donald A. Amund, U.S.Army - 12 April, 1942.
- " 49 - Letter from Visayan Stevedore-Transportation Company, Inc. to Mr. Kerson - undated.
- " 50 - Letter from R. Kaudro to Mr. V.T.Kerson - 7 April, 1942.
- " 51 - Letter from Captain J. Macon, Visayan-Mindanao Forces, Office of the Quartermaster Sub-Depot to Mr. V.Kerton - 15 February, 1942.
- " 52 - 37 receipts for money expended by V.T.Kerson.
- " 53 - Receipt for money expended by V.T.Kerson - 10 April, 1943.
- " 54 - " " " " " " - 8 April, 1943.
- " 55 - " " " " " " - 26 January, 1943.
- " 56 - " " " " " " - 26 December, 1942.
- " 57 - " " " " " " - 5 December, 1942.
- " 58 - " " " " " " - 3 December, 1942.
- " 59 - " " " " " " - 27 October, 1942.
- " 60 - Receipt for money expended by V. Kerson and H.C.Garretson - 17 Oct.42.
- " 61 - Statement by Mr. V.T.Kerson - 18 April, 1942.
- " 62 - Receipt for money expended by V.T.Kerson - 26 January, 1942.
- " 63 - Letter from USAFFE to Commanding General, RESCOS re: employment of Vens Taivo Kerson - 11 October, 1944.
- " 64 - Agreement of Employment between United States of America and Vens T. Kerson - 2 November, 1944.
- " 65 - Travel Orders - Vens Taivo Kerson - Headquarters, Base Section, USASOS, 1 November, 1944.
- " 66 - Executive Order No. 21 by the President of the Philippines.
- " 67 - Extract of AR. 35-1320

The following two exhibits were obtained subsequent to the departure of Lt. Rosen:

- Exhibit 68 - Statement of Folkert deVries.
- " 69 - Wire to Base "K".

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HEADQUARTERS
BASE SECTION, USAMC
OFFICE OF THE STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE

MJR/bmcC

BSJA 150.

A.P.O. 923,
10 January, 1945.

SUBJECT: Claim of Vens Taivo Kerson.

TO : Colonel J. A. Myatt, J.A.G.D., Chief of Theater Claims Service,
A.P.O. 923.

THROUGH: Commanding General, Base Section, U.S.A.S.O.S., A.P.O. 923.

1. Submitted herewith in accordance with paragraph 10a, U.S.A.F.F.E. Regulations 1-75, 4 October, 1944, is the report of investigation covering the claim of Vens Taivo Kerson.

2. Attention is invited to the fact that this report is incomplete due to the unavailability of several witnesses.

3. On or about 15 November, 1944, this officer received verbal instructions from Colonel Pix, then Chief of Staff, to interview all witnesses available in this area, in connection with the claim of Vens Taivo Kerson. Colonel J. A. Myatt, Chief of Theater Claims Service, subsequently confirmed these instructions.

4. The report of investigation submitted herewith has complied with these instructions in that all witnesses available in this area have been interviewed and their statements obtained. However, two important witnesses, Commander Charles Parsons and Captain C. J. Martin, who are alleged to have personal knowledge of the claimant's services, were not available. Commander Charles Parsons, G.H.Q., is on leave to the United States, and is not expected to return to this theater until the latter part of January. Captain C. J. Martin is at A.P.O. 72.

5. On 27 November, 1944, Colonel Myatt was informed of these facts, and at his suggestion, letters were sent to the above mentioned officers, requesting their statements in connection with the claim of Mr. Kerson. To date no response has been received from either of these officers.

6. This officer has been alerted for assignment to a forward area, and has informed Mr. McEwan of Colonel Myatt's office to this effect. Mr. McEwan instructed the officer to submit his report in its incomplete state.

7. It is recommended that approval of this claim be held in abeyance pending further investigation.

Incl: Report of Investigation
re: Claim of Vens Taivo Kerson.

MURRAY J. ROSEN,
2nd Lt., Inf.
Claims Officer.

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HEADQUARTERS
BASE SECTION, USASOG
OFFICE OF THE STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE

MJR/bmcOC

A.P.O. 923,
19 December, 1944.

Colonel James A. Myatt, J.A.G.D.,
Chief of Theater Claims Service,
A.P.O. 923.

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Dear Colonel Myatt:

- Re: 1. Claim of Vens Taivo Kerson.
2. Philippine Airlines, Inc.

With reference to the claim of Mr. Vens Taivo Kerson, I have completed my investigation, and am now awaiting statements from Commander Charles Parsons, and Captain C. J. Martin, both of whom are in a position to corroborate part of Mr. Kerson's claim. On 28 November, 1944, I wrote to Commander Parsons, who is presently on leave in the States, and to Captain C. J. Martin, who is in Leyte. As yet, I have not received any reply. Colonel McVittie, G-2 of Rear Echelon G.H.Q., attempted to send a radio to Major Abcede, a guerilla leader in the Philippines, in order to check on Mr. Kerson's activities there. However, he informed me yesterday that higher headquarters has refused to permit the radio to go out at this time.

If I don't hear from Commander Parsons and Captain Martin by the end of the month, I shall prepare my report without the aid of their statements.

With respect to the claim of Philippine Air Lines Inc., I have made several attempts to interview Lieutenant Colonel Paul I. Gunn, A.C., who is presently a patient in the 42nd General Hospital. The claim was received at this office on 23 November, 1944, and I contacted Colonel Gundrie, Chief of the Medical Service at the hospital, to secure permission to interview Colonel Gunn. I spoke to Colonel Gundrie on the telephone on 23 November, 1944, 7 December, 1944 and 18 December, 1944. On each of these occasions, Colonel Gundrie has insisted that Colonel Gunn is too ill to be interviewed. Colonel Gundrie stated that any prolonged interview would only upset Colonel Gunn, and has recommended that the interview be postponed for 3 weeks.

I should appreciate any instructions that you may have with regard to either of these claims.

Very respectfully yours,

MURRAY J. ROSEN,
2nd Lt. Inf.
Claims Officer.

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FINANCE, REGIMENT HEADQUARTERS

GROUP 201 - KUNSBURG, MISS T.

AGO 707
23 November 1945

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Pay Data

TO : The Office of Special Settlement Accounts
27 Pine Street, New York 5, New York

1. Transmitted herewith is voucher #143, Payroll for Personal Services, acts Ernest R. Slye Jr., Capt. F.D. symbol 213-508, representing settlement in full for terminal leave of Project 'J' Civilian employee of the War Department. Attached to payroll is individual earning record AG-EJ Form No. 43.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

ANDREW D. GUNBER
Capt. AGD
Asst Adj Gen

2 Incls:
Incl 1 - Voucher #143
Incl 2 - AG-EJ #43 (dup)

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Authority AWD 883078

REC PERM FILE COPY

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
OFFICE OF THE ARMY FORCES IN THE PACIFIC

A.P.O. 501,
11 October, 1944.

PERM 201 - KERSON, Vens Taivo

SUBJECT: Employment of KERSON, Vens Taivo

TO : Commanding General, RESOG, APO 501.

1. In accordance with the Commander-in-Chief's desire as indicated in paragraph 5 of attached check sheet (Incl.1), it is desired that the above subject named evacuee be furnished suitable employment.

2. In this particular case, the provisions of 2d indorsement, this headquarters, file PERM/GB OIA.311, 13 July, 1944, to letter, Headquarters, Base Section, file MBB 311.23, 7 July, 1944, subject: "Finnish Subjects - Civilian Employees of the United States Army", are waived.

3. Arrangements for an interview and further coordination may be made through G-2, this headquarters.

By command of General MacARTHUR:

Sgd. C.J. ENGLE,
Lt.Col.A.G.D.,
Ass't Adj.Gen.

2 Incls:
Incl. 1 Check sheet
(two pages)
Incl. 2 Ltr from Kerson.

A TRUE COPY: /s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN,
2nd Lt. Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:
[Signature]

E. O. V. NELSEN,
Capt. Inf.

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COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA)

STATE OF QUEENSLAND)

35.

CITY OF BRISBANE)

WENS TAIVO KERSON, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

That on 9 December 1941, by order of General Sharpe and Colonel Cook, Quartermaster Corps, USAFFE, and Capt. Martin, Administrator of Cebu Port, deponent undertook supervision of demolition work and the making of hand grenades for the United States Army Forces in the Far East, in Cebu, Philippine Islands.

That on 6 January 1942 deponent left Cebu by order of General Sharpe and arrived in Negros where he contacted Major Ford, of the United States Army, regarding salvage job on S. S. Panay which had been sunk in Maricalam Bay. Upon further orders from General Sharpe and Capt. Martin, deponent started this salvage operation on 23 January 1942 and completed same on 16 May 1942.

That on 16 May 1942 deponent was victim of malaria at Maricalam.

That on 2 August 1942 deponent was called by Major Abcede, Filipino guerilla leader at Maricalam, and given verbal orders to proceed to South Borneo and check on the guerilla activity there and to secure arms reported to be in the hands of natives. Deponent set out with fifteen (15) Filipinos and one other American, Mr. Garretson, and arrived at Brooke's Point, Palawan, on 14 October 1942. Deponent was unable to proceed to South Borneo inasmuch as transportation was not available. Also, no American forces had been reported there and Japanese patrols were considered active in that region.

That from 14 October 1942 deponent remained in southern Palawan and assisted in organizing and supervising guerilla forces until he was evacuated to Australia 30 August 1944.

The foregoing statements can be corroborated by the following:

Captain C. J. Martin of the United States Army presently in Hollandia, N.C.
Mr. T. H. Edwards, American civilian, Brooke's Point, Palawan.
Henry Chapin Garretson, American civilian, now returned to the United States.
Mr. A. M. Sutherland, British subject, 85th Station Hospital, APO 923
Mr. Robert T. Johnston, Jr., 85th Station Hospital, APO 923

Deponent further says:

That as a result of the aforesaid employment of deponent by the United States Army in the Far East, there is now due and owing the said deponent the sum of Sixteen-Thousand-Eighty-Seven Pesos (16,087.00) represented by the following:

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No pay was received by deponent since 15 May 1942 and deponent was paid only half-pay (112.50 Pesos) from 1 May 1942 to 15 May 1942.

1 May 1942 to 15 May 1942 (@ 450 Pesos per month)	112.50 Pesos
15 May 1942 to 31 May 1942	225.00 "
Remaining months of 1942	3,150.00 "
Entire year of 1943	5,400.00 "
1 Jan 1944 to 31 Oct 1944	4,500.00 "
Per Diem @ 90 Pesos per month	
1 May 1942 to 31 December 1942	720.00 "
1 January 1943 to 31 December 1943	1,080.00 "
1 January 1944 to 31 October 1944	900.00 "
	<hr/>
	16,067.00 Pesos

Demand from the United States is hereby made for the aforesaid sum.

And further deponent sayeth not.

Vens Taivo Kerson
VENS TAIVO KERSON
c/o Engineer Army Service Command
APO 358

Subscribed and sworn to before me 7a. USAFFE, APO 501

this 3rd day of November, in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and forty-four.

Emmett P. Wooten
Name
Major J.A. Gil.
RANK Organization

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SALVAGE S. S. PANAY AT MARICALON BAY
IN 155' FEET

February 16, 1942 - Morning *Jan 20 1942.*

- (1) dive 1 case 30 Cal. Ammunition
- (2) " 1 coil Manila Rope 3"800"
- (3) " 3 cases 30 Cal. & 2 coils wire

Return from Dumaguete

- (1) dive 1 case automatic rifle
- (2) " 2 cases 30 caliber
- (3) " 3 Last Drom Tam pump out - 1 bos 30 Cal.
order repair
- (4) 2 boxes clothing
- (5) 3 cases 30 Caliber
- (6) empty one truck and 4 coils galvanized wire

February 17, 1942 - Morning

- (1) dive 1 Hach beam - Bucket Robuol
- " 1 case 30 Caliber Ammunition
- (2) " 2 boxes 30 Caliber and 1 chicken wire
- (3) " 3 " 30 " Ammunition
- (4) " 2 " 30 " "
- (5) " 2 " 2.95 inch shell
- (6) Replace to Raft # 3

Afternoon

- (1) 4 hospital beds
- (2) Pump out of order - replace packings
- (3) 1 roll chicken wire and full basket with canned
goods
- (4) 2 boxes 30 caliber - one box of Spare Parts Rifle

February 7, 1942 - Morning

- (1) one Hach - Beam
one box 30 Caliber
- (2) two boxes 30 Caliber
one chicken wire
- (3) three boxes 30 Caliber
- (4) two boxes 30 Caliber
- (5) two boxes - 5, 30 Caliber

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Afternoon

- (1) four beds
- (2) pump out of order
- (3) one wire and Bonel of can oil
- (4) two boxes 30 Caliber
one tools Box

February 18, 1942 - Morning

- (1) dive 1 Col wire and Robuol
- (2) " 1 box 30 Cal. - 1 box tools
3 Ponches 1 chisel
1 Soren driver
1 Pliers
- (3) dive 3 boxes 30 caliber Ammunition
- (4) " 2 " 30 " "

Afternoon

- (1) dive 3 boxes 30 Caliber Ammunition
- (2) East lead-
- (3) 1 30 caliber Ammunition
1 Drum Coco
- (4) dive 3 boxes 47 M. shell 2.95 shell
- (5) " 2 " 47 M. shell 2.95 shell

February 19, 1942 - Morning

- (1) dive - 2 boxes 30 caliber Ammunition
- (2) " - 4 " fuse for 2.95 shell
- (3) " - 2 - 302 fuse for 2.95 shell and
welding wrenches
- (4) " - 4 boxes 30 caliber Ammunition
- (5) " - 2 " 30 caliber "

Afternoon

- (1) dive 1 drum pait
- (2) cleaning ashes
- (3) 1 drum - 1 drum nails
- (4) 2 boxes 30 caliber ammunition-1 box pineapple

February 20, 1942 - Morning

- (1) dive 1 coil - 1 rope (Manila Rope) 3 "900"
- (2) " 4 boxes 30 caliber
- (3) " 5 " 30 "
- (4) " rope and blanket (one coil, Manila rope)
- (5) " coil rope (Manila Rope) 2 '1000"

February 21, 1942 - Afternoon (2:00 P.M.)

- (1) dive 3 boxes -30 caliber
- (2) " 2 " -30 "
- (3) " 2 " -30 "
- (4) " 2 " -30 "

February 22, 1942

Launch broke down. No operation-diving, Making
connection pump.

February 23, 1942 - Morning

Overhauling
S. Carlos - pump
Poleing Packing
Cheng - Valew and W. Heng pump
Diver - no work

February 24, 1942 - Morning

- (1) 8 boxes 2.95 shell
1 30 Cal. Ammunition
- (2) 8 boxes 2.95 -
- (3) 10 " 2.95 -
- (4) men for trial dive
- (5) 10 boxes 2.95 -

Afternoon

- (1) 3 boxes 2.95
1 drum nails
1 box Machineguns

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- 1 crossket saw Trench schoolboul
- (2) 3 boxes 2.95 inch shell
- (3) new diver cleaning ashes
- (4) 2 boxes 2.95 - 1 drum nails burning box
- (5) 1 box 2.95 inch shell set of tools 4 pcs.

Afternoon

- (1) trip diving
- 10 boxes 2.95 inch shell
- (2) 3 " 2.95 " "
- (3) 3 " 2.95 " "
- (4) 2 " 2.95 " "
- (5) 9 " 2.95 " "
- (6) 4 " 2.95 " "

February 28, 1942 - Morning

- (1) Trip diving
- 2 boxes 2.95 inch shell
- 2 axes
- (2) 3 boxes 2.95 inch shell
- (3) 5 " 2.95 " "
- (4) 10 " 2.95 " "

Afternoon

- (1) dive Trial - now men OK
- (2) " 4 boxes fuse
- " 5 " 2.95 inch shell
- (3) " 1 " fuse
- " 6 " 2.95 inch shell
- " 2 axes
- (4) " 4 boxes 2.95 inch shell
- (5) " 4 " 2.95 " "
- (6) " 2 " 2.95 " "
- " 1 axe

March 3, 1942 - Morning

- (1) Trip now trail OK been up #3 Hach
- (2) for exposition and leading
- 4 boxes 2.95 inch shell
- 2 axes - Bullock Belts 30 Cal. Ammunition
- (3) 7 boxes 2.95 inch shell
- (4) 7 " 2.95 " "
- (5) 7 " 2.95 " "
- 1 box fuse
- (6) 5 boxes 2.95 inch shell

Afternoon

- (1) Trip - 8 boxes 2.95 inch shell
- (2) 7 " 2.95 " "
- 1 blanket
- 1 axe
- (3) Trial now for the men:
- 3 boxes 2.95 inch shell
- 1 box 2.95 " "
- 1 " 2.95 " "
- 1 " ship lighter

February 16, 1942 - Morning

- (1) Trip of diving - 1 basket Rebol
- (2) 1 coil Manila Rope
- (3) 4 coils # 10 wire - 1 chicken wire
- (4) 3 boxes 30 caliber ammunition

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(5) 2 chicken wire Penil 1 axe

Afternoon P. M.

- (1) Drum nails one box glass Robuchs
- (2) 5 boxes 30 caliber Ammunition
- (3) 7 " 30 " "
- (4) 4 " 30 " "
- (5) 5 " 30 " "

Continuation for March 3, 1942 Afternoon

- (5) 7 boxes 2.95 inch shell
- (6) 4 " 2.95 " "

March 4, 1942 Morning A. M. (Continuation x)

- (1) Trip of diving - 7 boxes 2.95 inch shell
- (2) 5 boxes 2.95 inch shell
- (3) 6 " 2.95 " "
- (4) 4 " 2.95 " "
- (5) 3 " 2.95 " "

Afternoon P. M.

- (1) 6 boxes 2.95 inch shell
- (2) diver gets trial
- (3) 4 boxes 2.95 inch shell
1 box
1 axe 1 shovel
- (4) Tray to Guck big boat gets trial
- (5) 4 boxes 2.95 inch shell
1 box

March 5, 1942 Morning A. M.

- (1) Trip diving - 7 boxes 2.95 inch shell
- (2) 6 boxes 2.95 inch shell
- (3) 6 " 2.95 " "
- (4) 1 " 2.95 " "
2 axes
- (5) 1 box 2.95 inch shell
1 axe
- (6) 3 boxes 2.95 inch shell
2 boxes
1 machinegun box
1 box ship Lancher
1 box oil

Afternoon P. M.

- (1) 7 boxes 2.95 inch shell
- (2) 7 " 2.95 " "
1 bundle Pens
- (3) 7 boxes 2.95 inch shell
- (4) 7 " 2.95 " "
- (5) Now diver - 2 boxes 2.95 inch shell was mmp
Hanap send A do diver
- (6) 4 boxes 2.95 inch shell

March 21, 1942 Morning A. M.

- (1) Trip diving - 2 boxes 30 caliber Ammunition
- (2) 2 chicken wire
1 coil # 10 wire
- (3) Dive lowd Heavy can't pull-came out empty.
- (4) Trial dive - 1 ammunition box

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- (5) 1 box Red Cross
- (6) 6 boxes 30 caliber Ammunition
1 box
- (7) 2 drums of nails
- (8) 1 " " " "
- Dry goods
- (9) 12 Shovels
3 drums of nails

Afternoon P. M.

- (1) 1 drum of oil
20 shovels
- (2) 10 shovels damage clownt
- (3) 1 box Telephone Switchboard
1 box breaking signal tubes
1 drum of nails
power pump out of order

March 7, 1942 Morning A. M.

- (1) 1 drum of nails
15 shovels
- (2) 19 shovels
1 drum of nails burning clownt
- (3) dry goods badly damaged
4 shovels
1 box of ammunition damaged
- (4) 4 drums of nails

Afternoon P. M.

- (1) 1 drum of nails
- (2) 27 shovels
2 axe heads
- (3) 2 boxes 30 caliber Ammunition (1damaged)
- (4) 1 electric wire

April 8, 1942 Morning A. M.

- (1) 1 drum of nails
2 boxes 30 caliber ammunition
1 spool Telephone wire
- (2) 2 boxes 30 caliber ammunition
6 shovels
1 box clips for ammunition
- (3) 3 boxes 30 caliber " "
3 " 30 " "
- (4) 2 drum of nails

Afternoon P. M.

- (1) 3 boxes 30 caliber ammunition
- (2) 3 " 30 " "
- (3) 2 " 30 " badly damaged can't use
1 box 45 caliber badly damaged hurting myself
- (4) 2 boxes 30 caliber very badly damaged only case left

April 9, 1942 Morning A. M.

- (1) 3 drums of nails
- (2) 13 shovels
2 drums of nails
- (3) 1 box 30 caliber ammunition
- (4) 1 " 30 " "
- 1 " Belts
- 1 " 30 caliber badly damaged can't use
- 2 boxes 30 caliber ammunition
- (5) 2 " 30 " "
- (6) 1 " 30 " " badly damaged

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March 24, 1942 Morning A. M.

- (1) 1 Box 30 caliber ammunition
- (2) 1 " 30 " "
- 1 " 3" Mortar shells
one part of box 30 caliber few destroyed
- (3) 3 boxes 30 caliber ammunition one badly damaged
- (4) 3 boxes 30 " "
- 1 coil wire # 10
- (5) 5 boxes 30 caliber ammunition
- (6) 1 box 30 caliber ammunition

Afternoon P. M.

- (1) 1 chicken wire
- (2) 4 boxes 30 caliber ammunition
- (3) 2 " 30 " "
- 1 roll wire
- (4) 3 boxes 30 caliber ammunition
- 2 " 30 caliber badly damaged

March 25, 1942 Morning A. M.

- (1) Trip - 1 box 30 caliber ammunition
1 chicken wire
- (2) 3 boxes 30 caliber ammunition
1 badly damaged
2 chicken wire
- (3) 1 box 30 caliber ammunition
2 Pinch bars
- (4) 5 boxes 30 caliber ammunition
- (5) 5 " 30 " "
- (6) 5 " 30 " "

Afternoon P. M. 6 Trips -

- 2 Boxes 30 caliber ammunition
- 3 " 30 " "

March 26, 1942 Morning A. M.

- (1) 5 boxes 30 caliber ammunition - 1 damage
Jone Raft to Getat.
- (2) in Trip - 1 box 30 caliber ammunition
- (3) mortar shell
4 boxes 30 caliber ammunition

Afternoon P. M.

