



DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 883078

FRAUDULENT CASES

ADM - 41

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 883078

T-14

AGRD-I
Report of Investigation

9 Feb '50

Chief, Inv Br

Deceased Section, VA Br.
(Attn: Capt. Stanhiser)

1. Attached hereto, report of Investigations on SISTO, Alexander, VALDEZ, Eliseo, NOVENO, Federico and ASTORGA, Nasario, as requested by your office.
2. Attached hereto, also, are 201 Files of SISTO, Alexander, VALDEZ, Eliseo, NOVENO, Federico and ASTORGA, Nasario.
3. Request acknowledgment of receipt.

Refer to our File Nos: 1885, 1886
1887, 1888

D. N. SPROUL
Captain Inf
Chief, Investigation Branch

Incl: a/s

REQUEST FOR FIELD INVESTIGATION

FROM DS, Vet Br TO Investigation Br DATE 14 Nov 49

1. Request that a field investigation be conducted in the case of:

| | | | | |
|------------|-------------|-----------|------|----------|
| ALEXANDER | | SISTO | Pvt | R-310908 |
| ELISEO | O. | VALDEZ | Sgt | NR |
| FEDERICO | P. | NOVENO | Pvt | NR |
| First Name | Middle Name | Last Name | Rank | ASN |
| NASARIO | | ASTORGA | Pvt | NR |

2. Information required:
- Proof of USAFFE & guerrilla service of subjects.
 - Where was Form 48 reproduced?
 - Proof of relationship of claimants to subjects.

SPECIAL Priority A

3. Discrepancies noted by this section:
- USAFFE & guerrilla service affidants are questionable and should not be re-contacted. New proof is desired.
 - Form 48 was not produced at AGRD nor was inquiry made to claimants by AGRD.
 - There is a possibility that subjects are fictitious or that relationship to claimants is spurious.

Have investigator contact
Mr Daubant before going to
field
G.K. + N.H.H.

WDR
SECTION CHIEF

INVESTIGATION BRANCH
ASSIGNED FILE NO. 1885
DATE RECEIVED 15 Nov 49
REQUESTING AGENCY SISTO

INVESTIGATION BRANCH
ASSIGNED FILE NO. 1886
DATE RECEIVED 15 Nov 49
REQUESTING AGENCY VALDEZ

INVESTIGATION BRANCH
ASSIGNED FILE NO. 1887
DATE RECEIVED 15 Nov 49
REQUESTING AGENCY NOVENO

INVESTIGATION BRANCH
ASSIGNED FILE NO. 1888
DATE RECEIVED 15 Nov 49
REQUESTING AGENCY ASTORGA

INVESTIGATION BRANCH - AGRD

COMMENTS ON INVESTIGATION OF SPECIAL CASES

Following are Investigator's comments on Field Investigation of Special Cases in Baguio City, Mt. Province.

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| SISTO, Alexander | OUR FILE # 1885 |
| Valdez, Eliseo O. | OUR FILE # 1886 |
| NOVENO, Federico P. | OUR FILE # 1887 |
| ASTORGA, Nasario | OUR FILE # 1888 |

INFORMATION REQUIRED

- a. Proof of USAFFE and Guerilla service of subject.
- b. Where was Form 48 reproduced.
- c. Proof of relationship of claimants to subjects.

Approximately fifteen persons were contacted who claim to have been inducted in Baguio City about the same time as subjects in these cases (in USAFFE), but none could be found who remembered these names, either in USAFFE or in later guerrilla service in the Cushing Regiment. Affiants in Case Folders of subjects were not re-contacted, except in the case of Pedro Carantes, who could not remember any of these names, altho in an affidavit executed 12 May 1949, he gives a complete chronological history of the military-guerrilla activities of Federico Noveno.

Practically all of the affiants in Case Folders of subjects, for USAFFE and Guerrilla service, and practically all of new affiants contacted are listed as officers in the Cushing Regiment under Col. Aberin, and most of these people claim induction in USAFFE at Camp Henry T. Allen, Baguio on dates ranging from 17 December 1941 to 23 December 1941 by Capt. Isidoro Siapno, who is now dead. The 201 File of Capt. Siapno indicates that he was inducted on 18 December 1941.

According to the sworn certificate of Edmundo G. Navarro, which is corroborated by the sworn certificates of Manuel L. Verzosa, no officials in the 1st Military District were authorized to make inductions into USAFFE except the District Commander, Col. Manuel L. Verzosa, and the District Adjutant, Lt. Edmundo G. Navarro, and this authority was not delegated to any other person. It is also stated in Edmundo Navarros certificate that inductions were made on 21st and 22nd of December 1941, and all personnel inducted then were instructed to leave Baguio with the convoy, which was reported ambushed on Kennon Road on the night of the 22nd of December 1941.

It would seem that statements contained in these certificates, and that of Tomas T. Asuncion, former District Finance Officer, would eliminate USAFFE status of Capt. Isidoro Siapno, and all USAFFE claims based on induction by Capt. Siapno, in addition to discrediting all affiants swearing to USAFFE claims of induction by Capt. Isidoro Siapno.

Edmundo G. Navarro is considered by this Investigator a very reliable witness, both from his former duties as District Adjutant and his present position as Field Examiner for the USMA which makes him unlikely to make unreliable or false statements to help a claimant. Manuel L. Verzosa is believed to be a reliable witness, but

but liable to sign affidavits in support of claims without due consideration of authenticity. The same applies to Tomas T. Asuncion, former Finance Officer of the 1st Military District.

The Form 48s in question were found to have been reproduced in the office of Pedro Tawas and Joseph Kreuger who is the clerk-typist in this office. This information is supported by affidavits. Pedro Tawas was asked about reproducing these forms, and he at first denied that they were coming from his office, but when told that certain people had made affidavits as to where they had secured them and for how much, he admitted they were reproducing them, and said "he guessed there was no law against reproducing these forms". This investigator was told later by Bernardo Valdez, one of those who had secured these forms from Tawas, that Tawas was very angry with him for signing a statement as to where he had secured them.

Joseph Kreuger, and his brother Frank Krueger have CIC records on file in this office (CIC Detach. AGRD) for suspected collaboration activities in Baguio during occupation by the Japanese.

It is believed by this Investigator that True Copies of some documents submitted as evidence of proof of relationship in these cases are fraudulent. In the case of Alexander Sisto, no originals could be found of the baptismal certificates submitted as proof of relationship. Church records were destroyed, and the claimant has no originals. A True Copy of the marriage contract was submitted in the case of another case, Alejandro Marty, but the claimant has no original, and records were destroyed in the Office of the Civil Registrar in Baguio during the war, and this Form is no longer in use.

Jesus Jaramillo was contacted and asked whether all documents were verified by him, when he affixed his seal on True Copies as Public Defender, but he admitted that on account of having much work in his office, he frequently relied on the word of his clerk that documents were authentic, and signed them without verifying them himself.

Two affiants contacted, Pedro Carantes, and Lazaro P. Espejo, who could not remember subjects in question, altho having made previous complete statements of the military and guerrilla history of subjects, were asked about their utterly conflicting statements (after having signed certificates), and they admitted signing an affidavit for "someone" who approached them, and said "he" (subject) was "in our unit".

Dr. Vicente Q. Lucero admits that he signed Death Certificates in Baguio after the war, without actual knowledge of circumstances or dates of deaths.



