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Title: PERSONAL PAPERS OF MARIA MARTINEZ

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES : S.S.  
CITY OF MANILA )

A F F I D A V I T

I, MARIA MARTINEZ, Filipino citizen of legal age and residing at 58 Donaga, Pasay, after being duly sworn to, depose and say:

That I was a stock broker by profession, branching out into real estate and supplier of construction materials.

That U.S. Army was, in the latter part of 1941, preparing for war. Construction work was starting in a big way. In October 1941, through my friends Col. Leo Paquett of the 31st Infantry and Col. J. Vance, head of Finance, I came to know officers of the Q.M. Construction service Dept., under Col. A. Parker, who was killed on April 14, 1942 at Corregidor. I had the equipment and the sources of materials; adobe quarried, stones, sand, gravel etc. I was given contracts by the Q.M. construction service, Chemical Warfare service, under Captain Lee Baldwin. After the war broke out, all through the bombings I continued my deliveries, being practically the only contractor who stayed on the job until the Army withdrew to Bataan.

From the moment the Japanese occupied Manila, I stopped all my business activities. Reign of terror started immediately in Manila. One hundred meters from my home on Taft Ave. is the American School Building. This was taken over by the Japs and converted into a garrison. Here I actually saw with my own eyes how men were being tortured by drowning them head down in a bucket of water till they died. Other instances were men completely bound by ropes, their body swollen, purple and blue from blows, with eyes, ears and navel burned by cigarettes, etc. Children, 6 to 10 years of age, bound to a tree from sun up to night, no food no water. Reasons for all this: they simply did not bow to sentries. Our conquerors were worse than beasts. They wanted to win the sympathy and heart of the Filipinos with barbaric bloody and murderous tactics: For all true blue Filipinos there was nothing in their hearts but murder for the yellow monkey-faced rats. I made up my mind then and there to my people and my country. I assured every one I spoke to that America would come back and would never let us down; that is was only a question of time and little patience. What gave me assurance and courage was a message from President Roosevelt received on December 29, 1941 and read that night by judge DEWITT, prominent and highly esteemed Manila lawyer to all U.S. Army officers and civilians, at the Manila Hotel. I was one of those present at the time, in the company of Captain Lee Baldwin. The message gave the assurance to the Filipino people that America would never let them down, that aid would be forthcoming. The same message was broadcast the next day over the radio.

*Handwritten initials*

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In April, 1942, Bataan fell and days later news of the Death March, in all of its horrible details was related to me by my nephew, Robert Bruce Jones, Pfc., who having fought in Bataan and being in on the death march himself escaped when his division reached Lubao, Pampanga and managed to reach me after days of tribulation. Upon learning of the atrocious situation, I immediately volunteered to send food, clothing, medical supplies and "news" to our American and Filipino war prisoners. I tried several ways and means to contact and locate friends, of whom there were many, in the prison camps. In the beginning there was much confusion, much misinformation, but I would not give up and in the end I succeeded in making contacts.

One month after the fall of Corregidor, a messenger came with a note from Captain Lee Baldwin, who informed me that he was in Corregidor, together with 400 prisoners and that they badly needed food and medicines. I sent through that messenger canned goods, sugar, beans and various other items that I had in stock and told him to be back as soon as he could make it. I also wrote and assured Captain Baldwin that he and his companions could depend on me at all times. From then on, a regular food and mail service was maintained with them, weekly or twice a month depending on the frequency of boats from the rock to Manila. Even gin, whiskey and rum were items not forgotten just to make the men happy for the moment. My sisters and nieces all lent a hand and were only too happy to do their share.

*SEATER CA*  
Towards September 1942, Maj. Robert Lothrop, Capt. Lee Baldwin and Lieut. James Sitter made plans to escape from Corregidor and asked me to help them, to which I agreed, I was to see Col. M. Manzano and inform him of their plan to escape and to get his help if he could do it. Before anything could be achieved, Captain Baldwin was transferred to Bilibid and later to Cabanatuan with Captain John Lucas (now Major) and some 300 more.

My contacts with Corregidor continued through Maj. Robert Lothrop and Lieut. James Sitter, who were going ahead with the escape plans. Col. Manzano had a scheme worked out that would have taken all the prisoners out of the Rock, instead of just 4 men, but unluckily he had to leave Manila on an important mission. We had to work out another plan in which Mamerto Lumba, one of our trusted couriers, lent a hand by supplying a regular size banca, while I provided food and money for expenditures of the getaway. The date was set for Feb. 17, 1944. The banca was waiting for them at the specified point as per Maj. Lothrop's instructions. The plan must have succeeded, but two men at Corregidor, Fuller and Anderson, war prisoners, squealed at the last minute. Maj. Lothrop, Lieut. Sitter, Sgt. Morris and Capt. Bulfamonte were placed under heavy guard by the Japs and had all privileges removed.....

On or about October 1942, I was introduced by Mrs. Rebecca Habibi to Mrs. Utinsky, who had heard about my connections with Corregidor through the same Mrs. Habibi. She asked me to help

*pages 2-3 at back of book*

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her with Camp O'Donnell prisoners, which I gladly agreed to. Together with Naomi Flores, who served as courier to Camp O'Donnell, the three of us worked hard, supplying food, home made Vitamin C, juice, clothes, medicines and money to war prisoners in said camp. Col. Duckworth was our contact man inside and made the acknowledgements through Naomi Flores on behalf of officers and enlisted men. I supplied the hospital of said camp with Calamansi syrup in demi-johns, calamansi jam. Col. Duckworth was able to smuggle out of camp a list of all officers and men who were alive and another list of deceased. This list was of great value as many people gave help when they saw the names of their personal friends. All supplies were shipped by train or trucks to Capas. From there, Naomi Flores, with the help of Dr. and Mrs. Atienza of the Red Cross, and some of the war prisoners who were in the fire wood or grass details, would smuggles the packages and food into camp.