- (1) 2 boxes 30 caliber ammunition
1 box 30 caliber ammunition badly damaged
1 coil Manila Rope
- (2) 1 Carton wash bundle and hospital towels
- (3) 6 boxes 30 caliber ammunition
- (4) 3 " 30 " "
- (5) 2 " 30 " "
- (6) 3 " 30 " "

March 27, 1942 Morning A. M.

- (1) 4 boxes 30 caliber ammunition
- (2) 5 " 30 " "
- 2 chicken wire
- (3) 4 boxes 30 caliber
1 bomb
- (4) 2 boxes 30 caliber ammunition
1 roll of chicken wire
- (5) 5 boxes 30 caliber ammunition
1 box

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March 27, 1942, Afternoon

- (1) 2 chicken wire
1 coil # 10 wire
- (2) 4 boxes 30 caliber ammunition
- (3) Machinegun part been lost found one
- (4) 4 boxes 30 caliber ammunition
1 mortar shell
- (5) 3 boxes 30 caliber ammunition
1 roll chicken wire

March 30, 1942 Morning

- (1) 2 boxes 30 caliber ammunition
1 chicken wire
- (2) 2 boxes 30 caliber ammunition
- (3) 2 " 30 " "
1 chicken wire
- (4) 1 chicken wire
- (5) 3 chicken wire
- (6) 1 box machinegun
1 box belts
Triped for machinegun

Afternoon

- (1) 2 chicken wire
- (2) 1 empty drum
- (3) 3 coils # 10 wire
1 chicken wire
1 " "
- (4) 1 " "
2 coil # 10 wire
- (5) 2 chicken wire
1 box

March 31, 1942 Morning

- (1) 2 chicken wire
2 coils # 10 wire
1 box 30 caliber ammunition
1 " 9 spare part rifle
- (2) 3 chicken wires
5 coils # 10 wire
- (3) 6 picks
2 chicken wire
2 coils # 10 wire
bed shorts badly damaged
2 claw hammers
- (4) 3 chicken wire
1 box 9 spare part machinegun
- (5) 1 " 9 machinegun
- (6) 3 coils # 10 wire

Afternoon

- (1) 3 chicken wires
- (2) 7 bundles bed sheets
5 picks
3 chicken wire
1 Lanther
1 chicken wire
- (3) 6 coil # 10 wire
- (4) 1 axe
1 box picks
- (5) 1 coil # 10 wire

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April 1, 1942 - Morning

- (1) 5 coil wire # 10
- 4 bolos
- (2) 1 box badly damaged 30 caliber
- (3) 1 thick wire
- 5 box 30 caliber
- (4) 1 box badly damaged 30 caliber
- (5) 1 box with Radio and kitchen utensils
- (6) 1 drum of nails
- X 1 box bigels Flag Razon blades shaving brush Bolos

Afternoon

- (1) 1 coil wire # 10
- (2) Trial - now men OK for diving
- (3) Trip - Petruso got headache. Went down 100 ft. add got sick.
- (4) 1 basket cartoon all burned
- (5) 1 box bed sheets badly damaged (18 pcs. good)
- (6) bed sheets badly damaged
- 1 drum of nails
- (7) 4 1/2 drums of nails

April 2, 1942 - Morning

- (1) 3 drums of nails
- (2) 1 drum " "
- (3) 1 empty drum pump out of order for one hour
- 1 box medicine

Afternoon

- (1) 1 box of axes
- 10 bolos electric tape
- 1 small axe
- (2) 32 trench shovels and burning bed sheets
- 1 oil can and a burned Radio
- (3) 1 box of saws
- 96 5/8 bolts
- (4) 1 box axe

April 4, 1942 - Morning,

- (1) 1 box picks
- 1 " honey
- (2) 1 " picks
- (3) 1/2 drum of nails - preparing 2 big boxes
- Automatic rifle
- (4) 2 boxes pick Mattox
- (5) 2 " " " Automatic rifle

Afternoon

- (1) 24 Mauck pick
- 2 boxes badly damaged
- (2) 1 box honey badly damaged
- (3) empty basket - men got sick-
- (4) 1 drum of nails
- 2 axes heads
- (5) pick handles
- (6) 1 drum nails badly damaged

April 6, 1942 - Morning

- (1) 1 box Marck pick
- 1 drum of nails
- (2) 3 drums of nails
- (3) 2 " " "

Continuation April 9, 1942 Afternoon

- (1) 1 box 30 caliber ammunition
4 shovels
- (2) 2 boxes 30 caliber ammunition
- (3) 2 " 30 " all badly damaged can't use
- (4) 2 " 30 " " " " " " "
- (5) 1 box 30 " ammunition good
- 1 box 30 " damaged
- (6) 2 " 30 " ammunition

April 10, 1942

- (1) 2 boxes 30 caliber ammunition
- (2) 10 shovels
1 box 30 caliber ammunition damaged can't use
1 " 30 " " "
- (3) 1 " 30 " " "
1 " 30 " badly damaged
1 shovel
1 axe head
- (4) 1 drum of nails
3 shovels burning guts
- (5) 1 drum of nails
2 oil drums
- (6) 1 box gas mask

Afternoon

- (1) 7 shovels burning boxes
- (2) 3 rolls of # 10 wires
3 bars
2 drill shovels
- (3) 5 shovels
1 box 30 caliber all damaged can't use
- (4) 1 drum of nails
- (5) 1 drum of nails
1 role of Telephone wire
- (6) 1 bundle carton west

April 11, 1942 Morning

- (1) 2 drums of nails
2 timber picks
- (2) 1 drum of nails
1 roll chicken wire
11 automatic rifle magazines
11 trench shovels
1 timber pick strong Hal. shovel
8 axe heads
- (3) 3 drums of nails
4 axe heads
- (4) 21 automatic rifle magazines
4 drums of nails
- (5) 4 rolls # 10 wire
1 chicken wire
- (6) 1 drum of nails
stony Hol shovel

Afternoon

- (1) 2 drums of nails
1 stomp Hol shovel
2 automatic rifle magazines
- (2) 2 drums of nails
2 rolls # 10 wire
2 shells 2.93 inch
- (3) 1 drum of nails

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- 11 Automatic rifle magazines
- (4) 2 drums of nails
- 2 rolls of # 10 wire
- 1 shovel
- (5) 3 drums of nails compressor
- 1 iron chair caltiek out of order

April 13, 1942 -

Army ordered to stop work. Sent diver *Furman*
guard line

April 14, 1942

Waiting orders

April 16, 1942

- (1) Captain *Ammond* - arriving orders connecting diving operations - Towing raft to Panay Tying guard line. Base pump out of order.

April 17, 1942 - Morning

Starting operation. First trip of diving-tying guard line. All completed at 10:00 A. M.

- (2) Clearing chicken wire and nails from top of 30 caliber ammunition.
- (3) 9 shovels
- 1 coil # 10 wire
- 1 box spare part rifle
- 3 axe heads
- 1 ammono ratches
- 2 timber picks
- (4) Clearing nail drums - came empty
- (5) 22 shovels
- 1 axe head

Afternoon

- (1) 26 shovels
- 2 axe heads
- (2) 45 shovels
- 1 axe head
- 23 shovel
- (3) 2 axe head
- stop hole shovel
- (4) 37 shovels
- 1 axe head
- 1 coil wire # 10

April 18, 1942 - Morning

Work stopped. Only 4 dives - 7 boxes ammunitions, 4 dives after that. Moving raft to the river. Started dismanteling oil engine.

April 19, 1942

Tying all equipment *floating Raft*
~~Post-tying.~~

April 20, 1942

Loading all equipment.

April 21, 1942

Completing all equipment storage in.

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April 28, 1942

Returned from Bacoled with payroll. Ordered to continue work.

April 29, 1942

Started get raft all power pumps. Raft was ready and paid men out.

April 30, 1942

Started test. All pumps and towering raft in hole # 3. J.S. Pany

May 1, 1942

- (1) 2 Box 30 Caliber
2 drums of nails
Telephone wire
- (2) Rigging for 2.95 inch *gun*
~~Gun~~
- (3) - - - - -
- (4) Pol 2.95 inch *gun* to M Rafts
- (5) Clearing automatic am. 4 box Army shus-
- (6) 2 box shus.
2 Coles wire

May 2, 1942

- (1) Box Gas Masks
9 box Packets
1 drum of nails
- (2) 4 boxes 30 cal. ammunition
1 box Blankets
- (3) Rigging for 2.95 guns
- (4) Rigen 2.95 Guns
- (5) Rigen 2.95 Guns

May 3, 1942

- (1) Rigen for 2.95 *gun* shell
- (2) Pole ~~up~~ *up*
- (3) Cleaning Ahis Ap. ave.
- (4) 3 boxes shus-
1 box bed sheets
1 " 30 caliber am.
- (5) 7 boxes 30 caliber am.
- (6) M. Inspection

May 4, 1942

- (1) 2 automatic rifle
- (2) Spare parts for automatic rifle
- (3) 3 drums of nails
- (4) 5 rolls of comflas cloth
- (5) one operation table
- (6) 2 boxes army towels

May 5, 1942

Jap-Cruiser opere stop work
Song M/S Mabene all day stay in Bay
No dive

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May 14, 1942

- (1) 4 boxes 30 Cal.
- (2) 5 " 30 "
- (3) 1 " 30 "
- 2 " of bolts
- Trench shovels
- (4) 5 2.95 inch shell
- (5) Annonne Plans came stop *Operation* ~~and~~ ~~Hammond~~ ~~stop~~ work that half of day.

May 15, 1942

- (1) 2 boxes army shus
9 rolls ~~ammunition~~ *Chert*
- (2) 3 boxes 30 cal. annonne Plans
Stopped operation

Afternoon Inspection

I was sick. Carry me out to shore order to stop work

May 16, 1942

Dismantling all Eqqteman Aron to in Manuto

May 17, 1942

Same

May 18, 1942

Same

May 19, 1942

Same

May 20, 1942

Pay all diver order work stop.
I and Garetsen Went to in Hills Lyck after me
I order 2 watchman to take Cery all Diving.
Eqqteman pay \$30.00 per month up to day.

V. KERLON
Chief Diver

maricalom bay
Negros - Oiet

(Bonos)

Promese to Pay 50.00 Per Box 30. Cal.
 machine guns 5 $\frac{xx}{xx}$ Per Machine gun.
 Atomabec Raifol 5 $\frac{xx}{xx}$ Per Raifol
 2.95 Guns 10 $\frac{xx}{xx}$ Per Gun

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OFFICE OF THE THEATER CLAIMS SERVICE

JAM/dm

FEJC A-192

A.P.O. 501.

10 November 1944.

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SUBJECT: Claim of Venz Taivo Kerson.

Auth C. G.

TO : Commanding General, Base Section, USASOS, APO 923.

Ink. *MDJ*

Date: 11 NOV 1944

1. There are enclosed herewith claim of Venz Taivo Kerson, file of documents submitted by him in support of the same, and Interrogation Report No. 167 obtained by G-2, USAFFE with respect to him.

2. It is requested that this claim, together with related papers, be referred to a claims officer of Base Section, USASOS, appointed by you, with instructions to make a thorough investigation of the same. Information received from the War Department indicates that a large number of claims of this type now exist in the Philippines, and in view of the importance of this claim with relation to other pending claims, and of the possibility that the entire matter may be reviewed by the Secretary of War, the investigation should be as complete as possible in every detail. Full statements should be obtained from all witnesses available in this theater, and the names and addresses of military personnel now serving in other commands, as well as civilians, who may have knowledge of essential pertinent facts, should be secured and included in the report.

3. I am informed that Commander Parsons, A.I.B., G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., personally knows claimant, and either issued certain instructions to him during the period in question, or knows of the issuance of the same, and that he can also furnish information with respect to a number of officers who had occasion to use claimant's services during the period in question. It is realized, of course, that the investigation will necessarily be limited in certain respects, and that it will not be possible to account for claimant's activities during the entire period involved.

4. It is requested that this investigation be expedited in every manner possible, and upon completion of the same, that report be forwarded direct to this office in accordance with paragraph 10a, USAFFE Regulations 1-75, 4 October 1944.

J. A. MYATT,
Colonel, J.A.G.D.,
Chief of Theater Claims Service.

Incl: (3)

- 1. Claim & related papers.
- 2. Copy No. 1, I.R. #167.
- 3. File of supporting papers.

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HEADQUARTERS
BASE SECTION, USASOS
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL

-486-
BSXP
APO 923

.Auth: C.G.
.Init: JRL
.Date: 18 Nov 44

Subject: Orders.

To : 2D LT MURRAY J. ROSEN 0132374 Inf, 2d Port Hq (TC) APO 923.

UP par. 6 USAFFE Reg 1-75, 4 Oct 44, above Off is sptd Claims Off for purpose of investigating claim instituted by VENS TAIVO KERSON (Civ.). Proceedings will be submitted in quadruplicate in accordance with par 10a USAFFE Reg 1-75, 4 Oct 44.

By command of Brigadier General BROWN:

J.R. Long
J. R. LONG
2d Lt. AGD

Assistant Adjutant General.

DISTRIBUTION:

- Off concerned (9)
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EXHIBIT 1

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A-F-F-I-D-A-V-I-T

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Commonwealth of Australia,
State of Queensland,
City of Brisbane.

VENS TAIVO KERSON, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

My name is VENS TAIVO KERSON, and I am 44 years of age. I was born in Finland on 14 March, 1900. I have received only two years of formal education, one year being between 1908 - 1909 in Finland, and the other being between 1913 - 1914 in the State of Washington. I am a Finnish citizen, never having acquired American citizenship, although I have served with the Armed Forces of the United States as a civilian employee. I am presently on orders as a civilian employee, assigned to duty with the Army Service Command, A.P.O. 359, and am awaiting transportation thereto.

By occupation I am a mechanic, and have had considerable experience as a diver in salvage operations, and in mining work. I have been engaged in these occupations since 1910 and am thoroughly familiar with construction work, blasting and various types of explosives.

I have worked for various concerns in Shanghai and the Philippine Islands since 1931.

From March of 1940 until 8 December, 1941 I was employed by Luzon Stevedoring Company, Manila, Philippine Islands, and performed various salvage operations for them in Manila, Negros and Laguna. I was employed by this company to salvage the S.S. "Negros" at Sigulijor and assisted in the salvage of boilers, propellers and winches from that boat.

My salary while employed by the Luzon Stevedoring Company was 300 pesos per month plus 2 percent of the net value of the items salvaged. While employed for various mining companies, such as the Nelson-Laid Mining Company in Hong Kong during April, 1939, and the Prudential Mining Company Inc. in Manila, during July, 1937, my salary ranged from 400 to 500 pesos per month.

To my knowledge the various officers and engineers of the Luzon Stevedoring Company are now employed by the U.S. Army in engineering capacities and are familiar with my work. These men are:

Clyde Russell
Captain Hastings
Colonel Peter Grim
Captain Thomas Jariaka.

On or about 7 December, 1941 I received a telegram from the Luzon Stevedoring Company to return to Manila, and in compliance therewith I proceeded to make my way to Manila via Cebu, arriving in Cebu on 9 December, 1941. There I was interviewed by a Mr. C. J. Martin, Managing Agent of the Luzon Stevedoring Company, and presently a captain in the United States Army. In his office at that interview was present a

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Colonel Cook, U.S. Army. I was introduced to Colonel Cook by Captain Martin who told Colonel Cook of my experience with demolition work and explosives. Colonel Cook stated that he could use my services on behalf of the United States Army, and Captain Martin said: "O.K. Kerson, you are now working for the U.S. Army". I was not given any oath as a United States soldier nor did I sign any agreement with regard to my duties for the United States Army, and no agreement was made with Colonel Cook or Captain Martin with respect to the salary I was to receive. No commission was given me, and I understood that I was merely a civilian employee working for the United States Army.

I was ordered to start work immediately in Cebu to demolish various installation, Colonel Cook fearing an imminent Jap invasion of Cebu. I supervised 20 to 30 men between 9 December, 1941 and 6 January, 1942. I was engaged in demolishing various oil wells belonging to the Texas Oil Company, Shell Oil Company, Standard Oil Company, Filipino Refinery Company, various machine shops, railway bridges, railway shops, locomotives and numerous buildings. In addition thereto I instructed a group of about 13 men in the construction of handgrenades, and under my supervision, approximately 7,000 handgrenades were constructed. These handgrenades were made out of empty cans filled with a walling of asphalt which enclosed glass, rivets and other destructive materials. A stick of dynamite was then inserted and a paper or cardboard cover, together with a fuse, made up the grenade.

On 15 December, 1941 I received a partial pay but do not recall what the extent of it was. From then on I was paid regularly twice a month from 15 December, 1941 until 16 May, 1942. My pay which I received was 300 pesos a month until 1 March, 1942, at which time my salary was increased to 450 pesos per month. When I originally started work in December, 1941 I lived in an hotel at Cebu and paid for my hotel room and board from my own salary not having received any per diem pay. On 11 January, 1942 when I went to Negros to perform work on the salvage of the S.S. "Panay", a Major Forte stated to me that I would receive a per diem of 90 pesos per month in addition to my regular salary from then on, which per diem was regularly paid to me until 1 May, 1942.

On 6 January, 1942 General Sharp, United States Army, interviewed me with respect to my ability to perform salvage operations on the S.S. "Panay" which had been sunk by the Japs at Maricolom Bay off the island of Negros. He directed me to make a test dive and to determine whether or not salvage operations would be feasible. On 11 January, 1942 I proceeded to the island of Negros where I contacted a Major Forte, and under his further instructions I proceeded to make a test dive on the S.S. "Panay" using only a helmet. The "Panay" was lying under 155 feet of water, and although in my expert opinion it was a dangerous task to attempt salvage operations without proper diving suits, I informed Major Forte, General Sharp, Colonel Cook and Captain Martin at a subsequent meeting at Cebu that salvage operations could be made on the S.S. "Panay".

At the request of General Sharp I was instructed to obtain all necessary equipment for these diving operations and to charge all bills either to him or to Major Forte. Pursuant to this request I either purchased, hired or rented equipment for the diving operations at Cebu, San Carlos, the Island of Negros; Bais, Island of Negros; Larina, Island of Negros and Sigulor, Island of Negros and Iloilo, Island of Panay. Some of the

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equipment was obtained from the Luzon Stevedoring Company through the permission of Captain Martin.

To my knowledge no attempt was made by the officers concerned to let a contract for this salvage operation to either the Luzon Stevedoring Company or to the Visayan Stevedore-Transportation Company, or to any other concern. It was my impression that because of the emergency existing at the time that the job was given to me. I was given the authority to hire all employees necessary and to fix their wages. As a result of my test dive I determined that only No. 2 and No. 3 holds on the S.S. "Panay" would be salvaged. These holds contained ammunition, guns and other essential combat materials. I hired 12 divers and 16 men to operate the pumps, and assigned six divers to No. 2 hold and six divers to No. 3 hold, each diver to make not more than 2 dives per day. I fixed the salary of the men at 3 pesos per day for the first 2 weeks, and 4 pesos a day thereafter plus a bonus of 1 pesos for each case of ammunition that was recovered. In addition to their salary I allowed the men a per diem pay of 15 centavos per day.

Mr. Henry C. Garretson, an American mechanical engineer, who had been with me while employed by the Luzon Stevedoring Company, was employed by me on this salvage operation at a salary of 200 pesos per month. VTK

Between 11 January, 1942 and 23 January, 1942 I obtained and set up the necessary equipment. Salvage operations were begun on 23 January, 1942 and completed 16 May, 1942.

My salary of 300 pesos a month was paid up until 1 March, 1942, when my salary was increased to 450 pesos per month. Shortly thereafter I received a letter from the Visayan Stevedore-Transportation Company, Inc. to the effect that they had taken over the salvage contract and I was told to continue my work. A Mr. Kaudro of the Visayan Stevedore-Transportation Company, Inc. came to see me at Negros and informed me that I would continue to be in charge of the work. I never received any notification from the Army authorities as to any change in my status. To all intents and purposes my status remained the same and I regarded myself as a civilian employee of the United States Army, rather than as an employee of the Visayan Stevedore-Transportation Company Inc. As a matter of fact I still prepared the pay rolls for myself and the men.

All equipment salvaged by my men was removed from the S.S. "Panay" and brought on a raft to the shore where it was loaded on trucks and taken to various Quartermaster depots. I kept an accurate record of the items salvaged, and the time and work performed by each man. Among the main items salvaged from the S.S. "Panay" were: 450,000 rounds of 30 calibre ammunition; over 2,000 gas masks; 2,600 (2.95) shells with fuses; 5 (3 inch) canons; 20 machine guns, 30 calibre; 10 cases of spare parts for automatic rifles and machine guns; rigging blocks; 95 kegs of nails, various sizes; over 1,000 pairs of army shoes; 20 cases of pack carriers; approximately 600 barracks bags; 600 jackets; 1,000 fatigue pants; 50 rolls of camouflaged cloth; 10 hospital beds; 1,000 army bath towels; 4 cases of army forks, spoons and knives. VTK

It was as a result of the successful work performed under my supervision that my salary was raised from 300 pesos to 450 pesos per month.

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A Lieutenant Wright, United States Army, was in charge of a platoon of soldiers who cleaned the various items of equipment as they were recovered from the "Panay". However, some time in March, 1942, a Captain Donald A. Amend took over these duties. Throughout the entire period of time that the salvage operations were being performed, I was the only one directly responsible for the supervision of the work. This was so even after the time that the Visayan Stevedore-Transportation Company took over the contract.

About 12 May, 1942, Captain Amend informed me that as a result of the Jap invasion of Iloilo, which was approximately 150 miles from Maricocolom, there was danger of the Japs invading Negros and acquiring all the diving equipment that we had on hand. I was ordered to dismantle and to hide as much of the equipment as I could. The salvage operations had practically been completed by this time, and by 16 May, 1942, I was able to successfully dismantle and hide all of the equipment.

In April, 1942, I had received a pay roll of 3,000 pesos from Captain Cairns, Sub-Depot Commander at Bacolod, Negros. With this money I was in a position to pay all the men for their wages and per diem including myself up to 1 May, 1942, and from 1 May, 1942 to 16 May, 1942 I only had sufficient money to pay some of them half pay.