DONALD R. GREEN

Field Investigator, U. S. Army

Inclosures

Roster of Officers, Cushing Regiment

Certificate - Edmundo G. Navarro

Certificate - Manuel L. Verzosa

Certificate - Tomas T. Asuncion

Affidavit - - Manuel L. Verzosa

Affidavit - - Manuel L. Verzosa

Memo from 201 File of Capt. Isidoro Siapno

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 883078

FIL-AMERICAN GUERRILLAS
LT. COLONEL CHARLES W. FOLSOM UNIT
HEADQUARTERS
CUSHING REGIMENT, NORTH LUZON
(FAG REGIMENT)
In the field

SUBJECT: Confirmation of Appointments

TO : The Commander-in-Chief
FIL-AMERICAN GUERRILLAS
In the Field
Thru Channels

1. Request that Office to confirm the appointments of the following Officers who organized Guerrilla Unit known as the CUSHING REGIMENT in honor of the late MAJOR WALTAR CUSHING in the City of Baguio and Mountain Province with their corresponding ranks and designations under Lt. Colonel CHARLES W. FOLSOM, USA:

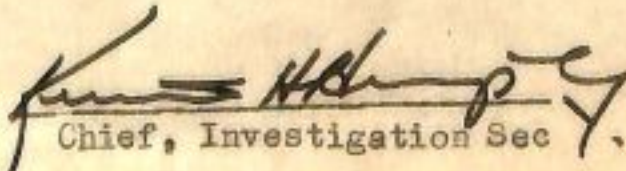
| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| (1) Colonel ISIDORO ABERIN | Commanding Officer |
| (2) Lt Colonel ISIDORO SIAPNO | Executive Officer |
| (3) Major RODOLFO YAP | S-1 |
| (4) Major SINFOROSO FANGONIL | S-2 |
| (5) Major MAXIMO CAWED | S-3 |
| (6) Major EMILIO F. ABERIN | S-4 |
| (7) Major GABRIEL RILLORTA | CO, 1st Bn |
| (8) Major MARIANO LACSAMANA | CO, 2nd Bn |
| (9) Major CORNELIO C. AGUTO | CO, 3rd Bn |
| (10) Major LUCAS PAREDES | Liaison Officer and Technical adviser |
| (11) Major EMILIO L. REYES | Regimental Surgeon |
| (12) Major EMILIO L. LABORTE | Regimental Chaplain |
| (13) Major JUAN L. FONTANILLA | Judge Advocate |
| (14) Major MANUEL V. RILLO | Dental Surgeon |
| (15) Captain FLORENCIA C. CRUZ | Chief AHC and Pres., WAS |
| (16) Captain FERNANDO A. SABADO | Finance Officer |
| (17) Captain LAZARO ESPEJO | CO Special Detail |
| (18) Captain MODESTO C. RAMENTO | Asst S-1 |
| (19) Captain TORIBIO S. MAYO | Asst S-2 |
| (20) Captain RAMON B. ROJAS | Asst S-3 |
| (21) Captain GUZMAN A. CARIÑO | Asst S-4 |
| (22) Captain FERNANDO B. BARUELO | CO, "A" Company |
| (23) Captain JACOB ABAS | CO, "B" Company |
| (24) Captain DIONISIO F. ALAFREZ | CO, "C" Company |
| (25) Captain FELIX AGUTO | CO, "D" Company |
| (26) Captain LAARY OGAS | CO, "E" Company |
| (27) Captain CANUTO DICSEN | CO, "F" Company |
| (28) Captain TRANQUILINO ABUBO | CO "G" Company |
| (29) Captain PEDRO TAWAS | CO, "H" Company |
| (30) Captain BONIFACIO MARAYAG | CO, "I" Company |
| (31) Captain GIL RIMANDO | CO, "K" Company |
| (32) Captain TUREANO DE GUIA | CO, "L" Company |
| (33) Captain CONRADO RAMOS | CO, "M" Company |

(Sgd) ISIDORO ABERIN
Lt Colonel, G-PA
Commanding

A TRUE COPY EXTRACTED FROM THE 201 FILE OF
Lt TORIBIO S. MAYO, O-80979

Inclosure ~~B~~

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 883078


Chief, Investigation Sec
Investigation Br

1st Indorsement

General Headquarters, FIL-AMERICAN GUERRILLAS, In the Field

TO: The Commander-In-Chief, FIL AMERICAN GUERRILLAS, In the Field

1. Submitted for confirmation

(Sgd) MIGUEL PENDON
Brigadier General, G-PA
Adjutant General

2nd Indorsement

General Headquarters, FIL-AMERICAN GUERRILLAS, In the Field

TO: The Adjutant General, FIL AMERICAN GUERRILLAS, In the Field

1. Appointment confirmed.

(Sgd) CHARLES W. FOLSOM
Lt-Colonel, USA
Commander-in-Chief

3rd Indorsement

General Headquarters, FIL AMERICAN GUERRILLAS, In the Field

TO: The Commanding Officer, CUSHING REGIMENT, NORTH LUZON
(FAG) Regiment, In the Field

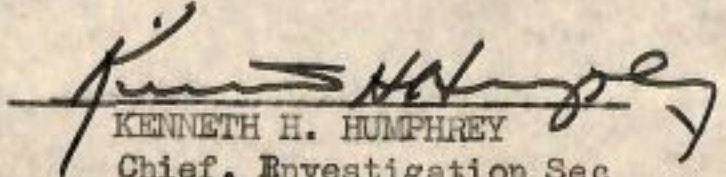
1. Returned with proper confirmation.

(Sgd) MIGUEL PENDON
Brigadier General G-PA
Adjutant General

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

(Sgd) Mauro E. Bravo
(t) MAURO E. BRAVO
2d Lt Inf Ap 0-42660
Asst OIC, RFD Sec., 1st MD AP

A TRUE COPY EXTRACTED FROM THE 201 FILE OF
Lt TORIBIO S. MAYO, 0-80917


KENNETH H. HUMPHREY
Chief, Investigation Sec
Investigation Branch

~~Inclosure B~~

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, EDMUNDO G. NAVARRO, 33 years old, married, residing at Lucena, Quezon Province, hereby declare that I understand my rights

under the constitution and laws of the Philippines; that I also understand that my statements will be used to prove material facts in support of a claim for veterans benefits from the United States government, and that I make these statements voluntarily and freely:

I was inducted into USAFFE on 31 August 1941 at Bengued, Abra, with trainees and officers of the 11th FA (PA), by Lt. Eric F. Davis. He was with the Philippine Scouts then. In September 1941, I became the District Adjutant of the 1st Military District, PA, stationed at Camp Henry T. Allen, Baguio.

On 20 December 1941, all of the Headquarters personnel of the 1st Military District were inducted into USAFFE by Major Everett L. Warner, 88th FA (PS). He was then Provost Marshall, Camp Hohn Hay.

I received instructions by radio from Headquarters, Philippine Army, authorizing the District Commander, or the District Adjutant, to induct reservists, and I remember that I was not authorized to induct any civilians into USAFFE at that time. On the 21st and 22nd of December 1941, prior to our evacuation of Baguio, I inducted possibly one hundred reservists, including officers and enlisted men. As far as I remember, there were no inductions after 22 December 1941 because the Headquarters of the 1st Military District was preparing to evacuate on the morning of the 23rd.

Early on the morning of the 23rd of December, we received orders by radio from Hq, Philippine Army, in Manila to evacuate the entire office force of the 1st Military District to Manila by way of Bontoc and Nueva Vizcaya. We had radioed the night before that Kennon Road was blocked. On the evening of the 22nd, reports were received by our Headquarters that the convoy from Camp Trinidad, bound for Manila, was ambushed on the Kennon Road. All of those that I had inducted had been instructed to take that convoy for Camp Murphy. I never learned how many of those I inducted were with the convoy, because the following morning, we left Baguio. We were about six or seven truck loads as far as Bontoc, where we had to leave the trucks and proceed on foot. As far as I know, no USAFFE personnel who were then on duty, or had been inducted, were left behind.

I do not remember the names of the people whom I inducted, altho I could remember some of the faces, because I was new in Baguio and I had been very busy calling the 11th Infantry Division (PA) to active duty. The only man I remember definitely is a doctor whose name I do not remember, but who I have seen several times in Manila. I do not recognize the names of Siapno, or Aberin. I did all the inducting personally in my office, mostly in mass inductions. These people carried papers with them identifying them as reservists and calling them to active duty.

As far as I know, Col. Manuel T. Verzosa did no actual inducting, because he was busy with other matters, and he gave me entire authority in inductions. I did not delegate any authority for anyone to make subsequent inductions, and as far as I know, no such authority was given by Col. Verzosa.

I do know that all reservists inducted by me on 21st and 22nd of December 1941, were instructed to be with the convoy leaving for Camp Murphy on the afternoon of the 22nd. As I have stated before, I do not know how many of these men reached Camp Murphy, and we received reports that the convoy was ambushed on the Kennon Road.

