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Authority NNP 883078

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**STATUS, USAFFE**

**PA - 31**

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Usaffe Status of Philippine Constabulary Band

OIC, DS, Vets Br.

Mr. Wesley R. Fronk

27 Jul 51

The purpose of this memo is to clarify the Usaffe status of the Philippine Constabulary Band.

A study of files of members who allege service with that unit indicates that they all allege induction by Capt. Alfonso J. Fresnido in the presence of an American Officer on 16 Dec 41 at the Bordner School, Taft Avenue, Manila.

It is apparent from the study of these files that evidence to establish USAFFE service is based primarily on the affidavit of Alejandro Romano, along with the affidavits of one or two other living band members. Romano, however, does not appear on Usaffe archives and has only the affidavits of Luis Ramos and Ananias Rosal, both members of HPA presumably inducted on 19 Dec 41, as evidence of Usaffe status. It is apparent that these affiants are not in a position to vouch for the alleged Usaffe induction of Romano by Capt. Fresnido on or about 16 Dec 41.

In addition the deceased case of Capt. Fresnido, who is alleged to have been inducted into the Usaffe on or about 15 Dec 41 at Far Eastern University by Col. Richard J. Marshall, USA has been studied and found to have been reviewed by Deceased Section and redetermined NEGATIVE for Usaffe status for the following reasons:

1. Proof of Usaffe status is contradictory as to date of induction.

Affiant Alejandro Romano, who himself alleges induction by Capt. Fresnido on 16 Dec 41, states Capt. Fresnido was inducted on 15 Dec 41 in an affidavit dated 24 May 46 and 16 Dec 41 in a joint affidavit with Benito Epistola dated 12 Jun 47.

Affiant Benito Epistola makes contradictory statements regarding date of induction, alleging 15 Dec 41 in an affidavit dated 24 May 46 and 16 Dec 41 in a joint affidavit with Alejandro Romano dated 12 Jun 47.

Affidavits of Antonio and Luis Florentin allege that Capt. Fresnido was inducted on or about 19 Dec 41.

2. Claimant in F-7 states that subject was

- a) 16 Dec 41 - Inducted into Usaffe - Manila - Adj. Gen. PA
- b) 17 Dec 41 to 15 Sep 42 - Ill at home - 405 Vermont, Manila - Unit disbanded.

(Over)

This would indicate that Capt. Fresno and the Philippine Constabulary Band did not actively serve in the Usaffe.

Based on the foregoing findings, it is, therefore, determined that the Philippine Constabulary Band had no Usaffe status and all members should be determined NEGATIVE for Usaffe status.

*[Signature]*  
**OTTO STANHISER**  
CAPTAIN A.G.C.

*[Signature]*  
**RESULT R FRANK**  
JAD FM REVIEWER  
DSVB AGRD

NEGATIVE for Usaffe status for the following reasons:  
and found to have been released by respective section and determined  
members individually by COJ. Members of the band were found to have  
to have been inducted into the band on or about 1942 and it was  
in addition the respective case of Capt. Fresno, who is alleged

Capt. Fresno on or about 1942.  
Band on to allow for the alleged Usaffe induction of members by  
of Usaffe status. It is apparent that these affidavits are not in a  
form which are of the Bureau of Investigation on 1942 and evidence  
affidavits and are only the affidavits of the band and members who  
affidavits were prepared. However, none of the affidavits on Usaffe  
affidavits were prepared. It is noted that the affidavits of one of the other  
affidavits were prepared in regard to the affidavits on the affidavits of  
It is apparent from the affidavits of these affidavits that evidence to

Band on to allow for the alleged Usaffe induction of members by  
affidavits in the presence of an American officer on 1942 and the  
inductees that they will receive induction by Capt. Fresno of  
A number of affidavits of members who will receive affidavits that will  
the Philippine Constabulary Band.  
The purpose of this memo is to certify the Usaffe status of

*Team #1*

X - GRAT  
INS

Distribution "B"

6 April 1951

OIC, Living Section

Gratuitous Insurance

1. Confirming verbal instructions regarding gratuitous insurance.

2. Gratuitous insurance is deemed insufficient to establish USAFFE. The insurance verification slip from Administrative Section will usually indicate the insurance to be gratuitous by use of the word "gratuitous" or by use of "PL 667".

*JL*  
JOHN L. GOODE  
Captain, Inf  
CIC

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AGRD-V  
USAFVE Service of 14th  
Infantry  
Chief, Liv Sec, Vets Br.