I received no per diem pay for the period 1 May, 1942 to 15 May, 1942 and from 1 May to 15 May, 1942 I received as salary only 112.50 pesos rather than 225 pesos that were normally due me. I have received no per diem from 1 May, 1942 to the present time, and no salary from 15 May, 1942 to the present time.

On 16 May, 1942, after the salvage operations had been completed, and the equipment hidden, I released all my employees for fear of their being captured by the Japs, and I myself was then taken seriously ill with malaria. I retired to the mountains near Numulao and remained there from 16 May, 1942 to 15 August, 1942 with Mr. Henry Garretson who took care of me in my illness.

On or about 15 August, 1942, a Major Abcede, whom I had never heard of before, sent a messenger to me at Numulao stating that he desired to see me. At my meeting with Major Abcede he informed me that he was a Filipino scout who had escaped from Bataan and who was organizing guerilla activities in Negros. He was aware of the fact that I had been in charge of the salvage operations on the S.S. "Panay", and asked me if I could obtain for him any guns or ammunition. On the last day of the salvage operations I had concealed 5 cases of 30 calibre ammunition and one M1 rifle, property of the United States. Feeling that the gun and ammunition would be of more use to Major Abcede in serving the cause of the United States Army, rather than in remaining concealed, I delivered the ammunition and gun to him without any proper authority. I did not ask for any receipt nor did Major Abcede in making his request to me show any authority for his request or any written orders for the same. I felt that I was doing the best thing for the American cause. Major Abcede told me that President

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Roosevelt had ordered all civilians and Filipinos to carry on their resistance against the Japs, and that they would be paid for their work.

Major Abcede stated to me that he believed there were American forces in South Borneo and natives who had possession of large supplies of guns and ammunition together with medicines and dynamite which would all be of use to the guerilla forces. He desired that a messenger be sent to South Borneo to acquire this equipment for the guerillas. I told Major Abcede that I would go on this mission and was glad to give my services for the American Army. I told him that I had saved a sufficient amount of money while working in the islands and that I could provide for myself on this trip. I received his permission to act for him on this mission.

Together with Mr. Carretson I hired a sail boat on 11 September, 1942 for 100 pesos, intending to make my way to South Borneo. I had no written papers or orders supporting this mission. On 12 September, 1942, I landed at Cagayanillo where I hired another boat for 80 pesos to take me to Brooke's Point, Palawan, and from there I hoped to obtain additional transportation. I remained at Cagayanillo for three weeks, and left there some time during the first week of October, 1942, arriving at Brooke's Point, Palawan on or about 17 October, 1942.

On arrival at Brooke's Point I contacted a Mr. Sutherland, a missionary, and a Mr. T. H. Edwards, who was an American trader residing there. I informed these men of my mission and sought their assistance in obtaining transportation to South Borneo. I was advised by Mr. Sutherland to contact Dattu Jolkipli, the Deputy Governor of South Palawan, who resided at Tarusan, 50 miles south of Brooke's Point. I hired a cumput for 20 pesos and with Mr. Sutherland made my way to Tarusan on 24 October, 1942.

I was advised by Dattu Jolkipli that the American forces had left Borneo, and that no transportation was available to go there. He informed me that conditions at Brooke's Point, Palawan were in bad shape; that the municipal government was badly disorganized and that although there was a group of guerilla soldiers, they were not properly united. He thought it would be a wonderful opportunity for myself to serve the American cause if I could stay on at Palawan, assume leadership of the guerillas, organize them and assist the municipal authorities in setting up a proper government. I agreed to this and returned to Palawan with Mr. Sutherland. At no time was there any agreement made that I was to receive any pay for this work, nor did I ever have any orders from any army official to act in the capacity that I intended to. All the services that I rendered in Brooke's Point, Palawan while assisting the municipal authorities and in organizing and leading the guerilla activities, were voluntarily performed. However, when Major Abcede had spoken to me at Nubulao he told me that he had heard a speech made over the radio by President Roosevelt to the effect that all civilian employees of the U.S. Army and all Filipinos who had not surrendered to the Japs or been captured by them, should continue active resistance against the Japs and that they would be paid for their services by the American Government. Although my services were voluntarily rendered, I also acted upon the strength of this radio speech by President Roosevelt and felt that since I was a civilian employee of the U.S. Army and felt my pay would be continued and at the same rate which I formerly received. I also felt that Major Abcede had sent me on a mission.

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that he had the authority to do so, and that since I could not accomplish his mission, that I was doing the next best thing for the United States Army.

In addition thereto my claim for these services is also based upon the fact that I expended on behalf of the American cause approximately 1500 pesos which I had managed to save during my stay in the Philippine Islands.

On 26 October, 1942 I arrived back at Brooke's Point. With the assistance of Mr. Edwards and several of the minor officials of the town, I called a meeting of the native population as well as the guerilla soldiers residing there and informed them of the nature of President Roosevelt's speech, and pointed out especially to the soldiers that President Roosevelt himself had promised that they would be paid for their services. I pointed out to them the advantages of a proper organization and a strong leader and promised to aid them and lead them to the best of my ability.

I remained at Brooke's Point, Palawan, from about 26 October, 1942 to 30 August, 1944, during which period of time I performed all the services which are the basis for my claim.

On or about January, 1942, I pointed out to Mr. Edwards that it would be advisable to strengthen the municipal government, and with my assistance, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Modesto Rodrigues, a lawyer, and a Mr. S.C. Morino, former mayor of Brooke's Point, organized a Civilian Activities Committee for the proper administration of the municipal government. The purpose of this committee was to stabilize prices of commodities and to obtain food for the soldiers. Although I had helped to organize this committee I decided not to be a part of it in view of my leadership of the guerilla soldiers.

In addition to the 1500 pesos that I had contributed for the various expenses for the municipal government, as well as for the purchase of food and clothing for the soldiers, Mr. Edwards contributed approximately 2000 pesos, Mr. Dattu Jolkipli contributed 500 pesos, and several Chinese residents contributed 700 pesos. In addition thereto, I had to borrow 200 pesos from Mr. Edwards for my own individual living expenses.

I emphatically state that at no time did I hold myself out to be a commissioned officer in the United States Army, nor did I ever sign any orders or papers issued under my hand other than in an individual civilian capacity.

When I arrived at Brooke's Point there were approximately 23 soldiers and by the time I left Brooke's Point I had succeeded in recruiting approximately 160 men.

Upon my arrival at Palawan I found residing with Mr. Edwards and Mr. Sutherland, six Americans. The six men were:

- Robert Kennen - U.S. Navy
- Robert Hodges - U.S. Navy
- Bruce Elliot - U.S. Navy
- Buddy Henderson - Marine Corps
- Sidney Wright - Marine Corps
- George Davis - Marine Corps

To obtain ammunition and supplies for the guerillas I made several trips to the west coast of Palawan where a former Filipino Constabulary unit had been established and managed to obtain one case of 30 calibre ammunition.

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A Sergeant Tumbaga was in charge of the Filipino Constabulary soldiers at Brooke's Point, Palawan. He was my assistant in organizing these men. I attempted to give them proper training. I established four different patrols, the purpose of these patrols being to see that no food was sold or delivered to any individuals in the territory occupied by the Japs; to exterminate any abuses committed by any individual or the native population; to ferret out any fifth column activities; to determine if any persons were unlawfully using the names of American Army soldiers or officers and to report any Jap activities in the territory covered by their patrol.

During the period of time I was in Palawan no skirmishes or active battle was fought with the Japs, although on 6 October, 1942, guerilla and Filipino Constabulary soldiers had repulsed a Jap landing at Brooke's Point, Palawan.

I had learned of the fact that there was a group of guerilla soldiers operating in Northern Palawan, and that a Lieutenant Errold Glew had gone to Major Pedro Manique, former battalion commander of all Filipino Constabulary soldiers in Palawan, with the hope of obtaining assistance in rescuing the American soldiers who were prisoners of the Japs at Puerto Princesa.

Late in February, 1943, I left for the Barrio of Caramy, North Palawan, to join in this meeting with Major Manique and Lieutenant Glew. I arrived in Caramy some time during the last week of March, 1943. I made a strong appeal to Major Manique's forces and Lieutenant Glew's to unite all guerilla forces under one leadership, pointing out that it would be for the best interests of the American cause in Palawan. After a series of conferences held with Major Manique and Governor Abordo of Palawan, I received from Governor Abordo and Major Manique the designation of Chief of the Guerilla Organization in South Palawan, and was given the authority to recruit all reservists, ex-Constabulary soldiers and ex-trainees. In addition, Governor Abordo authorized me to have printed at Brooke's Point, 10,000 pesos to be used as emergency scrip. This money was to be expressly used for the purpose of paying back pay and per diem to the soldiers as well as to the American soldiers residing at Palawan. I submitted a complete report to Governor Abordo and Major Manique of conditions existing at Brooke's Point, but my attempt to unit the forces for the rescue of the American prisoners at the Puerto Princesa failed. At Caramy I met an American soldier, named Robert Johnston, Jr., a radio operator attached to the 48th Material Squadron, and asked him to join my forces in South Palawan. However, he refused, stating that he desired to remain with his friends in North Palawan. I remained at Caramy for 5 or 6 days and returned to Brooke's Point some time during the middle of April, 1943, where I undertook to issue the emergency scrip. I gave each guerilla soldier residing at Palawan the sum of 10 pesos per month for all back pay due them, and the American soldiers 120 pesos per month, and paid myself 240 pesos for back pay due me and the same sum likewise to Mr. Carretson.

My attempts to recruit more men pursuant to the authority conferred upon me by Governor Abordo and Major Manique were objected to by Sergeant Tumbaga. I discovered that Sergeant Tumbaga had been issuing false orders and misappropriating money and food contributed by various individuals. In addition, during

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my absence, dissension had grown among the soldiers by reason of Tumbaga's misappropriation of food. I disarmed Sergeant Tumbaga.

Sergeant Tumbaga then went to Major Manique at North Palawan and succeeded in obtaining from Major Manique a commission as a 3rd Lieutenant, and an order revoking the authority formerly conferred upon me by Major Manique and Governor Abordo. Upon Tumbaga's return from North Palawan he made a false accusation against me of being a fifth columnist and charged me with attempting to sell 25,000 German marks. With the aid of the guerilla soldiers I was placed under arrest and confined to the home of Mr. Edwards. Upon a subsequent trip to a nearby island, Sergeant Tumbaga was drowned, and I was finally released by the new officer who proved to the satisfaction of the civilian authorities that the charge against me of being a fifth columnist was false.

Despite the death of Sergeant Tumbaga, a number of his friends were plotting against my life, and I escaped to the home of Dattu Jolkipli in Tarusan to seek his assistance. There I became seriously ill and remained for several months.

A great part of my work in South Palawan on behalf of the guerillas was spent in obtaining various food stuffs for them. I used to make trips of varying durations travelling up and down the coast of Palawan to obtain voluntary food contributions or to make outright purchases for it. Very often I would advance my own money and the sums contributed by Mr. Edwards and others for the purchase of this food. On one occasion, some time during the month of January, 1944, Captain Harrio Mayor, the Acting Commanding Officer in South Palawan, gave me 100 pesos to purchase food. There was some argument over this when he discovered I had deducted 38 pesos for my own expenses for making this trip. I felt that I was justified in using this sum as I had to pay for the food of several of my men who accompanied me on this trip as well as for myself. These trips for palay and other food would take anywhere from 2 weeks to several months. On occasion I had to hire a sampit to travel from one place to another.

In my various visits around Palawan to obtain food I also visited the patrols I had sent out, and would give these men money or food in order to exist while out on patrol. Each of the 4 patrols consisted of from six to twenty men.

In February, 1944 a launch called the "Lt. Barrett" belonging to the Filipino Constabulary was sunk in Tarusan, Palawan. Because of my salvage experience, Captain Mayor detailed me to go there and to salvage the motor and generator. The great part of 1944 was spent by me in the various missions to obtain food and medicines for the soldiers. I succeeded in obtaining a certain amount of medicine from Borneo which I distributed to the people.

On 30 August, 1944 I was evacuated from Brooke's Point and arrived in Australia, about 10 September, 1944. I was assigned to the 85th Station Hospital, A.P.O. 923, where I remained until 26 October, 1944. I am now awaiting transportation to the Engineering Corps, Army Service Command, A.P.O. 358, as a civilian employee. These orders have been issued by Headquarters Base Section, U.S.A.S.C.S., A.P.O. 923, pursuant to a direct request by General Douglas MacArthur for my services.

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My claim for monies due me from the United States Government is based upon my employment as a civilian employee of the United States Army on 9 December, 1941 up to and including 31 October, 1944, and at a rate of pay of 450 pesos per month together with 90 pesos per month per diem. I have not received any pay since 15 May, 1942 and from 1 May, 1942 to 15 May, 1942 I only received 112.50 pesos instead of 225 pesos. I have not received any per diem pay since 1 May, 1942.

There is now due me from the United States Government the following sums:

Pay at 450 pesos per month:

1 May, 1942 to 15 May, 1942	112.50 pesos
15 May, 1942 to 31 May, 1942	225 "
Remaining months of 1942	3150 "
Entire year of 1943	5400 "
1 January, 1944 to 31 October, 1944	4500 "

Per diem at 90 pesos per month:

1 May, 1942 to 31 December, 1942	720 pesos
1 January, 1943 to 31 December, 1943	1080 "
1 January, 1944 to 31 October, 1944	900 "

TOTAL: 16,087.50 pesos.

I hereby make demand of the United States Government for the aforesaid sum.

Vens Taivo Kerbon
VENS TAIVO KERBON

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 27 day of November, 1944.

Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN,
2nd Lt., J.A. Section,
Hq., Base Section,
USASOS, A.P.O. 923.

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EXHIBIT 2

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ALEXANDER M. SUTHERLAND, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

I make this statement voluntarily concerning the activities of Mr. Vens Taivo Kerson. I am presently serving with the Allied Geographical Section, South West Pacific Area, A.P.O. 923, and reside at the 85th Station Hospital, A.P.O. 923.

I arrived in Australia on 5 September, 1944, and prior to coming to Australia I resided in the Philippine Islands for thirteen years. I lived at Brooke's Point, Palawan, Philippine Islands, from May, 1935 until August, 1944. At Brooke's Point, I served as an independent missionary, my wife and two children living there with me.

During the period of 1941 to 1943, several Americans resided at Brooke's Point, Palawan. These men were a Mr. T.H. Edwards who was a planter and merchant, and several American Navy men and Marine Corps men. On 26 August, 1942, three United States Marine Corps men, attached to the 4th Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps, and three United States Navy men, all of whom had escaped from the Japs, came to Brooke's Point, where they took up their residence with Mr. Edwards and myself. The three Navy men were: Robert Kellan, Robert Hodges and Bruce Elliott. These men stayed with Mr. Edwards. The Marine Corps men were: Buddy Henderson, Sidney Wright and George Davis. They lived with me.

So far as I know at the present time, Henderson is dead and Wright is reported dead. Davis was last reported alive in Tawi Tawi. Kellan was reported as having left the Philippine Islands in company with a Captain Whitehead, U.S. Army. Hodges was reported killed in Tawi Tawi in 1943. According to last reports, Elliott has been reported alive in Tawi Tawi. Mr. Edwards and myself provided food, clothing and shelter for these men.

At the outbreak of hostilities in December, 1941, there was located at Brooke's Point, Palawan, the 4th Company of Philippine Constabulary under the command of Lieutenant Bautista. About March, 1942, Lieutenant Bautista disbanded the company and left for his home. The soldiers had not received any pay for some time and food was becoming scarce. A Sergeant Tumbaga was the ranking soldier after Lieutenant Bautista's departure. The soldiers formed guerilla groups, and began to commit irregularities such as seizing food and clothing for their own use. Sergeant Tumbaga's leadership was not generally acknowledged by the remaining soldiers. The guerilla forces and the municipal government were disorganized.

On 6 October, 1942, a Jap force of approximately 21 Japs and 10 Filipino collaborators attempted to invade Brooke's Point, Palawan. This landing was repulsed by the Filipino guerillas under the leadership of Buddy Henderson and Sergeant Tumbaga. Approximately 15 Japs were killed.

Up to 17 October, 1942, I had never seen or heard of Vens Taivo Kerson. On 17 October, 1942, Mr. Kerson landed in Palawan with a Mr. H.C. Garretson, an American, and called at Mr. Edwards' house. Mr. Kerson sent a messenger to my house

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asking me to come to see him. ~~He~~ arrived at Mr. Edwards' home I asked Kerson to establish his identity and he showed me an assortment of papers, one of which was an identification card pertaining to certain salvage work that he had performed. He informed me that the purpose of his coming to Southern Palawan was to secure transportation out of the Philippine Islands. He did not show me any orders or any other authority to organize any guerilla activities in Southern Palawan. When he expressed his desire to secure transportation out of the Island, I told him that Dattu Jolkipli, who resided at Tarusan, Palawan, approximately 50 miles south of Brooke's Point, was the most suitable person for him to see. I told him that I would take him to Jolkipli's place where he could state his request. Mr. Kerson and myself proceeded to Tarusan but were unable to contact Dattu Jolkipli, and returned to Brooke's Point. Mr. Kerson indicated to me that he was attempting to get out of the Islands in order to accomplish a special mission which had been entrusted to him. I gathered from this that the nature of this mission was to carry certain intelligence information to USAFFE Headquarters in Australia. He did not tell me who it was who had sent him on this mission.

Upon our return from Jolipli's place in Tarusan, Kerson decided that he could not obtain transportation out of the islands, and after learning of the disorganized state of the municipal government at Brooke's Point, and the lack of harmony amongst the guerillas, he stated that he was going to take an active part in the municipal government with a view to reorganizing the civil affairs and organizing the guerillas at Brooke's Point. At his suggestion, meetings were called of the soldiers and civilian population, and a Civilian Activities Committee was formed in December, 1942 consisting of Mr. T.H. Edwards, Mr. Modesto Rodriguez and Mr. S.C. Moreno (municipal mayor). They issued certain papers to Mr. Kerson accrediting him as their agent for the collection of food stuffs for the Army.

Mr. Kerson visited Bugsuk Island and contacted a Captain Nazario Mayor. In addition, he made several trips to the Island of Balabac to organize a guerilla force out of the Constabulary soldiers of a unit recently disbanded there. Mr. Kerson informed the soldiers in Brooke's Point and Balabac that President Quezon had made a radio speech to the authorities in the Philippine Islands that all former Constabulary soldiers, Army trainees and civilian employees of the Army were to organize and continue active resistance against the Japs, and that they would be paid for their work. At Mr. Kerson's suggestion, the guerilla soldiers at Balabac joined forces with those at Brooke's Point. Mr. Kerson was able to collect rice and money for the soldiers' use.

These activities of Mr. Kerson with the community carried him through the months of January to March, 1943. Because trouble had arisen between him and Sgt. Tumbaga, Mr. Kerson obtained several affidavits from soldiers of Tumbaga's unit, showing that Sergeant Tumbaga had committed certain irregularities. With these affidavits and papers from the Civilian Activities Committee, he went to AUSA Headquarters at Caramay in Northern Palawan in March, 1943. Major Pedro Manique, Commander of the Philippine Constabulary forces in Palawan, designated Kerson as Chief of the Guerillas in Southern Palawan, and the Governor of Palawan gave Kerson a sum of 10,000 pesos as emergency scrip for disbursement among the guerillas in Southern Palawan, to cover their back pay and expenses of the Municipal Government. With this appointment and the money in his possession, Kerson returned to Brooke's Point in April, 1943, paid the guerillas

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their back pay and continued his guerilla activities.

From the time of Kerson's arrival in Southern Palawan on 17 October, 1942, none of the Americans who were residing at Brooke's Point joined his organization. Although they were friendly to him they did not have any confidence in him as a leader. He really established his leadership over the Filipinos because of the funds and food he was able to secure for them.

When Mr. Kerson returned to Brooke's Point from Caramay in April, 1943, he learned of further irregularities performed by Sergeant Tumbaga, and thereupon disarmed him and put him under arrest. However, Sergeant Tumbaga escaped the day of his arrest and proceeded to Caramay where he had strong connections with the regular Army authorities. As a result of Tumbaga's visit to Caramay, Major Manique revoked Kerson's appointment as leader of the guerillas, and commissioned Sergeant Tumbaga as a Third Lieutenant, and placed him in charge of the guerillas. When Lieutenant Tumbaga returned to Brooke's Point in May, 1943, Kerson left the region and went into hiding at the house of Dattu Jolkipli in Tarusan where he became very sick suffering, as I believe, from a serious nervous breakdown. This belief is based upon a letter received from Jolkipli requesting me to go to his home and give medical assistance to Mr. Kerson. Dattu Jolkipli informed me that Mr. Kerson was in a highly agitated state of mind and was seemingly not responsible for certain actions. This impression of mine that it was a serious nervous breakdown was later confirmed by statements made by Mr. Garretson who was present at the time in Dattu Jolkipli's home. Mr. Kerson's illness in Tarusan began early in June, 1943 and continued to August, 1943.

During September, 1943, Lieutenant Tumbaga called Kerson to Brooke's Point for investigation. Seemingly it was Tumbaga's aim to recover from Kerson the affidavits and other papers covering Tumbaga's irregular activities. In an attempt to incriminate Kerson as a fifth columnist, Lieutenant Tumbaga, as I subsequently learned, planted a considerable sum of German marks in Kerson's box. This attempt of Lieutenant Tumbaga's to involve Kerson failed. After Mr. Kerson's detention by Lt. Tumbaga for investigation, and when nothing could be proved against Kerson's loyalty, he was released by Tumbaga on condition that he would remain with Mr. Edwards at his evacuation place. In December, 1943, Lieutenant Tumbaga was crowned and Mr. Kerson automatically became free. After the death of Lt. Tumbaga, Captain Mayor was appointed Commanding Officer as from the middle of March, 1944, and Mr. Kerson worked for Captain Mayor along his former lines, that is, collecting food stuffs for the guerillas and assisting in their activities. I know from my own knowledge that Kerson spent certain sums of money for the guerillas which he advanced from his own savings.

From the time that Kerson arrived in Palawan, 17 October, 1942, until I left Palawan for Australia, there were no skirmishes between the guerillas and the enemy forces other than a local action led by Captain Mayor in May, 1944 against a small patrol of Japs at Panitian.