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

Edmundo G. Navarro
EDMUNDO G. NAVARRO
Signature

Witnessed by the undersigned on 3rd day of February, 1950
at Lucena, Quezon Province

/s/ *Donald R. Green*
/t/ DONALD R. GREEN
Field Investigator, U. S. Army

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, MANUEL L. VERZOSA, 56 years old, Married, residing at 75 Menlo, Rizal City hereby declare that I understand my rights

under the Constitution and laws of the Philippines; that I also understand that my statements will be used to prove material facts in support of a claim for veterans benefits from the United States government, and that I make these statements voluntarily and freely:

Prior to the war, I was a Major in the Philippine Army, stationed at Baguio, where I was District Commander of the 1st Military District.

After the outbreak of the war, I was inducted in USAFFE on the 20th of December 1941, by Major Warner, Provost Officer of Camp John Hay. He assigned me the duty of inducting officers and reserve officers in USAFFE. Subsequent inductions into the USAFFE were made by me and my Adjutant, Lt. Edmundo Navarro up to the time I evacuated Baguio with my Command and Staff on 23 December 1941 to Bontoc, from where we proceeded to Manila via Bayambang, Nueva Vizcaya by foot.

During the period between 21st and 23rd of December when we were inducting personnel into USAFFE, I recall the names of some of the men whom I inducted personally, but none of the enlisted men. We inducted several groups of around thirty or forty each and I cannot remember all of these men.

I do remember Isidoro Siapno and Lt. Disini, now deceased, who were among the first to be inducted, together with Major Aberin, Felix Aguto, Dionisio Alafriz and Sinforsoso Fangonil. There were many others whose names I cannot recall at present.

When I evacuated Baguio, most of these newly inducted officers were left behind as a nucleus for an underground movement, and also to maintain peace and order. At the last moment, I was ordered to dispose of all arms of the PA Armory, and these arms were issued to all persons who agreed to use them against the invading Japs.

XXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXX

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

s/ Manuel L. Verzosa
t/ MANUEL L. VERZOSA
Signature

Witnessed by the undersigned on 2nd day of February, 1950,
at Times Building, Manila.

s/ Donald R. Green
t/ DONALD R. GREEN
Field Investigator, U. S. Army

A TRUE COPY FROM ORIGINAL:

Donald R. Green
DONALD R. GREEN
Field Investigator

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 883078

- - - C E R T I F I C A T E

I, MANUEL L. VERZOSA, 56 years old, Married, residing at 75 Menlo, Rizal City hereby declare that I understand my rights


under the Constitution and laws of the Philippines; that I also understand that my statements will be used to prove material facts in support of a claim for veterans benefits from the United States government, and that I make these statements voluntarily and freely:

This statement is in amplification of my sworn certificate executed 2nd February 1950.

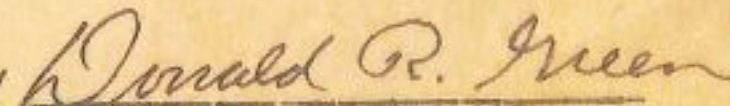
At the time I was District Commander of the 1st Military District and inducting reservists into USAFFE in Baguio, myself and my District Adjutant, Lt. Edmundo Navarro, were the only persons authorized to make such inductions. I left such inductions to my Adjutant which was part of his normal functions.

At no time was authority delegated to any person other than myself or my Adjutant to make inductions into USAFFE. I had no authority to make such delegation of authority, and when we evacuated Baguio on 23rd December 1941, no person was left from the 1st Military District authorized by me to make inductions in USAFFE.

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


MANUEL L. VERZOSA
Signature

Witnessed by the undersigned on 7th day of February, 1950,
at The Times Bldg. Manila.

s/ 
t/ DONALD R. GREEN
Field Investigator, U. S. Army

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Tomas T. Asuncion, 55 years old, Widower
~~XXXXXXXX~~
Quezon City, residing
at 72 Kamuning Road,, hereby declare that I understand my rights

under the Constitution and laws of the Philippines; that I also understand that my statements will be used to prove material facts in support of a claim for veterans benefits from the United States government, and that I make these statements voluntarily and freely:

I was the District Finance Officer of the 1st Military District, and after the outbreak of the war, I was inducted in the USAFFE on or about 20 December 1941 by an officer whose name I do not remember, from Camp John Hay.

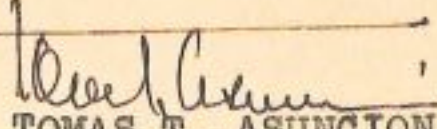
I know there were many inducted at that time, but I do not remember their names, because of my duties as a Finance Officer, which kept me occupied with Finance records. As Finance Officer, I was not authorized to make subsequent inductions, and I did not induct anybody.

I cannot remember the names of those inducted because I paid so many. I was paying USAFFE officers and enlisted men up to 1 February 1942 from PA Hq on Bataan. I left Baguio on 23 December 1941, ahead of Col. Verzosa and his staff, and I arrived in Manila ahead of them with my money.

Our instructions from Headquarters of Camp John Hay, which we received on 23 December, were for all USAFFE to evacuate Baguio, and all of those who had been inducted were supposed to be with us. However many who after being inducted did not stay with us, so that when we were ordered to vacate Baguio, there were very few of us. Those who stayed in Baguio were never paid by me, payrolls were never submitted to me.

Quite a lot of these people have approached me for affidavits to the effect that they were not paid, so they could collect their three months advance pay from the Philippine Government, but I will not approve these affidavits unless they are approved by Col. Verzosa. The following are names of men who did not come with us when we left Baguio, and I did not see any of these people after they joined us: (See following page)

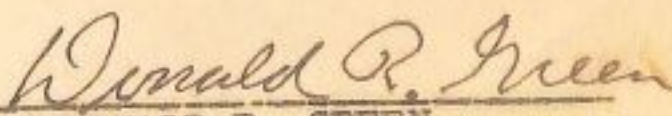
I hereby certify that I (have read) (~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~) all of the foregoing statements; that they are made by me as true and correct with full knowledge of the fact that severe penalties involving fines and imprisonment are prescribed by Act No. 2567, Philippine Legislature, Enacted February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


TOMAS T. ASUNCION

Signature

Witnessed by the undersigned on 2nd day of February, 1950,
at 72 K-Kamuning Road, Quezon City, Manila.

Inclosure - 3

s/ 
t/ DONALD R. GREEN
Field Investigator, U. S. Army

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, TOMAS T. ASUNCION, 53 years old, Widower, residing
at 72-K Kamuning Road, Quezon City, hereby declare that I understand my rights

under the Constitution and laws of the Philippines; that I also understand that my statements will be used to prove material facts in support of a claim for veterans benefits from the United States government, and that I make these statements voluntarily and freely:

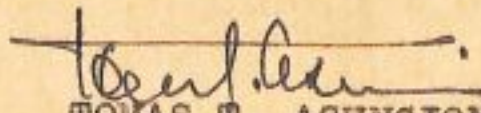
Isidoro Aberin
Isidoro Siapno
Mariano Laesamana
Emilio L. Reyes
Manuel V. Rillo
Toribio S. Mayo
Tranquilino Abubo
Pedro Tawas
Turiano De Quia

Sinforoso Fangonil
Gabriel Rillorta
Cornelio C. Aguto
Juan L. Fontanilla
Lazaro Espejo
Felix Aguto
Dionisio Alafriz
Gil Rimando
Conrado Ramos

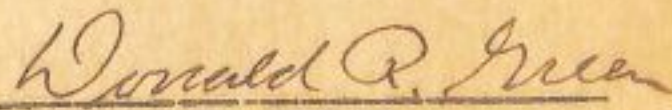
I know all these men personally, and they have all approached me for affidavits, but I did not sign them for I am not sure of them. I know that all of these men should have been with us if they were inducted in USAFFE, and they were not with us on Bataan because I believe they were afraid to go to Bataan.

Their reasons for not going to Bataan, were that they were cut off, but the rest of us reached Bataan, and I reached it with my money.

