

1969

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 883078

HISTORY
OF
BENGUET CO.

No. 69J

No 69J

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 883078

HISTORY OF BENQUET Co.

697
502 on

HIISTORY

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 830 78

4. The following history of the Benguet Co FC has been compiled from a special study conducted of thirty-two (32) Benguet Co cases:

At the outbreak of the war, the Benguet Co was stationed at Camp Holmes, Trinidad, Benguet, Mt. Province. Capt Rafael C. Rodriguez was the CO and Maj. Segundo S. Vergara was the Prokated Kommandant. No member of a Senior Officer has been made in any of the cases covered. Sgt Enriquez, Davao, Philippines, has been mentioned as the lat of the Benguet. However, his OIC title designation must be taken with the heavy penalty of the International Law Commission in the outbreak of hostilities.

On 2 Aug 41, the Benguet Co was charged with the removal of all Japanese civilians in the vicinity who were released at Camp John Hay with the FC setting on guard.

MSG. Col. Brown entered the following in his diary: "Dec 9 called the Kommandant about collecting all dangerous Japs. Proposed Upper Floor of mess for them"
 "Dec 10 - Jap internees moved into mess"
 "Dec 11 - Visited outposts. All well. Had expected only 45 Jap internees. Have over three hundred"

Col. Ferner in his Certified Report on the 14th Inf (PI) contains "As the end of Dec approached there were isolated at the Camp about 300 Japanese internees under guard of the FC and Capt. Enriquez, Davao, Inf... attached to Camp Jay..."

Some members of the mail camp have been ambushed at Kioskye, Mount Hood, on or about 10 Dec 41. It is probable that a few members were assigned to go with the

HISTORY OF THE BENGUET CO FC

(Dec 1941 - May 1942)

- A. The following history of the Benguet Co FC has been deduced from a special study conducted of thirty-two (32) Benguet FC cases:

At the outbreak of the war, the Benguet FC was stationed at Camp Holmes, Trinidad, Benguet, Mt. Province. Capt Rafael C. Rodriguez was the CO and Maj. Segundo G. Vergara was the Provincial Inspector. No mention of a Junior Officer has been made in any of the cases studied. One Bacarra, Tomas, (deceased), has been mentioned as 1st Sgt of the Company, however, his 201 file indicates that he was not with the Company but with the Provincial Hqs Detachment at the outbreak of hostilities.

On 9 Dec 41, the Benguet FC was charged with the rounding up of Japanese civilians in the vicinity who were interned at Camp John Hay with the FC acting as guards.

NOTE: Col Horan entered the following in his diary: "Dec 9 called the Constab about collecting 45 dangerous Japs. Prepared upper floor of mess for them"
"Dec 10 - Jap internees moved into mess"
"Dec 16 - Visited outposts. All well. Had expected only 45 Jap internees. Have over three hundred"

Col Warner in his Certified Report on the 14th Inf (PA) relates:

"As the end of Dec approached there were interned at the Camp about 350 Japanese nationals under guard of the FC and Capt. Cameron Starnes, Inf., attached to Camp Hay..."

Some members of the unit claim to have been ambushed at Klondyke, Kennon Road, on or about 22 Dec 41. It is probable that a few members were assigned to go with the

- 2 -

convoy of reservists from Camp Henry T. Allen under 3rd Lt. Bienvenido Santiago, to HPA, which encountered Japs at this place. (See p. 2, "Operations Reports" of the 11th Engr Bn, Historical Data 11th Div PA)

With the impending occupation of Baguio by the Japanese on or about 24 Dec 41, (they were expected to "reach Baguio between 6 pm. and midnight" of the 24th of Dec, but "they didn't arrive till the 27th") the PC at Camp Holmes, Trinidad, evacuated to Tublay. They feared that they were too near the Japs. It is alleged that the Provincial Inspector, Sgt Juan Gallardo and Cpl Blas Ribunal were captured. Cpl Ribunal, however, claims that he was able to evade the Japs. Neither Ribunal nor Gallardo claims to have been POW at this period. Maj. Vergara claims that he was captured on 2 Jan 42 but later released on 31 Jan 42.

The unit was disbanded at Tublay, Benguet about the last days of Dec 41 or the early part of Jan 42. It is alleged that this disbandment was effected after the capture of the Provincial Inspector which was on 2 Jan 42 according to this officer's Form 23.

Six of the cases studied allege to have joined the 121st Inf before 6 May 42. The medical aidman of the unit, Seralde, Basilio G., claims to have joined Cols Martin Moses and Arthur K. Noble at Timbu, Porac, Pampanga on or about 29 Apr 42. He states that after the disbandment of his unit at Tublay, he, together with Rico, Primitivo and Corpuz, Francisco G., all members of the Benguet PC, proceeded south with the intention of joining the USAFFE forces at Bataan. He got ill at San Quintin, Pangasinan, so he was left behind by his companions. (The other 2 did not reach USAFFE lines, for their processing papers show that they became civilians at Pangasinan). After recovering from his illness, Seralde allegedly continued his attempt to reach Bataan but failed. After Bataan fell, he, with 3 others, tried to join Thorpe's grla at Pampanga and while at Timbu, Porac, Pampanga, he met Lt Cols Moses and Noble, Col E. P. Ramsey, Capt Parker and Pfc Strickland. Seralde alleges that he officially joined Cols Moses & Noble on 29 Apr 42, per Unnumbered SO, dtd 29 Apr 42, issued by Col Noble as CO, 2d FC Regt, (See copy of this SO in subject's 201 file) and stayed with them until they were finally captured on 2 Jun 43 at Magimet, Kalinga.

All the cases studied, except Calimoso, Eustaquio A., allege induction on different dates in Dec '41 at Camp Holmes,

- 3 -

Trinidad, Benguet, Mt. Province. The majority claim automatic induction; four, induction by Col Warner; one (the CO), by Col Horan, and the rest by either Col Green, Prov'l Inspector, Maj. Vergara or CO Capt Rodriguez.

The alleged automatic induction of the PC in- to the USAFFE has already been determined not valid. (See Hist of Hqs Det, Dept of NL, PC) The CO of the unit alleges induction by Col Horan on 16 Dec 41; however, Col Horan's diary does not mention any induction performed on that date, whereas, it does mention the inductions he did on other dates. Likewise, Col Warner's Certified Report on the 14th Inf (See Historical Data, 14th Inf AUS) relates the different inductions he performed, yet, it makes no mention of an induction for any Benguet PC personnel. It is not probable that members of the Benguet PC were included in the induction of the personnel of the 1st Military District, PA, at Camp Henry T. Allen by Col Warner on 21 Dec 41, because at this time, the Benguet PC was stationed at Camp Holmes, Trinidad, while some were assigned as guards of the Jap internees at Camp John Hay. The inductions if any, allegedly performed by Col Green, Maj. Vergara and Capt Rodriguez were not valid because at the time they were performed these officers did not possess authority to induct into the USAFFE, not having been inducted themselves.

