

Level 39

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ZONIFICATION

ADM - 101

The 201 files of the following subject individuals who were alleged members of the 21st Inf, MMD, ECLGA, and who were reported as casualties as of 1 Dec 1944, have been withdraw from Records Branch for redetermination:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| a. ALCANTARA, Alfonso | e. MORALES, Agapito |
| b. CASTRO, Julian | f. RUBEN, Fermin |
| c. JAVIER, Nicasio | g. POBLETE, Faustino |
| d. MAGAT, Luis | |

It has been determined that these subject individuals became casualty through sonification and not because of valid guerrilla service. Further, that although their names appear on the recognized casualty roster, it has been determined that they did not perform valid guerrilla service.

The case of MATHEWS, Edgardo, "E" Co, 2d Bn, 21st Inf, MMD, ECLGA, was sent to Investigation Branch for field investigation to determine proof of valid guerrilla service and proof of death. Field Investigation revealed that subject individual was taken prisoner during the sonification on 1 Dec 44. Further, that the guerrilla unit of which subject individual was an alleged member was on a "stand by" status until the American liberating forces arrived in the Philippines.

Affiant Eugenio Castillo (who is unacceptable in this headquarters), in an affidavit dated 30 Jul 45, states that subject individual ^(Mathews) was killed in action by Japs on 1 Dec 44 for performing his duty of serious mission.

Subject individual's name appears on the recognized casualty roster of the 21st Inf, MMD, ECLGA, but it has been determined that the case is negative and that the subject individual did not perform any valid guerrilla service.

In view of the above findings, it has been determined that the above listed subject individuals are also negative for recognized guerrilla status. *even tho their names appear on Recog. Cas. Rost.*

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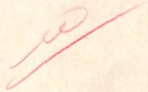
MEMO FOR RECORD

AGRD-DV 201

DATE

Before reviewing and adjudicating the claim of subject individual for veterans benefits, refer to Field Investigation pertaining to the case of MATHEWS, Edgardo del R., Claimant-Maria del Rosario with address at 1225 Madrid Ext., Tondo, Manila.

Field Investigation revealed that subject individual was taken prisoner during a zonification on 1 Dec 44 and that the guerrilla unit of which subject individual was alleged to have been a member was on a "Stand-By" status.



CERTIFICATE

I, ANGEL LIMJOCO, JR., 35 years old, married and residing at 6 R. Pascual, San Juan, Rizal, hereby declare that I understand my rights under the Constitution and Laws of the Philippines; that I also understand that my statements will be used to prove material facts in support of claims for veterans benefits from the United States Government, and that I make these statements voluntarily and freely;

That, on the early morning of 16 January 1945 I awakened to find our Municipality, Lian, Batangas, surrounded with Japanese Troops.

That, one man was being led around by the Japanese supposedly to identify those working against the interests of the Japanese. My father tried to leave the town. The next thing I knew, I saw my father being taken into the School Building by the Japanese Troops with fixed bayonets. This was about 7:00 A.M. I was in a house opposite the Plaza.

That, orders were sent around the town ordering all the menfolk to gather in the School Building. I assembled with the others because I knew my Father was already there and I was afraid he would be harmed if I did not surrender myself.

That, after all the people were gathered in the school yard, the Japanese took inside the building some hooded persons whose identity I could not determine, except one whom I knew previously without limit; this man was Severino Medrano.

That, the Chief of Police was taken captive. One or two hours elapsed during the roundup.

That, we were transferred from the School to the Church because American airplanes were flying overhead. While in the Church, a Japanese sentry would occasionally come and pick out persons and return them to the School Building probably for investigation. Most of us were kept in the Church until about 2:00 P.M. At 2:00 P.M., we were taken in groups to the School Building and one by one we were made to pass before a shuttered window through which there was a hole. Presumably someone was peeping through it. Some of the men picked out were taken up into the building and others were made to go home. At about 3:00 P.M., I was made to stand in front of the window, then I was taken up into the building where I was made to squat on the floor. After all the men in the Church had passed the window, those of us in the School Building were led again to the yard and made to pass again in front of the window. Some of my cousins were allowed to go after the second screening.

That, I was among those detained after the second screening. We were led up into the School Building again and made to squat in rows on the floor.

That, while we were in the big room of the School Building I noticed a hooded group of Filipinos in one corner of the room. We could hear meanings coming from the next room, which was the room that had the "finger man".

That, after a while a Japanese Soldier came in and picked out four of us from among those squatting in the floor. Guillermo Lejano, Gregorio Jansen, Francisco Lejano and I were led to the Domestic Science Building where we were asked questions and after each answer they would hit me with a club on the shoulders or across the chest, knees and shins. The Japanese wanted to know who were active in the Guerrillas and where we had hidden arms. I had a revolver but it had been hidden before I became a captive.