I never saw Mr. Kerson dressed in the uniform of the Army of the United States nor did he ever hold himself out as having a commission in the United States Army. I simply gathered that he was a civilian employee of the United States Army. However, he once showed me a paper signed by the Commander of Palawan which designated Kerson as Chief of the Guerillas in Southern Palawan.

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I would say that the chief nature of Mr. Kerson's activities while in Palawan was obtaining food stuffs for the guerillas. He would go on trips accompanied by one or two soldiers, and be gone for periods of time ranging from 2 weeks to several months. Mr. Kerson continued his guerilla activities in Southern Palawan until evacuated to Australia in September, 1944.

From conversations held with Mr. Kerson at various times I learned that before coming to Palawan he had been in the Island of Negros, and while there he had been engaged in salvage work on the "S.S. Panay" at Maricolom Bay, and that he had performed these operations as a civilian employee of the United States Army over a period of 5 months commencing in January, 1942 and ending some time in May, 1942. He further informed me that he had salvaged a considerable amount of ammunition, machine guns, rifles and other combat articles for the Army; that he had made the original test dive to determine whether it was possible to salvage the boat, and that he had trained sixteen Filipino divers who were employed on these operations.

Mr. Kerson mentioned that the Visayan Stevedore-Transportation Company had, subsequent to the commencing of salvage operations, taken over the contract, but that because of the disturbances created by the war he had worked directly under Army orders and was solely responsible for the supervision of the salvage operations. I learned from Mr. Kerson that he had charge of the hiring of the men, that he kept all official records, and that all pay rolls for both himself and the men were prepared by him and submitted directly to the Army Quartermaster. My understanding from what Mr. Kerson told me was that he was paid directly by the United States Army for his work rather than by the Visayan Stevedore-Transportation Company, and that his salary was approximately 450 pesos per month. Mr. Kerson informed me that he had received part of his pay from the United States Government for this salvage work but that they still owed him a certain amount of back pay, the exact amount of which he never told me.

In my conversation with Mr. Kerson I further learned from him that prior to working on the "S.S. Panay" he had been engaged in demolition work for the United States Army in the Island of Cebu, immediately after 7 December, 1941, and that he had demolished certain installations to prevent the Japs acquiring them. In addition to that he had supervised the construction of more than 3,000 hand grenades. Although he never stated to me under whose orders he performed the demolition work and construction of the hand grenades, he did mention the names of General Sharp, Colonel Cook, Major Forte and Captain Martin. It was my impression from what he told me that his orders for the performance of this work had come from these men. In addition, I gathered from what he said that it was under their orders that he had performed the salvage work on the "S.S. Panay".

I have known Mr. Kerson for a long time. I have worked with him under circumstances of danger and difficulty. He is a man of unbounded energy and unquestioned loyalty with little consideration for his own comfort when a job is on hand. His efforts to gather food stuffs for the Army involved him in grave risk of being captured on enemy controlled waters.

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I should like to furnish the names of several individuals who might be in a position to furnish additional information with regard to Mr. Kerscn's activities. There men are:

Mr. T. H. Edwards	- Brooke's Point, Palawan.
Dattu Jolkipli	- Tarusan, Palawan.
Mr. Moises De la Cruz	- Tabud, Palawan.
Mr. E.A. Villapa	- Brooke's Point, Palawan.
Mr. Henry C. Garretson	- New York City, N.Y.
Pvt. George V. Marquez	

Alexander M. Sutherland
ALEXANDER M. SUTHERLAND

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 14TH day of December, 1944.

Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2nd Lt., J.A. Section,
Hq., Base Section,
U.S.A.S.O.S., A.P.O. 923.

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EXHIBIT 3

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20 November, 1944.

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I, WILLIAM W. WIGFIELD, JR., Private, ASN 14088380, Headquarters Company, 17th Replacement Battalion, Camp Asot, A.P.O. 923, having been advised of my rights under the 24th Article of War, do hereby make the following statement voluntarily without threat or promise:

On November 20, 1941, I arrived at Manila, Philippine Islands. The 48th Materiel Squadron was there activated. We were part of the 27th Bomb Group. We remained there until 14 December, 1941, when a special detail consisting of 53 men, including myself, and one officer, Lt. Warren Baggett, left for Mindoro, Philippine Islands, arriving there about 16 December, 1941. As a result of the invasion of Mindoro by the Japs this detail of the 48th Materiel Squadron had to go into hiding in the mountains. We remained there for about a month, and finally crossed over the mountains and made our way to Panay, arriving there about 1 May, 1942. We remained in Panay until about 14 May, 1942, and then left for Cuyo, reaching there on about 16 May, 1942.

Several days after we arrived in Cuyo, the Japs invaded the island, and twenty-eight of our men, and Lt. Baggett surrendered to the Japs. The rest of us scattered and escaped to the hills.

I remained on Cuyo until August, 1942, and then made my way to northern Palawan with Private William F. Young, now deceased.

During all of this time that I was in the islands, I never heard of any man by the name of Herson. There were no rumors or reports about such man nor of his activities.

I remained in Northern Palawan from August, 1942 until June, 1943, when I became ill and returned to Cuyo. During the period of time that I was in northern Palawan I heard intermittent rumors of a man by the name of Herson who was in charge of guerilla activities against the Japs in southern Palawan.

Sometime during the latter part of March, 1943, I heard that Herson and several of his men had visited the barrie of Carway in northern Palawan. A former member of the 48th Materiel Squadron, Lt. Harold Glew, now deceased, was attempting to obtain assistance to rescue the American prisoners at Puerto Princesa. Major Manique was in charge of the Philippine Constabulary in northern Palawan, and Lt. Glew was seeking his assistance. I was informed that Herson had come up north to help Lt. Glew in his endeavors to unite Manique's forces with the Americans. In addition, I heard that Herson was seeking to have the Americans join his guerilla forces.

I didn't meet Herson at this time. I learned nothing more about him or of his activities. I still didn't know exactly who he was or where he came from. He was always something of a mystery.

Nothing was ever done to obtain the release of the American prisoners at Puerto Princesa. In June, 1943, Lt. Glew and six of us, including myself, returned to Cuyo. There we met a Captain Whitehead who had escaped from the Japs and was seeking transportation to Australia.

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From June, 1943 to December, 1943, I travelled around Guyo, Tablas, Pansay and Cagyanellie, in an attempt to obtain transportation out of the islands, but was unsuccessful. During all of this time, I didn't hear of Kerson or his activities, nor did I meet the man.

In December, 1943, I went to southern Palawan, still seeking transportation. It was there for the first time that I met Kerson. I came to southern Palawan with four friends. These men were: Charles Watkins, U.S.N., and Pvt. George Marquez, 48th Material Squadron, both of whom are now in the United States. Cpl. Morris Wehbee and Cpl. Clayton Kroen, both of the 48th Squadron, are now deceased.

When we arrived in southern Palawan, at Brooke's Point, in December, 1943, Kerson was in disfavor with the guerillas and civilians. He no longer was their leader, and from all reports, it seems that they no longer had any confidence in him. I was informed by the Filipinos that Kerson had been placed under guard because he was suspected of being a spy and fifth columnist. It appears that Kerson was found to possess a considerable sum of German money. Subsequently, it was discovered that the money was not his but belonged to a Filipino and Kerson was released. However, the damage was done, and from what I understand, Kerson never again regained the confidence of the guerillas, nor his leadership amongst them.

I did hear that it was Kerson who had organized their activities in 1942 and who had at that time been their leader.

When we arrived in Brooke's Point, the guerillas were not anxious to accept us in their ranks. They didn't seem to be too well organized. All they did was confiscate clothing and food for their own use. I never saw them engage in any activities against the Japs. They just walked around with a gun on their shoulder and acted "big shots".

They wouldn't give us any food or any guns. Our guns had been taken from us by local guerillas when we left Guyo. A Mr. Sutherland and a Mr. Edwards, two missionaries in Brooke's Point, assisted the Americans in obtaining food, clothing and shelter.

The guerillas constantly indicated that they expected to be paid for their work by the American Government, but Kerson told me that he only expected to be paid for his diving work performed while salvaging the S.S. Pansay. Kerson indicated to me that his guerilla services were performed voluntarily to help the Americans and I never heard him claim any pay for his work. He never showed me any authority to organize the guerillas nor did he ever tell me that he was acting on orders in so doing.

During the period of time that I was at Brooke's point, the guerillas thought so little of Kerson that they refused to arm him with a gun. They only permitted him to carry a hand grenade. His chief work was in going up and down the coast to obtain palay for the soldiers. It was very seldom that he was successful in this. He would leave for several weeks at a time and return empty handed. Occasionally, they gave him money to purchase this food, but he was not too responsible when he had this money.

A Mr. Henry Carretson, an American, was with Kerson, but he didn't seem to do anything. He was always ill with malaria.

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The guerillas were obtaining guns and ammunition from Pansy. In order to obtain more adequate food and to be armed, the Americans, including myself, joined up with the guerillas from 1 April, 1944 to 20 May, 1944. They fed us but refused to give us arms. We never saw any fighting against the Japs.

In May, 1944, we left the guerillas, and lived with Mr. Sutherland and Mr. Edwards until 30 August, 1944, when we obtained transportation back to Australia. Upon arrival in Australia, I entered the 60th Station Hospital, A.P.O. 923, and remained there until about 20 October, 1944, when I was transferred to my present organization.

I always thought that Ferguson was a square shooter. He always seemed to want to do the right thing and appeared honest and sincere.

/s/ W. H. Wigfield Jr.

W. H. WIGFIELD, JR. PVT.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 20th day of November, 1944.

(Original affidavit, in Pvt. Wigfield's own handwriting, with signature, is attached)

Murray J. Rosen

MURRAY J. ROSEN
O-1323174, 2nd Lt., Inf.
Judge Advocate Section,
Hq. Base Section USASOS,
A.P.O. 923.

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A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN,
2nd Lt., Inf.

EXHIBIT 4

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21 November, 1944.

I, ROBERT T. JOHNSTON, Jr., Private, ASN 11011125, 281st Replacement Company, 17th Replacement Battalion, and presently with the Rotation Detachment, Base 3, A.P.O. 923, having been advised of my rights under the 24th Article of War, do hereby make the following statement voluntarily and without promise or threat:

Sometime during the month of May, 1942, I arrived in the municipality of Cuyo, Province of Palawan, Philippine Islands, as a radio operator attached to the 48th Material Squadron. My Commanding Officer was First Lieutenant Warren C. Baggett, C.W.S. There were approximately 52 enlisted men and one officer in this group. We had originally been activated in Mindoro, Philippine Islands and had been forced to leave there due to the action of the Japs.

Several days after we arrived there, the Japs landed and captured half of our men. The rest of us escaped. I remained on Cuyo until September, 1942, at which time I made my way to Northern Palawan, together with about thirty Americans and Filipinos. We travelled there by motor launch.

During the months of May through September, 1942, we did not have any organized guerilla warfare against the Japs in Cuyo. Most of us were sick and we were poorly armed.

It was during the latter part of my stay in Cuyo that we began to hear rumors of a man called Kerson, in Southern Palawan, who was a guerilla leader, and who was organizing guerilla activities against the Japs. At that time I knew nothing about the man. I had never heard of him before that. I did not know where he came from or from whom he obtained his authority. As a matter of fact I do not believe any of us were at all interested in him at that time. In addition, these were rumors that we were receiving about Kerson reached us rather infrequently.

When we reached the Northern part of Palawan in September, 1942, there was little, if any, guerilla warfare going on. There was certainly no organized activity there. A Major Manique was in charge of a Philippine Constabulary unit. On various occasions he promised to begin guerilla warfare against the Japs. He obtained contributions of palay from the people for this purpose, but never carried out his intention.

The Americans who landed with me in Palawan were still too ill to take any interest in any fighting against the Japs. The majority had malaria. We did not stay together as an organized unit. Private William H. Wigfield, Jr. was one of the group. Most of our group stayed on at Palawan for about nine months. We lived amongst the natives, obtained our food from them and travelled around Northern Palawan.

From September, 1942 to about March 1943, I roamed around Palawan, occasionally travelling to several nearby islands to live. I was constantly ill with malarial attacks. During this time there were casual and intermittent reports

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about the activities of this man called Kerson, in Southern Palawan. We heard that he was organizing and leading guerilla activities there against the Japs.

Sometime during the latter part of March, 1943, or the first week of April, I met a Lieutenant Errold T. Glew in the barrio of Caramay, who had been an enlisted man in my organization in Mendoro. Lt. Glew informed me that he had been given a direct commission on the field by the Commanding General. I learned that Lt. Glew was present in Palawan to discuss the possibility of organized resistance against the Japs in Palawan. Lt. Glew was holding a conference with Major Manique. Dr. Mendoza, the former governor of Palawan, a Lieutenant Garcia and Governor Abordo of Palawan. It is my belief that Kerson was present at that conference together with several of his men. He must have been present because I met him that same day. I never knew Kerson's first name until very recently. I was in a schoolhouse which was being used as a barracks. The conference had ended. Kerson walked in and introduced himself to me. We spoke about the affairs being discussed at the conference, about the necessity of cooperation between Major Manique's forces and the local Americans and guerilla forces under Kerson. Major Manique had repeatedly told the people that he was going to attack the Japs and help drive them out of Palawan. However, he failed to keep his promise.

Kerson showed us several homemade handgrenades which he and his men were constructing. He told us about his activities in Southern Palawan, about how he had organized the guerillas there and that he was the leader of the civilian population there. He did not tell me who had authorized him to organize guerilla activities. From the way he spoke it seemed that he had been in Southern Palawan for at least six months or more. He said that he had been gathering palay and other voluntary food contributions from the people, and that his men lived on that food. He didn't tell us anything about his financial set-up. Nothing was said by him to indicate that he was advancing his own money for this cause, nor did he mention that he had made any agreements with the American Army to be paid for his work. From the way he spoke it seemed to me that the services he was rendering for the American cause were purely voluntary and that he did not expect to be paid for his work.

No mention was made by Kerson as to when he began his activities nor their actual extent. He spoke in a general way about his work. He did seem very sincere. These conferences went on for about a week. I had several talks with Kerson. He asked me whether I cared to join forces with his and act as a radio operator in his outfit. I declined to join up with him. I preferred to stay with my own men.

Kerson's mission at this conference was to help us unite our forces and to show us how to liberate the American prisoners held at Puerto Princessa by the Japs. He made no attempt to assume leadership over our group. So far as I know no Americans at this time joined up with Kerson, although Kerson asked them to go with him.

When the conferences were over, Kerson and his men left to return to Brookes Point, Palawan.

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Lieutenant Glew then asked for volunteers to go down to Puerto Princessa to harass the Japs. All the Americans volunteered but Lt. Glew changed his mind. Subsequently, during the latter part of April, 1943, most of the Americans, including myself, returned to Cuyo where Lt. Glew was later killed. From April, 1943 to May, 1944, I never again heard of Kerson or his activities. I did not see him again until I met him at the 85th Station Hospital, A.P.O. 923, in September, 1944.

In May, 1944, while I was at Cuyo, I heard that a Japanese launch had been captured and its crew killed at Brookes Point, Palawan. Since Kerson was the only known guerilla leader there, I presumed that it was his outfit that did that job. That was all I ever heard of Kerson or his activities. From Cuyo I went to Panay in June, 1944, intending to join the American forces but I was advised to leave and returned to Australia on 1 July, 1944.

I know several Americans who joined up with Kerson. They are Private William H. Wigfield, Corporal Clayton H. Kronin, who died of malaria, Charles Watkins, USN, and Corporal Morris E. Meghee, who died of malaria.

While I was at the 85th Station Hospital, A.P.O. 923, during September, October and November, 1944, Kerson was also a patient there. We had several talks there. On several occasions he told me that he had not been paid for his salvage work; that he had received only part of his salvage pay and hoped that the U.S. Government would pay him the balance. He never mentioned any other claims which he had against the U.S. Government. He never told me that the Army owed him any money for his services as a guerilla leader, nor did he indicate in any way that he expected to be paid for those services.

Robert T. Johnston Jr.
ROBERT T. JOHNSTON, JR.

Subscribed and sworn to
before me this 21st day
of November, 1944.

Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN,
2nd Lt., Inf.
O-1325174,
Judge Advocate Section,
Hq., Base Section, USASOS,
APO 923.

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EXHIBIT 5

SECRET

INTERCOMINT REPORT #67I. PERSONAL DATA

NAME : VENS TAIVO KERSON
 AGE : 43
 SEX : Male
 RACE : White
 CITIZENSHIP : Finland
 BIRTHDATE AND PLACE : 14 March 1900; Veberg, Finland.
 EDUCATION : 1908 - 1909 Grammar School, Veberg, Finland
 1913 - 1914 Grammar School, Lanabula, Washington
 STATUS : Civilian evsouse released by U.S. Forces.
 OCCUPATION : Mechanic, Diving, and Mining.
 PERSONAL DESCRIPTION : Height 5' 4" Weight 140 lbs.
 Hair Brown Eyes Hazel
 Complex. Ruddy Stature Slight
 STATE OF HEALTH : Fair
 MEANS OF IDENT. : None

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Interrogated 14-17 September 1944 at 85th Station Hospital, APO 923. REG/st.

ESTIMATE OF INTELLIGENCE AND RELIABILITY:

Mr. KERSON possesses average intelligence. His business experiences the world over have compensated for his lack of a formal education. Mr. KERSON's statements are regarded as reliable inasmuch as many of his statements are corroborated by Mr. Sutherland, see I.R. #170.

II. CHRONOLOGY

- 15 May 1931 - Departed from Seattle for Shanghai. Employed with Curtiss Wright; Mr. Pauley, Manager, Shanghai. Duties: Assembly Plant Construction. January-April 1932, International Settlement, Shanghai. Duties: Helped in constructing barricade around International Settlement.
 Apr. 1934 - Hong Kong; Employer, Earnshaw Docks and Honolulu Iron Works. Main office at Manila. (American concern). Duties: Fitter. Foreman on construction of Seatow Sugar Factory (four months).
 1935 - Hong Kong; Employer, Netherlands Harbour Works Co., Duties: Overseer--construction and setting of caissons for Hong Kong-Yaustati Ferry piers.
 15 Nov. 1936 - Manila; 20 Nov. 1936, Employed by General Management Co., Inc. (American concern). Duties: In charge of development work; driving of tunnels, timbering, blasting.
 Mar. 1937 - Masbate; 10 April 1937, Masbate Consolidated Mining Co., Rio Quinobatan, Masbate (Spanish Concern); Mine Superintendent, R. H. Booker. Duties: Mine shaft boss (one month), Ego Mine, Bulacan Province; Benguet Consolidated Mining Co., Duties: In charge of shaft work. (May - July 1937)
 July 1937 - Tagkulet, Misamis Oriental, Mindanao, employed by the Prudential Mining Company, Inc., main office at Manila; President and General Manager, A. S. Opiso (Filipino), (Spanish-American concern). Duties: Mine foreman, charge of explosives and supervising of tunnel work.
 Apr. 1939 - Hong Kong; employer, Nelson-Laid Mining Co., Superintendent, Sam Cotbran. Duties: Supervised ground work.
 Sept 1939 - Vacationing in the Philippine Islands at Manila, Cebu, Davao; employed with the Luzon Stevedoring Company, Manila, (August 1941 to December 1941. Duties: Salvage Superintendent.
 8 Dec. 1941 - Cebu; 9 December 1941 - 6 January 1942, Cebu; Supervised demolition and the making of hand grenades. This was by order

- of General Sharpe and Col. Cook, CM Corps. Also, Capt. Martin, Administrator of Cebu Port, recommended the demolition work in Cebu.

- 6 Jan. 1942 - Arrived in Negros. Contacted Major Ford re: salvage job on S.S. Panay, which had been sunk in Maricalam Bay on 31 December 1941 by a Japanese air attack of six planes. Test dive on S.S. Panay was made on 11 January 1942. Proceeded back to Cebu, had meeting with Capt. Martin and General Sharpe; decided to salvage the ship; started salvage operation on 23 January 1942 and completed the job on 16 May 1942. The following is a near-accurate account of the main items salvaged from the S. S. Panay: 450,000 rounds of .30 calibre ammunition; over 2,000 gas masks; 2,600 (2.95) shells, with fuses; 5 (3 inch) cannon; 20 machine guns .30 Calibre; 10 cases of spare parts for automatic rifles and machine guns; rigging blocks; 95 kegs of nails, various sizes; over 1,000 pairs of army shoes; 20 cases of pack carriers; approximately 600 barracks bags; 600 jackets; 1,000 fatigue pants; 50 rolls of camouflaged cloth; 10 or 15 hospital beds; 1,000 Army bath towels; 4 cases of Army forks, spoons, and knives. The salvaged articles were turned over to Capt. Donald A. Amend, U. S. Army. Distribution of salvaged goods was as follows: 4 (3 inch) cannon were transported to Bacolod, where Richard I. Jones, Lt. Col. Inf., Sub-Depot Commander of USAFFE - Visayan-Mindanao Forces, Quartermaster Sub-Depot, Bacolod, Occidental Negros, was in charge. The remaining 3-inch cannon was sent to Iloilo. 40% of the other salvaged items were transported to Dausoguette, Capt. J. Macon, CM, in charge. The remaining 60% were sent to Iloilo, Col. McClellan, CM, in charge.
- 16 May 1942 - Mr. KERSON fell victim of malaria at Maricalam.
- 2 Aug 1942 - Called by Major Abcede, Geurrilla leader, at Maricalam, and given verbal orders to proceed to South Borneo, and check on the guerrilla activity there, and to secure arms reported to be in the hands of natives. It had been reported that Dutch long rifles, automatic rifles, machine guns, and British arms were in the hands of the South Borneo natives. KERSON set out in a pinnace of 30 tons, with 15 Filipinos and one other American, Mr. Garretson. They travelled via Cagayan Cillo, Tubtatsna Reefs, and Brooke's Point, Palawan, arriving at Brooke's Point on 14 October 1942. They contacted Mr. Edwards and Mr. Sutherland who lived about twelve kilometers west of Brooke's Point. KERSON was advised against proceeding to South Borneo inasmuch as no American forces had been reported there, and Japanese patrols were considered active in that region. Mr. KERSON was encouraged to remain in Southern Palawan and assist in the organizing of guerrilla forces. KERSON made his acquaintance with Dattu Jolkipli, hereditary leader and trusted Filipino of the Moros and Deputy Governor of Southern Palawan. KERSON remained in Palawan until he was evacuated.
- Aug 1944 - Evacuated by U. S. Forces to Australia.