B. A thorough search of all available archives for the Benguet PC has been made at Records Branch and at Project "J". This revealed that:

1. There are no records of this Company at Archives Section, Records Branch.

2. Several members of the Co are listed in some PC archives at Archives Section which are dated prior to 8 Dec 41.

3. The "Alphabetical Casualty Listing of Officers & Enlisted Personnel who were in the Philippine Island Area as of 7 Dec 41," and other Project "J" records, give the following pertinent info on the AUS officers mentioned in this history:

a. Everett L. Warner - Capt - O-125572
Hqs Btry, 2d Bn, 88th FA
KIA - 15 Dec 44

- 4 -

- The following are the findings of the above history:
- b. Martin Moses - Lt Col - O-16924
Hqs 57th Inf (PS)
PCW - 31 May 43 - 1 Nov 43
KIA - 1 Nov 43
 - c. Arthur K. Noble - Lt Col O-17780
Hqs Co, 45th Inf (PS)
PCW - 31 May 43 - 1 Nov 43
KIA - 1 Nov 43
4. "Historical Data 14th Inf AUS" at Records Branch shows that Col Warner was one of Col Horan's officers at Camp John Hay when war broke out.

5. "Historical Data, 2d Reg Div PA" indicates that during the "Last week of war Lt. Col Arthur K. Noble took command of the 2d PC Regt."

- C. From the above facts and findings, the following conclusions have been drawn:

1. The Benguet Co, PC was stationed at Camp Holmes, Trinidad, Benguet, Mt. Province at the outbreak of the war. There were only two officers of the unit - the CO, Capt Rafael C. Rodriguez and the Prov'l Inspector, Maj. Segundo G. Vergara.

2. On 9 Dec 41, the PC was charged with the apprehension of all Japanese civilians in the vicinity and of guarding same at Camp John Hay.

3. With the impending occupation of Baguio by the enemy on or about 24 Dec 41, the PC at Camp Holmes moved to Tublay. They stayed at this place until their disbandment after the capture of their Provincial Inspector.

4. The unit was not formally inducted into the USAFFE, hence, was not a bonafide USAFFE unit.

5. Members who joined the 121st Inf or any other bonafide USAFFE unit prior to the termination of organized USAFFE resistance, may be accorded positive USAFFE status, if, evidence acceptable under Sec III, Vets Branch Adjudication Policy as changed by Sec I, Branch Memo #3, dtd 3 Feb 50, is presented.

6. The case of the Medical Aidman, Seralde, Basilio G. who apparently joined the CO of the 2d PC Regt after that unit's surrender in Bataan, but before 6 May 42, must be determined on its own merits.

The following attached affidavits have been used as aids in arriving at the above history:

1. Affidavits by Maj Rafael C. Rodriguez dtd 31 Oct 45 & 29 Oct 47.
2. Affidavits by 2d Lt Pio L. Umanos dtd 19 Jan 46 & 18 Oct 47.
3. Affidavit by Sgt Abdon A. Barbadillo dtd 25 Feb 46.
4. Affidavit by 2d Lt Geronimo Tubera dtd 17 Jan 46.
5. Affidavit by 2d Lt Severino Patacsil dtd 6 Mar 46.
6. Affidavit by S/Sgt Juan S. Gallardo dtd 6 Mar 46.
7. Affidavit by S/Sgt Juan A. Miranda dtd 24 Apr 46.
8. Affidavit by M/Sgt Blas R. Ribunal dtd 5 Feb 46.
9. Affidavit by Pvt Primitivo Rico dtd 27 Feb 46.
10. Affidavits by M/Sgt Basilio G. Seralde dtd 22 Apr 46 & 10 Feb 47.

Josefina H. Albuero
JOSEFINA H. ALBUERO
Claims Examiner

Wesley R. Fronk
WESLEY R. FRONK
DAC FINAL REVIEWER
REA Sec, VB, AGRD

KNOWN MEMBERS OF THE BENGUET CO FC
 (Dec 1941 - May 1942)

Provincial Inspector
 Major Segundo G. Vergara

Commanding Officer
 Capt. Rafael C. Rodriguez

1. Calimoso, Eustaquio A. - Sergeant
2. Dasalla, Victoriano A. - "
3. Miranda, Juan A. - "
4. Montero, Elias Z. - "
5. Patascil, Severino M. - "
6. Barbadillo, Abdon A. - "
7. Esticco, Severo P. - Corporal
8. Miana, Sixto C. - "
9. Ocampo, Godofredo A. - "
10. Villareal, Francisco B. - "
11. Alcantara, Cosme G. - Pvt 1st Class
12. Aquino, Agustin G. - "
13. Balbin, Lorenzo V. - "
14. Fontanilla, Juan D. - "
15. Mendoza, Ciriaco F. - "
16. Orpia, Alfredo G. - "
17. Santiago, Sabino delos R. - "
18. Supsup, Ramon L. - "
19. Corpuz, Francisco G. - Private
20. Dadacay, Sulpicio F. - "
21. Dela Cruz, Delfin D. - "
22. Fortea, Isidro C. - "
23. Gayla, Samuel B. - "
24. Rico, Primitivo G. - "
25. Seralde, Basilio G. - "
26. Tubera, Geronimo L. - "

Prov'l Hqs

1. Bacarra, Tomas - 1st Sgt
2. Gallardo, Juan S. - Sgt
3. Ribunal, Blas R. - Cpl
4. Umanos, Pio L. - Pvt

Josefina H. Alburo
 JOSEFINA H. ALBURO
 Claims Examiner

Wesley R. Fronk
 WESLEY R. FRONK
 DAC FINAL REVIEWER
 REA Sec, VB, AGRD

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
 COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES) SS
 CITY OF MANILA)

A F F I D A V I T

I, RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ, of legal age, married, after first being duly sworn to on oath depose and say:

1. That when the War broke out on December 8, 1941, I was a captain in the Philippine Constabulary with assignment in the City of Baguio as commanding officer of the Benguet Company; when the Japanese entered the city of Baguio, my company, acting under superior orders, as well as the rest of our forces then defending the Bauang-Naguilian Road area, had to retreat to the mountains and we had to do guerrilla activities in conjunction with troops of Camp John Hay and other units;

2. That on or about the month of August, 1942, Col. Horan who was commanding our guerrilla forces surrendered and gave out orders for us to do the same; as a consequence of this order, our guerrilla unit was disbanded; some of us surrendered while others not having surrendered went each his own way; I stayed in the mountains of Baguio in company with other soldiers until mid-January, 1943, when I decided to come to Manila in order to join my family and in order to avoid apprehension by the Japanese who had been already hot after me in our hideouts in these mountains; arriving in Manila about the end of the same month, I immediately took steps to get in contact with some guerrilla units and I had the good luck of contacting the Ramsey Outfit; on February 5, 1943, I was formally inducted into the said guerrilla unit with the rank of Captain and I was given orders to work as intelligence officer in the city of Manila and in the province of Rizal as is evidenced by my appointment which is hereto attached as Appendix "A";