That, after about twenty minutes of cross examination and beating I was asked if I were ready to die. I said I was prepared for anything but there was nothing I could do as I did not know anything. My wrists were tied behind my back. The Japanese led me out of the Building ahead of the other three. Presumably, they were conducting the interrogation of the other three.

At first I thought I would be shot in front of the Building. Instead they took me to the house where I had been staying. There, they asked the members of my family several questions as to whether I had been active as a guerrilla and as to where I had hidden the fire arms. Of course, my folks denied all. In spite of these the Japanese looked in everything. Fortunately that was not the house where I had hidden the pistol. There was a shortwave receiving set which my mother had hurriedly hidden underneath a pile of corn and bananas under the house but when the Japanese got to the bananas they forgot to dig into the corn and did not find the set; failing to find anything, they told my mother that I would be released on return to the School Building and they asked for some food. My mother was so glad that she gave them all the canned food she had been hoarding since the start of the war. The Japanese in turn allowed me to be fed although my hands were tied. Afterwards I was taken to the School Building and I was again taken to the room where the others were. I was kept tied to a post. At about 6:00 o'clock that evening all the men in the room and also my three other companions from the Domestic Science Building who had been led back were made to form in single file. I was untied from the post and made to join the file. They took a long rope and tied us one to the other above the elbows. We were divided into two groups. The first group was led away. I followed in the second group. At the edge of the town the Japanese got another piece of long rope and doubled our bonds. We were taken out on the Northwest corner of town onto the Railroad tracks leading toward Barrio San Diego, a Barrio of Lian, Batangas. On the way I kept trying to flex my muscles so when I relaxed the rope would not be so tight. I kept trying to loosen the ropes. It was dark. I wanted to escape by jumping into the corn fields but no chance as we had many guards on each side. When we came to the "Latin" creek the Japanese had to insert themselves in the file because we had to cross the creek on a narrow plank. The knots around my elbows were now loose. I could have jumped but I saw it was too waddy and I could not get away in the creek if I made an attempt then. After crossing the creek we were stopped. Our bonds were inspected. They found my bonds loose. They were tightened and a Japanese placed a noose around my neck and held on to it. However, when we were walking again, a fellow behind me kept complaining about the ropes hurting. So, the noose was taken from me and transferred to him. When I noticed that we were led onto the beach, I had a strong suspicion that this was going to be the end. So I made a determination to escape as soon as the opportunity presented itself. We came to the shoreline, no opportunity. There we were made to face toward the sea. There were over twenty of us. The Japanese then proceeded to ransack our pockets starting with the man on the end of the line from our right. I was the third man. All the money was taken from my pockets, my belt, shoes and all valuables. While they were vying with each other and lecting the others, I saw my opportunity. I slipped my arms from the ropes which I had loosened, slipped from under the rope and made a dash for the water. The beach sloped toward the water which was about thirty feet away. Before I reached the edge I slipped and fell headlong. At that moment I heard shots; I got up and jumped into the water.

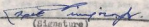
The water at San Diego is deep near the edge. I stayed underneath swimming away from the shore towards the direction of the open sea. I would occasionally go up for a breath of air, then underneath again swimming as far away as I could from the shore. Before I made my dash for liberty and while we were still lined up along the shore's edge, I noticed a new moon hanging low in the sky, casting a sheen of moonlight on the sea directly before us. To avoid being silhouetted against the shimmering water, I ran diagonally in a north-westerly direction towards the water's edge. When I was way out in the sea, I felt that the Japs (knowing I could not stay in the water indefinitely) would be watching for me to land somewhere along the shore north of the point where I escaped. With this in mind, I changed my course and swam southward parallel to the shoreline. I kept this up as long as I could. Then when I thought I had barely enough strength left to make shore, I turned towards the dim outline of the mountains. I thought I would never make it. I just floated along on my back when too tired to swim. Finally, I felt that