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


TOMAS T. ASUNCION
Signature

Witnessed by the undersigned on 2ND day of February, 1950,
at 72-k Kamuning Road, Quezon City, Manila.

s/ 
t/ DONALD R. GREEN
Field Investigator, U. S. Army

A F F I D A V I T

I, MANUEL L. VERZOSA, of legal age, married, and a resident of Manila, after having been duly sworn in accordance with law depose and say:

That I am an officer in the Philippine Army with the rank of Major on duty with the Inspector General Service, HPA, Manila;

That at the outbreak of the present war, I was assigned as District Commander of the 1st Military District, Baguio City, Mt. Province;

T That on or about 18 December 1941, in pursuance of instructions received by me from Headquarters, PA, Manila, orders were issued out in my district calling all reserve officers to active duty;

That Capt. Isidoro Siapno, Inf. was one of the officers who reported to my Headquarters on or about 18 December 1941, and who was thereby activated and induced on the same day by my District Adjutant, 2nd Lieut. Edmundo Navarro, Inf.;

That because of military reasons, Capt. Siapno was not able to join my command when we moved out from Baguio for Manila via Bontoc-Bayambang, on the 23rd day of December, 1941;

That it is of my personal knowledge that all roads and other means of communication leading out of Baguio had already been under direct physical control by the Japanese forces on said date, thereby leaving said Capt. Siapno with other members of my command marooned in said city.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I hereunto set my hand this 18th day of July, 1945, at Manila, Philippines.

/s/ Manuel L. Verzosa
/t/ MANUEL L. VERZOSA

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 18th day of July, 1945, at Manila, Philippines.

/s/ Carlos P. Ramos
/t/ CARLOS P. RAMOS
1st Lt. J.A.G.S.

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY

Donald R. Green
DONALD R. GREEN
Field Investigator, U.S. Army

DECLASSIFIED
Authority *NND 883078*

MEMO FOR RECORD

25 October 1948

1. The claim for arrears in pay of Captain Isidro R. Siapno (deceased) has been erroneously and unjudiciously determined in the opinion of the undersigned.

2. The claimant, wife of "Captain" Siapno, states in her form 9, dated 6 November 1946, that from 24 December 1941 to August 1943 he was a civilian practicing attorney. I presume that she, being his wife, was in a position to know of these facts, yet:

a. Claimant was given missing status from 24 December 1941 to 5 May 1942 because of sickness in the form of "malaria" and "beriberi." These diseases were contracted in the service - "5 days waiting in camp."

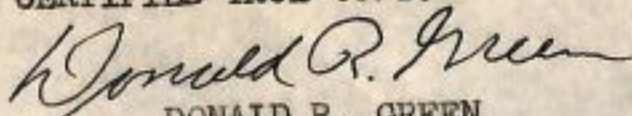
b. From 5 May 1942 to August 1943 missing status granted because of guerrilla service with the Bontoc-Kalinga Guerrilla Unit, a "guerrilla" unit which never applied for guerrilla recognition, and he was allowed to cover guerrilla activities by practicing his law profession at home. It would appear at least plausible that a check could have been made as to the existence of such a guerrilla unit. Records of GAD reveal that this "guerrilla unit" never even applied for recognition.

3. From August 1943 to 8 July 1945 he served with Folsom's Guerrillas, another phoney outfit whose recognition was revoked by GAD. Even the CO, Isidoro Aberin, indicates that the scope of claimant's guerrilla activity was to advise, contribute food, money, information and help American internees. This service, neither full-time nor active hardly merits pay in the rank of captain from August 1943 to July 1945. Under existing policies at the time of the adjudication, 8 December 1947, service might have been credited from August 1943 to July 1945, but a strict adherence to policy and close scrutiny of the evidence should have resulted in a no casualty status.

4. Under existing policy of the Adjudication Section, no credit for entitlement to pay would be granted for his guerrilla service since neither organizations are recognized guerrilla units.

5. Although service might be credited for five days (18 Dec 41 to 23 Dec 41) veterans' benefits should be denied inasmuch as claimant has fraudulently accepted arrears in pay based on misrepresentation of facts (Par 2).

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:


DONALD R. GREEN
Investigator

/s/ Allan W. Mitchell
/t/ ALLAN W. MITCHELL
Captain, CAC
Chief, Adjudication Branch

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NNT 883078

23 Jul 54

Hernandez - Cornelio -
Sgt Simon - Pampanga
Banal Regt. (Alleged)

Daniel Hernandez - father
Catalina Parilio - mother

Killed by Japs.
11 Mar 1943 ?

Affidavit -

Jose Banal dtd 21 Mar 47
states Sgt Cornelio
Hernandez was killed
San Luis - Pampanga
11 Mar 43 ✓

Cornelio Hernandez
Could NOT have advised
claimant later part of 1944

Atimonan - out 4 Apr 51

MEMO FOR RECORD

AGRD-201

1951

1. In the month of May 1950, Deceased Section, Vets. Branch in this Hqs. initiated a Field Investigation pertaining to the case of a subject individual by the name of CANALES, Luciano D.

2. The request for this Field Investigation was based on evidence which it was determined that the subject had no legitimate guerrilla service. As a result of this Field Investigation, Field Investigator reported that during the course of the field investigation, information developed that indicated the subject was not reported killed in action during the battle as stated by the widow in her claim Form 48. No record of any "line of duty" status on the subject's death could be found. As a result of the findings of Field Investigator, it was determined by this Branch that there could be other cases of attempts to make fraudulent claims against the U.S. Government for alleged guerrilla service, even though the subject individual might be carried on the Casualty Roster of a recognized unit.

3. In October 1950, it was determined that Field Investigations should be made on:

CASTILLO, Jose P. - *7C - 29 May 51*

MAKAYAN, Agapito Z.

MALIW, Juan V.

GARCIA, Honorato

CERVANTES, Aniano M. *7D - 12 Oct 50 7E - 4 Apr 51*

CASTRO, Jr., Alfredo C. *x*

These names were picked from the Casualty Roster of the Hunters ROTC Gr1a, with resident addresses in Atimonan, Quezon, as it had been determined that there were names fraudulently placed on this roster and that the subject individuals whose names were fraudulently placed on this roster were from the barrio of Atimonan. During the course of the Field Investigation, information developed indicated that attempts to defraud the U. S. Government; and that the subject individuals did not have any guerrilla service as alleged in the Casualty roster during the years 1943, 1944 and 1945. Each of these cases has its own individual personal history, with the one inditement in common and that was, that a certain alleged Capt. Victor S. Catarroja had knowledge of the irregularities pertaining to the particular unit of which residents of the town of Atimonan were allegedly members.

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(Cont'd)

4. In the particular case of CERVANTES, Aniano M., he (Investigator) states in part: "Capt. Catarroja made a certificate with statements that differ from various other information, but stated that he could not tell the whole truth as he had made previous affidavits and he had to keep giving the same information, but that confidentially the subject was never a guerilla member and that he would contact Major L. W. Green and give the full facts on his false roster which was motivated by political men."

5. In the case of MAALIT, Juan V., Capt. Victor S. Catarroja states that the subject did not have any guerrilla service; that he was forced by political motives to make the false roster but he could not put that in writing as he had made previous affidavits; that he would try to come in for a confidential interview with Maj. L. W. Green and give a complete report on his activities that had defrauded the U. S. Government.

6. In the case of CASTRO, Jr. Alfredo C., statement is made that the claim is handled by Capt. Victor S. Catarroja and Atty. Vicente Manila, as were all other false claims in the Atimonan area.

7. In the claim of GARCIA, Honorato, that the claimant in this case had a contract with Capt. Catarroja and Atty. Vicente Manila calling a 50-50 split on any and all proceeds derived from this false claim.

8. On 26 Jan 1951 Capt. Victor S. Catarroja visited this office for an interview with Maj. L. W. Green. Capt. Catarroja was asked if the members of the Special Unit were from Atimonan or were there members from other towns. Then he stated that this unit was made up of members from Pelogo, Unisan, Pagpalipo, Padre Burgos, and Atimonan.

9. The subject individual, Capt. Victor S. Catarroja was shown the Casualty roster pertaining to this particular unit and was asked to identify those who had legitimate service and those who were placed on the roster illegitimately. This he did for the benefit of those concerned.

10. The Form 23 in the 201 file of Capt. Victor S. Catarroja indicates that his wife's name is Belen Vila and she resides at Atimonan, Tayabas (Quezon). This would suggest that Victor S. Catarroja had more than a passing interest in placing residents of this barrio illegally on the roster of this alleged special unit.