3. For the sole purpose of covering my tracts and shielding my guerrilla activities as an intelligence officer, with the consent of my district commander I looked for work in the government about the month of March, 1943, by approaching Judge Mamerto Roxas whom I have known for some years and asked him if he could find me a job in the government under Judge Emiliano Tria Tirona who was then the Director of the Employment Bureau; when I approached Judge Roxas I expressly signified to him that I wanted a job with a little salary obly as it was my desire that later on it should not appear as tho I worked in the government for the purpose of maintaining myself and my family; at the same time I told Judge Roxas that the job he should look for me shall not tie me up in the office but rather one which would permit me to be out of office all the time I wanted to be out; as a result Judge Roxas succeeded in asking Judge Tirona to give me a position with ₱55.00 as monthly salary, the work assigned to me having consisted in gathering data about the living conditions of the working class, and in this manner I was able to concentrate on my work as intelligence officer;

I am the father of five (5) children, the eldest of whom is now only 8 years and besides upon me also depended for support during the past three years of Japanese regime my two sisters-in-law one of whom has a three-year old daughter; it can therefore easily be seen that the salary of ₱55 was far from sufficient to maintain myself and my family; the fact is that if I had been able to maintain my family, it is because of the sale of the jewels of my wife and my said sisters-in-law and also from money borrowed from friends; I worked under the Bureau of Labor from February 1943, to January, 1944, when I resigned to accept another job at night in the Jai-Alai which I left in October, 1944, and from December 16, 1944, until the entry of the American forces into Manila I worked in the Nadisco, only because two weeks previous I had been visited by three (3) Japanese Military Police who investigated me why I stopped working for the government in January, 1944, how I supported my family and if I expected the return of the Americans. I answered them that I stopped working for the government because the salary of ₱55.00 I received was no longer sufficient to help me in my needs; that then I supported myself helping a brother-in-law of mine in a business bringing coconuts to Manila from the province of Laguna in a banca and that I did not even have time to think of the return of the Americans. I believe they suspected of my guerrilla activities because they ordered me to stop making trips to the provinces and to return working for the government. When I answered that the government could not give me a salary sufficient to meet the rising cost of prime commodities they told me to work for the Nadisco which gives sufficient rations to its employees;

4. I had for more than a week now been looking for Col. F. S. Alberto who signed my appointment attached hereto as Appendix "A" for the purpose of obtaining from him a certification to the effect that I really worked as member of G-2 from February 1943 until the American entry into Manila, of the Ramsay outfit, but of late I learned that Col. F. S. Alberto is in the provinces and his return to Manila could not be ascertained.

IN TRUTH HEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 39th day of April, 1945, in Manila.


/s/t/ RAFAEL C. RODRIGUEZ
 Affiant

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 31st day of October, 1945, in Manila, the affiant having exhibited to me his Residence Certificate No. A-2469295, issued at Manila on April 25, 1945.

/s/t/ P. I. RAMIREZ
 1st Lieut, JAGS (PA)

Doc. No.
 Page No.
 Book No.
 Series of 1945.

A TRUE COPY:


 L. H. CUTTER
 1st Lt., AGC
 Asst Adjutant

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHIL) SS
MUNICIPALITY OF _____)
PROVINCE OF LA UNION)

A F F I D A V I T

I, ABDON A. BARBADILLO, Sgt, FS, PA, 23rd Inf, PA, of legal age, married, after being duly sworn on oath depose and say:

That I know personally S/Sgt. Juan S. Gallardo, who was a regular member of the Benguet Company, PC, DNL, as my co-enlisted man prior and after the out-break of the war, and that he is legally married with dependents.

That he was enlisted at Baguio, Mt. Province, 41st Company, PC, one October 12, 1929 with continues service and that he was on active service in the Benguet Company, PC, DNL, with the rank of Sergeant at the out-break of the war. Knowing very well that Juan S. Gallardo was last paid as Sgt. on the 31 December 1941 and that he was not paid his three months advance pay.

in the
That S/Sgt. Juan S. Gallardo, was assigned in/Provincial Headquarters, Office of the Provincial Inspector, Benguet, PC, DNL, as driver. The Company to which we belongs was directly responsible for guarding all the Japanese civilians (Prisoners of War) concentrated at Camp John Hay and said Company was also maintaining peace and order with in the Province of Benguet.

That due to the swift and successful movement of the enemy of all strategic points towards Baguio, the Benguet Company, PC, DNL, retreated to Tublay, Benguet, Mt. Province. Due to hard pressure of the Japanese Forces, the said company was forced to dispersed as it was the only means to avoid encirclement and capture by the enemy.

That the Benguet Company, PC, DNL, was not able to reach Bataan due to the fact that all possible routes were already under the hunds of the enemy.

/s/t/ ABDON A. BARBADILLO
Sgt, FS, PA, 23rd Inf, PA

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 25th day of February 1946,
at Paracir, Balacair, La Union.

/s/t/ FRANCISCO A. PARAAN
1st Lieut, Inf, PA
Adjutant, 23rd Inf, PA

A TRUE COPY:


T. H. CUTLER
1st Lt., AGC
Asst Adjutant

A F F I D A V I T

I, GERONIMO TOBERA, 2nd Lieut., Co., "K" 3rd Bn 23d Inf Regt., 2d Reg. Div. P / A, of legal age and resident of Balaoan, La Union, after having been duly sworn according to law depose and say:

THAT: I know personally 2nd Lieut., SEMERINO PATACSIL of "B" Co. 1st Bn 23d Inf Regt 2d Reg. Div PA before and during the War. He being one of my co-member of the Benguet Company, Philippine Constabulary in the years 1940-1941 with headquarters at Camp Holmes, Trinidad Benguet, Mt. Province.

THAT: During the time he was with the PC, his bona-fide rank was Sergeant and assigned to 2nd Platoon, Benguet Company.

THAT: We were last paid on Dec. 31, 1941 by Capt. Rafael C. Rodriguez, PC.

THAT: On the night of Dec. 22, 1941, the convoy which carried us to Camp Murphy was heavily attacked by the onrushing Japs at Klondyke, Keenon Road. Damortis having been occupied the day previous. Finding the routes to Manila and Damortis impassable, we returned to Baguio for further instructions, and thence to La Trinidad.

THAT: We proceeded to the Municipality of Tublay, Benguet, and there we were disbanded with the absolute circumstance that the Japs have continued their drive up to the city of Baguio, Phil.

THAT: After Bataan has fallen into the hands of the Japs, we reorganized ourselves. He joined on July 1, 1942 at Itogon, Benguet under the Command of the late CAPTAIN BALDWIN, then, Battalion Commander.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I hereunto sign my name this 17 day of January 1946 at Paracir, Balaoan, La Union.

/s/ Geronimo Tubera

/t/ GERONIMO TOBERA

2nd Lieut., Infantry, PA

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 17th day of January 1946 at Paracir, Balaoan, La Union

/s/t/ EUGENE P. PUCAY

(administering Officer)

2nd Lieut. Infantry, PA

(rank & Branch of Service)

A TRUE COPY:


E. H. CUTTER
1st Lt., AGC
Asst Adjutant

A F F I D A V I T

March 6, 1946

I, Severino Patacsil, 2nd Lieutenant Infantry, PA ASN 49409 of legal age married and a residence of Rosario, La Union after having duly sworn to in accordance to law depose and say:

THAT: I know personally Lt. Geronimo Tubera of the R pl & Cas Det. before and during the out break of the War Two as he was a component member in the Benguet Company, FC Trinidad, Benguet, and his bona-fide rank was a private when I was also a Sergeant and assigned to the 2nd Platoon under my command as Platoon Sergeant.