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III. TACTICAL DATA ON ENEMY MILITARY FORCES.

Disposition and Strength of Organizations and Units:

According to the latest G-2 report received, 15 August 1944 from Pasquale de la Cruz, a trusted Filipino from Southern Palawan, the Japanese are concentrated at the following points in Palawan:

Belabac Island -- 250 or 300 Japanese.

Belabac City -- A garrison of 150 Japanese armed soldiers, located in ex-Philippine Constabulary barracks. An outpost, the lighthouse, is located 400 metres southeast of the barracks.

The lighthouse is in operation. The former lighthouse keeper, Mr. Nicholas (Filipino), is forced by the Japanese to assist in supplying the Japanese garrison and outpost, at Balabac, with food. No civilians are allowed in garrison area. The Japanese also have control of the Post Office and Radio Station at Balabac. The garrison is guarded by one anti-aircraft gun, one machine gun in front of barracks facing the bay, another machine gun a short distance to the south of the barracks near the foot of the mountain, and still another machine gun 200 metres west of the barracks.

The ex-PO barracks at Balabac is a complete unit with kitchen and living quarters.

The Japanese have three launches at their disposal at Balabac, two wooden launches and one made of concrete mixture.

Cape Melville -- 100 or 150 Japanese, reported to be refugees from Davao, have forced the natives to plant additional garden plots from which 50% of the produce is given back to the Japanese. The amount of arms and ammunition at this point is unknown. The lighthouse is in operation.

Candarasman Island -- Japanese outpost. 15 Japanese soldiers plus a few cosmopolitan soldiers; equipped with machine guns and rifles.

Puerto Princesa -- Latest G-2 report received (August 1944) reveals that 300 Japanese soldiers are stationed in the puerto Princesa area. Report considered reliable.

Type of Troops:

According to reports received from six Americans who escaped from the Prison at Puerto Princesa, August 1942, the Japanese at the place are Marine combat soldiers. Pasquale de la Cruz reported, in August 1944, that the soldiers in Balabac were Marines too.

Intelligence Methods:

The Japanese have secured information concerning guerrilla activities and the movements of Americans from Filipino citizens and Cosmopolitan soldiers. Furthermore, the Japanese have been known to infiltrate into villages of Southern Palawan by posing as Filipino civilians.

Lines of Communication and Transport:

It has been reported from reliable sources that the Japanese have radio stations at both Balabac and Puerto Princesa. The Japanese rely chiefly on water transport, using their own launches and ex-Filipino Government launches.

Indications of Enemy Intentions and Movements:

According to a G-2 report on 15 August 1944 from Pasquale de la Cruz, the Japanese intend to penetrate to the north from Balabac and to the south from Puerto Princesa this October-November in the search of food. The rice harvest begins in October. The rice bowls in Southern Palawan are located between Broke's Point and Palakan on the East Coast of Palawan, and from Campena to Alfonso XIII on the West Coast of Palawan.

Supply Arrangements and Installations:

Word received from Pasquale de la Cruz on 15 August 1944 revealed that the Japanese in Balabac were forcing the inhabitants of Balabac to plant add-

ational fields of food products to supply the Japanese garrison.

The Japanese maintain radio stations at Balabac and Puerto Princessa; the lighthouses at Balabac and Cape Melville are operated by the Japanese.

Enemy Tactics and Methods:

There have been only one clash with the Japanese in South Palawan since the outbreak of the war. The incident was covered in Mr. SUTHERLAND's report I.R. #170.

Enemy Materiel and Equipment:

According to reports from the six Americans who escaped from the prison at Puerto Princessa, the Japanese possess 18 or 20 trucks, American make, and brought from Bataan. The Japanese are in possession of several machine guns and trench mortars in the Puerto Princessa area. The number of anti-aircraft guns are unknown.

Captured Documents and Interrogation of POW:

It was reported by Capt. Harris, an American, that a bamboo tube was found in Balabac Bay in May 1943 which contained the following note: "All pilots travelling between Sarawak and Puerto Princessa watch for guerrillas at Balabac." This was interpreted as a definite leak of information regarding the activities and movements of Filipino Guerrilla soldiers.

Location of POW Camps:

The only Japanese Prisoner-of-War Camp in Palawan is located in Puerto Princessa. The facts surrounding this prison was covered in I.R. #170.

IV. SUMMARY OF NAVAL INFORMATION

Ship Movements:

It was not until 1944 that any Japanese ship movements were observed. From one to three ships per week were seen off Brooke's Point. Occasionally a small convoy of light freighter ships were spotted, most of which were headed in a northerly direction.

Shipping Routes:

Large freighters and battle ship class must use the Balabac Straits route while the smaller ships may use also the Northern Balabac Strait passage.

Harbor Defenses:

It has been reported that only machine guns guard the Balabac Harbor. There is no heavy equipment known at either Balabac or Puerto Princessa.

Ship Building and Repair Facilities:

Information received from Dattu Jolkipli, Deputy Governor of South Palawan, discloses that the Japanese are constructing wooden ships at Sandakan, North Borneo. Light repairs on launches are made at Puerto Princessa too.

Navigational Aids:

The Japanese have the lighthouses at Balabac and Cape Melville in operation at the present time. The lighthouse at Brooke's Point, however, is not functioning because the Japanese removed the motors in October 1942.

There are buoys planted in Balabac Bay to which seaplanes can anchor.

It is Mr. KERSON's opinion, from hearsay, that Balabac Bay is capable of floating ships up to 10,000 tons. He has no information regarding the depth or anchorage facilities at Puerto Princessa.

The Filipino radio operators sent from Australia have a weather reporting system with them at Buligay. There is no information regarding weather reporting systems the Japanese may have.

V. BASIC AIR INFORMATION.

According to KERSON, most of the Japanese air traffic is headed in the South, Southwest, and Southeast directions. In 1943 two-motored patrol planes were the principal Japanese plane seen passing over the Brooke's Point area. In 1944, however, four-motored planes, probably transports, escorted by six or eight two-motored planes, were also seen.

Since January 1944, there has been a two-motored patrol plane over Brooke's Point practically daily. The Japanese patrol plane flies over at approximately 1,000 feet height.

Brooke's Point has been bombed five times since March 1944. A few buildings have been demolished but no casualties have been reported.

VI. INFORMATION REGARDING GUERRILLA FORCES.

Organization, Equipment and Training:

KERSON reports the following as approximate figures:

Brooke's Point:

120 guerrilla soldiers.
21 Automatic rifles, .30 calibre
20 Lee-Enfield rifles
12 Springfield rifles
12 .45 calibre pistols
12 .38 calibre pistols
6 .32 calibre pistols
12 Shotguns
1 Browning automatic rifle
1 Tommy gun.

There is an estimated 60 rounds of ammunition per man. In August 1944 an additional 3,000 rounds of .30 calibre ammunition was delivered to Brooke's Point. One box of .45 calibre ammunition was delivered on the same date. It is estimated that the box of .45 calibre ammunition contained a thousand rounds.

Cape Bulluwan:

12 Guerrilla soldiers --outpost
Arms and ammunition unknown.

Oren Oren:

6 Guerrilla soldiers - outpost.
Arms and ammunition unknown.

Officers of the guerrilla forces in South Palawan as of August 1944:

Captain Hecario B. Mayor, Acting C.O., South Palawan, residence at Buligay. (See Personality Section for further details).
Lt. Alanis, C.O. of guerrilla forces at Brooke's Point.
Lt. Alegres, Executive Officer to Lt. Alanis.
Lt. F. B. Bequisao, Supply Officer, Brooke's Point.

According to KERSON, the guerrilla outfit in South Palawan is in a chaotic condition. He estimates that there is not over 50 soldiers in the Brooke's Point area ready for action at any one time. The other 70 are on pass. Several of the soldiers have families living in the immediate area of Brooke's Point. Thus, they spend most of their time from the post. KERSON has encouraged the planting of gardens by the garrison station at Brooke's Point, but the soldiers insist that it is below their dignity to plant in the fields. Therefore, the soldiers depend almost wholly on the civilians for their food.

There has been practically no training for the guerrilla forces in South Palawan. Capt. Mayor has little or no disciplinary control over his soldiers. It has been reported that he is not liked by the members of the Unit at Brooke's Point, and walks in fear of his life. (For further information regarding Capt. Mayor's standing with guerrillas, see Personality Section on Mr. Loudon.)

VII. GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION.

KERSON was interrogated in detail by the Allied Geographical Section.

VIII. POLITICAL AND SOCIAL INFORMATION.

Taxes:

In Southern Palawan there has been no compulsion in tax collection. Therefore, the average Filipino does not meet his tax obligation.

Medical treatment and Supplies.

In December 1942, KERSON states that he gathered all medical supplies from the ex-Philippine Constabulary dispensaries and public dispensaries in South Palawan, and allotted the most of it to the guerrilla units stationed in South Palawan. The original medical supply has since been exhausted. KERSON has secured a negligible amount of quinine from the Sandakan, North Borneo area through Moro messengers he has sent down there to barter with the Japanese. Philippine pre-invasion money is the medium of exchange used on these trips to North Borneo. The Japanese sold two-grain quinine tablets from twenty to thirty centavos per tablet.

See Mr. Sutherland's report I.R. #170, for further details regarding the political and social situation in South Palawan.

IX. ECONOMIC INFORMATION.

Agricultural Commodities:

Prices:

The Civil Activities Committee at Brooke's Point established the following prices on food commodities as of 17 April 1943:

Sugar centrifugal, wholesale by sack, P 21.00 per picul.
 Sugar centrifugal, retail P 0.40 per kilo
 Matches, P 0.10 per box; P 1.00 per package of 10 boxes
 Salt, P 0.50 per kilo.
 Tobacco, P 0.25 to P 0.50 per banay
 Palsy P3.00 per cavan of 25 gantas
 Rice P 0.35 per ganta
 Cattle P0.20 per kilo of hoof. (liveweight)
 Hogs P0.20 per kilo liveweight.
 Pork, P0.35 per kilo.
 Beef P0.30 per kilo, 1st class.

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Beef P0.25 per kilo, 2nd class.
 Fish P0.20 per kilo. Fresh.
 " P0.50 per kilo. Dried.
 Chickens P0.25 to P0.50 each according to size
 Eggs, chicken, P0.03 each
 " duck, P0.04 each
 Soap, Laundry, P.50 per kilo.

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There has been no appreciable change in prices since that date, KERSON stated.

Minerals and Metals:

It is reported that the Japanese are mining manganese on Coron Island. The extent of their mining activities is not known. KERSON states that he has heard that copper and manganese exist on Balabac Island. There is no mining on Balabac Island at the present time, according to G-2 reports received from Pasquale de la Cruz in August 1944.

Finance:

Currency: Script is the only medium of exchange used in South Palawan since the Japanese invasion of the Philippines. Neither Japanese invasion money nor Philippine emergency currency has been circulated in South Palawan. Pre-war legal tender was used to obtain atebrine, washing powder, and sugar from the Japanese in North Borneo.

X. PROPAGANDA AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE INFORMATION.

Allied:

Non-Radio Propaganda: Small booklets, signed by Laurel, President of the Philippines, were circulated in Brooke's Point in 1943, requesting the guerrillas to surrender to the Japanese. These booklets had little or no effect upon the morale of the guerrillas. It is not known from where these booklets came. KERSON believes that such information is infiltrated into South Palawan by Cosmopolitan Police.

KERSON talked to the people in the various barrios in South Palawan, bolstering their courage, while he was gathering pay for the soldiers. He spent a major part of his time gathering pay for the guerrillas from October 1942 till August 1944.

According to KERSON, Palawan needs a few American Army officers to straighten out the petty politics and lethargy which exists in the guerrilla forces in the Brooke's Point area. It is KERSON's opinion that the Filipinos need stern leadership, not by their own Filipino officers, but from white officers. Moreover, there is strong feeling by the civilians against the guerrilla organization at Brooke's Point. There have been several instances in which guerrilla members, at the point of a gun, have forced the civilians to supply them with food.

XII. PERSONALITIES.

DATTU JOLKIPLI -- 5'2", 120 lbs, 50 years, living at Tausan. Gives full cooperation. Friendly to Americans. (See Mr. Sutherland's report I.R. #170).

CAPTAIN STRATTON -- 5'4", 140 lbs, 62 years. Lived on Cagayan Sulu as trader and cattlemen. Engaged in lumber business in Palawan - 1935. Joined with Col. Suarez in Tawi-tawi. Last heard of in Tawi-tawi. He is a Spanish-American war veteran.

COL. SUAREZ -- In command Tawi-tawi Sector. Last heard of at Tawi-tawi.

- DR. COO -- Chinese. Slightly taller than KERSON. Heavy build. 40 years old. First reported in charge of Chinese guerrillas at Jesselton, North Borneo, and last heard of at Kuching in evacuation.
- MAJOR MANIQUE -- Filipino. 5'8", 160 lbs, 52 years. Formerly Battalion Commander all PC soldiers in Palawan. Promoted to present rank in charge of Palawan guerrilla forces, but relieved from duty and called to Panay. Reported in concentration camp at Caramay. Seen last in March 1943.
- LT. (CAPT.) OSBORNE -- Passed Palawan and Borneo, and reported captured by Japanese off Borneo. (See further information in I.R. #170, Sutherland.)
- DR. MENDOZA -- Filipino and foremost in all efforts in Palawan against Japanese. Was betrayed by his own relatives (Cosmopolitans) and taken by the Japanese to Manila. Was returned to Palawan and killed at Puerto Princessa early 1944.
- RAIMUNDO BUNCAG -- Filipino. 5'6", 146 lbs, 35 years. Belongs to Cagayaniello. At present Deputy Governor at Caramay under Gov. Abordo. Probably reliable. Last heard of at Caramay.
- GUADENCIO E. ABORDO -- Filipino. 5'6", 160 lbs. Attorney. Present Governor of Palawan under Commonwealth. Has been in evacuation since outbreak of war; has not visited his districts, has shown marked weakness as a leader, does not have the full confidence of the people.
- MODESTO RODRIGUEZ -- Filipino. 5'2", 135 lbs, 46-50 years. Reliable man. Was given appointment by KERSON as J.P. Last heard of at Tub-tub, Brooke's Point.
- S. C. MORENO -- Filipino. 5'9", 146 lbs, 50 years. Elected mayor of municipal District of Brooke's Point. When KERSON arrived found Moreno in evacuation, having abandoned his office. Has not shown signs of cooperation. Did not take steps to help escaped prisoners (Americans). Offered no police protection to the Chinese merchants when they were threatened. Last heard of at Tub-tub, Brooke's Point.
- JULIAN OCHABE -- Filipino soldier (Cpl). 5'4", 130 lbs, 36 years. From Balabac PC barracks. Joined KERSON October 1942. Reliable man. Trusted by the Balabac people and remained faithful on duty in Balabac patrol. Rated as trustworthy. August 1944, with guerrillas at Brooke's Point.
- PASCUAL DE LA CRUZ -- Filipino. 5'4", 130 lbs, 26 years. Resident of Tabud, South Palawan. Formerly trader between Borneo, Sulu and West Palawan. Speaks Malayan, Moro dialects, Tagalog and Palawan dialects. Is expert boatsman and has full knowledge of Palawan-Borneo waters and islands. Enlisted PC pre-war. Linked with KERSON October 1942 at Tabud. Travelled with KERSON as guide and interpreter. Trusted to handle local missions for army, and used as intelligence man in Balabac. Probably most active of all soldiers. Trustworthy.
- NAZURIO B. MAYOR -- Filipino. 5'5", 150 lbs, 46 years. Resident of Buguk in timber concession. Claims to be Capt. U. S. Army (Reserve). Linked with KERSON October 1942. Put in charge of patrols in South Palawan. Weak in leadership, and during March 1943 was disarmed by the Balabac soldiers (his own men). Has stated publicly that he cannot discipline his soldiers for fear of being shot by them.
- DELFIN MAGANUA -- Filipino. 5'4", 145 lbs, 24-25 years. Native of Cuyo. Regular PC soldier at outbreak of war. Linked with KERSON October 1942. Served with KERSON till rise of Tubbata, and continued active in patrols in enemy territory. Was taken prisoner December 1943

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- LT. (CPL) ALANIS -- Filipino. 5'4", 140 lbs, 30 years. Resident at Tagusao, Brooke's Point, and regular soldier PC. Joined KERSON October 1942. Promoted 3rd Lt. under Tumbaga, and an active and reliable man. Has been contact officer with Caramay, and now located at Brooke's Point.
- ISAAC MARIANO -- Filipino-Spaniard. Manager of lumber interests of Mr. T. B. Holmsen, lumberman and Norwegian consul in Manila. Strongly pro-Japanese. Organized band of about 300 men against Commonwealth Government at the outbreak of war. He escaped with Dr. Llopes to Borneo to cooperate with Japanese. Reported to have returned to West coast of Palawan, probably in Kras Bay district.
- SGT. ALEGRE -- Filipino. 5'3", 130 lbs, 48 years. Grey haired. Wears spectacles. Regular PC at Puerto Princesa and at outbreak of war was Sgt. Linked up with KERSON at Panacan early 1943 (February) and has been attached to guerrillas at Brooke's Point since June 1943. Promoted to 3d Lt. from Caramay. He has been Executive officer at Brooke's Point from June 1943 to the present. Not to be considered reliable, and has been a drag on the morale of the people of Brooke's Point. His relatives are permitted to enter enemy occupied areas and return to Brooke's Point without hindrance. Is believed by the people to be a source of leakage of information - especially about radio party.
- MOISES DE LA CRUZ -- Filipino. 5'5", 140 lbs, 46-48 years. Lives permanently at Tabud, South Palawan. Lumber-man and general merchant. Older brother of Pascual de la Cruz. Of great help to civilians and soldiers in the gathering of foodstuffs. Maintained the Cape Bulluyan in food without cost. Is a fully trustworthy man and anxious to be of service. Mr. KERSON advised radio men to establish station at Tabud with Moises de la Cruz. The location of Tabud is suitable for observation of east and west approaches at Balabac.
- LT. MARCEL SAN JUAN -- Filipino. Native of Cuyo. 5'6", 145 lbs, 38-40 years. Wears glasses and is very swarthy. Formerly supervising teacher at Puerto Princesa. Called to military service in the Battalion Q.M. Department and engaged recruiting work. Is under orders from Caramay. Was in Brooke's Point on special mission early 1944, and left for Caramay about May 1944. He inducted soldiers at Brooke's Point and gathered palay for shipment to Caramay. Considered reliable.
- FRANCISCO BARIJUAN -- Filipino of Moro extraction. From Albion Head, West Palawan. 5'3", 130 lbs, 26 years. Married to Mary Reid. Appointed S-2 by Caramay, and abusing his authority by robbing people. He confiscated boats, goods, food, etc., for his personal use - supposedly gathering it for guerrillas. Unreliable.
- PROTACIO FRANCISCO -- Filipino. 5'3", 145 lbs, 35 years. Lived at Balabac and was lumber foreman on concession at Buenavista, West Palawan. Ex-PC soldier, and at present Sgt. in charge of B.Q.M. work in South Palawan. Many reports of irregularities against him, and not very highly regarded by the people. Not to be considered reliable. Now in Brooke's Point territory.
- F. S. BAQUIAO -- Filipino. 5'11", (tall and well built) 170-180 lbs, 45 years. Native of Cagayancillo, and soldier in regular PC, Technical Sgt. Good all-round practicable man. Was on Coron at outbreak of war, and came to his family at Brooke's Point. There are many Cagayancillo men enlisted and Baquiao has leadership and is followed by most of the men. His record is cleaner than most others, and the white people look to him more than to any other in case of emergency. By the Americans he rates high, and is level-headed. Is now 3d Lt. and supply officer for guerrillas company at Brooke's Point.

B-E-C-R-E-T

IRMED RODRIGUEZ -- Filipino. 5'10", 165 lbs, 45 years. Former teacher at Brooke's Point and during the war years involved in many irregularities, -- illegally gathering food under the name of USAFFE. Given 3rd Lt. Commission by Caraway, and was E.Q.M. officer at Brooke's Point. At present in North Palawan.

CARLOS AMORES -- Filipino. 5'3", 140 lbs, 36-38 years. Formerly engaged by Luzon Stevedoring Company in the operation of manganese mining on Coron. Organized guerrillas on Coron and did some wonderful work against the enemy. Responsible for destruction of Manganese mine in Coron. More aggressive against the Japanese than any member of the regular Army. He helped stranded Americans in North Palawan. Was made Captain and is at present engaged in anti-Japanese activity. Has plans for clearing Japanese out of Puerto Princessa, but restrained by higher authorities. A very good leader, and trustworthy man. Is at present time in Caraway.

MARCARIO Y. ALBA. -- Chinese, naturalized Filipino. 5'2", 120 lbs, 46 years. Merchant and cattleman at Brooke's Point many years. At present located on his own ranch at Paratungen, Brooke's Point. Has shown an interest in all white people encountered, and extended help. Has been the victim of several irregularities at the hands of the guerrillas many of his cattle have been stolen and shot. Is very strongly anti-Japanese.

ANDRES BAUSTIA -- Filipino. 5'4", 150 lbs, 40 years. Formerly merchant on Luzon, and called for military service 1940. Commissioned as Lt. Philippine Army and made C.O. Brooke's Point. Disbanded his soldiers about May 1942 and 'commandeered' boat and outboard motor of M. Y. Alba, and after a few set-backs managed to leave Palawan and reach Luzon. Reported killed by Japanese in Manila when attempting to cash cheque covering his Philippine Army pay. No reliable confirmation of this.

SALIP BARAHIM -- Filipino. Moro of Cagayan Sulu. 5'5", 135 lbs, 45 years. For several years resident at Isumbo, and engaged with Tumbaga in many irregularities in the gathering of Palay for the guerrillas and selling it in Cagayan Sulu. When Tumbaga looted the store of Chinese Co Tan Soy, the store was "annexed" and delivered to Salip Barahim who held it as his personal property.