By January 1943, Ramon Amusatiqui and his wife, Evangelina Niebert, Mrs. Salome Holland, Mrs. Rebecca Habibi, Father Lowler, Father Kelly, Miss Florendo, Joseph Allen Rody and his wife, Miss Rosario Cuyugan, Mr. and Mrs. E. Heise, Miss Grey and a few others had joined us in getting more clothes and food supplies. Mrs. Max Kummer was very helpful in obtaining passes from the Japanese Military Police for some of our special trips to Cabanatuan.

When the prisoners at O'Donnell were moved to Cabanatuan, in Jan. of 1943, we also transferred out activities to Cabanatuan. Naomi Flores (alias Looter) was instrumental in establishing contacts with Col. E. C. Mack (alias Liver) Col. Johnson and Chaplain Tiffany (alias Everlasting) Chap. Tiffany was in charge of the hospital. My own alias as "Papaya". Naomi had to stay in Cabanatuan and her activities consisted largely in receiving mail, messages, money, supplies and smuggling them into camp to Col. Mack through underground means. Assisting Col. Mack in this job was Mr. Fred Threat (alias Mongo). They both took care of distributing to their various addressees letters, food, medicines, money and special donations for needy soldiers. Personally, I sent financial aid to Capt. Byrn and his men (Aviation Corps). They had no friends and I knew of them through my nephew Robert Bruce Jones who had been captured again by the Japs for his guerilla activities and sent to Cabanatuan. Capt. Byrn was his superior officer in Bataan. Col. Mack, Maj. Patrick Reed Md. Major John Lucas, Capt. Lee Baldwin, N.M. Morgan, Lt. R. Keasy, Col. Leo Paquett, P.D. Rodgers, Capt. G. Hatch, Wade Cothran and many others too who were not officers. We cashed thousands worth of war checks and never dis-

In September 1943, Mrs. Utinsky was brought to F. Santiago and released after 15 days. Ramon Amusatiqui came to our aid, collaborating with us, with Evangelina Niebert (alias Sessie G) who served as courier between Manila and Naomi Flores at Cabanatuan and we all continued to work for the cause.

*Mr. Threat's wife*

*- Hosp Byrn only other left made early*

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While we were sending supplies to Cabanatuan, we were also taking out from said camp important military information coming from officers in camp. This information were relayed to guerilla units in Manila, who had facilities for transmitting the same to the South.

At the same time in Manila I was sending food supplies and money to the Bilibid war prisoners through Robert Evers who worked for the Q.M. Construction Dept. He was my contact man and made acknowledgements on behalf of all prisoners. R. Evers, together with other Bilibid war prisoners was sent to Pandacan every day on some work detail. A Filipino, Mr. Manalao, who was working in the same place was our courier and he took care of delivering food, supplies, money and messages to R. Evers for the whole group.

Some aid was extended to Park Avenue prison camp and Dr. Ramon Valenzuela took charge of getting the things through to the boys. Las Pinas and Fort Area camps were not neglected, either.....

I have also financially helped Santo Tomas civilian internees among whom I had many personal friends, and those at Ateneo de Manila. I made the acquaintance of a young Japanese in the administration office at Sto. Tomas, by name of Kukuban, who had lived a number of years in the P.I. This Jap let me inside camp several times and I was able to contact friends of mine, friends of war prisoners, gather intelligence information, news and letters. Mr. Duggleby was our contact man and Col. J. B. Richey. I called on Father Hurley a couple of times on behalf of our guerillas units with regard to finances. Boys working under Col. Baker, Col. Thorpe, made a sort of rendezvous of my house, I fed the boys and gave them money.

Thru Mr. Lucas Villacruis, of the construction Dept. I extended financial help and information to the guerilla unit of Capt Joseph Barker III whose organization did not last long, his men being caught and himself captured and taken to Fort Santiago, where he was later executed.

I also established contact with Maj. Charles Folsom whose unit was disbanded in the latter part of January 1945, after their camp was raided by the Japanese. My nephew Robert Bruce Jones was captured again during the raid and brought to Malolos, Bulacan and later sent to Cabanatuan prison camp. George Arnovitch was hurt in the arm and came back to Manila. I personally took him to Dr. R. Moreta, our guerilla doctor who operated on George. Mrs. Folsom who had been in the mountain with her husband, gave herself up and was taken to Fort Santiago, later released into Santo Tomas internment camp. Lieut. Hollins, another member of the unit, came to Manila to live under an assumed name.

I helped other guerilla units, although in a small way at first until such time as I was fully satisfied that they were really rendering services to the cause.

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In May of 1943, through Miss Remedios Filoteo (alias Capt. Cook) I joined the Phil-American Forces of Col. Hugh Straughn and received a Captain's commission on July 4, 1943, under the same alias of "PAPAYA" assigned to Intelligence Corps, attached to Finance Dept. The appointment was signed by Col. Hugh Straughn and Lieut. Col. James Atwell. Col. Straughn, who had known me personally before the war because of his and my connections with the mining business, authorized me to appoint my own men, who were to work with me. The men I selected were 1st Lt Naomi Flores, 1st Lt. Silverio Blaquera, 1st Lt. Manuel Lontoc, 2nd Lt Emma Infante, 2nd Lt Rosario Cuyugan, 2nd Lt Gervasio Luis Que.

Lieut. Lydia Gelidon, of the Straughn group, was our courier and took the supplies directly to Col Straughn. On Aug. 3, 1943, Col Straughn was captured by the Japanese. Col. James Atwell, Div Chief of Staff, disappeared.