THAT: We were last paid by Capt. Rafael C. Rodriguez, FC, to include December 31, 1941 at our temporary Hq at Tublay, Benguet Mt. Province.

THAT: He did not received his (3) three month advance pay

THAT: That on the night of Dec. 22, 1941, we were with the convoy enroute to Camp Murphy but were ambushed by the enrushing enemy at Klondyke Kennon Road forcing us to return to our station. We proceeded to our temporary Hq at Tublay Benguet and there due to heavy preasure of the enemy we were temporary dispersed thereat on April 1941.

THAT: That he joined the 12th Infantry, PA on February 1, 1943 while I also joined the 11th Infantry on July 1st, 1942.

IN WITNESS// hereof I hereunto signed my name// this 6th day of March 1946 at Paraair, Balaoan, La Union.

/s/t/ SEVERINO PATACASIL
2nd Lieut., Infantry, PA

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of March 1946 at Paraair, Balaoan, La Union.

/s/t/ FELIX C. AGUTO
1st Lieut., Infantry, PA
Asst Regimental S-1

A TRUE COPY:


L. H. CUTTER
1st Lt., AGC
Asst Adjutant

(A F F I D A V I T)

March 6 1946

I, JUAN GALLARDO, S/Sergeant, Service Co. P A with the Serial No. 226327 of legal age married after háeng sworn on oath depose and say:

THAT: I know personally 2nd Lieut. GERONIMO TUBERA of the Repls. & Cas. Det. before and during the outbreak of the war who was a regular member of the Benguet Company, PC DNL as my co-component prior and after the out break of the war.

THAT: He was enlisted at Camp Holmes, Trinidad, Benguet Mt. Province, Benguet Co, PC. on May 1st 1940 with contenes service and that he was on active service in the Benguet Co, PC DNL with the rank of private. Knowing very well that Lieut., GERONIMO TUBERA was last paid as a private. on December 31 1941 by Capt. Rafael C Rodriguez , and that he has not rēceived his (3) three month advance pay.

THAT : Lieut., GERONIMO TUBERA WAS assigned to the Company and were sent as patrol to Kennon Road. and to observe the movement of the enemy. that on the night of the 22nd Dec. 1941 they were with the convoy enrute to Camp Murphy but were ambush by the ~~enrushing~~ by the enrushing enemy at Klondyke Kennon Road & forcing them to returned to our station . We proceeded to our temporary headquarters at Tublay Benguet and there due to the presure of the enemy we were temporarily dispersed thereat April 1942

THAT: The Benguet Compsny PC DNL was not able to reach Bataan due to the fact that all possible route were already under the hands of the enemy.

THAT: He joined the 12th infantry ,PA on February 1, 1943.

IN WITNESS hereof I hereunto signed my name this 6th day of March 1946 at Paraair, Balaoan, La Union.

/s/t/ JUAN S GALLARDO
S/SGT Service Company PA.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 6th day of March 1946 at Paraair, Balaoan, La Union.

/s/t/ FELIX C AGUTO
1st Lieutenant Infantry PA
Asst Regimental Adjutant.

A TRUE COPY:


FELIX C. AGUTO
1st Lt., AGC
Asst Adjutant

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES) SS.
KAMUNING, QUEZON CITY)

A F F I D A V I T

I, JUAN A. MIRANDA, S/Sgt, ASN 126023 PA, at present assigned with "A" CO 3RD MP BN (PA), APO 75, at present stationed at Kamuning, Quezon City, after having been duly sworn to in accordance to law, depose and say:

That I first enlisted in the Philippine Constabulary on 1 June 1925 at Aparri, Cagayan.

That I had never been separated from the service ever since my first enlistment.

That I was assigned with the Benguet Company, stationed at Trinidad, Benguet just before the outbreak of the war; and my immediate superior was Captain RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ.

That my unit was not able to reach Batasan due to the fact that our unit was assigned as guard for the Japanese Concentration Camp at Baguio City.

That we were on guard duty until 24 December 1941 when the Japanese occupied Baguio.

That, further, we were disbanded by Provincial Inspector, Major VERGARA, at Tublay, Benguet, Mountain Province.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I hereunto affixed my signature this 24th day of April 1946 at Kamuning, Quezon City, Rizal.

/s/ J. Miranda
/t/ JUAN A. MIRANDA, 126023 PA
S/Sgt, "A" Co.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO Before me this 24th day of April 1946, at Kamuning, Quezon City, Rizal

/s/t/ CELERINO T. VENADAS
Captain, Infantry
CO, "A" Co, 3RD MP BN (PA)

A TRUE COPY:


L.H. CUTLER
1st Lt. 100
Asst Adjutant

A F F I D A V I T

I, Rafael C Rodriguez, of legal age, married and presently Provincial Commander of the MPC, Surigao, Surigao, after first being duly sworn to on oath depose and say:

1. That when the war broke out on December 8, 1941, I was a Captain in the Philippine Constabulary with assignment in Camp Holmes Trinidad, city of Baguio, as Commanding Officer of Benguet Company, PC.

2. That I personally know Sgt Elias Z. Montero as one of the members of the Benguet Company, Philippine Constabulary, being the Commanding Officer of said unit.

3. That all the officers and EN of the Benguet Company, Philippine Constabulary were inducted into the service of the USAFFE on 16 Dec 1941 by an American US Army Officer.

4. That on or about 24th Dec 1941, when the Japanese forces were entering the city of Baguio, our company, acting under superior orders, as well as the rest of our forces then defending the Bauang-Naguilian road area, had to retreat to the mountains and we had to do guerrilla activities in conjunction with troops of Camp John Hay and other units.

5. That on or about the month of Dec 1942, Col Horan, USA, who was commanding our guerrilla forces surrendered to the Japanese and gave out orders for us to do the same: as a consequence of this order, our guerrilla unit was disbanded: some of us surrendered while others not having surrendered went each his own way: I stayed in the mountains of Baguio in company with Sgt Elias Z Montero and other soldiers until mid-January 1943, when I decided to come to Manila in order to join my family and in order to avoid apprehension and capture by the Japanese who had been already hot after us in our hide outs in these mountains, arriving in Manila about the end of the same month.

6. That while in Manila as member of the Ramsey Guerrilla cut-fit, 1943-1944, I often communicated with Sgt Elias Z Montero regarding the progress of the war as well as guerrilla activities of our comrades. That on or about the later part of 1944, I learned that Sgt Elias Montero was shot to death at Trinidad valley, Baguio, and buried the same place.


7. That our unit, the Benguet Company, Philippine Constabulary, was last paid to include 15 December 1941, and that members of the same unit did not receive the three months advance pay due to lack of funds.

Further affiant sayeth not:

/s/t/ RAFAEL C RODRIGUEZ
Major, Infantry
Provincial Commander

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 29 day of October 1947.