25 Apr 50

Distribution "B"

Wherein claimant has incomplete 201 file and the information contained therein is insufficient to establish USAFFE status. In no case will information to establish USAFFE status be requested from either the claimant or any other source.

The 3101 will be returned to VA with the following remarks:

"201 file of subject claimant has been forwarded to 4300 Goodfellow Blvd., St. Louis, Missouri.

Records this headquarters insufficient to establish USAFFE status."

----- E. L. KNOLL -----  
Capt CmlC

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AGFD-V  
USAFTE Service of 14th Inf,  
AUS, Personnel  
Chief, Liv Sec, Vets Br.

21 Apr 50

Distribution "B"

1. All original and supplemental 3101's received from VA requesting for information or prior USAFTE status of members of the 14th Infantry who had been granted AUS status by Project "J" will be handled as follows:

a. If on the box for type of claim (upper right-hand corner of 3101) the entry is Chap II, PL346, send the 3101 to the Chief, Vets Br., without any action.

b. If the type of claim is "Death" or "Disability", complete the 3101. However, if the determination for USAFTE service will be negative, send the file to Chief, Veterans Branch, before final action is taken on the case. Cases determined positive for USAFTE status will be forwarded to USVA, MRO under the usual procedure.

2. All cases wherein the 201 file has been forwarded to St. Louis, will be returned to VA stating that the 201 file of subject veteran has been forwarded to St. Louis.

-----E.L. KNOLL-----  
Capt CmIC



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)  
CAMP MURPHY, QUEZON CITY ) S.S.

A F F I D A V I T

I, LAUREANO G. CARINO, Major, DOL, of legal age, married, and at present the Commanding Officer of the 2d AFP Band (Camp Murphy Band) stationed at Camp Murphy, Quezon City, after having been duly sworn to in accordance with law, do hereby depose and say:

That I was the Commanding Officer of the First Infantry Band, PA, Camp Murphy, Quezon City from June 1937 until the outbreak of world war II in December 1941;

That the list of officer and enlisted men herewith attached, called for per ltr, Hq AGRD, APO 928, dtd 30 Jun 1950, Subj:- "Request for information (1st Inf Band, PA)", are regular members that composed the 1st Inf Band, PA;

That all the members of the 1st Inf Band, PA, were inducted into the USAFFE on 15 December 1941 by Colonel M. S. Torralba, CO, 1st Reg Div at Camp Murphy, QC;

That all the members, 1st Inf Band, PA were detailed as guards at the PA General Depot, Manila at the early days of the war to 2 January 1942 by the CO, 1st Reg Division;

That upon orders from the CO, 1st Reg Div, the members of the 1st Inf Band PA was disbanded by me on 2 January 1942 at Camp Murphy, Quezon City;

That upon my instructions, we proceeded to Tagaytay mountains in Cavite individually to evade capture from the enemy and organized into guerrilla unit under Colonel Terry Magtangol Adevos, CO, ROTC Hunters Guerrilla until the liberation of the American Forces;

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have signed this affidavit on this 26th of July 1950 at Camp Murphy, Quezon City.

*LCR*  
LAUREANO G. CARINO  
Major, DOL  
CO, 2d AFP Band

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me on this 31<sup>st</sup> day of July 1950 at Camp Murphy, Quezon City.