11. On 5 Jan 1951, the following were among the lists of questions asked and questions answered by Capt. Victor S. Catarroja:

"How long were you a resident of Atimonan?"

(Cont'd)

Answer: "In October 1944, I first started operating in Atimonan and in the barrios of San Andres, Bonduk, Malinao, Ilaya until May 1945. I went back to Atimonan in May, June and July 1946 when I helped organized the Home Guard for Peace and Order purposes." Extract of Form 23 executed by Capt. Victor S. Catarroja states, "that he was married on 9 Jun 42 at Atimonan, Tayabas. His wife's name is Belen Vila and she resides at Atimonan, Tayabas."

He was asked: "Are you willing to go over this roster and look over the names of those people who are on the roster and who did not, in fact, perform services as members of your unit?" Answer - "Yes, sir."

Question: "I now give you this extract of roster of persons whose home addresses is in the area in which your unit operated, this is marked Exh. A. Will you please indicate on the right hand side margin by writing "NO" opposite the names, the persons who did not perform any valid guerrilla service with your unit?" Answer - "I will and I am willing to have this attached to this statement as Exh. A."

(Name on roster, alluded to in above paragraph, with notations made as stated)

AGUILAR, Porfirio - - - Not dead X

The rest of the following names are those who appear on the Casualty Roster and have no valid guerrilla service.

AMBAS, Emilio X
CASTILLO, Jose
CERVANTES, Aniano
COLANTES, Mariano X
ESCRITOR, Aproniano
GARCIA, Honorato
GARIN, Gualberto
HUTALIA, Diego
IMPERIAL, Gangerico
MALIN, Juan
MAYAYON, Agapito
PARCO, Andres
CANALES, Luciano

+ 2 - 31 may 52 - FC 4 42 51
Mr. Kiddle - 18757

Of these names the following have had Field Investigation made on them and found to be negative by this Headquarters.

CASTILLO, Jose P.
MAYAYON, Agapito Z.
MALIN, Juan V.
GARCIA, Honorato
CERVANTES, Aniano M.
CASTRO, Jr. Alfredo C.

(Cont'd)

The 201 files which have been withdrawn from the Records Branch and who are listed on the Casualty Roster in this Headquarters.

VILLAROSI, Eulogio
OLIVEROS, Luis
BISCO, Gregorio - *drawn - 7 Jun 50 - FC - 4 Apr 51*
DIZ, Marcial
AGUILAR, Vicente - *FC - 4 Apr 51*
GIRIN, Gualberto L.
GLOR, Felix
ESCRITOR, Aproniano

Of the 8 names 2 are identified as not having any legitimate guerrilla service by Capt. Catarroja. Five of those individuals who have Field Investigation were identified as not having any service by Capt. Victor S. Catarroja.

12. It is recommended that those 201 files pertaining to subject individuals, listed on this Casualty roster of the special unit and which contain any affidavits and/or any memorandum with reference to or initiated by Capt. Victor S. Catarroja have a redetermination made.

13. Also that where a "Request for Army Information" (VA 3101) has not been received, a copy of this Memo for Record be placed in the 201 file for reference.

J. E. WEDDLE, DAC
Claims Examiner

APPROVED:

OTTO STANHISER
Capt AGC
OIC, DS, Vets Br

Vigan, May 21, 1947

The Veterans' Administration
605 F. Torres St. Manila

Gentlemen:

Information has it that Mrs. Florentina Venus Rivada, widow of my late brother Silvestre Rivada, an Inspector of Norlutran (Banguí-Aparriuline) at the out break of the war, and who had recently been automatically inducted into the military service of the United States Army has filed her claim for pension and insurance of the deceased Silvestre Rivada. If this information is true, I have the honor to request that the claim presented by the widow Florentina Venus Rivada should be carefully investigated and considered from all angle of right and reason - taking into account the following statement of facts:

1. The deceased Silvestre Rivada had never been in the military service of the United States Army nor in any military operation since the out break of the war until the date of his death.
2. The deceased Silvestre Rivada died on September 2, 1943 drawn in Pamplona River when the small banka he embarked was capzized by high tide of water in the course of his commercial trip, and not killed by the enemy in line of duty.
3. That my clean conscience does not permit the innocent children of my late brother Silvestre Rivada to be fed of food that shall be bought with money acquired through fraud. The father of these children was an honest man - never committed any fraud in his life time. For justice sake, these children of Silvestre Rivada, the flesh of his flesh, the bone of his bone, must inherit from him his honesty and uprightness unstained by any dirt to dim his good name, unquestionable conduct and character instead of an ill-gotten wealth secured through false statements.
4. Being the eldest brother of Silvestre Rivada who maintained and supported him and gave him his education from his childhood until he got married, I shall never consent that the name of the deceased Silvestre Rivada whose soul is now resting in peace be made instrumental for committing fraud against the Government of the United States of America.
5. Knowing the fact that Silvestre Rivada was not killed by the enemy in line of duty for which his family would entitle them to any benefit, I file this letter in due time to save the claimant from further trouble and to safe-guard the interests of the United States Government. The witnesses Clemente Lazo and Mateo Jaramillo who extended an affidavit testifying that the deceased was killed by Japanese soldiers should be exempted from any criminal responsibility as they do not perfectly understand the english language in which their statement was written.

Very respectfully,

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

W. O. Rupert
W. O. RUPERT
1st Lt., Inf

/s/t/ T. RIVADA

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 883078

AGRC-RV
Chief Clerk
Rec Pers Rec Sec

CORNETA, Filemon A.,
Supervisor, VA Unit 1B
Rec Pers Rec Sec

19 Nov 53

1. On 19 Jun 51 a Memorandum was initiated and approved by Capt. Otto Stanhiser which indicated that there were several fraudulent claims presented from claimants living in Jalajala. Amongst nine (9) individuals appeared the name of Filemon A. Corneta (Case #455).

2. One Manuel C. Alejandro stated in a certificate dated 29 April 1951, that he was a former member of Straughn's Fil-American Irregular Troops, David's Command, and that he joined the organization 1 Oct 42, that he was a 1st Lieutenant and his Commanding Officer was Col. Justiniano C. Estrella, known as Col. David. He states in this certificate that he did not know Filemon A. Corneta, although he did remember an officer with the first name of Filemon.

3. A Memo For Record dated 19 Jun 51, indicates that although the name of Filemon A. Corneta appears on two(2) rosters it has been determined that subject did not perform any valid Guerrilla service, however it will have to be admitted that there is no evidence in 201 File which can conclusively prove that subject individual did not have valid service.

unwritten

4. The/history of Straughn's Guerrilla Unit, Estrella's Guerrilla Unit and Marking's Guerrilla Unit did indicate that there was nothing but passive guerrilla activity in the location that these units allegedly operated.

5. The Field Investigation conducted by Leon Patlach must be discounted in view of known habits of this Field Investigator. The Memo For Record dated 18 Nov 53, initiated by Frank T. Korane is acceptable in view of the evidence in the 201 File of the subject individual, however it is believed that the unwritten evidence pertaining to the nine(9) subject individuals listed on Memorandum dated 19 Jun 51, precludes granting of any benefits to claimant in this case.

6. It is determined that the subject individual died as a result of zonation and not Anti-Japanese activities.

Weddle

(83)

KAWIT, CAVITE

On 24 May 50 the case of (Jimenez) Fructuoso Macagaling was sent for Field Investigation to obtain:

- (a) Proof of guerrilla service
- (b) Proof and circumstances surrounding death of subject
- (c) Proof of Parentage of subject.

During the course of Field Investigation, information developed indicated that subject never had any guerrilla status nor did his step-brother Major Liberato C. Jimenez. That the mother and father of the subject were told in 1945 to present a claim to the U. S. Army as the subject had been entered as a guerrilla casualty, and this was the first time that the mother of subject heard the subject was a guerrilla member. That the intent to defraud the U. S. Government in this claim can be blamed on Major Liberato C. Jimenez, as he prepared the roster and all the papers in this case.

It has also been determined that the subject was buying and selling scrap iron for the manufacture of "boat spikes" for sale to the Japanese Navy during the later part of 1943 and early 1944.

As a result of the above findings, the following individuals who are carried in the Casualty Roster of "D" Co, 1st Bn, 10th Regt, FACGF whose Commanding Officer was L. C. Jimenez natives of Kawit, Cavite were taken from the Records Branch and sent to Field Investigation on 27 Sep 50.