LORENZO BERMOSURA

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ -- Filipino. 5'2", 115 lbs, 30 years. Regular soldier Philippine Constabulary, and body guard and helper of Tumbaga. Associated with Tumbaga in the irregular collection of palay and money, and used his army connection to intimidate people he looted. Not to be trusted.

MR. DALENDEC -- Filipino. 5'5", 145 lbs, 40 years. Formerly teacher at Pilot School, Brooke's Point, and now guerrilla member. Is operative in Isumbo region, is very active and has a cleaner record than most of the soldiers. At present in Brooke's Point.

BEN ARROZ -- Filipino of Moro Extraction. 5'2", 130 lbs, 23 years. Born in Cagayan Sulu and schooled in Palawan. Is 4th year High School student and interested in photography. Was active in helping Americans early in the war, but became violently sick during 1943 resulting in mental unbalance. Is very erratic and not too dependable. Is married to Miss Elsie Howell under Mohammedan rule.

GO TAN SOY -- Chinese. 5'4", 50 yrs. Merchant at Puerto Princessa before the war, and evacuated to South Palawan during early months of war. Lived some time at Panacan and suffered many abuses at the hands of Tumbaga and group. Is now in the Aborlan area. A trustworthy man.

E. R. ANSAY -- Filipino. 5'4", 130 lbs, 30 years. Former PC soldier in Palabac. Great liar. Claims to have shot more Japanese than any soldier.

Confiscated coats, goods, etc., from refugees from the Mangesee Island. Unreliable.

SALAHUDIN AMI -- Filipino (Moro). 5'5", 130 lbs, 30 years. Resident of Balabac. Entered Borneo to obtain machine for Mr. KERSON 1943. Helped Americans with guidance and transportation.

VICTERINO (VISTORIANO?) MISAJON -- Filipino, 5'4", 130 lbs, 40 years. Formerly Postmaster at Balabac. Received orders from Bureau of Posts to evacuate all equipment of Post Office radio and U. S. Navy weather station, but did not obey. The Japanese took all equipment nearly a year after outbreak of war. (December 1942). He became a guerrilla, but went over to the Japanese at the occupation of Balabac. Fully cooperates with the enemy. Last heard of as postmaster under the Japanese at Balabac.

MATIAS VICENTE -- Filipino. 5'7", 140 lbs, 47 years. Mayor of Municipality of Balabac. In full cooperation with KERSON and all efforts against Japanese, but when in evacuation after the Japanese occupation he was caught and forced to work for the enemy.

CLODUALDO WASANGKEY -- Filipino. 5'8", 145 lbs, 50 years. A former mayor of Balabac and at present resident there. Has cooperated with all our efforts and helped all Americans. He is Mayor now under the Japanese, but sends out information about enemy movements and locations. Advised radio party under Corpus to leave Ramos Island because of the presence of the Japanese at Balabac.

RUFINO SANSON -- Filipino. 5'5", 130 lbs, 30 years. Merchant and Lumberman and prominent man in Balabac affairs. Has cooperated with Mr. KERSON, and helps to send out information by Pascual de la Cruz. Provided transportation and help for Corpus and party. Trustworthy.

CAPT. BRAULIO F. VILLASIS -- 5'7", 145 lbs, 45 years. Filipino. Regular officer Philippine Constabulary. Commanded Balabac detachment as Lieutenant, and later as Captain. Early 1942 he distended his soldiers without any support, and hid the Constabulary launch in the Iwahig River where it rotted. Lived for a short time in hiding on South West Coast of Palawan (Tabud) and was so thoroughly frightened when the Japanese machine-gunned Puerto Princesa (more than 100 miles away) that he wept like a child. Joined with Lt. Paulista in effort to leave Palawan. Arrived safely on Pansy (his home is in Capis on Pansy), and left no indication with the authorities in South Palawan where three cases of rifle ammunition in his charge could be found. Last heard of in Pansy as Lt. Col. Villasias.

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ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
IV PHILIPPINE CORPS

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER GUERRILL FORCES
SOUTH PALAWAN

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The bearer _____ is a U S ARMY
Patrol instructed to carry out the following orders of the Military
Command:

1. Protect life and property of loyal civilian population of Palawan.
2. All civilians are requested to report to the U S Army Patrol, or to the Military Headquarters full details of all crimes or irregularities committed in the barrios or neighborhood.
3. Persons engaging in 5th column activities will be captured or shot. Suppression of information regarding 5th column work will subject the person withholding such information to suspicion of being themselves fifth columnists.
4. Civilian population not co-operating with the military will be investigated, and if found guilty, will be punished.
5. Robbers, bandits, and murderers will be taken prisoner. If they resist arrest they may be shot.
6. Fire-arms must be registered with U S Army Headquarters and a certificate of registration obtained. Arms not needed for personal protection will be surrendered and a receipt therefor taken.
7. No person will be allowed to possess a fire-arm who is not willing to co-operate, and who is not willing to sign the oath of allegiance.
8. All sampits, vintas, barotos, launches, or other means of transportation coming from outside of the Philippine Islands are prohibited from buying or bartering for palay or other food products. They shall not loiter in Palawan waters. Failure to comply will be cause for confiscation of all property.
9. All licenses for transportation issued by the enemy will be confiscated.
10. It is strictly prohibited for any person to use the name of USAFFE to make collection of palay, cash, food supplies, or any other object, without proper written authority from the Commander.
11. It is prohibited to kill or slaughter any cattle or hogs, or any other animal for food, without written authority. Persons apprehended in breaking this rule will be summarily dealt with.
12. Each soldier or each volunteer guard will be held accountable to his commander for each cartridge of ammunition issued to him.
13. False rumors, especially those which favor the enemy, should be investigated immediately to ascertain whether or not they be activities of fifth columnists.
14. Each person must swear to the oath of allegiance before he may be a soldier or volunteer guard.

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15. No fire-arms shall be issued to any civilian who has not been recommended by the Committee of Volunteer Guards.

16. Each member of volunteer guard by virtue of his position is a part of the Intelligence Service of the Military Headquarters and is required to report any irregularities or anything suspicious which may come to his attention.

17. All soldiers are expected to do their duty at all times. Any soldier refusing to obey order or refusing to face the enemy during action will be subject to Court-Martial, or punishment according to the Articles of War.

18. Every soldier shall keep his fire-arm strictly in his possession. He shall not loan it to any person whatsoever except in exceptional circumstances during action. Soldiers who loan their arms to unauthorized persons will be disarmed.

19. Soldiers assigned to guard duty may not leave their posts until properly relieved.

The following is a copy of the announcement of His Excellency the President of the United States of America. It is appended here for your information:

1. All soldiers not surrendered should fight against enemy invasion, and protect civilian, Government, and USAFFE property.
2. Soldiers must report for duty to nearest U.S. Army command.
3. Only soldiers who report and who render efficient service can expect to be recommended for back pay.

/s/ V. Kerson

V. KERSON
COMMANDER GUERRILLA FORCES
SOUTH PALAWAN

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2nd Lt., Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E. O. V. NELSEN
E. O. V. NELSEN,
Captain, Inf

DECLASSIFIED
Authority *ND 883078*

EXHIBIT "44"

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Brooke Island, Palawan
January 27, 1943.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

We the undersigned, Philippine Constabulary soldiers stationed at Balabac, hereby certify that Mr. V. T. Kerson at his leadership had organized us to a guerilla band to fight our enemy and protect the people and the government in south Palawan. He has furnished us food and transportation on our patrol duties; raised funds and pay for the support of us soldiers thru voluntary contributions among the people here. He goes out on all our patrol duties from Brooke's Point to Balabac on the East Coast and Punta Baja to Balabac on the west coast of Palawan. We had stop robberies murderers and persecuted 5th column activities.

We signed this testimony as a sign of our gratefulness of his services rendered to our government and people.

/s/ Julian Ochabe
Pfc. JULIAN OCHABE

/s/ Pedro Rodriguez
Pvt. PEDRO RODRIGUEZ

/s/ Celestino Bersabal
Pvt. CELESTINO BERSABAL

/s/ Frut Katon
Pvt. FRUT KATON

/s/ Pascual De La Cruz
Pvt., Pascual De La Cruz

/s/ Delfin Maghanus
Pvt. DELFIN MAGHANUA

/s/ Dionisio Del Mundo
Pvt. DIONISIO DEL MUNDO

/s/ Rogasiano Katon
Pvt. ROGASIZNO KATON

/s/ Nazario B. Mayor
Capt. NAZARIO B. MAYOR (PAR)
Commander of the guerilla activities
Balabac District

/s/ Robert Morris Hodges
ROBERT HODGES First Class Seaman
(USN)

/s/ Aurelio Vicencio
Pvt. AURELIO VICENCIO
(M.D.)

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2nd Lt., Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E.O.V. Nelsen
E. O. V. NELSEN,
Captain, Inf

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Authority *MD 883078*

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Brooke's Point, Palawan
February 17, 1943

We, the undersigned Civilian Activities Committee of Brooke's Point, chosen in a public meeting of the people and organized to regulate the affairs and to promote public order hereby recommend to all loyal Filipinos Mr. V. Kerson Mr. V. Kerson is the leader who is responsible for the re-organization of the soldiers and civil guard in south Palawan.

/s/ T. H. Edwards
T. H. EDWARDS

/s/ Modeste Rodriguez
MODESTE RODRIGUEZ

Countersigned:

V. KERSON

(thumb print)

His thumb print

/s/ S. C. Moreno
S. C. MORENO

Civilian Activities Committee.

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2d Lt., Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:
E. O. V. Nelsen

E. O. V. NELSEN.
Capt. Inf.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AWD 883078

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EXHIBIT # 42 "

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USAFFE HEADQUARTERS,
PALAWAN
GUERRILLA FORCES

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AND 883078

TO: Col. FERRALTA, Com. Officer, 61st Division
Subject: List of Guerrillas stationed at Brooke's Point, Palawan

Name	Rank	Arms	Ammunitions
1. Tumbaga, Emilio	Staff Sgt.	Rifle	65 rounds
2. Baquiao, Felimon	Sgt.	"	65 rounds
3. Alanis, Eutiquio	Cpl.	"	65 rounds
4. Bunag, Felusio	Pfc.	"	65 rounds
5. Opate, Felipe	"	Shotgun	8 rounds
6. Paala, Roman	"	"	8 "
7. Abejo, Esequiel	Pvt.	Rifle	65 "
8. Arteche, Valentin	"	"	65 r "
9. Bacnotan, Sofronio	"	"	65 "
10. Bungalso, Fabio	"	Revolver	15 "
11. Cayabo, Eulogie	"	Rifle	65 "
12. Dangan, Hilarion	"	Pistol	6 "
13. Eaton, Rogaciano	"	Shotgun	6 "
14. Laab, Benjamin	"	Rifle	65 "
15. Magbanua, Delfin	"	"	65 "
16. Reazol, Felipe	"	"	65 "
17. Rotero, Fortunato	"	"	65 "
18. Hermosura, Lorenzo	"	"	65 "
19. Buncag, Vicente	"	"	65 "

/s/ V. Kerson

V. KERSON
Commanding Guerrilla Activities
of the USAFFE, South Palawan

March 23, 1943

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2nd Lt., Inf.

SECRET

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

W. Nelson
E. O. V. NELSEN,
Capt. Inf.

EXHIBIT #41 "

DECLASSIFIED

Authority AWD 883078

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7TH HEADQUARTERS, BROOKS POINT
PALAWAN
GUERRILLA FORCES

March 23, 1943

TO : Col. FERRALTA, Com. Officer, 61st Division
Subject: Locations of Posts of Guerrilla Forces

- A. Hdqts. Guerrilla Forces in Macungwa
1. V. T. Kerson
 2. Capt. Garrison
 3. T. H. Edwards
 4. Alexander Sutherland
 5. Modesto Rodriguez
 6. S. C. Morens
- B. Tagasa o Detachment:
1. Sgt. Baquiao
 2. Cpl. Alanis
 3. Pfc Bacotan
 4. Pfc Bunag
 5. Pvt. Cayabe
 6. Pvt. Reasol
 7. Pvt. Buncag
- C. Central Detachment:
1. Staff Sgt. Tumbaga
 2. Pvt. Arteche
 3. Pvt. Bungalso
 4. Pvt. Laab
 5. Pvt. Abejo
 6. Pvt. Hermosura
- D. Tandiongobog Detachment:
1. Pfc. Paala
 2. Pvt. Dangan
 3. Pvt. Opate
 4. Pvt. Magbanua
 5. Pvt. Rotero
 6. Pvt. Katon, R.
 7. Pvt. Frute
- E. Bugsuk Detachment:
1. Julian Cahabe
 2. Pvt. Celestino Bersabal
 3. Pascual de la Cruz
 4. Pvt. Dionisio del Mundo
 5. " Pedro Rodriguez
 6. " Frute Katon
 7. Robert Hodges, 1st Class Seaman, U.S.N.

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8. George Davis, USN
9. Bruce Elliott, USN
10. Bob Kellan, USN

F. Panacan Detachment:

1. Sgt. Alegro
2. Lieut. Antoro Rodriguez, P.A., Res.
3. Capt. Tavesore, P.A., Res.
4. Sidney Wright, U.S.N.
5. Caredo Perez
6. Domingo Santoreno

/s/ V. Kerson

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Authority AND 883078

V. KERSON
Commanding Guerrilla Activities
of the USAFFE, South Palawan

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2nd Lt., Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E.O.V. Nelsen
E.O.V. NELSEN,
Captain, Inf

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DECLASSIFIED
Authority *AWD 883078*

SECRET
USAFEE HEADQUARTERS, BROOKE'S POINT
PALAWAN
GUERRILLA FORCES

TO: Col. PERALTA, Com. Officer, 61st Division
Subject: List of Guerrillas stationed at Bugauk, Palawan

Name	Rank	Arms	Ammunitions
1. Narciso Mayor	Capt. Res.	Pistol	60 rounds
2. Julian Ochabe	Pfc.	Rifle	65 rounds
3. Celestino Bersabal	Pvt.	Rifle	65 rounds
4. Pascual de la Cruz	Pvt.	Rifle	65 rounds
5. Dionisio del Mundo	Pvt.	Rifle	65 rounds
6. Pedro Rodriguez	Pvt.	Rifle	65 rounds
7. Frute Katon	Pvt.	Rifle	65 rounds
8. Ansay	Pfc.	Pistol	100 rounds
9. Aurelio Vaconsio	Pvt. MD	Pistol	60 rounds
10. Robert Hedges	1st Class Seaman U.S.N.	Rifle	65 rounds
11. George Davis	USN	Revolver	16 rounds
12. Bruce Elliot	USN	Shotgun	25 rounds
13			

/s/ V. Kerson

V. KERSON
Commanding Guerrilla Activities
of the USAFFE, South Palawan

March 23, 1943

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2d Lt., Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E. O. V. NELSEN
E. O. V. NELSEN,
Captain, Inf

SECRET

EXHIBIT # 39 #

SECRET

USAFIX HEADQUARTERS, BROOKE'S POINT
PALAWAN
GUERRILLA FORCES

TO : Col. PERALTA, Com. Officer, 61st Division
Subject: Report on my activities on my arrival at Brooke's Point.

Arrived at Brooke's Point on October 11, 1942, with Mr. Garrison, carrying with us message from the Leaders of Guerrilla Activities in Bacolod, Dumagueta and Cebu, to meet the American Forces in South Borneo.

Upon our arrival at Brooke's Point, we meet the soldiers of the P. C. and some Americans who escaped from the Concentration Camp at Puerto Princessa, and found that there was no government functioning, because the Municipal Mayor on June, when the Japs occupied Puerto, advised the people, that the Commonwealth Government no longer exist. Several prominent citizens complained to us of the disorder in the town and that stealing, looting and shooting of cows and cattle are abound. What I did was to call a meeting of the town people with the Mayor and the soldiers and there and then we started to enforce Martial Law to show the people that the military authorities should be followed for the protection of the lives and properties of the people.

Then, later, when peace and order has been established, I organized Civilian Activities Committee. I told the people in the same public meeting, that this Committee will run the Civil Government of the town, a copy of the rules and organization is attached hereto.

Then we organized the South Patrol, barrio by barrio to inform the people that Civil Government is in existence, backed up by the Military force.

The fact that the soldiers have got to be maintained, and that they do not have salary, I requested the people to contribute voluntarily either palay or any other foodstuffs for our soldiers. At the same time volunteers were organized for communication purposes and for the protection of lives and properties of the people. This has been carried from barrio to barrio, from Brooke's Point to Balabac.

When we reached Balabac, on November 20, 1942, we found that what happened at Brooke's Point happened also to Balabac, as all the people fled to the mountain. I gathered all the people together and made a public speech and set up active committee and established civil government the same as what I did in Brooke's Point. Volunteer guards were organized and asked the people to take good care of the radio station, three engines had been evacuated from the post office and part of the radio sets. The rest has been already taken by the Japs before I came.

From Balabac we went to the west coast and found the people (300 in number) already controlled by the fifth columnists, Dr. Llepis and Isaac Mariano. They had been telling the people there that the Americans are no good and the Japs are better.

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Authority: AMW/D 8830 Z8

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I ordered the people to surrender and to recognize the civil government.
I shot a couple of their leaders before peace and order has been established.

I returned to Brooke's Point, leaving a part of my force, 11 soldiers under the command of Captain Mayor, with orders to stop all palay bartering which was then rampant with the people from the occupied territories (Cagayanos and Bornearns), furnished by Japs with goods to barter with palay. This has been totally stopped.

Upon my arrival at Brooke's Point I learned that the Visayan guerrilla activities from Lieut. Cotron has already been united to one force, and has already been reported to America. So I started north to unite the southern Palawan unit with that of the northern unit. At Panacan, I found guerrillas with 17 men. I disbanded them as they do not follow the regulations of the martial law. The leader escaped to Sumbo. I proceeded to Sumbo to see that leader. The leader told me pointblank that he was too young for the job. What I did was to put as a mere soldier under my command. I organized intelligence units under Sgt. Alegre to work up in Iwahig so that he can stir up the colonos there and make them understand that the Filipinos should be united together and fight our common enemy, the Japs. After this, I proceeded to Caramay via Alfonso XIII to contact with the guerrillas and the P. C. force in the north.

The result of my mission was that we have been united into one solid force in Palawan, and came to an agreement to strike at the enemy any time under the command of Maj. Maniguae, P. C.

/s/ V. Kerson

V. KERSON
Commanding Guerrilla Activities
of the USAPFI, South Palawan

March 23, 1943

DISTRIBUTION:
Maj. Maniguae
Provincial Governor, Palawan
File

A TRUE COPY:

/s/

Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2nd Lt., Inf.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AND 883078

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E. O. V. NELSEN
E. O. V. NELSEN
Capt. Inf.,

SECRET

EXHIBIT "38"

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USAFPE HEADQUARTERS, BROOKE'S POINT
PALAWAN
GUERRILLA FORCES

March 23, 1943

TO : Col. PERALTA, Com. Officer, 61st Division
Subject: To Unite Guerrilla Forces Southern Palawan
Under Your Command

~~-S-T-A-T-E-M-E-N-T-~~

I, V. T. KERSON (signed), is willing to unite my forces of Southern Palawan with the forces under your command, and receive and obey all orders from your Headquarters.

Have been trying sometime to get contact with you, but until now was able to do so.

Have made this contact through one of your Intelligence Officers working in Palawan (Lt. Clew)

Will be waiting for further orders from your Headquarters.

You may send the orders for my Headquarters direct, or through your Intelligence Officer, Lt. Clew, now in Caramay.

/s/ V. Kerson
V. KERSON
Commanding Guerrilla Activities
of the USAFPE, South Palawan

Dist:
To Concerned
Lieut. Clew
File

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AWD 883078

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2nd Lt., Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E. O. V. Nelsen
E. O. V. NELSEN,
Capt. Inf.

SECRET

ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
IV PHILIPPINE CORPS
OFFICE OF THE BATTALION COMMANDER
PALAWAN

SECRET

March 24, 1943.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to authorize Mr. V. KERSON, Chief of the Guerilla Organization in southern Palawan to call for active duty all RESERVISTS, EX-CONSTABULARY soldiers and Ex-TRAINERS. They are to report to him at his headquarters for instructions.

/s/ Pedro Manigjue

PEDRO MANIGJUE
Major (Inf) USA
Battalion Commander

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2nd Lt., Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E.O.V. Nelsen
E.O.V. NELSEN,
Captain, Inf

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AMP 883078

SECRET

EXHIBIT "36"

SECRET

ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
IV PHILIPPINE CORPS
OFFICE OF THE BATTALION COMMANDER
PALAWAN

March 24, 1943.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to announce to the people and the public in general that Mr. V. JENSEN is personally known by the highest command of this province. He has made his appearance in person, that he is a friendly party. The Guerilla movement which he had already initiated in the south of this province is reported by him to this command.

I hereby demand from all civilians and soldiers alike to cooperate with him.

/s/ Pedro Manigque
PEDRO MANIQUE
Major (Inf) USA
Battalion Commander

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN,
2d Lt., Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E. O. V. Nelsen
E. O. V. NELSEN,
Captain, Inf

DECLASSIFIED

Authority AWD 883078

SECRET

EXHIBIT "35"

SECRET

COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF PALAWAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

March 24, 1943

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:-

Mr. V. T. Kerson, Chief of the Guerrillas in Southern Palawan, is hereby authorized to enlist such number of men whether a trainee, ex-soldiers, or reservists, for his organization decidedly fighting for our cause. Every assistance must therefore be extended to him as our victory would mean the triumph of freedom and justice in this part of the world, and credit must therefore go to Palawan. Our march therefore is for freedom, and for freedom we fight until we achieve our goal, namely, justice and equality for all.

/s/ Gaudencio E. Abordo

GAUDENCIO E. ABORDO
Governor of Palawan

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2d Lt., Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E. O. V. Nelsen
E. O. V. NELSEN,
Captain, Inf

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AND 883078

SECRET

EXHIBIT # 34 #

SECRET
ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BY-PHILIPPINE FORCES
OFFICE OF THE BATTALION COMMANDER
PALAWAN

March 30, 1943

Subject: Coordination of Work

To : Mr. V. Kerson

1. In order to establish full and complete cooperation among all the leaders and unit commanders of the Guerilla forces in this province, it is hereby enjoined that in dealing with the civil authorities in matters regarding finances, food supplies and other things which are needed for the use of the Army, that this headquarters be first advised and consulted to so that these matters will be referred to the respective officers or officials for proper action.