*JA*  
FRANCISCO P. AMBAS

*Capt FA Amb*  
Capt FA Amb

LIST OF OFFICER AND ENLISTED MEN  
FIRST INFANTRY BAND, PA, CAMP MURPHY, QUEZON CITY

NAME	Date of last Enl prior to Dec 1941	Grade: Held : :	REMARKS
1. Major Cariño, Laureano G:	Jun '37	2d Lt:	All the Officer and
✓ 2. T/Sgt Batolina, David	: 2 Feb 40:	Cpl :	Enlisted Men were in-
✓ 3. T/Sgt Crisostomo, Emiliano:	17 Jun 40:	Cpl :	ducted into the USAFFE
4. T/Sgt Laudato, Vicente	:21 Dec 38:	Sgt :	on 15 Dec 1941 by Col
5. T/Sgt Patriarca, Marcial:	5 Jan 39:	Sgt :	M S Torralba, CO, 1st
✓ 6. T/Sgt Perez, Romualdo	: 5 May 41:	T/Sgt:	Reg Div at Camp Murphy,
✓ 7. T/Sgt Quibael, Felipe	:26 Mar 40:	Sgt :	Quezon City.
8. T/Sgt Tariman, Jaime	: 2 Feb 39:	Cpl :	
9. T/Sgt Viernes, Victor	:Unknown	: Cpl :	
✓ 10. S/Sgt Abad, Enrique M	:15 Dec 38:	Cpl :	
11. S/Sgt Bautista, Pedro	:12 Jan 40:	Cpl :	
✓ 12. S/Sgt Domantay, Benito F:	1 Jul 40:	Cpl :	
✓ 13. S/Sgt Martinez, Ricardo L:	21 Dec 38:	Cpl :	
14. S/Sgt Mazana, Pio	:Unknown	:S/Sgt:	
✓ 15. S/Sgt Muralla, Daniel	:25 Jul 40:	Cpl :	
✓ 16. S/Sgt Palompo, Julian	: 3 Jan 39:	Cpl :	
✓ 17. S/Sgt Pañiganiban, Fermin:	20 Dec 39:	Cpl :	
✓ 18. S/Sgt Rosete, Iluminado	:Unknown	:S/Sgt:	
✓ 19. S/Sgt Samson, Ismael	:5 May 40 :	Cpl :	
✓ 20. Sgt Bautista, Ramon	: 5 May 40:	Sgt :	
✓ 21. Sgt Barrinuevo, Pedro S	:18 Jun 39:	Pfc :	
✓ 22. Sgt Borja, Isabelo	: 2 Dec 40:	Pvt :	
✓ 23. Sgt Columna, Tiburcio	:20 Dec 38:	Cpl :	
✓ 24. Sgt Comiso, Federico	:26 Jul 40:	Cpl :	
25. Sgt Doringo, Urbano	:12 Dec 38:	Pfc :	
26. Sgt Evangelista, Daniel	:16 Dec 40:	Pfc :	
✓ 27. Sgt Flores, Daniel	: 1 Feb 40:	Pfc :	
✓ 28. Sgt Loren, Leonardo	: 6 Nov 40:	Pfc :	
29. Sgt Malimban, Antero J	: 2 Feb 40:	Pfc :	
✓ 30. Sgt Marte, Francisco R	:28 Dec 39:	Cpl :	
31. Sgt Pañiganiban, Julian	: 1 Jul 39:	Pfc :	
✓ 32. Sgt Serafica, Estanislao	: 4 Jul 40:	Pfc :	
33. Sgt Signo, Luis	:17 Apr 41:	Pvt :	
✓ 34. Sgt Aguilar, Sergio J	:21 Aug 41:	Pfc :	
35. Cpl Bersonda, Santiago	: 1 Mar 40:	Pfc :	
36. Cpl Cenizal, Medardo	:17 Jun 40:	Cpl :	
37. Cpl Dumapias, Segundo	:15 Dec 38:	Cpl :	
✓ 38. Cpl Gonzales, Benito	:13 Apr 40:	Cpl :	
39. Cpl Gloton, Apolonio	:20 Dec 39:	Pvt :	
✓ 40. Cpl Mata, Manuel de	: 1 Jul 41:	Pfc :	
✓ 41. Cpl Ramos, Paulino	:27 Dec 39:	Pfc :	
42. Cpl Rodil, Brigido	:Unknown	: Cpl :	
43. Cpl Roseta, Narciso	:26 Jul 40:	Cpl :	
✓ 44. Cpl Santera, Leonardo	:17 Jun 39:	Cpl :	
45. Pfc Cabrera, Epifanio	:Unknown	: Pfc :	
46. Pfc Jardin, Alfredo	: -do-	: Pfc :	
47. Pfc Lozano, Arturo	: -do-	: Pfc :	

I hereby certify that the above list of officer and enlisted men are regular members that composed the First Infantry Band, PA, at the outbreak of the war in December 1941.

