

Lim, Vicente (GEN) 0-112201

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F-61
Gen Lim's GRLAS

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6231 Empire State Building
350 Fifth Avenue
New York 1, New York

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Authority NRQ 888023

March 17, 1947

Subject: Information on Brigadier General Vicente Lim (deceased)

To: The Adjutant General - Awards and Decorations Section
Headquarters, PHILRYCOM
APO 707, c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

1. Refer to your letter dated 4 February 1947, file GSXAD 201 - LIm, Vicente (C), which was received recently without the Service Questionnaire referred to in paragraph 3 thereof. Consequently, the information on Brigadier General Vicente Lim (deceased) is rendered hereunder without the mimeographed forms intended therefor.
2. While in concentration at Camp O'Donnell, Capas, Tarlac, where we were interned after the Death March, I was assigned to a Sub-Group of Filipino POW's directly under Colonel Mariano Castañeda, with General Lim in command of the entire Group. Although General Lim had attacks of malaria, he really was not as ill as he led the Japanese to believe, because he and Colonel Narciso L. Manzano, CE, PS, visited us (who were bed-ridden) very often, encouraged us and intimated to a select few, including myself, that the fight was not over. Mr. and Mrs. Antonio H. Escoda, as social welfare workers, were admitted inside the camp and often chatted with General Lim in his quarters and visited us, too, unaccompanied by any Japanese guard. General Lim was released on parole as a sick but walking patient on 1 July 1942, while we, who were still bed-ridden, were detained further by the Japanese. He told us he was going to recuperate in the house of Mr. Clemente Hidalgo (his brother-in-law) at Dominga St., Pasay.
3. I was paroled in the custody of my wife on 11 August 1942 as a sick POW. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Clemente Hidalgo congratulated me on my release and told me that General Lim had been speaking very highly of my performance in Ilocos and Bataan under Brig. Gen. William E. Brougher (my Division Commander and a friend of General Lim), especially during February to April 1942, when General Lim's 41st Division was on our right along the Pilar-Bagac Road. Mr. Hidalgo conveyed to me the great concern of General Lim over my health, which was failing when he left me at Capas, his impression that I was too valuable an officer to die just like that, and his eagerness to talk to me as soon as I was strong enough. I was invited to visit the Hidalgo's at any time, but I was not to mention to anyone that I was visiting General Lim or that the latter sent for me. By the time I was well enough to visit General Lim at Hidalgo's house, he had already transferred to the Cancer Institute of the Philippine General Hospital to evade being pressed into the service of the Japanese Government and to camouflage better his underground activities. According to Mr. Hidalgo, his

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house was under 24-hour surveillance by Jap agents, and it was being noticed that several ranking released POW's were visiting General Lim there. I was told that General Lim would indicate later on when I could see him at the hospital.