A TRUE COPY:


M. H. CUTLER
1st Lt., AGC
Asst Adjutant

/Initialed/ Illegible
/t/ CONRADO ABELARDO
1st Lieut., Infantry
Adjutant, MPC Surigao Prov

A F F I D A V I T

I, PIO L UMANOS, 32 years of age, married, Filipino, Civilian Investigator, Claims Service, PHILRYCOM and resident of Balacan, La Union, after having been duly sworn to according to law, do hereby depose and say;

That on or about 18 June 1941, I was enlisted as a Private, PA by Capt Maximo N Nocete, EO, DNL, PC for the Headquarters, Department of Northern Luzon with station at San Fernando, La Union;

That on or about 5 Oct 1941 I was assigned as Clerk in the Provl Inspector's Office, PC, Camp Holmes, La Trinidad, Benguet, Mt Province with Major Segundo G Vergara as my Commanding Officer; and that on or about 18 Dec 1941, to the best of my recollection, the P. I. Office Force of which I was a member was inducted into the USAFFE by our CO;

That shortly before the 25th of Dec 1941, Jap Troops succeeded in reaching Baguio City so that we were ordered to evacuate from Camp Holmes and we proceeded to the outskirts of Benguet; and that on the 26th of Dec 1941 Maj S G Vergara, our CO, Sgt Juan Gallardo and Corp Blas Ribunal all of the P I Office Force were captured. ISgt Bacarra, Pfc Reyes and I left of the P I Office Force joined the Benguet Co, PC under the command of Capt Rafael C Rodriguez in Tublay, Benguet Mt Province. Sgt Gallardo and Corp Ribunal were able to escape from the Japs after several days of capture;

That on or about 27 Dec 1941 Capt Rafael C Rodriguez, CO, Benguet Co, PC and the most senior officer next to Maj Vergara, PI captured and who was already in command of us disbanded us; ordered us to lay low and wait for further orders to reorganize as Japs were already far superior in strength and that to fight the Japs who were already hot on our trails was futile. In the course of this confusion I fled to the mountains of Benguet in hiding until I found myself on the boundary of Benguet and La Union;

That during the early part of March 1942 I learned of a unit of the 121st Inf operating in the field of La Union under the command of Col George M Barnett, who was then a 1st Lt and together with 1st Lt Alejandro Dario, MC as his Liaison Officer. Unable to contact the unit of Capt Rafael C Rodriguez and not knowing what happened whether they have reorganized or not I finally decided to report for duty to the 121st Inf which was the nearest military unit to me;

That on or about 20 Mar 1942 I reported for duty to Col George M Barnett (then a 1st Lt), assigned me in the Balacan-Santol, La Union Sub-Office, 121st Inf Regt under the command of 2d Lt Pio M Ortaliza. I served with this unit until 11 Apr 1942 about 9 Apr 1942 I was appointed Duty Sergeant by Col G M Barnett (then a 1st Lt) and assigned me as his clerk in the Provl Hqrs Office, 121st Inf. In the Field, La Union. I served in this office briefly until 10 May 1942;

That on or about 11 May 1942 I was promoted to the grade of First Sergeant by Col G M Barnett and was assigned as such on the newly organized "E" Co, 2d


L. H. CUTTER
1st Lt., AGC
ASST Adjutant

(FIC I UMANGOS' Affidavit Cont'd)

Bn, 121st Inf Regt with the late Capt Felipe L Rodriguez as cur Co Cndr. This Cp operated against the enemy raiding Jap Garrisons in Balacoon Area.

That on or about 20 Sept 1942 I was commissioned 2d Lt and assigned Platoon Leader of 2d Platoon of the same Co vice Lt Purugganan who was captured by the Japs, and that I performed the duties of a Platoon Ldr until I fell into the hands of the enemy on or about 15 Nov 1942;

That from 16 Nov 1942 up to 20 January 1943 I was made a Prisoner of War by the Japs; concentrated in PW Camp, O'Donnell, Capas, Tarlac until released on parole on or about 21 January 1943;

That upon my release I was suffering from malaria and general body weakness as the after-effects of dysentery in the concentration camp; and that from 22 January 1943 until 22 Sept 1944 I was under the Medical Care of Dr Rodolfo Pinzon, a Physician now residing in San Fernando, La Union;

That on or about 25 September 1944 I reported for duty and rejoined the 121st Inf in the "A" Co, 1st Bn, 121st Inf, USAFIPNL after contacting the late Capt Felipe N Casuga, CO of this unit operating in the mountains east of San Fernando, La Union;

That during the later part of October 1944 I was transferred to the "F" Co, 2d Bn, 121st Inf and served this unit until the early part of January 1945 when I was transferred to the General Headquarters, USAFIPNL where I was assigned to the Encoding and Decoding Section, Hq Signal Plat; then placed on Special Detail with the Sixth Army Liaison Group Base "H" in San Fabian, Pang; later assigned in the Office of A/C of S, G-2 Sec, GHQ, USAFIPNL;

That on or about 25 June 1945 I was assigned Officer Incharge Order of Battle and language Sec of G-2 Sec GHQ Adv Echelon responsible for allied translations of captured documents on the enemy and battle areas; intelligence reports and interrogation of captured or surrendered Jap POWs during the operations at Bessang Pass; Mankayan-Lepanto-Bontoc operations up to the surrender of the Japs and final liberation of North Luzon after which on or about the middle part of Sept 1945 I was again detailed as Liaison Officer of GHQ, USAFIPNL at the San Juan Stockade, La Union, Prisoner of War Camp for the Japs until all the Jap POWs were shipped to Manila, Canlubang and Muntinglupa; and that on or about 19 Oct 1945 I returned to full military control and was duly processed on this date at Camp Spencer, Luna, La Union; given my ASN O-30080 by Lt R. PANGANIBAN;

That on or about 23 Oct 1945 I was transferred from G-2 Sec to Claims Sec, GHQ, USAFIPNL later created and known as Base "M" Branch Claims Service, AFRES-PAC in which I served in the capacity of Investigating Officer for claims filed by civilians against the U S Army; PA & Guerilla Units for materials, foodstuffs, services used against the enemy in the operation and that I was honorably discharge from the military service on 10 June 1946 as per par 13, SO # 116, dated 4 June 1946, 2d Inf Div PA at Camp Spencer, Luna, La Union;

That I was not at all paid my three (3) months advance pay; that I was last paid only by Capt Rafael C Rodriguez CO & DO Benguet Co, PC to include from 1 Dec 1941 to 15 Dec 1941 and that I was never paid any arrears in pay;

(2)

[Handwritten Signature]
L. W. CUTLER
1st Lt., AGC
Asst Adjutant

[Faint, mostly illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]

(PIO L UMANOS: Affidavit Cont'd)

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 883078

Affiant further sayeth none.

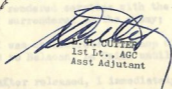
In witness hereof I hereunto affix my signature and swear that the information set forth above is true to the best of my knowledge, recollection and belief, this 18th day of October 1947, at Balaoan, La Union, Philippines.

/s/t/ PIO L UMANOS
Affiant
Res Cert No A-1731020
Issued on 11 January 1947
At Burgos, La Union

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 18th day of October 1947, at Bañgar, La Union, Philippines, affiant having exhibited his Res Cert No. indicated below his signature.