HANDOG, Fortunato L.

SANTIAGO, Alberto

RIETA, Dominador P.

RIETA, Delfin V.

RAMIREZ, Andres P.

The above named individuals were found to have performed no valid guerrilla service and their names were fraudulently inserted in the Casualty Roster.

Above cases were adjudicated Negative on 23 Apr 51.

KAWIT, Cavite (Jimenez)

Handog, Fortunato L. *out - 4 Apr 51*
Santiago, Alberto R.
Rieta, Dominador P.
Rieta, Delfin V.
Ramirez, Andres P.
Macagaling, Fructuoso

Calamba, Laguna (Marking's Fil-Am.Trps)

Zorilla, Marcelo P.

Leyte

Dajes, Marcelo C.
Arguelles, Filemon
Garrido, Ciriaco
Portillano, Domasino

Majayjay, Laguna (Straughn (David's Command)

Solisa, Felix *- to Rodriguez 79 - 2 April*

Jala, Jala, Rizal (FAIT David's Command)

Belleza, Hilarion
Labro, Vicente
Carungay, Eulogio
Gellido, Modesto
Mirando, Benito
Bellido, Felicisimo *to Jimenez*
Vidallo, Miguel

Kawit, Cavite (FACGF)

- Jimenez, Liberato C.

10th Inf. (Cavite)

✓ Canales, Luciano D. *out - 4 Apr 51*
✓ Escritor, Aproniano *out - 4 Apr 51*
✓ Glor, Felix *- out - 4 Apr 51*
✓ Garin, Gualberto L. *out - 4 Apr 51*
✓ Aguilar, Vicente P. *out - 4 Apr 51*
✓ Diaz, Marcial *- out 4 Apr 51*
✓ Basco, Gregorio *out - 4 Apr 51*
✓ Oliveros, Luis *- out 4 Apr 51*
✓ Villaresa, Eulogio *out - 4 Apr 51*

Atimonan, Quezon (Catarroja)

✓ Cervantes, Aniano M. *out - 4 Apr 51*
✓ Castillo, Jose *out - 4 Apr 51*
✓ Makayan, Agapito Z. *out - 4 Apr 51*
✓ Masliw, Juan V. *- out - 4 Apr 51*
✓ Garcia, Honorato *out - 4 Apr 51*
✓ Castro, Jr. Alfredo C. *4 Apr 51*

Golden Handout
Catarroja, Victor S.

SUBJECT: Report on the Baguio Ring

TO : Chief, Deceased Section, Veterans Branch

1. The screening of Baguio Ring cases was started on 16 Feb 1950.

2. Initially, this screening began with study of the Report of Field Investigation of Mr. Donald R. Green in the cases of Alexander Sisto, Eliseo Valdez, Federico Noveno and Nasario Astorga and of the interrelated case files of the various affiants to their alleged military service and activities.

3. Eventually, this office screening was expanded to include AGRD Archive records containing the journals and accounts of persons who were prominent in the Mt. Province resistance movement during the invasion period. These sources were particularly useful in providing background material and general historical perspective. (See Incl #1).

4. In the course of this study and screening, a total of 94 201 files have been examined.

5. The more noticeable irregularities are set forth below:

a. The major portion of claims for USAFFE service are based on alleged inductions by "Capt" Isidoro SIAPNO. Since SIAPNO has been determined to be not, himself, a USAFFE nor an authorized inducting officer nor to have held even pseudo induction ceremonies nor to have organized or participated in any resistance effort whatsoever, these claims are obviously false and of fraudulent intent.

Affidavit of Edmundo G. Navarro dated 3 Feb 1950 and Manuel L. Verzosa dated 7 Feb 1950 attached.

In a certificate certified by Dionisio Marayag dated 19 Jan 50 at Baguio City he states, "I was inducted into the USAFFE Dec 41 by Capt. Isidoro Siapno who is now deceased. I do not remember the exact date but I believe it was 17 Dec 41. There were about thirty (30) men inducted at this time in one group."

"We never had regular military formation and I do not remember the names of all the enlisted men."

"On the 27th of Dec 41 we were advised by SIAPNO to hide in the mountains because the Japanese were coming to Baguio."

"During the time I was in the USAFFE there were never actual engagements with the Japanese. SIAPNO received orders that we were to join the forces in Bataan but none of the USAFFE in Baguio

went to Bataan except the regular army in Camp Allen who were able to go down about the 12th of December 41.

b. A small portion of the claims for USAFFE status are based on alleged inductions by Lt. Col. (then Major) Manuel L. Verzosa or his adjutant, Capt. (then 2d Lt) Edmundo G. Navarro. Lt. Col. VERZOSA's own testimony regarding these inductions is contradictory but his final affidavit, made when he knew that we had become suspicious of these Baguio inductions, would indicate that he conducted no inductions in person but left such inductions to NAVARRO, a normal procedure. NAVARRO asserts that he did induct many persons into the USAFFE but that these were all reservists and not civilian volunteers, because he was not authorized to induct any but reservists. Both VERZOSA and NAVARRO state that no inductions were made prior to 20 Dec 41 or after 22 Dec 41, since VERZOSA and NAVARRO were not, themselves, inducted until 20 Dec 41 and they both left Baguio along with all members of their command on the morning of 23 Dec 41. The statement of Lt. Col. (then Maj) Everette L. Warner, who inducted VERZOSA and NAVARRO shows that the probable date of this induction was 21 Dec 41. Since many of the alleged VERZOSA or NAVARRO inductions are claimed for dates earlier than 20 Dec 41 and still others are those of persons who claim to have been civilian volunteers, it is obvious that such claims are false and made with fraudulent intent. (Affvt attached). (See Exh. 1 & 2)

c. At least one minor-DIONISIO ALAFRIZ JR. is alleged to have been inducted into the USAFFE by VERZOSA and SIAPNO. His 201 file shows that he was only 16 years old at the time of this alleged induction.

Joint affidavit of Dionisio F. Alafria and Alejo A. Nam dated 24 Nov 1947 attached.

d. A number of females also claim induction by SIAPNO. Some of these claimed induction as medical assistants (not nurses) and others as telephone operators. Obviously, these claims are fraudulent, since there was no women's corps in the USAFFE. Lt. Col. Warner, in his certified statement, casts further light on the alleged "services" of the female telephone operators when he states that he had to train Philippine Scouts to operate the telephone switchboards at Baguio because all the civilian women operators had left.

Extract taken from a certified Report of Everett Lauman Warner, Lt. Col., FA, Army of the United States, attached, and affidavit of Crusita F. Naku attached.

In an affidavit dated 1 July 46 executed by Guzman A. Carino, he states, "That shortly after my induction, Captain Siapno asked me about the possibility of organizing a group of women to help the Army; that in compliance with the request of Captain Siapno, I highly recommended then Miss CRUSITA F. NAKU as the leader of the above proposed unit."

"That on 19 Dec 41, upon my recommendation, the following women were inducted by Captain Siapno at Kayang Street, Baguio City, viz:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. CRUSITA F. NAKU | 4. REMEDIOS RAMOS |
| 2. PIA VERGARA | 5. MARIA CABANLIG |
| 3. AUREA R. RIGOR | 6. EMERCIANA HUFANA" |

e. In addition to their false claims for USAFFE status, the preponderance of claims also allege service with the so-called Cushing Regiment, an unrecognized unit of the Folsoms Fil-American guerrillas. Records of the Guerrilla Affairs Division, PHILRYCOM, indicate that this organization was a post-liberation unit; conceived in fraud and nurtured by the contributions of its "members". "Lt. Col." Isidoro SIAPNO is listed as the executive officer of this organization on rosters found in the various 201 files. His death in December 1945, was later than the liberation period, so that he was alive and active when the Cushing Regiment was being formed as a post-liberation unit. The bogus nature of this unit is indicated by the attached letter from the Commanding General, PHILRYCOM, and the synopsis of information on the reverse of this letter. (See Incl #2). This, of course, further impugns the integrity of SIAPNO and shows that, as a principal in the formation of a fake guerrilla unit, he has demonstrated his willingness to attest to military services not in fact performed and to confer military status in return for money payments.