After the collapse of the Straughn group, guerilla units operating in Bataan and Zamboales under Capt. John Boone and Maj. E. J. Ramsey needed help. Both American and Filipino soldiers and officers were suffering from malaria, malnutrition and tropical diseases of various types. This unit was getting very little financial help, if any at all. Contact with Captain Boone was established through Isidro Pongco (eagle) as courier and regular supply of medicine and money was sent to them for the maintenance of the whole organization. This help continued until I was captured on September 13, 1944. The, "Eagle's" father Mr. Pongco, took over the financing of the unit.

G-2 information which was furnished by Capt. Boone was relayed to other G-2 Units with whom I was also working. My alias was in that respect "Sunflower". Captain Boone was also kept posted with regards to all important messages re-safety of their unit. Isidro Pongco as a courier could not be beaten. How he managed to get through Japanese garrisons and sentries with his loads of supplies, money, letters, is a tribute to the fearlessness, loyalty and through honesty of the man. I cannot express better my opinion of him. Capt. Boone's untiring efforts and courage as CO of his outfit in Bataan won for him the award of the "Distinguished Service Cross". Mrs. Felisa Yanchico, alias "Dr. Kildare", did her utmost to help finance the unit. Gervasio Luis Que, alias "Why" also supplied medicines. He continued underground work with Lt. Manuel Lontoc.

In the organization of the intelligence unit headed by Capt Vicente Alabastro and Col. E. Ramirez, I received my commission of 1st Lt under the alias of "Cucaracha" in the I. S. of the 43d. Div. G-2 Detachment, Free Luzon Area, 6th Army, under Col. M. Peralta Jr., on July 15, 1943. Unluckily, however, all the members of this unit were arrested by the Japs M.P's., only two being fortunate enough to survive the tortures of Ft. Santiago and Bilibid.

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Maj. Robert Lothrop was instrumental in supplying me with intelligence reports covering Corregidor. Reports, maps, sketches were sent in cakes of soap or in cigarettes packages. These reports were transmitted by me to other units represented by Col. N. Manzano of the U.S. Army, Ramon Amusatague, special agent of the U.S. Army and of the Guerillas-At-Large and Lt. Jose A. Carpio, intelligence operative under Gen. Simonon de Jesus and Maj. Lorenzo Santamaria formerly USAFFE officers. The information furnished to Lt. Carpio was transmitted either to the Samar Guerilla unit under Capt. Pedro V. Merritt, through Lt Protacio Galias, intelligence unit operative of said unit covering Manila, or through Samuel Mationg, intelligence operative from Panay, under the 6th Military District.

Robert Bruce Jones, already mentioned in this report, by a piece of luck was released by the Jap Mil. Pol. from Cabanatuan and sent back to Malolos, Bulacan. After his release, he contacted me and through him I got reports on Japanese troop movements in the province of Bulacan and also on Hukbalahap activities. These reports were turned over by me to Capt. Ramon Infante, attached to the Alabastro group under Col. M. Peralta.

About March 1943, through Amusatague, contacts were established with Lt. Col. Emilio Asistores, unsundered USAFFE Signal officer and Chief G-2 of the Guerillas-at-Large and then sent to contact the allied intelligence Bureau of Samar. More frequent contacts were made with L. Carpio (Joel) and working together we were able to check up on various military intelligence reports which we were able to get hold of, as well as compile data on counter intelligence activities.

In May 1, 1944, Lt. Col. Asistores and Lt. Bartolome Ave upon order from Col. Eliodoro de la Rosa, their commanding officer (GAL) left Manila for Samar to contact the Allied Intelligence Bureau. In May 1944 Ramon Amusatague was picked up by the Jap Mil. Pol. He died in Bilibid prison on October 12, 1944, three days after we were both transferred from Ft. Santiago and Ft. McKinley.

The capture of Ramon Amusatague and of the members of the Alabastro Unit handicapped my work for a while. However, through the assistance of Lt. Carpio who was still operating under Gen. de Jesus up to June 1944, we were able to continue working for the cause. In July 1944, Lt. Carpio was inducted in the service of the 6th Mil. Dist. of Panay, the Manila unit which was headed by Capt. Enrique Galan. I had frequent contacts with these two officers and with their cooperation we were able to establish a network which covered Jap activities in Corregidor, Bataan, Laguna, Manila including Sto. Tomas internment camp, Cabanatuan POW, Nielson Airport. I also gave them financial aid whenever monetary

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assistance was not forthcoming from Panny Headquarters totalling P28,000.00 at least plus another P11,000.00 worth of Panny PNB Emergency notes.

The medical supplies I sent to the War Prison camps and various Guerilla units were mostly donated by Mr. J. L. Arnault of the Associated Agencies in 1942 and 1943 who also gave amounts of money at various times totalling about P15,000.00 with which I bought by the sacks beans, sugar, mangos, peanuts, etc. Some of the cash I distributed to individual POW and some to various groups from the different POW camps. No receipts, issued. The monetary assistance I gave out to said units and POW came from the sales of my jewelry, silver and other household furniture, etc., which I could dispense with.

I have also had insignias stolen from Japanese officers and turned them over to Lt. Carpio. The Japanese officers, I heard later, were court-martialed and withdrawn from circulation.....

The First McArthur Commandos under Col. Joseph Allen Rody were also in contact with me for important information and doings.

Lt. S. Elaquera and Lt. Manuel Lontoc were doing a fine job of checking upon all government employees and top men who were actually collaborating with the Japanese and those who only stayed on because they simply could not had to make a living. They were also gathering data on the volume of business done by so-called "Buy and Sell" moguls. In their capacity as secret service agents for the Bureau of Internal Revenue, they had access to everywhere and secured information without attracting much notice. They got all the data on the documentary stamp racket and scandal of 1944 in which prominent government officials are mixed up; one of them an ex-secretary of Finance. A full report on this subject was submitted to Mr. Ismael Mathay, then acting secretary of Finance.