*Ln*

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LAUREANO G. CARIÑO  
Major, DOL  
CO, 2d AFP Band

AGRD-V

PMB/ats

17 Feb 50

X-VB Adj Policy  
In Memo 3

Chief, Veterans Branch

Chief, Living Section  
Chief, Deceased Section

1. In connection with the conference which I called this morning in which you were present, regarding the application of Sec. 1 A, Branch Memo No. 3, dated 3 Feb 50, re Changes 1 to Veterans Branch Adjudication Policy, it is desired that all personnel in your section be instructed to apply what has been decided in said conference, namely:

a. It was not the intention of the policy to authorize negative determinations on every case simply because the proof of USAFFE status on file consists only of affidavits;

b. Affidavits are still acceptable as proof of USAFFE status, however, their probative value will have to be carefully weighed;

c. The object of the change in policy is to prevent the perpetration of fraud by undeserving claimants especially where the claim or the affidavits were only recently filed.

d. It must be remembered that the records other than affidavits that are available in this headquarters to prove USAFFE status are few, in proportion to the estimated number of bonafide members of the USAFFE and that from 40 to 50 percent of USAFFEs can prove their status only through activities;

2. It is realized that the practical application of this policy is difficult. However, it is not possible to draw a dividing line between what cases containing only affidavits to prove USAFFE status should be declared negative, and what should be declared positive. Each case will have to be decided on its merits.

3. It is desired that report of compliance be submitted to this office not late than 1600 hours, 20 Feb 50.

P. M. BAKEN

Major INF

C  
O  
P  
Y

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Check Sheet  
HEADQUARTERS PHILCOM  
AG-Recovered Personnel Division

Do not remove from attached sheets

File No. **GSKRP**

Subject: **Request for the Organization List of the PA and the PC before surrender on 6 May 1942.**

FROM: **Ex O for Deceased Claims Affairs, PA Br**

TO: **Liaison Officer PARPD**

DATE: **2 May 1947**

1. This headquarters finds it difficult to identify the USAFFE units of the PA and the PC as they existed at the outbreak of the war and before the date of surrender.

2. Request that steps be taken to secure from HAP certified true records of the organization lists referred to above, if possible broken down as follows:

- (a) List of USAFFE Units in Bataan
- (b) List of USAFFE Units in Corregidor
- (c) List of USAFFE Units elsewhere
- (d) List of USAFFE Units that disintegrated in combat in Luzon and elsewhere and did not reach Bataan.

(Initialed)

----- D. R. E. -----  
FROM: **OIC, LIAISON Sec** TO: **Ex O, Deceased Claims Sec.** DATE: **6 May 47**

1. In compliance with preceding request, there is quoted hereunder the report of Asst Liaison Officer on subject-matter dated 3 May 47, to wit:

"Abovementioned checknote was submitted to TAG and in turn was indorsed to Veterans Affairs Division, TAG, HAP, and acknowledged thereof. Asst Liaison Officer was informed that there is recently assigned an officer to compile the Organization List of PA & PC units at Bataan and Corregidor before the surrender and copies of such lists will be furnished the DCS, RPD upon completion of this work. At present no available Organization List of this USAFFE units could be furnished this division.

NOTE: G-3 has no records of all these USAFFE units and they have no knowledge about where they can be obtained so that TAG had forwarded the checknote to Veterans Affairs Division, who is better informed about these Organization Lists."

Check Sheet  
HEADQUARTERS PHILCOM  
AG-Recovered Personnel Division

Do not remove from attached sheets

File No.

Subject: (Cont'd)

FROM:

TO:

DATE:

2. However, there is attached herewith a copy of the "Table of Contents," listing the USAFFE organizations called for which is extracted from the "USAFFE Organization and History of World War II" folder from the records of sub-section IJKL, chronologically arranged, based on the organization histories of the units as compiled and annotated by authorities appearing in the records of that sub-section.

3. There is no indication that this list is complete; but, this will serve your purpose, since an effort by this office to obtain authentic records from other sources like G-3, AP and Vet Affairs Adm, AP to obtain a complete data or a complete list of all USAFFE organizations failed.

7. We have no authoritative basis of breaking down the USAFFE organizations as appearing thereon into the categories called for until after the officer designated for the purpose by TAG as stated in quoted report furnishes us a list upon completion of his work.

(Initialed)

M R W

Incl:

Asstated

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USAFPE ORGANIZATION AND HISTORY 1941-42  
WORLD WAR II

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USAFPE Organization and History 1941-42 World War II

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Arranged by:

IKKL Sub-Section

Remarks: The above items or sheets of USAFFE Organization and History in the World War II, 1941-42 was arranged chronologically as per sheets available.