/s/ Pedro Manigque

PEDRO MANIQUE
Major (Inf) AUSA
Battalion Commander

sr/

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2nd Lt. Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E.O.V. Nelsen
E.O.V. NELSEN,
Captain, Inf

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AWD 883078

SECRET

SECRET

April 17, 1943

At a meeting of the Civil Activities Committee held this day the following were accorded:

That since communication has been established with the Former regularly established Provincial Government of Palawan, which is functioning as usual, and the orders received from the Governor and Treasurer; and the authorization of issuing of P10,000.00 in scrip money for the Municipal District of Brooke's Point, this CIVIL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE which was chosen by the citizens of Brooke's Point assembled in the Municipal Building in the Month of November, 1942, to bring order in our community and arrange for the co-operation with the military forces, shall turn over the authority given it to the regularly elected and appointed officials of Brooke's Point, and at the request of the Governor of the Province act only as an Advisory Council to the Civil and Military authorities combined.

That the Military Commander has notified us that the soldiers will gather and live at the barracks in the center of Brooke's Point, and will need subsistence in the form of scrip money and palay, and therefore we have agreed to do everything possible to furnish these things.

That with the help and co-operation of the Treasurer, who is present in this meeting, that the scrip money will be issued without delay.

That because of the failure of the Municipal District Council to convene, and the obstacles as illness, etc., to convene without delay, the Committee appointed Mr. Paulino Apostol as the third member to sign the scrip money with the Mayor and the Treasurer under authority of Provincial Board of Palawan.

That the Treasurer have a clerk in his office.

That the Municipal District Mayor be given free hand to get the necessary things done, secure and maintain peace and order, and to co-operate with the Military to this end.

That the Panglinas and all citizens be informed that they shall not trade with people from outside of Palawan who do not have a Permit for trading from the Military. The Civil Guards in all places are to be held responsible to report all traders, cuspits, and other means of transportation who comes to our shores gathering palay for export.

That fishtrap owners shall accept the vales of the Mess-Sgt of the soldiers, Cpl. Alanis, and that these vales are to be paid every fifteen (15) days.

The Military Commander, South Palawan, informs us that the Act'g Commander of soldiers at Brooke's Point is Sgt. Baquiao; the Mess-Sgt is Cpl Alanis; and the Ass't Mess-Sgt is Pvt. Pa-ala;

-1-

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AWD 883078

SECRET

SECRET

(2) Civil A. Com. 4/17/1943 Mac.

That the following prices of foodstuffs are hereby established:

- Sugar, centrifugal wholesale by sack, P21.00 per picul
- Sugar centrifugal, retail P0.40 per kilo
- Matches, P0.10 per box; P1.00 per package of 10 boxes.
- Salt, P0.50 per ganta
- Coffee, green, P1.50 per kilo.
- Tobacco, P0.25 to P0.50 per banay
- Palay, P3.00 per cavan of 25 gantas
- Rice, P0.35 per ganta.
- Cattle; P0.20 per kilo of hoof. (liveweight).
- Hogs, P0.20 per kilo liveweight.
- Pork, P0.35 per kilo.
- Beef, P0.30 per kilo, 1st class.
- " P0.25 per kilo, 2nd class.
- Fish, P0.20 per kilo fresh.
- " , dried, P0.50 per kilo.
- Chickens, P0.25 to P0.50 each according to size.
- Eggs, chicken, P0.03 each.
- " duck, P0.04 each.
- Soap, laundry, P0.50 per kilo.

That we agree with the Military Authority in establishing a G-4 Court to which all complaints shall be made. This Court shall be composed of two civilians and two military men, and the fifth member shall be the Commander of the soldiers (Military Commander). The Civil A. Committee hereby chooses and appoints Mr. M. Rodriguez as one member, and Dattu M. Jolkipali, as the second member.

The Mayor shall dispose of all trivial cases; where the parties cannot agree; and/or where the complaint is more serious the case will be immediately turned over to the G-4 Court.

The Military Commander has offered to give all necessary assistance to the Mayor in carrying out the plans and orders above stated.

Meeting adjourned.

/s/ T. H. Edwards
T. H. EDWARDS, Chairman

/s/ Modesto Rodriguez, Member
MODESTO RODRIGUEZ

/s/ S. C. Moreno
S. C. MORENO, Member.

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2nd Lt., Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E. C. V. NELSEN
E. C. V. NELSEN,
Capt. Inf.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AJP 883078

EXHIBIT # 32*

SECRET

COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT GOVERNMENT OF BROOKE'S POINT
PALAWAN, P. I.
Office of the Treasurer

SECRET

April 17, 1943

The Acting Commander, P. I.
Brooke's Point, Palawan

S i r:

In connection with the payment of salaries of soldiers (part salary), please come over at my office at Piaoyao and bring with you the following:

1. Blank payroll for soldiers
2. Names of all the soldiers

If you have the records of the last payment made to the soldiers, please bring with you. If you have the copy of the last payroll, please bring with you. Any old payroll will do.

Very respectfully,

/s/ E. A. Villapa

E. A. VILLAPA
Municipal District Treasurer

Actg. Commander, Sgt. Baquiao

In order to facilitate the work of the treasurer in paying the soldiers please comply with the above request: You should go to see the treasurer at his office on Monday, April 19, 1943, prepare to help the payroll. Mr. Rodriguez says that the records of the P. C. are in his house at his evacuation where you can examine and find what you need.

Sgd

V. KENSCH
Commanding Guerilla Forces
South Palawan

A TRUE COPY: /s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2nd Lt. Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E. O. V. NELSEN
E. O. V. NELSEN,
Captain, Inf

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: MOJ 883678

COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE
BUREAU OF LANDS
MANILA

P.O. Box 617

SECRET

Balabac, Palawan
April 25, 1943

INVENTORY OF MEDICINES
Balabac, Palawan

250 cc Alcohol Denatured
250 cc Quinine Mixture
300 cc Tincture Iodine
250 cc Tincture Arnica
Aromatic Spt. Amsonia 250 cc
Hydrogen Peroxide 250 cc
150 cc Fluidextract of Ergot
100 cc Argyrol sol
500 cc Lysol
500 Gms Sodium Bicarbonate Powder
100 tabs Sodium Bicarbonate
15 tabs " "
500 tabs Soda Mint tablets
150 tabs Mentholated throat
100 tabs Ammonium Chloride tablets
200 gms Sodium Bromide Pwd.
200 tabs Diarrhoea Dysentery
100 Gms Sodium Bicarbonate Pwd.
100 Oills Cathartic Pills
200 tabs Urotopin
200 Colomel & Santonine
25 tabs Soda Mint
1/2 Kilo Magnesium Sulphate
100 gms Yodoform Pwd.
B. E I Comp. Pwd.
10 Amps. Neosalvarsan & water
6 Amps Adrenalin
14 Amps Comporate Oil
1/2 Kilo Colomel Oint.
1 Amps. Glucose Serum
1/2 Kilo Potassium Permanganate Pwd.
1 tin Zinc Oxide Ointment.
2 Kilos Sulphur Ointment
2 Kilos Mercurial Oint.
1 tin Ichthyl Ointment
1 roll Cotton
1 roll Bandage.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AWD 883078

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2d Lt., Inf.

Certified correct this day of April 25, 1943

/s/ V. T. K.
V. T. NELSON

USAFFE Commander South P.I. Garrillia
CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

VTK/apv.

SECRET
FORM 101-100

W. Nelson
E.O.V. NELSEN,
Captain, Inf

ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
IN PHILIPPINE GROUP
OFFICE OF THE BATTALION COMMANDER
PALAW

26 April 43.

SECRET

MEMORANDUM for -
Mr. V. T. Kerson
Brooke's Point, Palawan

1. Be informed that the bearer Mr. R. BUNCAG is being authorized by this Headquarters to make the trip in that Sector for the purpose of buying palay for the maintenance of our soldiers at this end. You are requested to lend him all possible assistance to accomplish his mission.
2. In this connection, this office would like to remind you of the promises you made in sending us 300 cavares of palay for the post here. If in case you have the palay in your possession, you are requested to turn them over to the bearer. Likewise, you may send through the same bearer the ammunitions for our rifles and shotguns which you also promised to supply us here.
3. This office would more than glad to hear from you and the soldiers kept up in trim all the time ready to stand and fight for our common cause - to drive away from our shores the remaining Japanese Forces that in the end the cause of justice and democracy shall forever reign in this world.
4. It is also desired that you submit to this office the past activities of the Guerilla Unit in that Sector, for transmittal to GHQ.
5. I have designated Staff.-Sgt. EMILIO TUMBAGA to be the Commanding Officer in that Sector and promoted (temporary) him to the rank of Third Lieutenant pending approval of GHQ. It is hoped that your hearty and loyal cooperation to the Army shall be extended to him to attain our only GOAL - VICTORY for the Allies.

/s/ Pedro Manique

PEDRO MANIQUE
Major (Inf) AUSA
Battalion Commander

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2nd Lt. Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E.O.V. NELSEN
E.O.V. NELSEN,
Captain, Inf

EXHIBIT # 29 "

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: NND 883078

SECRET
PROVINCE OF PALAWAN

Office of the Military Governor

May 8, 1943

Mr. V. Kerson
Commander Guerilla Forces, South Palawan
In the Field

Sir:

Answering your communication of the 14th ultimo, requesting among other things funds for the purchase of palay, permit me to advise that we are sending our representative to that Sector in the person of Mr. Raimundo Bundag to personally buy palay for the people of the North. Other items mentioned in your communication are being referred to the Battalion Commander for action as he has the final say on the matter.

Here is for the success of our cause in our fight to preserve democracy and civilization, and trusting that in your hands or in the hands of our forces the people's lives and properties are amply and duly protected.

Very respectfully,

/s/ Caudencio E. Abordo

CAUDENCIO E. ABORDO
Governor

A TRUE COPY

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2d Lt., Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E.O.V. Nelsen
E.O.V. NELSEN,
Captain, Inf

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: AFD 883078

11 May 43

SUBJECT: Mission of Lieut. George Davis, U.S.M.C.

TO : Commanding Officer, South Palawan:
(Mr. V. T. Kerson)

1. I am sending Lieut. George Davis, U.S.M.C., Infantry Adviser, Sulu on a military mission. He will explain to you the things necessary. Follow the plans in every detail possible.
2. As you will learn, this plan will benefit both of our organizations at present and in the future.
3. Your full co-operation and absolute secrecy is necessary in order that the organizations may function properly.
4. Remember our sole aim is to destroy or exterminate the enemy of the United States of America.

/s/ Alejandro Suarez

ALEJANDRO SUAREZ
Lieut.-Colonel Infantry (PC)
Commanding

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AWD 883078

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2nd Lt., Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E.O.V. Nelsen
E.O.V. NELSEN,
Captain, Inf

SECRET

SECRET

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT GUERRILLA FORCES SOUTH PALAWAN
BROOKE'S POINT, PALAWAN

May 15, 1943

This is to certify that we have received this date the following number of ammunitions set opposite our names:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 1. Felimon Banquiao, Sgt. Nos. rds. | 21 | /s/ Felimon Banquiao |
| 2. Eutiquio Alanis, Cpl. " " | 5 | /s/ Eutiquio Alanis |
| 3. Felipe Opaté Pfc " " | 35 | /s/ Felipe Opaté |
| 4. Roman Paala " " " | 45 | /s/ Roman Paala |
| 5. Valentin Arteche Pvts " " | 40 | /s/ Valentin Arteche |
| 6. Sofronio Bacnotan " " " | 22 | /s/ Sofronio Bacnotan |
| 7. Vicente Buncag " " " | 11 | /s/ Vicente Buncag |
| 8. Eulogio Cayabo " " " | 15 | /s/ Eulogio Cayabo |
| 9. Hilarion Dangan " " " | 45 | /s/ Hilarion Dangan |
| 10. Fruto Katon " " " | 56 | /s/ Fruto Katon |
| 11. Rogaciano Katon " " " | 15 | /s/ Rogaciano Katon |
| 12. Benjamin Laab " " " | 5 | /s/ Benjamin Laab |
| 13. Delfin Magbanua " " " | 16 | /s/ Delfin Magbanua |
| 14. Fortunato Rotero " " " | 15 | /s/ Fortunato Rotero |
| 15. Felipe Reasol " " " | 15 | /s/ Felipe Reasol |
| 16. Pelusio Bunag Pfc. " " " | 12 | /s/ Pelusio Bunag |
| 17. Sidney Wright | 21 | |

COPY FOR:

V. KEMSON
US Army

Comdr. Guerrilla Forces S. Palawan

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2d Lt., Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E.O.V. NELSEN
E.O.V. NELSEN,
Captain, Inf

SECRET

EXHIBIT "26"

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: AUCD 883078

SECRET

ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
SIXTH MILITARY DISTRICT
CP O SP BR

Brooks's Pt. 3 Jan. '44

To Whom It May Concern:

The bearer, Mr. V. T. Kerson, is temporarily attached on duty with the S-4 of this sector (Sector D). He has been delegated to recover some lost supplies or equipment that may be of use to our Army. He is authorized to get the generator from the PC launch "Lt. Barret" and the machine at Balabac belonging to the Bureau of Posts under the care of Mr. Misajon. He will be accompanied and assisted, in this job, by Mr. Marques.

/s/ Marcelo San Juan

MARCELO SAN JUAN
1ST LT. INF. AUSA, On Duty S-4

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2nd Lt., Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E. O. V. Nelsen
E. O. V. NELSEN,
Captain, Inf

DECLASSIFIED

Authority AWD 883078

SECRET

SECRET

Page 20 - 44

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Am sending the bearer, Mr. V. T. Kerson, to Bugsak and Tabod to fix and salvage the launches there. Please lend him all the assistance in this job. Whatever articles he will get from the keeper of these launches should be properly receipted. Give him prompt assistance so he'll not be delayed. He is doing all he can to put these launches in good order.

SAN JUAN
/s/ Marcel Taylor
1st Lt., Inf. AUSA 8-4

DECLASSIFIED
Authority *AWD 883078*

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2nd Lt., Inf.

E. O. V. NELSEN
CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E. O. V. NELSEN,
Captain, Inf

SECRET

EXHIBIT # 24#

SECRET

Tarusan, Palawan
February 23, 1944

MEMORANDUM OF LT. SAN JUAN TO ME DATED FEB. 14, 1944
V. T. KERSON

1. You proceed to Tarusan to see Datu Kipli about this PG Launch named Lieut. Barret, to salvage machine and Casco hide in some place in the river.

2. Start to salvage the engine on the 23rd just upon my arrival. Taking the engine part by part to store small part and important part of the engine in the house of the Datu. Crank Shaft and cylinder lifted up on the deck of the launch and covered it with galvanize-iron in order it will not be spoiled. I left it there because it was too heavy to take it in parts and not enough men to carry it to Datu's house.

I left on the launch other articles:

2 full tanks

2 small water tank and lubricating oil tank and one connection shaft and brass propeller, 1 steering gear, with steel cable. Casco of the launch left because not enough men to take it out for it is already badly licking, I left it in a small river in a safe place.

/s/ V. T. Kerson

V. T. KERSON

COPY FURNISHED:

1. Datu D. M. Jolkipli Narrasid
2. S-4 & CO (AUSA)

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AMD 883078

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2d Lt. Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E. O. V. NELSEN
E. O. V. NELSEN,
Captain, Inf

SECRET

SECRET

March 2, 1944
In the Field

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The bearer is Mr. T. V. Kerson is here going to save all engines of the Government launches (Lanza) within Southern Palawan and also going to buy foodstuff.

We know that Mr. Kerson is a good man ever since before he helped the people who were in trouble or in great needs and so this time I recommend that everyone of you should try your best to render helps to him and aid him in the performance of his duty as well as possible to repay his kindness, to us as I mentioned.

/s/ D. M. Jolkipli Narrazid

D. M. JOLKIPLI NARRAZID

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN,
2nd Lt., Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E. O. V. Nelsen
E. O. V. NELSEN,
Captain, Inf

DECLASSIFIED
Authority *AND 883078*

SECRET

EXHIBIT " 22 "

SECRET
ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
CENTRAL MILITARY DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER
CP O SECTOR "D"

25 March '44

MEMORANDUM for -
Lt. I. Rodriguez, (S-4) On Duty

1. You are informed that the C.O. of Sector "D" has given this date, authority to (civilian) Mr. V. T. Kerson to buy palay anywhere in the south or the west coast.
2. With such authority you are ordered to furnish him one Hundred Pesos cash for that purpose. Proper receipt to that amount will be signed by him with the guarantee of the C.O.
3. This procedure had been resorted due to the acute shortage of food for our Sector, and due to the slowness of our regular B.M.
4. Herewith is attached the authority given to Mr. V.T. Kerson.

/s/ Nazario B. Mayor
NAZARIO B. MAYOR
Capt. (Inf.) AUSA
Acting C.O.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AMUD 883078

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN,
2nd Lt., Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E.O. Nelson
E.O.V. NELSEN,
Captain, Inf

SECRET

EXHIBIT # 21 "

SECRET
SIXTH MILITARY DISTRICT
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER
CP O SECTOR "D"

25 March '44

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to announce to the Public in general that (civilian) Mr. V. T. Kerson, with three enlisted men, is hereby authorized to collect and buy palay for the subsistence of the Army. He should not be molested but instead he should be given help in his mission. He is also authorized to commandeer any transportation to facilitate his movement.

/s/ Mamario B. Mayor
MAMARIO B. MAYOR
Capt. (Inf.) AUSA
Acting C.O.

NBM/cas

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN,
2nd Lt., Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E.O.V. Nelsen
E.O.V. NELSEN,
Captain, Inf

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 883078

SECRET

SECRET

COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT GOVERNMENT OF BROOK'S POINT
FREE PALAWAN
Office of the Mayor

March 26, 1944

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The PUBLIC especially all the Panglimas and Teniente del Barrio in the different Barrios and sitios within the municipal district of Brook's Point including the western coast as far as Tabon, are requested by the undersigned to extend all the necessary help to (CIVILIAN) Mr. V. T. KERSON and three enlisted soldiers to collect and buy palay for the sustenance of the Army stationed in Brook's Point, Free Palawan.

/s/ S. C. MORENO
S. C. MORENO

scm/

Municipal District Mayor

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AJUD 883078

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
~~MURRAY J. ROSEN~~
2nd Lt., Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E. O. V. NELSEN
E. O. V. NELSEN,
Captain, Inf

EXHIBIT " 19 "

SECRET

SECRET

COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SOUTHERN PALAWAN

March 28, 1944

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The undersigned urgently requests all citizens of Brooke's Point, thro the Panglima's, Barrio Linets. and other community leaders to extend all possible help and assistance to Mr. V. T. Kerson and party in the collection or purchase of palay and other food supplies for the ARMY.

Any quantity of palay you may donate or sell to the ARMY thro Mr. Kerson will greatly help the members of the Army which nowadays is almost starving.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AMD 883678

/s/ D. M. Jolkipli Narrasid
D. M. JOLKIPLI NARRAZID
Deputy Governor
Southern Palawan

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN,
2nd Lt., Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E. O. V. Nelsen
E. O. V. NELSEN
Captain, Inf

SECRET

EXHIBIT # 18"

TRAVELING EXPENSE VOUCHER

The Commonwealth of the Philippines

SECRETV. Kerson (Name of Officer)
Brooke's Point, Palawan (Official station)

For Reimbursement for expenses incurred while travelling on official business from Brooke's Point to West Coast of Palawan, during the period from March 25, 1944, to May 4, 1944, inclusive.

* Starting point ** Destination

Nature of official business... To collect and purchase palay for the A.U.S.A.

Date	Character of Expense	Officer's Column		Auditor's Column	
		Receipt Number	Amount	All-owed	Sus-pended
March 28	Transportation	1	P 3.00	P.	P.
" 29	One-half cavan of palay	2	2.50		
" 30	Fish for viand	3	1.00		
April 1	One-half cavan of palay & fish	4	3.00		
" 1	Salt & oil	5	2.00		
" 15	One goat for viand	6	3.50		
" 17	One chicken for viand	7	.50		
" 20	Fish for viand	8	1.00		
" 21	Two chickens for viand	9	1.00		
" 22	Ten gantas of palay	10	2.00		
" 22	Ten gantas of palay	11	2.00		
" 23	Two chickens for viand	12	1.00		
" 23	One cavan of palay	13	5.00		
" 24	One and a half cavares of palay	14	7.50		
" 24	Fish for viand	15	.50		
May 1	Subsistence for two men & one ganta of rice	16	1.50		
" 4	Subsistence for two men	17	1.00		
TOTAL			P.38.00	P.	P.

I CERTIFY that the foregoing expenses (exclusive of per diems) were actually and necessarily incurred and PAID by me at the time, in the manner, and for the purposes stated; that the charges were just and reasonable; that the travel was officially necessary; that the per diems herein claimed are correctly set forth and are for the period of time during which I was absent from my permanent station on official business and during which no subsistence was directly or indirectly furnished me by the Government; and that the total amount of the said per diems does not exceed the amount actually paid by me for subsistence and lodging during the said period. My salary is P 1.00 per annum.

/s/ V. T. Kerson (Signature of creditor)
T. V. KERSON

Approved for payment in the amount of P _____, the above expenses having been incurred under my authority in the interests of the public service, and the charges being just and reasonable, as I verily believe.

THE FOLLOWING RECEIPT SHOULD NOT BE SIGNED UNLESS PAYMENT HAS BEEN ACTUALLY

RECEIVED
 RECEIVED of _____ this _____ day of _____, 19 _____
 the sum of _____ pesos,
 Philippine currency, in full payment of above, which I hereby certify to be correct.
 Paid by check No. _____
 Date _____, 19 _____
 on _____
 In favor of _____

/s/ V. T. Kerson
(Signature of creditor)

SECRET

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E. O. V. NELSEN
Captain, Inf

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2nd Lt. Inf.

EXHIBIT # 17

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
Authority *AND 883078*

COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES
Office of the Deputy Governor
Southern Palawan

August 28, 1944

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to certify that the bearer Mr. V. T. Kerson (an American man) have stayed in Palawan since on the 14th day of October, 1942, of which that time he found that the Philippine Constabulary were scathered and there was no fex government in Southern Palawan that time. Since that time he was the one who called and assembled all the soldiers (P.C.) and that the government was function again. He spent his own money and plus the help of the people he was able to maintain his soldiers and formed the Guirella in Southern Palawan. He acts as the Commanding Officer of the Guirella and that the public like him very much the way he ran the government, until he was revoked by Major Manique last May 24, 1943, which end his prevelege in Palawan.