On Sept. 13, 1944, I was arrested by the Japanese Mil. Pol. and taken to Ft Santiago. From the questioning I understood that letters, with money enclosures, sent by me and signed "Papaya" to Capt. Byrne P 500, Capt Lenoire P 400, Capt. Lee Baldwin P 840, and P. D. Rogers had been seized as they were being smuggled into Cabanatuan Camp. The Japs were not positive, however, about my guerilla connections which, inspite of heavy torture, I refused to admit. During one of the "investigations" the Japs told me they were going to get rid of all the American War prisoners whom I had helped. They also said that very few Filipinos would live to enjoy the coming back of the Americans, as they were going to destroy the whole city and the people in it. The destruction of Manila by the Japs was therefore a well thought and planned business.

After 26 days in Ft Santiago and a number of beatings at the so called "Investigations", I was taken to Ft McKinley for further questioning, then turned over to the Japanese Imperial Army and sent to Bilibid Prison where I almost died of sickness and starvation.



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We were forced to sit straight on the ground from 6:30 A.M. to 9:30 P.M. in complete silence, save for the moaning of the dying and of those who were being judged and beaten all over by the guards for any so called infraction of the rules. On Nov. 21, 1944, I was "Court Martialed" and sentenced to twelve (12) years ..... That saved my life as I certainly could not have lasted one week more. Two days later, I was transferred to the Womens Correctional Institution at Mandaluyong. There were 11 other women, also military prisoners among them two were Charity sisters. We were not beaten there and although the food was nearly impossible to eat as we were given boiled banana trunk. After a few days my family whom I was able to contact succeeded in smuggling to me small amounts of food which I shared with my co-prisoners.

On February 10, 1945, we were liberated by Maj. Lyman B. Bethwell of the 1st Cavalry Division and Col. Young of the PCAB advance echelon unit. We were all taken to Sto. Tomas Internment Camp. It was a timely rescue, because the day before the Japs had murdered patients and personnel at the Psychopathic Hospital, next to us. Without doubt, we were saved from the same fate by the fact that, that particular band of Japs did not know about our presence so near them at the time.

On February 17, 1945 while I was recuperating at Sto Tomas, one of my intelligence co-officer, Lt Carpio, who had found out about my rescue brought me a sketch-map which had been turned in by one of our field men. It showed the fortified positions of the Japs on the Montalban gorge, where the fight was then beginning. I showed the sketch to Brig. Gen. Courtney Whitney whom I have known for many years and who was at the Sto Tomas Administration office that morning. He advised me to turn over the sketch and information to the 14th Corps which I did. I also showed it to an 11th Airborne officer by the name of Wilson and he took a copy. A few days later a "Mr. Core" came to see me from the 14th Corps Headquarters, not revealing his rank, carrying a bundle of maps and my sketch. I gave him all the information, emphasizing to him that the main strength on the Japs was in the big caves and tunnels towards Ipo on the north, to Antipolo on the South and another towards the East, rumored to be crossing the whole range and to provide an eventual means of escape to the east Coast. I also gave B. Gen. Bonner Fellers Mil. Sec. to the C. inC. a copy of the sketch.

While at Sto. Tomas, in the early part of the liberation, I was introduced by Mr. N. H. Duckworth of the International Harvester a very good friend whom I have known for many years to a Capt. McGree, an officer of the 37th Div. which was fighting at the Wall City. Capt. McGree was telling us, the hardships they were encountering in trying to get through the walls. I told the Capt. that I knew two underground tunnels into Ft. Santiago that could be entered from the Pasig River. I advised him to send a couple

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divers at night to try and locate the entrance to the tunnel and check if the Japs had not sealed them. If not sealed then could get in there breaking through the dungeons. This officer came to Sto Tomas days later after Ft. Santiago had been taken and told me that my information had proved correct and extremely useful.

Also, during the time I stayed at Sto. Tomas, and after I left camp and took up private residence, the CIC came to me very frequently and I gave them information on people they were checking up. It is a fact that I know practically everybody in Manila and in many parts of the Philippines and I am also known to most people.

// I have managed to save some of the letters of officers I was helping, Capt. John Boone's, Maj Robert Lothrop's, Sol. E. C. Mack's and few others, but the great bulk was unfortunately destroyed by my mother after my arrest, in an attempt to protect me and themselves against complications. The wills and testament of Robert Lothrop and Capt. Lee Baldwin were turned over by me to B. Gen. Bonner Fellers, an old friend of mine whom I was immensely pleased to meet on the very first day of my liberation at Sto Tomas. He very kindly took charge of these documents and has had them delivered to their respective families.

// Many of the officers I have helped have died and that means that many good friends, I have lost. A few of them, however, have survived and it is a great source of satisfaction to me to be able to think that I have contributed in my own small way to repay to the Americans the many favours I have received from other Americans in the Philippines ever since I was a child.

I am attaching true copies of letters from war prisoners, // marked A to H

IN TESTIMONY OF ALL THE ABOVE, I sign this affidavit, this 30th day of January, 1946, in the City of Manila, P. I.

MARIA MARTINEZ  
58 Dominga, Pasay

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Subscribed and sworn to before me, the undersigned Notary Public in the City of Manila, this 30th day of January, 1946. Affiant exhibited her Res. Tax Cert. No. A 38303 issued at Manila on April 3, 1946. The affidavit consists of seven pages and refers to affiant's activity during the Japanese occupation.