6. The cases considered are listed below. For convenience in identification, Army ranks and serial numbers assigned on processing are used. These are merely an additional identification and DO NOT CONFER ANY MILITARY STATUS.

| NAME & IDENTIFICATION | VA Claim | USAFFE STATUS | GUERRILLA STATUS | DATE PLACED IN CLOSED FILE |
|---|-------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. SIAPNO, Isidoro (Deceased) Capt. Inf. O-33569 | None | Neg. | Neg. | |

(See list attached)

7. New cases are being uncovered at intervals, even though the screening effort has now being completed. It is contemplated that, as such cases are discovered, appropriate action will be taken to review past determinations and initiate any necessary corrective action for the particular case in question.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NNJ 883078

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, EDMUNDO G. NAVARRO, 33 years old, married, residing at Lucena, Quezon Province, hereby declare that I understand my rights under the constitution and laws of the Philippines; that I also understand that my statements will be used to prove material facts in support of a claim for veterans benefits from the United States government, and that I make these statements voluntarily and freely:

I was inducted into USAFFE on 31 August 1941 at Bengued, Abra, with trainees and officers of the 11th FA (PA), by Lt. Eric F. Davis. He was with the Philippine Scouts then. In September 1941, I became the District Adjutant of the 1st Military District, PA, stationed at Camp Henry T. Allen, Baguio.

On 20 December 1941, all of the Headquarters personnel of the 1st Military District were inducted into USAFFE by Major Everett L. Warner, 88th FA (PS). He was then Provost Marshall, Camp John Hay.

I received instructions by radio from Headquarters, Philippine Army, authorizing the District Commander, or the District Adjutant, to induct reservists, and I remember that I was not authorized to induct any civilians into USAFFE at that time. On the 21st and 22nd of December 1941, prior to our evacuation of Baguio, I inducted possibly one hundred reservists, including officers and enlisted men. As far as I remember, there were no inductions after 22 December 1941 because the Headquarters of the 1st Military District was preparing to evacuate on the morning of the 23rd.

* * * * *

E X T R A C T

As far as I know, Col. Manuel T. Verzosa did no actual inducting, because he was busy with other matters, and he gave me entire authority in inductions. I did not delegate any authority for anyone to make subsequent inductions, and as far as I know, no such authority was given by Col. Verzosa.

* * * * *

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

/s/ Edmundo G. Navarro
/t/ EDMUNDO G. NAVARRO
Signature

Witnessed by the undersigned on 3rd day of February, 1950 at Lucena, Quezon Province.

/s/ Donald R. Green
/t/ DONALD R. GREEN
Field Investigator, U. S. Army



A TRUE COPY:

E X T R A C T

Otto Stanhiser
OTTO STANHISER
Capt., AGD
Chief, DS, Vets. Br., AGRD

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 883078

Baguio City
April 1, 1948

THE COMMANDING GENERAL
PHILIPPINES RYUKYUS COMMAND, APO 707
RECOVERED PERSONNEL DIVISION,
MANDALUYONG, RIZAL, Philippines

S i r:

I am taking this opportunity to write this letter for the sake of cooperation.

I am not a claimant for any arrears in pay of USAFFE or Guerrilla, but I am a lover of Justice. I know of some legitimate claims of claimant but they were not properly attended, I do not know why. On the contrary, there were false claim that are filed and ready for payment. The names of false claimant listed herein, filed in your office a claim for a supposed USAFFE-Guerrilla. They claim that they were inducted into the USAFFE on 23 Dec. 1941, at Camp H. T. Allen, 1st Military District, Baguio City, by the late Capt. Siapno. That I know the foregoing facts because I am a prominent person and old timer merchant in Baguio City, long before the outbreak of the World War #2 in the Philippines on 8 Dec. 1941. That they were all from far different places Towns and Provinces and they are not even a laborer or employees of any Transportation or working in the Mines or merchant at Baguio, so that they can tell that they are at Baguio all of them on the 23 Dec. 1941. How can they be all at Baguio at the same date while some are Teachers in La Union, Fisherman, Farmer High School Student, University Student, Baguio Mayors the town-mate of Mamerto Balagot, the Organizer of the said USAFFE and charged ₱25.00 each enlisted men in order to become a USAFFE member. Now Mamerto Balagot the organizer of the said USAFFE inducted by Capt. Siapno at Camp Henry T. Allen, 1st MD, Baguio City, had collected ₱10.00 again for his expenses in Manila in order to work their papers for Back Pay, and charged them 50% of their back pay when they will receive. Now Mamerto Balagot is in Manila, RPD and Capt. Murphy working the back pays of his USAFFE men. Is this not racket system? Racket? Yes, if there are more than one-hundred or more false claim of this kind, does it not mean money to be paid to legitimate claim? It is true the money do not come from my pocket but I love to see Right things in the RIGHT place.

Like that of ALVARO GOMEZ of Bauang, La Union, a false USAFFE claimant had received ₱1060.00 plus; John D. Fidildia, received ₱1500.00 plus; Francisco Patacsil, received ₱1,100.00 plus, they were all false USAFFE.

PLEASE SEE TO IT AND TAKE ACTION TO THIS MATTER.

For your guidance,

"THE JUSTICE LOVER"

JUAN DELA CRUZ

- *****
- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. MAMERTO BALAGOT ✓ (Organizer) | 18. Ireño Rus |
| 2. Francisco Patacsil | 19. Alvaro Gomez ✓ |
| 3. Teodoro Tejano | 20. Remigio Andrada ✓ |
| 4. Francisco Gatchalian ✓ | 21. Filomino Naris |
| 5. Meesis Gatchalian ✓ | 22. Avilino Patacsil |
| 6. Reynaldo Llarinas | 23. Teodoro Navarro |
| 7. Ciriaco Abuan ✓ | 24. Marcos Dulatre |
| 8. John D. Fidildia | 25. Rufino Andrada |
| 9. Cirilo Soriano ✓ | 26. Pablo Orpilla ✓ |
| 10. Policarpo Orpilla ✓ | 27. Nicomedes Tejano ✓ |
| 11. Pedro Andrada ✓ | 28. Juan Joquiana |
| 12. Gil Pimentil | 29. Adolfo Sotelo |
| 13. Teodoro Gualberto ✓ | 30. Paulo Fondales ✓ |
| 14. Cecilio Bello ✓ | 31. Emiliano T. Andrada |
| 15. Alfredo Dulatre | 32. Teodorico Madayag |
| 16. Felipe Picardal ✓ | 33. Jaime Caluza |
| 17. Tito Corpuz | 34. Ramon Marinas |
- *****

COPY FURNISHED:

1. THE COMMANDING GENERAL, PHILRYCOM
2. THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL, Camp Murphy
3. THE FINANCE SERVICE, HNDP, Camp Murphy
4. THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES REPUBLIC

(IF THIS WILL NOT BE ATTENDED THERE WILL BE ANOTHER TARUC'S ORGANIZATION)



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34

A F F I D A V I T

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES) S.S.
LA TRINIDAD BENGUET

I, GUZMAN A. CARIÑO, of legal age, married, Filipino, with a residence and postal address at Baguio, Philippines, after first being duly sworn to under oath, depose and say :

1. That in December 1941, there were mass inductions at Baguio, of both Reservists and civilians into the service of the (USAFFE), PA by Captain ISIDORO SIAPNO and other military authorities. That I was one of those who joined and was inducted into the service of the Army on 17 December 1941 by the late Capt. Isidoro Siapno:

2. That shortly after my induction, Captain Siapno asked me about the possibility of organizing a group of women to help the Army; That in compliance with the request of Captain Siapno, I highly recommended then Miss CRUSITA F. NAKU, as the leader of the above proposed unit:

3. That on 19 December 1941, upon my recommendation, the following women were inducted by Captain Isidoro Siapno, at Kayang Street, Baguio City, viz:

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. CRUSITA F. NAKU | 4. REMEDIOS RAMOS N.R.- |
| 2. PIA VERGARA | 5. MARIA CABANLIG N.R.- |
| 3. AUREA R. RIGOR | 6. EMERENCIANA HUFANA |

4. That after the said induction, CRUSITA F. NAKU, was forthwith appointed as leader of the aforementioned group and given the rank of MASTER SGT.