/s/t/ VICENTE CONCEPCION
Justice of the Peace Court
Bangar, La Union

A TRUE COPY:



B. G. CUTLER
1st Lt., AGC
Asst Adjutant

A F F I D A V I T

I, BLAS R RIBUNAL, ASN-179454, M/Sgt. Infantry, PA, of legal age, married, resident of San Vicente, Ilocos Sur and at present with the USAFIP AREA COMMAND, Camp Spencer, APO 70, after having duly sworn to depose and say:

That I am a regular soldier of the Philippine Army;

That I enlisted in the Philippine Army on April 1, 1937 and latter transferred to the Provincial Hqtrs, PC, Benguet on October 1938;

That I was promoted to the rank fo Private First Class on Sept.(date unknow) 1939; to Corporal on Oct.(date unknown) 1941 and to Sergeant on March 18, 1942;

That my unit was inducted into the USAFFE On December 17, 1941;

That our unit was disbanded by Capt. Rafael C Rodriguez, CO, Benguet Co, PC, when Major Segundo Vergara, our Prov'l Inspector was captured;

That I was able to evade capture by the Japs during the capture of my Provincial Inspector and joined the Benguet Co, PC;

That I was last paid to include December 15, 1941 by Capt. Rafael C. Rodriguez, CO & DO of Benguet Company, PC;

That after disbanded, I managed to join the nearest authorized Guer. unit and was able to join the outfit of Lt-Col. G. Barnett(then 1st Lt) the Provincial Commander of La Union Province on March 2, 1942;

That I rendered services with the above organization until Nov. 15, 1942 when I surrendered to the enemy;

That I was concentrated at Camp O'Donnell, Capas, Tarlac but latter transferred to Balaoan, La Union until temporarily released on March 15'43;

That after released, I immediately went home to my home town in San San Vicente, Ilocos Sur to hide knowing that the Japs stationed there does not know me;

That I managed to secure my livelihood as a civilian carpenter making fans (Home made) to support my family earning P5.00 daily. In addition to this, my sister gave support to my family who is land owner in Iuna, La Union.

That latter, I was an active member of the Bolo unit of San Vicente-Sta Catalina Area and asgd as 1st Sgt and later CO from Oct. 14, 1944 to November 1944;

That our Bolo Unit was under the 121st Inf, USAFIP NL which acted as the eyes and ears of the patrols assigned to this area;

That I was later assigned as Bn S-3 Officer, 3rdBn,1st Reserve Regt. Bantay-Sinait area until Dec 30, 1944 under Capt. Candido Concepcion, Regtl Commander.


E. H. CUTTER
1st Lt., AGC
Asst Adjutant

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
 DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
 1964, 14 OCT 64 - 2 -

The above is correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/t/ BLAS R RIBUNAL
 M/Sgt, Infantry, PA

SIGNED IN THE PRESENCE OF:

/s/ Illegible

/s/ Illegible

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 5th day of February
 1946 at Camp Spencer, APO 70.

/s/t/ VENANCIO S DUQUE
 1st Lieut, Inf, PA
 Asst. Judge Advocate General

A TRUE COPY:


 E. L. CUTLER
 1st Lt., AGC
 Asst Adjutant

/s/ Illegible

AFFIDAVIT

I, PIO L. UMANOS, ASN O-30080, 2nd Lieutenant, Infantry, PA, of legal age, married, at present assigned with the Claims Service AFWESPAC, stationed at Camp Spencer, Luna, La Union, after having duly sworn to in accordance to law depose and say:

That I know personally M/Sgt BLAS R. RIBUNAL-179454, he being under the same organization and office with me at the Provincial Headquarters, PC, with station at Trinidad, Benguet, Mt Province at the outbreak of the war:

That, when I was transferred and assigned to the above-named organization on or about September 1941 from Headquarters DNL, PC, he was already holding the rank of a Corporal. He was the Firearm & Explosives Clerk in same office;

That our outfit was inducted into the USAFFE automatically as a unit under the Regular Force;

That he was last paid to include 15 December 1941 by Capt. Rafael C. Rodriguez, the Disbursing Officer of Benguet Co, PC;

That our unit was disbanded by Capt. Rafael C Rodriguez at Tublay, Benguet on or about 27 December 1941 after the capture of Major Segundo G. Vergara, our Provl Inspector of Benguet;

That he was able to evade capture by the enemy when Major Segundo G. Vergara was captured, he, being with him during the event of capture;

That he was able to rejoin "E" Co, 121st Infantry, USAPIP, NL on March 2, 1942 under Lt. George M. Barnett, the Bn Commander of La Union;

That he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on March 18, 1942, approved and issued by the RHQ, 121st Infantry;

That he had continuous services with this outfit until we were ordered to surrender to the enemy on 15 November 1942;

That he was sent to Camp O'Donnell, Capas, Tarlac to be concentrated thereat and later transferred to Balaocan, La Union on 21 Jan 43 till temporarily released on March 15, 1943;

That he has not been paid nor been issued clothing during the period he rendered services with this outfit;

Affiant further sayeth none.

In witnesshereof, I hereby affix my signature this 19th day of Jan 1946 at Camp Spencer, Luna, La Union.

/s/ Illegible
/t/ PIO L. UMANOS
2nd Lt, Inf, PA
Claims Service, AFWESPAC

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 19th day of Jan '46 at Luna, La Union.

A TRUE COPY:


E. W. CUTLER
1st Lt., AGC
Asst Adjutant

/s/ Illegible
(Administering Officer)
Capt Inf PA
(Rank and Br of Service)
Regtl S-2, 21st Inf.

A F F I D A V I T

I, PRIMITIVO RICO, Filipino, married, of legal age and resident of Caniling, Tarlac, P. I., after/having been duly sworn to according to law, depose and say:

1. That I am a member of the Enlisted Regular Force of the Philippine Army;
2. That I was a member of the Benguet Company, PC before and at the outbreak of the war in 1941;
3. That the Benguet Company, PC was disbanded by Capt. Rafael C. Rodriguez, Inf who was then the Commanding Officer on 31 December 1941;
4. That when the Benguet Company was disbanded, I, Basilio G. Seralde and Corpus, all of the Benguet Company, proceeded from Tublay, where the Benguet Company was disbanded, to Pangasinan with the intention of joining the USAFFE in the south;
5. That we (Seralde, Corpus and myself) reached Pangasinan on 6 January 1942. That when we arrived in Pangasinan Basilio G. Seralde got sick so I and Corpus were forced to leave him in the evacuation place at San Quintin, Pangasinan;
6. Further, affiant sayeth not.

IN TRUTH WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this 27th day of February 1946, at Camp Olivas, San Fernando, Pampanga, P. I.

/s/t/ PRIMITIVO RICO
Pvt, Inf
ASN: 007866

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 27th day of February 1946, at Camp Olivas, San Fernando, Pampanga, P. I.