Doc. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Page No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Book No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Series of \_\_\_\_\_

// Notary Public

A

Dear Miss Martinez: I understand we here in camp are indebted to you for various donations for the health and welfare of our men. Fruit and eggs have been purchased as a general rule for the nourishment of the seriously ill. It is my supreme pleasure to hear the words of "Thank you," and see the expressions of gratitude from the men, and I do sincerely pass them on to you. Gratefully yours.  
Chaplain Tiffany

Dear Miss Martinez: Your splendid note with its contents came in due time. I do not know how to thank you enough. I gave the money to the surgeons of wards 1 to 3. They, thru the commissary officer appointed for their ward, buy nourishing food for the seriously sick in the ward. One of the most popular and most health building foods we buy is peanuts. I was in ward 2 a few days ago when the men each received a canteen cup full of salted peanuts. A canteen cup holds about two large table glassfulls. They are fattening, and needless to say the men need that the most. This was in ward 2, as I said. This is the ward of the most seriously sick. But do you know we have had only one death so far this month in the whole hospital and camp, this is the 27th. Last month it was 9 and 10 for February. We do feel that the morale factor of the help from the outside does as much for the men, as the actual food value. It is so encouraging to them to know that others care and are actually showing that care in so evident a way. Again, thank you sincerely, both on my own behalf and on the behalf of the men, and thank you most for your prayers and for best wishes. May God abundantly bless you and yours. (Sgd.) Frank E. Tiffany

P.S. I will write a note to Miss Cuyugan, I guess I have read your writing correctly, for the masse. And, I saw Nel Morgan. He received the \$50.00 but not the package. The latter are mighty hard to get through, I am afraid it scarcely pays to attempt it. F.L.T.

TRUE COPIES OF LETTERS OF CHAPLAIN TIFFANY TO MISS MARIA MARTINEZ

Chap. T1

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A LETTER OF AN OFFICER IN CABANATUAN PRISON CAMP TO  
MISS MARIA MARTINEZ

I wish to thank you for your very kind help. I had long ago given up hope of ever getting that check cashed, and it was certainly a pleasant surprise to hear from you. I realize how difficult it is to get money in these times, and I appreciate it more than I can say. I do hope that it hasn't been too much of a sacrifice on your part, and I am looking forward to the time when I can better show my appreciation. At present, I am at camp III where we are running the hospital for the Filipino F.W's. You probably know that I am a Medical Officer with my home in Boston, Mass. a long way from here. Please let me know where I can locate you when this is over so I can properly thank you.

Sincerely,

(sgg) M. M. Andler  
1st. Lt. M.C.

TRUE COPY

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C  
From an American officer (1st Lt. ) prisoner of war in JAPANATUAN

7/11/43

Dear Maria:

I marvel at the things you do. It is not only what you do, but also that you do it for us. I say us because John has taken me under his wing and when you help John you help me along with your additional helping me alone. The words are all mixed up, but perhaps you gather what I am trying to say. Nevertheless, I am most grateful to you for everything, that is putting it rather mild, but someday I shall have an opportunity to show you as well as tell you how I feel. If I don't have the opportunity I want you to know that I thank you very night before I sleep through our common Medium. There is a 550 man detail leaving any day now for Osaka, we think. We hear there is to follow soon a 1000 man detail. I think it will not be long before most of the well will be shipped North. My eyes are much better than they were. The light still bothers considerably- and I cannot read, but there are no more severe headaches for which I am thankful. The shoes were a little narrow, but I will have the side <sup>cut</sup> out and a patch sewn over the hole- if they have the where-with all.. We'll fix it up. What worries me, Maria, is how everything is with you. You send us so much, but are you yourself in need? After all there are two sides to the question. Please let us know. Please let Miss M. A. how much she has done for us- and how much we appreciate it all. I did not actually know there were angels like you two- I had only heard. Now I know. I only hope I have the privilege of meeting you, and I am hoping that I shall someday again soon live instead of exist.

Love to you,

(Sgd.) Dick

D

Dear Papaya:

You hit the jack-pot again with your generous gift of cigars.  
Many thanks.

Stuff was moving slowly for a while but we have had more luck  
the past few days. Looter can tell you more about this.

A detail of 500 men and 8 officers with one doctor was supposed to have left last Friday. When they did not leave I hoped they would not. However since 2 doctors (SEA) arrived from Manila last night to examine them they will leave after all. And instead of going somewhere on Islands I now think they are going to Japan because they are giving the detail a physical examination. With the arrival of these doctors also came a rumor that 1500 men detail will be leaving for Japan soon. This one is to have "toosan" officers. I believe this is part of the independence plan to evacuate all able-bodied prisoners from P. I. before Independence is granted. Before this happens I hope MacArthur will be near enough to prevent our evacuation. After going thru the worst part of this life I hate to have it prolonged and possibly be resubjected to it.

Today is supposed to be our holiday but most everybody is out working. It works a hardship not to have a day of rest so that the men can wash their only clothes--the only clothes they have to work and sleep in.

God bless sweet Papaya and the whole MG group.

E. L.

P.S. Capt. I. saw me about check he sent you. It is o.k.

This letter is from Col. E.L. Mack, prisoner of war in CABANATUAN

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E

6 Jan 44

Dear Sunflower;

Enclosed find receipt for everthing. The paper and carbon is invaluable. I had just about given up and was trying to locate old government documents, clean on one side to meet the emergency. This supply should hold us for quite a while as we use it as sparingly as possible.

Eagle brought us some Typhoid, Cholera, Dysentery vaccine which is wonderful. I hope you will be able to loot some Red Cross Medicine. We still need cotton, Adhesive tape, Mechurochrome and Epsom salts. We have too many men die from minor gun wounds. A small amount of this serum would certainly be a God end.

Ram knows all about you and will contact you thru Eagle as soon as he returns from his present inspection trip. He will tell you all about the finances of the ECLGA and he may, perhaps change our system a little. At any rate, we will just continue as we are if it is OK with you.