Continuation of Certificate of Angel Limjoco, Jr. Page - 3

breakers tended to carry me towards the shore. I was dashed by waves on a rocky point south of where the Japs were. I lay there among the rocks and sand, my body shivering with the cold and both my legs suddenly cramping. After resting and regaining some strength, I walked along the edge of a cliff looking for an opening to climb. I knew I had to cross that mountain that night, get to some friendly house in the valley beyond and send word to my family to escape to the hills. Practically blind, because I had lost my glasses when I jumped into the sea, I clambered up the roots of trees, followed the stony path of mountain streams trying to get across the mountain. At first, I had the sound of the sea at my back to guide my direction, but as I climbed higher, I lost the sound and could not tell if I was going around in circles. Finally, I fell in exhaustion among the tall sagou grass and decided to wait for the sunrise. In the morning, I found a hut where an old farmer and his wife fed me and gave me some clothing to cover my bruised body. Then, that same day, I was led to a trail and told to follow it to get to the valley below. I finally found a man that knew me (this man was Buena-ventura Mendoza now in the U. S. Army) Mendoza, who got a carabao and took me to the other side of the valley where I was joined later by my family. And after two weeks of hiding, the American Forces landed at the same beach where I was almost killed. At that time I hardly realized what had happened to my companions, although I had heard rumors that they were taken away by the Japanese to some other place. As a matter of fact, my mother went with relatives of other victims to San Diego on 17 January 1945 with food for me but they were told by the Japanese that we had been taken somewhere else. While in hiding I would hear rumors about other men escaping and that they were hiding somewhere else. All these rumors later proved to be false as no one else returned. About two weeks after the American landing, some bones were dug up by dogs in the beach, at San Diego, Lian, Batangas, several noters back of the place where I had stood up in line, these were later identified by relatives to be the remains of my companions. Some of them had their heads severed from their bodies and their wrists and hands tied together behind their backs. Still sometime later, the remains of the boys in the other group were dug up in the mountains near Aga, Nasugbu, Batangas.

That I have prepared a list of the names I remembered and saw in my group. The Municipality of Lian, Batangas has the names of all men executed by the Japanese.

I hereby certify that I (have read)(have had read to me) all of the foregoing statements that they are made by me as true and correct with full knowledge of the fact that severe penalties involving fines and imprisonment are prescribed by Act No. 2567, Philippine Legislature, Enacted February 3, 1916 and still in force and effect. (Article XV, Philippine Constitution and Art. 366 Revised Penal Code).


(Signature)

Angel Limjoco, Jr.

Witnessed by the undersigned on _____ day of _____ 1951

at _____

J. HUGH WISE
Field Investigator, U S Army

NAMES OF ALLEGED VETERANS ALLEGEDLY KILLED BY THE JAPANESE ON
 16 JAN 45 DURING A ZONIFICATION AT NASUGBU, BATANGAS AND LIAN, BA-
 TANGAS.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>CLAIM NO.</u>
1. ABELLERA, Maximino L.	S/Sgt.	D-34026
2. ADRIAS, Jose M.	Pfc.	D-34124
3. DE LEON, Cornelio V.	Pvt.	D-34420
4. FACTOR, Fortunato F.	Pfc.	D-40904
5. FAGARA, Severino	Pfc.	D-31891
6. ILAGAN, Agaton A.	Sgt.	D-34235
7. JONSON, Alejandro S.	Pfc.	D-52445
8. JONSON, Ambrocio G.	Pfc.	D-34241
9. JONSON, Basilio M.	Pvt.	D-40176
10. JONSON, Gregorio S.	Sgt.	D-1671
11. LAGRISOIA, Timoteo L.	Pvt.	D-34419
12. LAGUARDIA, Alfonso L.	S/Sgt.	D-31925
13. LAGUERRA, Primo L.	Pvt.	D-40173
14. LAGUS, Pio R.	Pfc.	D-48885
15. LEJANO, Francisco	S/Sgt.	D-31918
16. LEJANO, Guillermo V.	Sgt.	D-34274
17. LIMJOCO, Cesar I.	2d Lt.	D-22404
18. LIMJOCO, Jovencio V.	Pfc.	D-34003
19. LIMJOCO, Segundino	Pfc.	D-60817
20. LIRA, Esteban Y.	S/Sgt.	D-31896
21. LOOC, Felix A.	Pvt.	D-34105
22. MACAHIS, Florentino A.	T/Sgt.	D-31921
23. MAGNO, Mariano J.	Pfc.	D-34367
24. MASIA G, Crispin M.	Sgt.	D-40177
25. MASIPAG, Policarpio M.	Pfc.	D-31944
26. MASUSI, Gelacio delos R.	Pfc.	D-31885
27. MEDRANO, Marcial C.	S/Sgt.	D-5708
28. MEDRANO, Severino J.	Pvt.	D-49131
29. MEDRANO, Teodoro L.	Sgt.	D-22959
30. MERCADO, Jose M.	Pfc.	D-34509
31. NEBREJA, Remigio B.	Pvt.	D-34372
32. RUIZ, Narciso L.	Cpl.	D-42684
33. SANCHEZ, Buenaventura V.	Pvt.	D-34405
34. SANCHEZ, Vivencio H.	S/Sgt.	D-16485
35. TAN, Zoilo P.	T/Sgt.	D-34017
36. VERGARA, Lorenzo M.	Pfc.	D-31889

Milos, Marcial

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