/s/t/ ANTONIO OBIETA
Major, MC
Exec. Off. 1st Sta Hosp (PA)

A TRUE COPY:


E. W. CUTLER
1st Lt., AGC
Asst Adjutant

A F F I D A V I T

I, BASILIO G. SERALDE, Filipino, married, of legal age and resident of San Quintin, Pangasinan, after having been duly sworn to according to law, depose and say:

1. That I am an enlisted member of the Regular Force of the Philippine Army and was the Practicante of the Benguet Co., FC at the outbreak of the war in 1941;

2. That I know for a fact that the Benguet Company FC was disbanded on 31 December 1941 by Major (then Capt) Rafael C. Rodriguez the then CO of the Benguet Company FC at Tublay, Benguet, Mt. Province;

3. That I know that Pfc. Primitivo Rico was a member of the Benguet Co., FC at the outbreak of the war in 1941. That he was separated from his unit (Benguet Co., FC) by reason of the disbandment of the Benguet Company FC on 31 Dec 1941 at Tublay, Benguet;

4. That after the disbandment of the Benguet ~~xxxx~~ Company, Pfc. Primitivo Rico was my companion in moving from Tublay, Benguet, Mt. Province toward the south with the intention of joining the USAFFE;

5. That we reached Pangasinan on or about 6 January 1942. That I, Pvt. Corpus and Pfc. Rico were separated because I got sick when we arrived at Pangasinan. That Pfc Rico and Pvt Corpus left me at San Quintin, Pangasinan, when they continued their attempt to join the USAFFE.

6. Further affiant sayeth not.

IN TRUTH WHEREOF I hereunto set my signature this 22nd day of April 1942 at the 1st Sta Hosp (PA), Camp Olivas, San Fernando, Pampanga, P. I.

/s/t/ BASILIO G. SERALDE 008188
M/Sgt., MS
ASN: 008188

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 22nd day of April, 1942 at Camp Olivas, Pampanga, P. I.

/s/t/ FRANCISCO D. LIM
Captain, MC
Adjutant, 1st Sta Hosp (PA)

A TRUE COPY:


WITNESSETH
1st Lt., AGC
Asst Adjutant

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES }
PROVINCE OF RIZAL }
MUNICIPALITY OF MANDALUYONG }

S.S.

Incl. No. 1

A F F I D A V I T

I, BASILIO G. SERALDE, Filipino, married, of legal age and resident of San Quintin, Pangasinan, after having been duly sworn to according to law, depose and say:

1. That the following is a complete chronological history of my guerrilla activities:

I found myself with 2 comrades moving southward with the intention of joining the USAFFE Forces immediately after the Benguet Co., Philippine Constabulary was disbanded on 31 December 1941 at Tublay, Benguet. I got sick after crossing the Benguet ranges so that my companions left me at San Quintin, Pangasinan.

However, on 16 February 1942, I met and joined a group of reconnaissance patrol under General de Jesus. We moved southward, attempted to cross the Jap line through the Zambales Mountains but failed. Then we moved to the Manila Bay to do our bit toward Bataan. On the night of 8 April 1942, I with Col. Alberto, Mr. Santos and Pfc. Jose Ocampo while attempting to cross the bay toward the USAFFE sector in a banca, was chased by a Jap patrol boat and was forced to move back.

After the fall of Bataan on 9 April 1942, Col. Alberto, Mr. Santos, Pfc Ocampo and myself tried to join a guerrilla unit. The unit in existence then according to information was that of Col. Thorpe.

So we went to Timbu, Porac, Pampanga to contact Col. Thorpe. It was in here when we were waiting for a chance to contact Col. Thorpe that I met Lt. Cols. Martin Moses and Arthur K. Noble, Col. (then 1st Lt) E. P. Ramsey, Capt. Parker and Pfc Strickland, all Americans from Bataan. We reported to them to them on or about 20 April 1942. After the meeting I treated Pfc. Strickland for malaria and Col. Ramsey for bruises in the feet. Col. Ramsey even gave me a certificate stating that I reported to him in that place.

On 29 April 1942, I officially joined the two Colonels. Same day, we moved out of Timbu, Pampanga and went to Sta. Rita, Pampanga. We left Sta. Rita on 30 April 1942 and reached Calumpit on 1 May 1942. Due to lack of space in the banca, Mr. Santos and Pfc Ocampo were left behind. 2 May 1942 found us to be in Guiguinto, Bulacan. Stayed there for several days. Col. Fausto Alberto who was sent on a mission to Manila was left because we left the place abruptly before he returned. At Guiguinto, Bulacan, another one (Pvt. Pascual de la Cruz) joined us. We arrived in Sibul, Bulacan on 6 May 1942. After staying there for some days, we moved toward San Jose then to Lupao, Nueva Ecija where we arrived on 12 May 1942. During the night march (this is the kind of march we had up to San Nicolas, Pangasinan), Lt. Col. Arthur K. Noble stumbled on a stump of a tree which later caused him blindness on the right eye and thereafter. At Lupao, the two Colonels and Major (then 1st Lt) Lapham met. It was also in here where 1st Lieut. Juan O. Ramirez joined us. 16-17 May 1942 we were in the Headquarters of Col. (then Captain) Miguel Acosta. Papers and authorities were signed here for Col. Acosta's Unit. Afternoon of 17 May 1942, we proceeded to Mr. Carino's place in Benguet. In here we got arms, ammunitions, clothing and equipments. Instructed the soldiers thereat to help guard and keep the army properties in the

Guerrilla Activities of B. G. Seralde (Contd)

custody of Mr. Carino in Anagan, Benguet. About the end of May 1942 we arrived at Daluperit, Benguet. Met. Lt. Cushing, who later became the District Commander of Eastern Pangasinan. From June to December 1942: Were at Bucod, Benguet especially in barrico Carao. Lt. Col. Gregorio Manalo (then Captain) of Ifugao Co., PC contacted us and got authority to organize his outfit in Ifugao, Isabela and Bontoc. Lt. Col. Manuel Enriquez who took command of the 14th Infantry after the capture of Gen. Nekar frequently conferred with the Colonels in our place and also at his Headquarters in Ambaguic, Bucod, Benguet. If I remember right, he received his promotion to Lt. Colonel from Cols. Moses and Noble. Colonel (then Major) Russell Volckmann joined Cols. Moses and Noble and one of his first accomplishments was the installation of a telephone system within the Bucod area with Bobok Sawmill as the center and Insoed as his Headquarters. In August 1942, the organization of the USA GUERRILLA FORCES NORTHERN IUD-CW under Lt. Cols. Moses and Noble was in full swing. Officers were appointed and given assignments. Cols. Parker Calvert and Arthur Murphy (then Major and Captain, respectively) were given the charge of Benguet. An American Officer who was formerly the proprietor of a sawmill in Mt. Trail, Lt. Morris, Major (then Lt) Denis Molintas, Capt. Calixto Fianza, 1st Lt. Rufino Baldwin, etc were given assignments as well. Major Dado Dangwa was inducted by them. Communication was established between Benguet and Col. Iepham in the South and Major Praeger in the North. Activities: Ambushing Jap patrols, sabotages, raids, encounters with Jap patrols and counter-intelligence work. These include the raids within the vicinity of Baguio City and Luakan Field, ambushes along the four (4) roads leading into the City and the complete annihilation of the Japanese patrol that first paid a visit to Mayaoyao, Ifugao in November 1942. The occupation of the town of Ifugon, Benguet by our forces must also be taken into account. Results: employment by the Japanese High Command of more Jap soldiers as sentries, patrols and to maintain garrisons. These include tanks, armored cars, installation of machine-gun emplacements, more patrols to go along the Kennon Road, Naguilian Road, Itugon Road, Mt. Trail and also the Bontoc-Bagabag Road. The morale of the people was strengthened and their confidence in the US Government and Forces very high.