Bibal

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HEADQUARTERS  
PHILIPPINES-RYUKYUS COMMAND  
RECOVERED PERSONNEL DIVISION  
DECEASED CLAIMS SECTION, PA BRANCH  
APO 707

26 April 1948

MEMORANDUM -

TO: All Sub-Sections, DCS, PA Branch

1. In cases wherein the evidence on file indicates that the deceased veteran's only claim to USAFFE status is the period during which he served with the resistance force commanded by Capt Faustino Flor known as Camp Isarog, a complement of the 52nd Infantry, 51st Division operating in the Bicol area, such case will be considered negative for USAFFE status.

2. Such claim will be adjudicated positively only if the name of the veteran appears in the recognized roster of the Bicol Brigade, Flor's Independent Provisional Battalion, and will not be entitled to USAFFE status.

3. Provisions of this memorandum will be brought to the attention of all personnel concerned.

*Duane R. Essam*

DUANE R. ESSAM  
1st Lt AGD  
Ex O for DCA, PA Br.

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Y- AGENCIES, VBMF  
X- POW STATUS

HEADQUARTERS  
PHILIPPINES-RYUKYUS COMMAND  
RECOVERED PERSONNEL DIVISION  
DECEASED CLAIMS SECTION, PA BRANCH  
APO 707

23 April 1948

MEMORANDUM -

TO: All Sub-Sections, DCS, PA Branch

1. Confirming previous verbal instructions, all cases wherein there is a casualty report issued by the Casualty Division, HNDF, to the effect that the individual became a casualty In the Field on Bataan, or became a casualty and was concentrated in Capas, such report will be verified from the records on file in this section prior to the time the case is adjudicated. Upon verification, the officer making such verification will make statement to that effect on the form and sign such form indicating the date of accomplishment.

2. No claim will be adjudicated wherein the only evidence on file is a Form 9 together with a casualty report issued by the Casualty Division, HNDF. All such cases must have supporting papers to indicate the basis for the issuance of such casualty report.

3. It is desired that all personnel read the provisions of this memorandum and indicate the fact that they have read and understood such provisions by signing hereon and a report to this effect will be made to this office prior to 1200 Monday, 26 April 1948.

*Duane R. Essam*

DUANE R. ESSAM  
1st Lt AGD  
Ex O for DCA, PA Br.

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HEADQUARTERS  
PHILIPPINES-RYUKYUS COMMAND  
RECOVERED PERSONNEL DIVISION  
DECEASED CLAIMS SECTION, PA BRANCH  
APO 707

22 January 1948

MEMORANDUM -

TO: All Sub-Sections, DCS, PA Br.

1. Confirming verbal instruction, the following information is furnished for the information and guidance of all concerned:

Members of the Bolo Battalions are not considered to have been members of the armed forces in the service of the United States and therefore are not qualified for USAFFE status.

*Duane R. Essam*

DUANE R. ESSAM  
1st Lt AGD  
Ex O for DCA, PA Br.

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John O'Leary - Place in your Letters of Instruction Book.

7 Oct 49

BASIC: Ltr fr Hq PHILCOM, APO 900, dtd 8 Aug 49, subj:  
Information, Request

AGC6 201 - Piner, A (EM) 1st Ind  
HEADQUARTERS NATIONAL DEFENSE FORCES, Camp Murphy, Quezon  
City, 17 September 1949

TO: Commanding General, PHILCOM, APO 900  
(Attn: Chief, Vet Br, AGRD)

1. The Cebu Brigade, which was a temporary designation of all USAFFE units garrisoned in Cebu province after 2 January 1942, is not in the list of PA Units inducted into the USAFFE. This was so because the troops of the Brigade had already been previously inducted.

2. It is mentioned in this connection that the biggest component of the Cebu Brigade was the 83rd Infantry, 81st Division (PA) which was mobilized and later inducted into the USAFFE on 15 December 1941, at Tagbilaran, Bohol.

3. When the 81st Division was ordered to Mindanao on 2 January 1942, the 83rd Infantry was detached therefrom and ordered to the province of Cebu. The 83rd Infantry then became the nucleus of the Cebu Brigade, the designation given to all USAFFE units in Cebu province sometime in the latter part of January 1942.

4. Brig Gen Bradford G Chynoweth, AUS, after being relieved as Commanding General of the 61st Div (PA) commanded concurrently the Cebu Brigade and the Visayan Forces from March 1942.

FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF:

s/ Aurelio L Lucero  
t/ AURELIO L LUCERO  
Major, AGS  
Chief, Adm Sv Br, OTAG

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY:

*P. M. Baker*  
P. M. BAKER  
Major Inf

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STATUS, DETERMINATION

PS & AUS - 35