4. In November 1942, Major Isagani V. Campo (General Lim's trusted aide and staff officer of the 41st Division) told me that General Lim instructed him to approach me, invite me to join him in the underground, and see him at the hospital, as he completely relied on my loyalty and was deeply impressed with my performance in Bataan. I visited General Lim at the hospital shortly after Christmas of 1942, and found Colonel Tomas Domacal (Chief of Staff of the 41st Division), Lt. Col. Amado B. Magtoto, Major Campo, and several other officers of the 41st Division, including Major Alfredo M. Santos (who had a splendid record while fighting under the 1st Regular Division of General Segundo which was at our left in Bataan), presumably to greet him for the Season. General Lim was lying in bed, feigning illness, but he was very cautious in his remarks about the trend of the war, service in the Puppet Government and other allied subjects. I stayed behind for a few minutes after the others left. General Lim, in vague and cautious language, conveyed to me his plan to reorganize the 41st Division, incorporating into it elements of the Constabulary and the USAFFE who had outstanding records in Bataan. I managed to convey to him my gratitude for his trust and confidence, assured him of my complete faith in his leadership and the fact that I was already in contact with Ramsey's agents in Manila. He cut off our whispered conversation when he heard this and told me to let him know through Major Campo where I could be contacted from time to time.
5. On his birthday, 5 April 1943, General Lim received visits from the same group of officers of his confidence at the hospital. When I dropped in there late in the evening, Captain Casimiro Panajon was just going out with Lt. Col. Chiooco, Major Atienza and others. General Lim told me to read a book on the "War in the Pacific", mentioned that Truk is important and to be on the alert.
6. Upon the capture of Colonel Hugh L. Straughn by the Japanese in August 1943, General Lim endeavored to unify the loosely organized field elements of Straughn Guerrillas under his command, assuming the name of Ellsworth. Although under surveillance by the Japanese, General Lim was allowed to visit his relatives in the provinces or make such business trips around Manila.
7. On or about 7 November 1943, General Lim gathered several ranking officers at a picnic in the fishponds of Dampalit, Malabon, Rizal. As I was unable to attend it, Major Campo informed me shortly thereafter as to what transpired. Colonels Castañeda, Domacal, Duque, Fidel Cruz, Amado B. Magtoto, Major Alfredo M. Santos and several other selected officers were present at this conference when General Lim, after giving an estimate of the situation in the Pacific, broached his scheme to organize a fighting group, with

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elements of the 41st Division as the nucleus and augmented by loyal officers and men under arms in the service of the Puppet Constabulary Forces (led by Colonel Domaal), and guerrillas properly coordinated, strike upon the landing of the American Forces of Liberation, seize the Government, round up the collaborators, set up a provisional Government to be headed by General Manuel A. Roxas, and to furnish intelligence information in the meantime.

8. Through Major Campo, I indicated to General Lim that I was already working for Ramsey's Guerrillas, but would be willing to maintain liaison for him. Colonels Domaal, Castañeda, Magtoto and General de Jesus were already supplying me with information which I passed on to Major Ramsey, and I was attempting to coordinate all the activities of the various USAFFE officers eager to help the underground or organize their own units.
9. General Lim received Mr. and Mrs. Antonio H. Escoda frequently at the hospital. He also had contact with Senator Jose Ozamis, Colonels N. Manzano and Jose P. Guido, Generals Roxas and de Jesus, Marcos Agustin (Marking), and Fertig's Guerrillas. Mrs. Cabrera of Kamuning Street, Quezon City and presently a stenographer in the Supreme Court of Manila, hid several hundred rifles for General Lim which the Japanese discovered in her house and resulted in her detention in Fort Santiago. (I cannot recall her full name.)
10. In a very secretive manner, General Lim conducted intelligence work, gathered information through trusted officers and individuals, and continued formulating plans for a well-organized combat group integrated under a unified command. In January 1944, he made the first attempt to go to Mindoro, which failed. Again, on or about 2 June 1944, he left Manila secretly with Mr. Escoda, Captain Borromeo, Lts. Baltazar and Rillo and a few others, embarking in a sailboat from Batangas for Mindoro, where they expected to contact a submarine which brought the SWPA detachment under Commander George Rowe, USNR, at Sablayan Point. General Lim expected to reach SWPA Headquarters via submarine. Hearing Mindoro on June 5th, General Lim's party was intercepted by a Japanese Patrol who arrested and detained them at Calapan, Mindoro. They were transferred to Fort Santiago on or about June 10th. As per reports of one of our agents planted inside Fort Santiago, General Lim and party were tortured mercilessly. Mrs. Escoda was arrested in the latter part of August 1944. In the latter part of September 1944, General Lim and Mr. Escoda were both allowed to receive a visit from one member of their family and thence removed to Bilibid Prison for court-martial. Mr. Escoda and General Lim were executed in November and December 1944, respectively, and Mrs. Escoda early in January 1945, according to reliable information.

AMADO N. BAUTISTA
Colonel, CE, PA~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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AMADO N. BAUTISTA
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