Due to the continued resistance within Mt. Province, the Japs began to mop in November 1942. After staying several days in the mountains including the barrico near Mt. Pulog where Capt. Francis Camp met us, we went to Tinoc then to Mayaoyao, Ifugao. Arrived at Mayaoyao on 23 December 1942. In the Headquarters of Lt. Colonel Gregorio Manalo, appointments and promotions were effected by the issuance of Special Orders. I personally typed these Special Orders for that outfit. The coming of the Japs in that place forced us to leave the Headquarters in the afternoon of 25 December 1942. We moved to Natonin where we met Captain Berch of the 14th Infantry. Then we went to the Headquarters of Lt. Col. Ali AlRaschid in Asiga, Kalunga. We effected the organization of that unit. Sector: Kalunga, Cagayan, Bontoc, and Isabela.

On 3 February 1943 we moved to Kabugao, Apayao. I and 1st Lt. Juan O. Ramirez were instructed to stay in Kabugao with our men while Lt. Cols. Moses and Noble went to the Headquarters of Major Praeger, in the mountains downstream. In here, Col. Moses contacted GHQ, SWPA on 14 February 1943. Col. Moses was then given authority to induct the equivalent of one regiment which authority was interpreted by Cols. Moses and Noble as confirmation of inductions and promotions already made. The promotion of Lt. Col. Ali AlRaschid from Major to Lieut. Colonel was issued after we received these instructions from GHQ, SWPA. The two Colonels also contacted Major Adurre. Lt. Arthur from Abra also got authority from them to organize his unit in Abra. We were about to contact Governor Ablan of Ilocos Norte but informations revealed that the Japs were busy chasing him. So we returned to Col. AlRaschid's place this time above Asiga and stayed in a remote barrico of Tagang. Finding that place to be the objective of the Japs we returned to Coner, Apayao. Stayed for sometime at Lapat, Coner then to Katablangan, Coner, Talifogo Abra & Dagara, Kabugao. Because the Japs were

Guerr. Activities of B. G. Seralde (Contd)

invading that territory from the north, we went back to Talifogo Abra and stayed there for some days. We went back to Katablangan and then straight to Tauang, Kalinga with S/Sgt Florentino Begtang PA and Donandan as guides. We gave all our rifles to S/Sgt Begtang when he was released by the Colonels. Pressure of the Japs in these territories forced us to move southward. When we reached Maginnet, Kalinga we found out that the Japs had posted outposts and patrols along all the trails leading towards Ifugao. We rested in the mountain stream sough of barrico Maginnet while waiting for food supplies we ordered from the people thereat.

Lack of food supplies prevented us from making a cross country trip. Unluckily, the Japs came in by surprise. That was about 1500 Hours, 2 June 1943. Noticing that we were already surrounded, Lt. Col. Moses instructed us not to shoot. We were four (4) in the group and had only two (2) .45 cal pistols and two (2) .38 long and short with very few ammunitions. Thus LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARTIN MOSES, LIEUTENANT COLONEL ARTHUR K. NOBLE, ASN: 0-16924 and 0-17780, respectively, FIRST LIEUTENANT JUAN O. RAMIREZ and myself were captured. After grilling, maltreatment and investigation, we were tied under a house in Maginnet for the night and next day brought to Lubagan, Kalinga. Next day, we were brought to Bontoc, Bontoc and on 4 July 1943 were brought to Camp John Hay, Baguio. In here the Japs brought the two Colonels out to make public appearances and speeches. In prison before we were brought to the Jap MP Cells, the two Colonels advised me that if I want to continue my resistance activities, if I be released from prison, with the least suspicion of the Japs, I would seek employment in the puppet government. Later, we were brought to the Jap MP Cells in Baguio, where we stayed for 39 days of grilling and hunger. On 31 August 1943, 1st Lieut. Juan O. Ramirez and myself were released and sent home to Pangasinan, while Lt. Col. Martin Moses and Arthur K. Noble, Capt. Kloge and Sgt. Pasquale (All Americans) were left in jail.

For my active service with the two Colonels, the following promotions were given me:

<u>RANK</u>	<u>SPECIAL ORDERS AND BY WHOM</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
FIRST SERGEANT	SO (Unnumbered), Hq. 2nd FG, ... Timbu, Pampanga, P.I., dtd 29 April 1942 by Lt. Cols. Arthur K. Noble and Martin Moses.	29 April 1942
SECOND LIEUTENANT	SO No. 17, Hq, USA Guerrilla ... Forces Northern Luzon dtd 1 Nov 1942 by Lt. Cols. Moses and Noble.	1 November 1942
FIRST LIEUTENANT	SO No. 26, Hq, USA Guerrilla ... Forces Northern Luzon dtd 25 Dec 1942 by Lt. Cols. Moses and Noble.	25 December 1942

I was sickly, emaciated and exhausted after my release from POW. When I arrived home, I found my family to be living in misery. Again, the Japs kept on checking on me and they were indeed a trouble not only to me but also to my family. I then did my best to look for a job where I can earn a decent penny within the bounds of my physical condition for the support of my family, evade the Jap nuisance and at the same time giving me an opportunity to continue my strong desire to help the resistance movement. This opportunity came when I went to Manila in September 1943. I met Lt. Col. Honorio A. Matoto who after being thoroughly convinced about my desire to help in the resistance movement, inducted me into the service of the Manila Unit, Matoto's Regiment, 4th Military District, Marking's Fil-American Troops, on 15 September 1943 with an appointment of CAPTAIN the same date. He then instructed me to employ in the puppet government in

Guerrilla Activities of B/ G. Seralde (Contd)

order to carry out the following instructions: gather informations about the Jap movements and entrenchments in Pangasinan; give some supplies especially rice to the unit if I can and campaign for the resistance movement, which I did. Lt. Col. Matoto advised me to quit my job on or about 30 September 1944 and to wait for his instructions. I then quitted from my job as Food Production Agent and Plant Sanitation Inspector in Santa Maria, Pangasinan on 30 September 1944 with a continuous period from 7 November 1943, and waited for his instructions in Umingan, Pangasinan. The liberation came and confusion existed due to the cruelties of the fanatic Japs which forced us to evacuate from one place to another. I was not able to receive any advice from Lt. Col. Matoto.

Immediately after the liberation of Umingan, Pangasinan I left my family who were still in the evacuation areas and reported for duty with the 2nd Replacement Battalion, PA, at Calasiac, Pangasinan. I then had the belief that if I report early I can be accounted for immediately and have time to join the liberating forces in due time which belief was never realized.

Further, affiant sayeth not.

IN TRUTH WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this 16th day of February 1947 at the Victoriano Luna General Hospital, PA, Mandaluyong, Rizal, P. I.

/s/t/ BASILIO G. SERALDE
M/Sgt., MS, PA(Reg)
ASN: 008188

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 16th day of February 1947 at the Victoriano Luna General Hospital, PA, Mandaluyong, Rizal, P.I.

/s/t/ CONSORCIO G. CRUZ
Captain, MC
Adjutant, VLGH

A TRUE COPY:


L. M. CUTLER
1st Lt., AGC
Asst Adjutant