The news about May is considered official. I hope no<sup>o</sup> one gets excited. I can hardly think they would give us a new table of Organization at this time if March was the dead-line because it cannot be completed by that time.

We really swamped with work now. It is very hard to build a real unit when you are forced to use untrained men as your basis. But the people in this District are 100per cent loyal and enthusiastic. Perhaps we will finish our new outfit by April 1st

Briones just gave the Japs another good thumping a few days ago. They came after him near Olongapo. The resulting scrap lasted 6 hours and the Japs suffered 30 dead and a few wounded. I think Briones lost only one man.

No other news in this District.

Best wishes to all and thaks for everthing.

Sincerely

JUAN.

From Captain John Boone guerilla leader in Bat<sup>a</sup>n under Maj. Ramsey

12

Dear Sunflower,

All arrived safely as may be seen by the receipts. Thanks once again to you all. I had a communication from Major Briones yesterday saying that his outfit is greatly in need of money again since his combat at Planas. I hope you and your associates can meet this problem too and am sending your receipts for a thousand each instead of five hundred. If possible, please give the other thousand to Isidro who will deliver it to the Nueva Ecija Hq.

I was forced to keep more soldiers in the field than I expected and I may call on you again soon for the Batang District.

Our most pressing needs at present are ribbon, carbon, paper and medicine.

I suppose you know that Isidro is serving as my representative in Manila so please see that he contacts me whenever anything of any importance concerning coordination should arise in Manila.

Best wishes to you all and perhaps I will be buying the drinks in Manila soon.

JOHN

From Capt. John Boone guerilla leader under Maj. Ramsey

17



E

Dear Sunflower,

Everything arrived safely as may be seen by the receipts. It so happens that Major Briones has recently returned to this area so it will be easy to issue him his share. He is within 2 kilometers of me now.

Eagle will tell you about the new developments in our business. We will soon have what we sorely need, a great Filipino to coordinate and lead all our associates in the islands. Our report from this official source still insists that there will be no action here before May 1.

Major Ramsey who is my immediately superior officer will probably contact you soon thru one Capt Esguerra. Capt Esguerra will tell you about our work and how the US Govt has assumed all our debts such as I am incurring with you. He will tell you that I have the permission of my C. O.'s to continue on with you in such money and supply dealings as I may find necessary in my District. He will also establish contact for you with Major Ramsey if you are interested. He is very near the city now. Eagle will explain the Luzon command to you so you will understand our set-up. It is really hard to say just how much money we need because my units are moving in and out of the District on certain missions. Many times they move out of contact with me for as long as a month. But, to the best of my ability, I think P2000.00, 2 thousand pesos a month will cover us. At any rate we will figure on that amount if it is OK with you.

Eagle will serve as the contact with the new advance Command Post in Manila and me, and with you and me, and will have no other duties. He will not contact any other points in Manila because I think these two will keep him busy. I want him to be as efficient and prompt as possible in all his future operations because many important things are taking place now and more to come in the near future.

Please give my regards to Jackline and my profound thanks to all involved.

I know the medicine problem is fierce in Manila but I will mention a few things we still need and someone may accidentally come across them. Beri-beri medicine, vitamin deficiency pills, dysentery medicine, adhesive tape, tooth ache medicine, epsom salts, and most important of all, something for tropical ulcers.

18

E

I understand that bella-donna ointment is very good. Also, some Gold Medal, a kidney medicine. All these in small quantities would be fine because there is not a big demand except for the ulcer medicine. And as usual, we need all the quinine we can get, I forgot one---- hospital cotton.

In regards to the money, I hope it can be delivered a thousand every two weeks. Eagle will coming here more often than that but I think the Command Post will handle his transportation fees. I think this is all.

Best Xmas greetings to all and I wish you at least, a half of a very Happy New Year.

Sincerely

John Boone

PS We are more in need than ever of administrative supplies. We are working on a new table of organization which means a great deal of paper work. Perhaps some of your acquaintances can help us with ink, pens, carbon paper and any kind of paper.

From Capt. John Boone guerilla leader under Maj. Ransey

19

F

Dear M.-

I'm distinctly worried about the interception of that Fed. carrier as far as the effect upon you is concerned! By all means, do not take any chances until you get the "all clear" and any ideas that I have sent along please hold until you are certain that the way is again safe for you who act as a "clearing house" for so many many contacts! Believe me when I say that your personal safety is worth so much more than the solution of any of our small plans; and so act accordingly, knowing, as you must be this time, how deeply we all hold you in our esteem. If ever any one person deserved the recognition and reward of a generous government, you most certainly do and I shall make it my business to see that you are recognized at the proper time, my dear!

I owe you an apology for violating, unintentionally, one of my agreements with you: That I would send no messenger without proper introduction and credentials! The last man I sent - "M. I." - was to be given a note, his transportation left here early, and apparently, contrary to my instructions, he went to see you without an introduction. It won't happen again, I assure you; and thank heaven, this man is entirely reliable! In fact, he is smarter than the average and therefore more resourceful than most. Moreover, he is very much trusted by the J's and so can be relied upon to get thru safely whether others might fail or not! What "M. I." said to you verbally about a dance I don't know except some remark of his to the effect that they need it here for fishing purposes. Actually you can imagine what the need is, for it would probably be unaccountably "lost" on C- somewhere. I think this man can be trusted but, use your own judgment, M-I

I have sent out word thru a different carrier which I expected would reach you on the 18th but there again my plans fell thru and the wrong carrier got there first in point of time. You will understand what I mean when the boy arrives on 18th, as he should without fail. Hope you enjoy the cigarettes!