Hence, so far as this office is concern Mr. Kerson is a good man and has no case in this place.

/s/ D. M. Jolkipli Narraizid
D. M. JOLKIPLI NARRAZID
Deputy Governor

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN,
2nd Lt., Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:


E. O. V. NELSEN,
Capt. Inf.

EXHIBIT #15 #

SECRET

SECRET

Brooke's Point, Palawan,
August 30, 1944

To whom it may concern:

This is to certify that Mr. Vens T. Kerson arrived at Brooke's Point in October, 1942, with Mr. H.C. Garretson saying that they were on their way to the Headquarters of the United States Army in Australia. But as he could not obtain transportation he was delayed here. And seeing the conditions here - the absence of any kind of government; the irregularities committed by some of the civilians and by some of the disbanded and abandoned constabulary soldiers alike, he proceeded to organize a guerilla force in Southern Palawan, and he did the best that he knew how. Then he went to our headquarters in northern Palawan and was recognized as leader here. Later his authority was revoked by Major Manique in favor of a former Sergeant. Had Mr. Kerson not started his work here when he did near anarchy would have resulted very soon. But through his activities some degree of order was brought about and the good effects of his work continued to be in evidence. To my knowledge, there has never been any suggestion or action of Mr. Kerson which could be misconstrued as fifth column work; and the reason for his being accused as such is the result of the detrimental information which came into his hands as he went from place to place of the wrong-doings of the one who made the charges against him.

/s/ E. H. Edwards

T. H. EDWARDS

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN,
2nd Lt., Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E. O. V. Nelsen
E. O. V. NELSEN,
Captain, Inf

EXHIBIT " 14 "

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AWD 883078

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS
 BASE "K"
 OFFICE OF THE PORT COMMANDER
 A'O 72

EMG/jjb

10 December 1944

KPC (10 December 1944)

SUBJECT: Claim of Mr. Vens Taivo Kerson

TO : Headquarters, Base Section, USASOS, Office of the
 Staff Judge Advocate. ATT: Lt. M.J. ROSEN, Claims Officer

1. Referring to your letter of 29 November under subject heading.

2. I discussed the question of Kerson with Captain Martin who is at present at Base "K" and find the situation to be as follows:

3. According to Captain Martin, Kerson was working for the United States Army after war broke out at Cebu and was principally engaged in neutralizing sea mines which were located in the vicinity of Cebu. Sometime in March, Kerson was sent to the sight of the wreck of the "Panay" to attempt salvage some small arms, which were supposed to be sent from Corregidor to Cebu. Kerson was working on this salvage work when Cebu surrendered. In all, to the best of Captain Martin's recollection, Kerson was working for the Army in the Cebu area from January to April 1942.

4. Captain Martin has no knowledge of Kerson's activities after April 1942.

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority AWD 883078

E. M. GRIMM,
 Colonel, T.C.,
 Base Port Commander

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS
BASE "K"
OFFICE OF THE PORT COMMANDER
APO 72

SMG/jjb

10 December 1944

KPC (10 December 1944)

SUBJECT: Claim of Mr. Vens Taivo Kerson

TO : Headquarters, Base Section, USASOS, Office of the
Staff Judge Advocate. ATT: Lt. M.J. ROSEN, Claims Officer

1. Referring to your letter of 29 November under subject heading.
2. I discussed the question on Kerson with Captain Martin who is at present at Base "K" and find the situation to be as follows:
3. According to Captain Martin, Kerson was working for the United States Army after war broke out at Cebu and was principally engaged in neutralizing sea mines which were located in the vicinity of Cebu. Sometime in March, Kerson was sent to the vicinity of the wreck of the "Panay" to attempt salvage some small arms, which were supposed to be sent from Corregidor to Cebu. Kerson was working on this salvage work when Cebu surrendered. In all, to the best of Captain Martin's recollection, Kerson was working for the Army in the Cebu area from January to April 1942.
4. Captain Martin has no knowledge of Kerson's activities after April 1942.

E. M. GRIMA,
Colonel, T.C.,
Base Port Commander

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AND 883678

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
BASE "K"
OFFICE OF THE PORT COMMANDER
APO 72

DECLASSIFIED
Authority ADJUD 883078

EMG/jjb

10 December 1944

KPG (10 December 1944)

SUBJECT: Claim of Mr. Vens Taivo Kerson

TO : Headquarters, Base Section, USASOS, Office of the Staff
Judge Advocate. ATT: Lt. M.J. ROSEN, Claims Officer

1. Referring to your letter of 29 November under subject heading.
2. I discussed the question of Kerson with Captain Martin who is at present at Base "K" and find the situation to be as follows:
3. According to Captain Martin, Kerson was working for the United States Army after war broke out at Cebu and was principally engaged in neutralising sea mines which were located in the vicinity of Cebu. Some time in March, Kerson was sent to the sight of the wreck of the "Panay" to attempt salvage some small arms, which were supposed to be sent from Corregidor to Cebu. Kerson was working on this salvage work when Cebu surrendered. In all, to the best of Captain Martin's recollection, Kerson was working for the Army in the Cebu area from January to April 1942.
4. Captain Martin has no knowledge of Kerson's activities after April 1942.

/s/ E. M. Grimm

E. M. GRIMM,
Colonel, T.C.,
Base Port Commander.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

A TRUE COPY:
/s/

MURRAY J. ROSEN
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2nd Lt. Inf.

[Signature]
E. O. V. NELSEN,
Capt. Inf.

SECRET

EXHIBIT # 13 #

DECLASSIFIED
Authority *NWD 883078*

SECRET

PHILIPPINE SUB-SECTION, C-4
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
S S P A

AF0 500
7 December 1944

Lt. Murray J. Rosen,
Claims Officer,
Office of the Staff Judge Advocate,
Headquarters, Base Section, USASOS,
A.F.O. 923.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of 28 November 1944, re: Claim of Mr. Vens Talvo Kerson, the following information may be of assistance to you.

Mr. Kerson was hired by Captain C. J. Martin (whose title of Captain is derived from his being a merchant marine captain, rather than an Army Officer), for the Army, and not as an employee of Captain Martin or the Visayan Stevedore Transportation Company. There was a pay scale instituted by Col. J. D. Cook, commanding general of the Visayan Mindanao Forces, USAFFE, which set different rates of pay for different specialized types of civilian employees. What this rate was, neither Captain Martin nor I can remember. Mr. Kerson was originally employed to lay demolition charges in Cebu, and later volunteered to undertake deep-sea diving in connection with attempted salvage of Army cargo from the S.S. Panay. Whether this last work involved re-employment in a new capacity I do not know. Mr. Kerson was last known to be working for the Army on 10 April 1942, when the Japs invaded Cebu. What happened to his salvage efforts on the S.S. Panay beyond that date is not known.

Mr. Kerson was evacuated from Palawan Island, Philippine Islands, in September 1944, by submarine, under the circumstance of voluntarily leaving the island and desiring evacuation to Australia. He was not acting under any Army orders in doing so. The forces (guerrilla) on Palawan at the time were not recognized by GHQ, SWPA.

-1-

SECRET

SECRET

SECRET

I would hesitate at this time to make any statements or recommendations regarding claims such as this inasmuch as the records in Cebu regarding such claims are not yet available. Such action might constitute a precedent and encourage the submission of a great many other claims of like nature before sufficient evidence can make proper disposition of the cases concerned.

Respectfully yours,

DECLASSIFIED

Authority AWD 883078

/s/ T. W. J.

THOMAS W. JURIKA
Captain, Q.M.C.
Executive Officer

-2-

SECRET

A TRUE COPY:

Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2nd Lt. Inf.

SECRET

EXHIBIT " 11 "

SECRET

RECEIVING AND SECTION, G-4

HEADQUARTERS

SWPA

AFO 500

7 December 1944

Lt. Murray J. Rosen,
 Claims Officer,
 Office of the Staff Judge Advocate,
 Headquarters, Base Section, USASOS,
 A.P.O. 923.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of 28 November 1944, re: Claim of Mr. Vons Talvo Kerson, the following information may be of assistance to you.

Mr. Kerson was hired by Captain C. J. Martin (whose title of Captain is derived from his being a merchant marine captain, rather than an Army Officer), for the Army, and not as an employee of Captain Martin or the Visayan Stevedore Transportation Company. There was a pay scale instituted by Col. J. D. Cook, commanding the Cebu Advance Quartermaster Depot, and General Sharp, commanding general of the Visayan Mindanao Forces, USAFFP, which set different rates of pay for different specialized types of civilian employees. What this rate was, neither Captain Martin nor I can remember. Mr. Kerson was originally employed to lay demolition charges in Cebu, and later volunteered to undertake deep-sea diving in connection with attempted salvage of Army cargo from the S.S. Panay. Whether this last work involved re-employment in a new capacity I do not know. Mr. Kerson was last known to be working for the Army on 10 April 1942, when the Japs invaded Cebu. What happened to his salvage efforts on the S.S. Panay beyond that date is not known.

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-1-

SECRET

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority AFD 883078

SECRET

SECRET

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Respectfully yours,

/s/ T. W. J.

THOMAS W. JURIKA
Captain, Q.M.C.
Executive Officer

-2-

SECRET

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN
2nd Lt. Inf.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E. O. V. NELSEN
E. O. V. NELSEN,
Capt. Inf.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AMD 883078

SECRET

EXEMPT FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION

SECRET

Commonwealth of Australia,
State of Queensland,
City of Brisbane.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority *AWD 883078*

I, WILLIAM DE CARBONEL, Lieutenant (junior grade), USNR, Serial Number 86834, and presently attached to the United States Naval Fleet Mobile Hospital No. 9, A.P.O. 923, having been advised of my rights under the 24th Article of War, do hereby make the following statement voluntarily without threat or promise.

From 1936 until September, 1944, I resided in the Philippine Islands, and worked as a consultant engineer for various mining companies. During the period 1940 to 1941 I was in charge of the mining department of the Luzon Stevedoring Company. In this capacity, I lived in the Northern part of Palawan, Philippine Islands, and travelled between Northern Palawan and the Island of Busuanga.

While there I had frequent dealings with the Palawan Special Battalion, a guerilla organization affiliated with the 6th Military District. This Battalion was comprised of the guerilla forces in Palawan, Busuanga and Cuyo, and had been formed in October, 1943. Colonel Peralta of the 61st Division, and Commanding Officer of the 6th Military District, was in direct charge of this Battalion. Prior to October, 1943, there were several guerilla forces operating against the Japs in Palawan. In Southern Palawan there was a Captain Mendoza, and in Northern Palawan and Busuanga, a Carlos Amores, who held themselves out as being leaders of the guerillas. However, Major Pedro Manique in Northern Palawan contested the leadership of Amores and had his own force of guerillas operating under him. Major Manique and Amores tried to consolidate their forces but were unable to agree. Some time during 1942, Amores had gone on a trip to Southern Palawan and there he had met a Yens Taivo Kerson who held himself out to be Chief of the Guerilla Forces in Southern Palawan. Mr. Kerson wanted Amores to join forces with him, promising to supply him with arms and ammunition. Mr. Amores said he would think it over and returned to Northern Palawan. This conversation between Amores and Kerson was related to me by Amores. I had never seen Mr. Kerson or heard of him before this time. At my suggestion, Amores decided not to join forces with Kerson. It was because of this disorganized state of affairs in Palawan that the Palawan Special Battalion was organized. Colonel Peralta thought that the formation of this organization would assist materially in the consolidation of the guerilla forces.

From various rumors and reports received from soldiers who were travelling through Palawan, I heard from time to time during 1942 and 1943 that Kerson was engaged in guerilla activities in Southern Palawan, and was issuing orders wherein he signed himself as Chief of the Guerilla Forces in Southern Palawan.

In January, 1944 a meeting took place at the headquarters of the Palawan Special Battalion which was located at Ilian in North-Central Palawan. I was present at that meeting. At that meeting the activities and services performed by Mr. Kerson were discussed. It seems that Mr. Kerson had been issuing orders commandeering food and clothing, and had failed to turn these items over to the Commanding Officer of the Palawan Special Battalion. However, this seemed to be customary among the guerilla leaders, each one keeping the food and clothes he obtained for his own.

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soldiers. As far as I know, the Palawan Special Battalion never recognized Kerson as Chief of the Guerillas, not so much for lack of leadership but simply because they refused to recognize anyone but a Filipino as a leader of the guerilla forces. Sergeant Tumbaga, later a Third Lieutenant, was recognized by Headquarters as Chief of the forces in Southern Palawan after his appointment by Major Manique in 1943.

In addition, I learned from Major Pamblo Muyo, ^{Widel} who had been sent by Colonel Peralta of the 6th Military District to the Palawan Special Battalion in October, 1943, that Colonel Peralta himself did not recognize Kerson as Chief of the Guerilla Forces in Southern Palawan. His reason was that there was too much friction and dissension among the forces in Palawan, and as a result, no particular person was recognized as the leader although the activities of these men like Kerson and Tumbaga were known to Colonel Peralta.

I left the Island of Palawan in July, 1944 and returned to Panay where I remained until September, 1944 as Staff Secretary to Colonel Peralta.

In view of the fact that Colonel Peralta intended to send me to Australia, I was ordered by him to make a study of all reports submitted by guerilla forces of the 6th Military District so that I could inform USAFFE Headquarters of their activities upon my arrival in Australia. While making this study I never saw any specific report of guerilla activities submitted by Mr. Kerson.

I have no knowledge of any services rendered by Mr. Kerson on the Island of Cuyo ^{Cuyo} in connection with demolition work, nor do I know anything of his work in connection with the salvage of the S.S. "Panay". ^{Widel}

I arrived in Australia 12 October, 1944, and entered the 85th Station Hospital, A.P.O. 923, where I remained until 1 November, 1944. It was while at the 85th Station Hospital that I first met Mr. Kerson, and had several conversations with him. I left the 85th Station Hospital on 1 November, 1944 and was attached to the U.S. Naval Fleet Mobile Hospital where I have been ever since.

Widel Carbonel
WILLIAM DE CARBONEL.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this ^{7th} 4 day of December, 1944.

Murray J. Ross
MURRAY J. ROSS,
2nd Lt., J.A. Section,
Hq. Base Section,
U.S.A.S.O.S., A.P.O. 923.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority *AWD 883078*

SECRET

SECRET

I, CLAUDE E. FERTIG, Major, Army Serial Number O-266889, Corps of Engineers, Intelligence Officer, Allied Geographical Section, South West Pacific Area, A.P.O. 923, having been advised of my rights under the 24th Article of War, do hereby make the following statement voluntarily without threat or promise:

Since 3 June, 1944, I have been an Intelligence Officer with the Allied Geographical Section, South West Pacific Area, A.P.O. 923. From April, 1937 until April, 1944 I resided in the Philippine Islands. From 1937 until 1941 I was employed as a mining engineer by several mining firms in the Islands of Luzon and Masbate. At the outbreak of the war, 7 December, 1941, I was in the Island of Masbate, and was called to active duty by the United States Army.

After entering the service in December, 1941, I was sent to the Island of Panay on 4 February, 1942, where I remained until 20 March, 1944, first as an air field construction officer, and then on 1 June, 1942, I was designated as Chief Engineer for the 6th Military District which included the Island of Palawan.

In 1942, while on the Island of Panay, I learned that the S.S. "Panay", which had been sunk in Maricocolon Bay, off the Island of Negros, was being salvaged, and that Mr. Vens Taivo Kerson was employed there in some capacity, the exact nature of which I never discovered. I do know from own personal knowledge that a considerable amount of guns, ammunition and other combat materials were salvaged from the SS. "Panay", and were brought to the Quartermaster Depot at Panay. I never learned by whom Mr. Kerson had been employed nor who had paid him his salary.

I have no knowledge of any of Mr. Kerson's services in the guerilla forces in the Island of Palawan. I never heard any reports concerning his activities nor did I ever see any official orders pertaining to him. I know nothing of his work on the Island of Cebu.

As Chief Engineer for the 6th Military District I worked directly under Colonel Peralta who was the Commanding Officer of the 61st Division, and in charge of the 6th Military District. I left the Island of Panay on 20 March, 1944, and was evacuated to Australia, where I have been working for the Allied Geographical Section ever since.

Claude E. Fertig
CLAUDE E. FERTIG

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4th day of December, 1944.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AND 883078

Murray J. Rosen
MURRAY J. ROSEN,
2nd Lt., J.A. Section,
Hq., Base Section,
U.S.A.S.O.S., A.P.O. 923.

EXHIBIT 4

SECRET

Standard Form No. 1072 b
Form Approved by
Comptroller General, U.S.
September 8, 1931

PAY ROLL FOR PERSONAL SERVICES - INDUSTRIAL
(Employees on Per Hour, Day, Week, Month, or Piecework Basis)

Salvage Crew S.S. Panay
(Department or Establishment)

Visayan Forces Negros Island Sector USAFFE
(Bureau or Service)

Maricalon Occ Negros
(Location)

Period from May 1 to May 16, 1942

(Name and designation of disbursing officer)

MEMORANDUM

No.	Names and Official Designations and Occupations (State opposite name of each person to whom an allowance in kind is granted the class and reasonable value thereof)	Rate per Mo and day	Total Units Emp-loyed	Gross Amount Not subject to Retirement Deductions	Amount Earned Subject to Retirement Deductions	Amount Paid Pesos	Balance due unpaid	Net Amount Paid This in Dol-lars	Memo-ran-dum (Do not sign)	Remarks**
1	Kerson Chief Diver	\$225.00	16/31	232.26	None	78.20	154.06	39.10		May 1-16 incl

(Nos. 2 - 27 name other persons, together with data)

** Payments for overtime, Sundays, and holidays, and such other facts as may affect pay status to be clearly and fully explained. Hours and/or days of absence without pay of monthly employees (and of per annum employees when paid on this roll) or date of appointment or separation must be stated.

A TRUE COPY: /s/ Murray J. Rosen EXHIBIT 45
MURRAY J. ROSEN

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

E.O.V. NELSEN,
Captain Inf

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 883078

SECRET

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS BASE "K"
UNITED STATES ARMY SERVICES OF SUPPLY

KJA. 150

APO 72
21 February, 1945

SUBJECT: Claim of Vens Taivo Kerson.

TO : Claims Service, USAFFE, APO 923.

1. Vens Taivo Kerson came to the Claims Office this headquarters today. He stated that about four months ago, he called at the Claims Service in Brisbane and spoke to Lieutenant Rosen concerning salary due him from 1942 to 1944. He states that at that time he executed nine copies of a claim.
2. To date he has received no information concerning his claim.
3. His former address was: United States Engineer Service Command, APO 923. His present address is: Base K, USASOS, Port Command, Small Ships Section, APO 72. At present he is employed as a driver. His immediate superior is Captain Juda.
4. Request information as to whether a claim has been filed, and if so its status.

For the Commanding Officer:

Leonard C. Cabana
LEONARD C. CABANA
Captain, Q.M.C.
Acting Assistant Adjutant General.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AWD 883078



U.S. DIVING EQUIPMENT - (Maricalum)

Formerly owned by Mindanao - Visayan Forces,
U.S.A.F.F.E.

- 1 Small coil hose (Larena)
- 1 Small coil hose (Larena)
- 1 Winch handle
- 1 Small air pump (1 piston Kerson)
- 1 Vise
- 1 Tank Oxygen.
- 1 Tank Oxygen
- 1 Coil air hose. Iloilo.
- 2 Flywheels divers pump Navy.
- 1 Box tools - pipe cutters, wrenches etc.
- 3 Diving pump pistons
- 3 Diving pump pistons
- 1 Powerlight unit - (Electric)
- 1 Air gauge Navy type pump
- 1 Diving pump Hoa Hin
- 1 Diving pump San Carlos
- 2 Garage pump tanks
- 1 Diving pump Navy type
- 1 Air tank Bais pump
- 1 Box (welding rod gear 5 ton winch, 1 pr. bronze hinges.
(1 Vise
- 3 Long pinch bar
- 5 Diving helmets
- 1 Large double block
- 1 Double block (4")
- 3 Large treple blocks
- 1 Coil 3/8 Cable (Kerson)
- 1 Coil 5/8 Cable (Kerson) Hul
- 1 Gasoline can for powerlight
- 1 Diver pump crank shaft
- 6 Snatch blocks
- 1 Large double block
- 1 Small double block
- 1 Handle for small piston pump
- 1 Double block 6"
- 1 Large snatch block.
- 2 Flywheel San Carlos Diving Pump
- 3 Piston San Carlos Diving Pump
- 3 Piston Diving Pump
- 1 Crank shaft Diving pump
- 2 Control switch Garage pump
- 1 Winch Kerson with cable 5 ton.
- 1 Winch Bute with cable 3 ton.
- 1 Winch no cable 5 ton.
- 1 2 HP ^{CC}Fairbanks morse engine
- 1 2 HP Larena engine garage pump

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NOJ 883078

- 2 Winch handles.
- 1 Air compressor (Bais)
- 2 Large handles
- 2 Sets pump valve
- 1 Piece copper lead pipe
- 2 Pieces lead pipe (compressor to tank) garage pump
- 1 Box pull tools hammers, wrenches and fittings.
- 4 50 foot lengths hewit diving hose
- 1 Diving pump crank shaft
- 1 Coil mine hose, (Iloilo)
- 2 Cranks for diving pump Iloilo.
- 2 Coils red hex hose
- 2 Tanks acetyline
- 1 Differential block - 1 ton.
- 1 Double block 5"
- 1 Dingle block 5"
- 1 Coil 5/8 cable Kerson
- 2 cans motor fuel
- 1 Diving Pump (Iloilo)
- 1 Diving Pump (Hoa Hin)
- 2 Flywheels Divers Pump
- 2 Flywheels Divers Pump
- 2 Flywheels Divers Pump
- 2 Crank shaft Diving Pump
- 2 Pair handles for divers pump
- 1 Box welding nozzles, air gauges compress....
gauge for welding tank hose etc.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AWD 883078

/s/ Felotis Santisliban,
Point of Talusan.