I shall most certainly "hold my horses" and I don't wish to appear to be rushing things about the garden seeds but the longer we have to put off the garden, the hungrier we may be later on when food is more scarce than now. Complete plans for the garden, as we consider it advisable, are going forward to you and you should be able to give us good advice about it. Yours is the governing end and, if I seem impatient, put down to my natural temperament (I'm partly Irish and a great "driver" at my work) and to my immense appetite! You are the judge in the matter but the sooner the seeds are planted the sooner we'll enjoy the garden products!

Trust me to use discretion and call in the matter of correspondence and to protect our interests in every way. The items about the stethoscope is not satisfactory to us and please conduct the bargain at your convenience and let us know about it. The price is O.K. to us. Many thanks for what you can do there!

Love and best wishes always! Keep smiling.

B-

From Maj. Robert Lothrop, POW in Corrigidor until Aug. 31, 1944.  
There were 400 men with him. He was sent to Japan on Sept. 1, 1944.

20

F

From Maj. Robert L. Pop, POW in Corregidor until August 1944.

2/11

Dear M-

Your last note thru M.I. received and thanks for the general information. I am somewhat of the opinion that M is not devoting as much energy to helping out in the development of a good garden as I would expect from a former very good friend and fellow-soldier. I grant the possibility of my misjudging his intentions in the matter but, after all, for one of his background and training, I can only judge by results. I have it on good authority from a friend to whom I have talked personally here that M spends very little time in Manila; but at the same time, he could, at the very least drop me a short note thru you, as an indication of his interest. If you have been able to see him, let me know what the situation is. In the meantime, thank you, my dear, for working on another party.

While you have been making your good and earnest efforts there we have not let the grass grow under our feet here. In fact I have been dealing directly with a man, recently come here, who has agreed to act as gardener, and bring the necessary seedlings in person. He is entirely trustworthy and possesses the necessary knowledge and initiative (plus courage) to give us the benefit of his training in the field of gardening. He practices gardening in the Visayan manner and is not interested in the northern methods. He learned most of his methods in Samar but lived long enough in the area up the Pasig from Manila to be able to see the advantages of southern methods over those, say, of Luzon. We have definite plans to take advantage of his assistance; the situation is becoming more and more uncertain here as to food, and we cannot in safety and security delay any longer in the making of a garden even tho' it may not be the very best that the future might make available to us. M. I. was instrumental in sending the man over to us and can give you details if you wish to pass them on to M. Incidentally, if M wishes to take a hand in the garden it can be arranged thru M.I. to meet our man. As I say, we have decided to do the work now so that we may not fail to take advantage of the opportunities, and so suffer later as a result of lack of vitaminous legumes. You, undoubtedly can appreciate our need for taking action on getting the garden with as little delay as possible. Your help has always been of inestimable value and will continue to be so, I know. At one time you asked if we needed money; and at this instant we could certainly use some preferably of the P.I. variety, but the Nippon kind will do almost as well I think. Repayment may be long in coming, dear M, but that it will come you may rest assured, together with the thanks and prayers for your everlasting health, prosperity and happiness from all of us. The glasses were received with many, many thanks (the sun is hard on my eyes) and I shall look forward to seeing the watch perhaps on Tuesday, the 15th if that's humanly possible for you to accomplish. I expect the 17th to be a memorable day in my personal history (I pray it won't be the last.)

It may be that my little notes will be interrupted for a time, if so, pray for me till you hear again. May God bless you and keep you in safety, health, prosperity and happiness, is the prayer of all of us who have so often been blessed by your boundless generosity, kindness, and thoughtfulness. Much love, always, till we meet.

B.

P.S. The attached note, small book and personal gadget pass on to Virginia for safe keeping if and when you ~~shame~~ feel it will certainly go in to her don't risk a chance of losing it as the notebook, in particular, will be of tremendous value to my wife in the event of my untimely and early end. B.

21

F

27

Dearest M-

Your two notes rather upset me for a few hours; first, because of your very evident concern and worry about us; second, because of M's attitude in the matter of leaving anyone behind. Your anxiety and concern I do so very much appreciate because I know it is genuine as coming from your kind and generous heart! Tho you have never seen me still you are a friend such as a man could always count upon whatever the seriousness of the situation! You may count upon hearing from me again, if not in the near future, at least, in the future! And we shall meet, I know because I have made a vow to see and thank in person so fine and brave a little person as I know you to be! But, do be careful, my dear friend, in all that hot situation there. It's plenty hot here, too, and I mean really hot! I was "on the carpet" for over an hour; my house and personal possessions were thro'ly ransacked and searched -- but to no avail as we were alittletoo smart and, to a certain extent, lucky, too! There is no one here, -- except Bob B. who knows of our connection; destroy all trace of communication with me; hide securely your records of my name, address, dope about my wife etc.! I'm sending some very important papers (alittle black book to be exact) which I wish you'd get to Virginia, if possible; take no chances on it for your own safety as it will be dynamite after I leave! You can see the value of it (read it if you wish of course) to my dear wife! Hence I wish it sent to her in any case whether I'm actually known to be alive or not!

As regards M's plans and feelings about leaving anyone behind he should be acquainted with these facts: I'm the top man here; no one will suffer from my going because no ones know of it or can order me not to do it. Secondly, the rest of the men here are not interested in doing anything but staying and would probably be a hindrance rather than a help in any plan calling for help, in leaving, from the outside. They wish to "ride out the storm" right on this harbor; most of them say they have done their bit in this war; now let Uncle Sam come and get them out of this hole! A fine spirit! The heat is on me here because two men -- M.I. will give you the names and facts -- turned informer to the J's on some of my local arrangements and dispositions of personal equipment here in camp! They knew nothing for sure so their plan to have me eliminated fell thru. Please see that M. is made aware of these facts my dear. Whatever he had in mind I appreciate -- tell him so -- but I am the best judge of my own situation and will act accordingly!

Thank your dear, generous heart for the peace; they will help us on our way I know! Please believe me I have never needed it before or I most certainly would have asked you, my dear! The amount I consider most generous; please know in your heart how grateful I am for everything! Till we meet, then, my dear friend--- Advice ---

B-

From Maj. Robert Lothrop, POW in Corregidor until Aug. 31, 1944. There were 400 men with him. He was sent to Japan on Sept. 1, 1944.

22

H

30 S. Fourth Street  
Emporium, Pa.,  
August 13, 1945

Dear Maria:

Your letter of June 20, just received this morning, was very very glad to know that you are alive and not feeling too badly. I was worried until I met Mrs. Utinsky in Washington, D.C. who told me that she saw you in Manila before she left for the States and that you did not look too badly. I was afraid if and when the Japanese found out about your activities for the benefit of the American Friscomers, as to what they might do to you, there are so many of us who owe our being alive today to you for the food, money, medicines and the cheery letters you sent us.

I had written you several letters since February 9, especially after I saw Mrs. Utinsky and this is the first letter I have had from you. Lee Baldwin was on the ship that left Manila on December 13, 1944 and we were told that he was killed when the ship was bombed between Corrigedor and Bataan. Bob Overbeck who worked with me on Gabenstuan and who was sent to Japan on October 11, 1944, told me that Bob Lothrop was on the same ship, that he jumped overboard four or five days after leaving Manila, that the Japanese shot him while in the water, Overbeck and 4 enlisted men were the only survivors out of 1600 prisoners, the ship was torpedoed somewhere near Formosa, Overbeck met me at San Francisco when our ship docked, I could hardly believe it was him as I thought he was in Japan or the bottom of the China Sea.

Mr. Treat, Mack, Rodgers, Chaplains Oliver, Tiffany, Col. Swartz and several others were picked up the next day after Treat was caught with the notes and money, they tortured and starved them until the latter part of Sept., when they were finally released. Treat, Oliver and one other of the crowd came back to the States with us, the others were sent to Japan on the two ships reported sunk, whether alive today or not I do not know.

We all know the risk and anger of the work you were doing and prayed that you would not be found out, however we knew that if you were caught that you would never blame anyone else, we can imagine about how you were tortured and treated from some of the treatment which we received from them.

Maria is there anything I can do for you in any way? I want to help in any way I can, I can sign affidavits that you furnished materials for the construction of the Chemical Warfare buildings at North Harbor and on the back road to McKinley from Nichols Field

23

H

I am still a patient at Walter Reed Gen. Hospital at Washington, D.C. at the present am off on sick leave and have to report back for further treatment and observation on Sept. 21. Mr. Wilkinson who was chief clerk for Col. Parker is still in Manila I understand and I'm sure he will be glad to make affidavits about the materials you furnished.

Dick Keasey went to Japan on one of the boats, don't know if he made it or not, also Hatch. Keasey and I owe you much and I for one want to do everything possible.

I do not know if Mr. Bauman will look me up while he is here in the States or not, I only had the one short note from him during the whole time we were prisoners. Jerry Steward, who had charge of the Electrical work at Cavite is leaving here shortly, going back to Manila for the Navy, Mrs. Steward is going back with him. Had a letter from John T. Bootes, electrician, who worked in the Port Area for the Q. M. he is working for Col. Bachman in Manila. Mr. Gilliland, Mr. Bill Snyder and Pres. Rockwell of Meralco are here in the States, had letters from them.

Chalpain Oliver tells me that Mrs. Utinsky had an offer from the Am. Red Cross to work for them do not know if she accepted or not. I want to get back to Manila as soon as the Army start building again, have they started anything yet? Hope that I will soon be discharged from the hospital. Could go to work here, but prefer going back to Manila, what do you think? I had prayed God every night to watch over you and keep you safe from harm and it looks like my prayers were answered.

Was just over the Post Office to find out if Money orders were accepted for Manila, they told me they would find out, also whether airmail service was in use or not between the States and Manila.

Marie if it is possible could you find out whether the papers which I had in a blue barracks bag in Cabanatuan might be available, the day following our liberation January 31, some of the Filipinos who lived near the Camp came into the Camp and carried off everything we left, the papers were sewed in the bottom of the barracks bag, they contained a list of Mr. Erickson's property and a will, as well as affidavits of his and my own, there was other things there, clothing, money etc., but am not interested in the other things as much as the papers, the papers would be of no value to anyone but myself. Thought that you might know of some one out there that could make inquiry, the papers had my name on them and could be readily indentified. The barracks I was in was the small one where the American Truck drivers lived, across from where the garage was on the Japanese side.

G  
2

H

I also left clothing, 2 electric fans, radio and other things at the Elks Club, with the house boy, a Filipino I believe who was the oldest house boy in the club, a very nice man, who promised he would try to take care of this, you might inquire and maybe he did get a chance to get some of it away. I also have an account with the Philippine Trust Co., about P1922.00 Is this bank open. What is its status? Mr. Thompson was the Manager of the Elks Club at the outbreak of the war, maybe he can give you some information, if any of these things are available, you are privileged to make whatever use you can of them.

Am sending you \$25.00 by registered mail, if this gets through will send more, did not want to take a chance with more than that until I am sure you receive it, they are not issuing any money orders to the Philippines as yet, that is the information they gave me at the Post Office.

Am sending this letter by air-mail as they advise / me that this is open now.

I hope this letter finds you well. Write me as soon as you can.

Love

(SGD.) JOHN

Address me at 30 E. Fourth Street  
Emporium, Penna.,  
U.S.A.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY OF LETTER OF MAJOR JOHN L. LUCAS  
TO MISS MARIA MARTINEZ

3

R.H. 1/21/48