5. That I also have personal knowledge of the fact that M/Sgt. CRUSITA F. NAKU and her aforementioned companions later joined and was inducted in organized guerrilla outfits such as the Bato Balani -Unit and the 4th Inf. Regt. (CB) F F A G, wherein they served until hostilities ceased in the Philippines.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 1st day of July, 1946 in the Municipal District of La Trinidad, Benguet, Mountain Province, Philippines

/s/ GUZMAN A. CARIÑO
/t/ GUZMAN A. CARIÑO
Maj. S-4 F F A G -Grla
Sgt. Inf. Usaffe - 490587

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 1st day of July, 1946, in the Municipal District of La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines.

/s/ LOUIS HORA
/t/ LOUIS HORA
Deputy Provincial Governor
Benguet, Philippines

True copy

A F F I D A V I T

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
CITY OF BAGUIO) S. S.

I, PEDRO CARANTES, 2nd Lieutenant, Infantry, (AP), ASN O-41379; relieved from active service of the Army of the Philippines on 22 April 1946, and presently residing in and with postal address at the City of Baguio, Philippines, after having been duly sworn to in accordance with law, FREELY DECLARE:

1. That I was a Reserve Officer of the Philippine Army with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant, in December, 1941, and prior thereto;

2. That in response to a poster posted in conspicuous places in the City of Baguio sometime in December, 1941, following the outbreak of the hostilities, I reported at Hq, 1st Military District, Camp Henry T. Allen, Baguio, and was inducted into the service of the USAFFE at the said place on 22 December 1941 by Lieutenant Edmundo Navarro, then Adjutant of the Hq, 1st Military District;

3. That I returned to full military control and was duly processed on 12 July 1945, at Camp Spencer, Luna, La Union, with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant and given ASN O-41379;

4. That I remember the fact that there were several mass inductions in Baguio of both civilians and reservists into the service of the USAFFE, following the outbreak of the war, among them were;

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Juan Balagot | N.R. | 20. Serafin Villaralvo | ✓ |
| 2. Benito Absalon | ✓ | 21. Virgilio Boado | ✓ |
| 3. Frank Krueger, Jr. | ✓ | 22. Atanacio Abuan | No F-23 in file |
| 4. Alberto Arnobit | ✓ | 23. Rodrigo Maris | N.R. |
| 5. Clodualdo Balagot | ✓ | 24. Benjamin Rosario | ✓ |
| 6. Eulalio Ponce | N.R. | 25. Solomon Fernandez | ✓ |
| 7. Bonifacio Marayag | ✓ | 26. Martin Rindon | ✓ |
| 8. Teofilo Alarcio | N.R. | 27. Mariano Puzon | ✓ |
| 9. Juan Gualberto | N.R. | 28. Francisco Patacsil | ✓ |
| 10. Alfredo Cortes | N.R. | 29. Ciriaco Abuan | C.F. |
| 11. Teodoro Navarro | ✓ | 30. Alfredo Daus | N.R. |
| 12. Juan Dumo | ✓ | 31. John D. Fideldia | ✓ |
| 13. Reginaldo Ladas | N.R. | 32. Emiliano Andrada | ✓ |
| 14. Romeo Puzon | ✓ | 33. Alfredo Young | ✓ |
| 15. Leon Fider | NR | 34. Pio Ayson | N.R. |
| 16. Teodorico Madayag | ✓ | 35. Faustino Aquisay | C.F. |
| 17. Tomas Lachica | N.R. | 36. Emiliano Urbano | N.R. |
| 18. Ramullo Vergara | N.R. | 37. Cecilio Bello | C.F. |
| 19. Edilberto Mendoza | C.G. | 38. Eduardo Patacsil | ✓ |

5. That the above named-persons were inducted into the USAFFE by the late Captain Isidoro Siapno on or about 23 December 1941, at Camp Henry T. Allen, Baguio, Philippines;

6. That I know the above facts because I was the one who brought them to Camp Henry T. Allen on the same day with the assistance of Frank Krueger, Jr., Mamerto Balagot, Roman Ayson, and Juan Balagot, and I had personally witnessed the induction of the aforementioned persons along with others whose names I cannot now recall, at the afore-said date and place;

7. That I also have personal knowledge of the fact that the said soldiers were given arms and ammunitions immediately after induction and were assigned in different places, namely; to guard the main entrance highway to the City of Baguio, to guard against possible enemy-paratroop invasion, to guard government and private properties, and to help maintain peace and order in the City of Baguio and its suburbs;

Abbas - Jacob - Capt. N.R.
Raymundo David¹ - ✓ Civ. Guard

Liberator G Jimenez
O-48742

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8. That shortly before the arrival of the Japanese Forces in this area, it was decided by authorities of the 1st Military District, PA, to abandon the defense of the City of Baguio to save it from destruction, in view of which the above soldiers along with others were ordered to disband and join the nearest unit of USAFFE.

9. That following the disbandment, we attempted to reach elements of the 43rd Infantry (PS) USAFFE which was then at Bontoc, Mountain Province, but were unable to do so due to the fact that all bridges leading thereto were already blasted; nevertheless, some of the boys were able to join the said 43rd Infantry (PS) USAFFE in Mountain Trail, Mt. Province, while others immediately joined the underground resistance movement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 14th day of August, 1947, in the City of Baguio, Philippines.

/s/ Pedro Carantes
/t/ PEDRO CARANTES
2nd Lt Inf O-41379

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 14th day of August, 1947, in the City of Baguio, Philippines, the affiant exhibiting his Residence Certificate No. A-1735931, issued at Baguio on February 20, 1947.

/s/ Santiago C. Gregorio
/t/ SANTIAGO C. GREGORIO
Assistant City Attorney
City of Baguio

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

/s/ Mauro E. Bravo
/t/ MAURO E. BRAVO
2nd Lt INF O-42660
AOID RPD Sec 1^{MD} (AP)

A TRUE COPY:

/ar

1 Mar 50

1. In going thru the files - as of today - it will be noted that, those who have affidavits supposedly supporting their alleged induction into the 1st MD, USAFFE, at Baguio, the following have NOT made affidavits for induction. Why?

ABERIN, Isidoro
ASUNCION, Tomas
BRAVO, Mauro E.
SIAPNO, Isidoro
NAVARRO, Edmundo G.

2. The following have affidavits of alleged induction by Isidoro Siapno.

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| - AMISTAD, Balo | x GAGAYAN, Samuel |
| - BALAGOT, Mamerto | - KRUEGER, Joseph G. |
| - BALAJADIA, Jose R. | - KRUEGER, Frederick |
| - BENITO, Jose Pe | - KIWANG, Balteo |
| - CALICA, Macario | x PADILLA, Teofilo M. |
| x CARINO, Guzman A. | - PEREZ, Apolinario M. |
| x CENZON, Filibster | - RILLO, Manuel V. |
| <u>DICANG</u> x DIOANG, Agapito | x SICAT, Clemente M. |
| x FUERTES, Incencio | x SABINO, Nicanor V. |
| - FANGONIL, Sinfreso | - TAWAS, Pedro |
| x FONTANILLA, Juan L. | - TAWAS, Juan |
| x GUIREY, Lorenzo | x ZAMBRANO, Leon O. |
| - YMSON, Domingo | |

3. BISCOCHO, Felomeno states he was inducted by Lt. Col. Manuel Verzosa.

4. Mauro E. Bravo has ONLY affixed his signature to "True Copies" and "Subscribed and Sworn" statements.

5. Manuel L. Verzosa has only two affidavits in his file.

6. Tomas F. Asuncion has only affidavits pertaining to payment of salaries of alleged officers of the 1st MD. (USAFFE).

7. In the report of the "Field Investigation" by Donald R. Green, the names of -

(a) SISTO, Alexander - inducted by Isidoro Siapno. Affiants:

GUIREY, Lorenzo B.
KRUEGER, Joseph G.
PALAROAN, Alberto P.

(b) VALDEZ, Eliseo O. - inducted by Isidoro Siapno. Affiants:

RILLO, Manuel V.
TAWAS, Pedro E.
REYES, Emilio L.
KRUEGER, Frank

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(c) NOVENO, Federico P. - inducted by Isidoro Siamno. Affiants:

MAYO, Toribio S.
CASTRO, Benito G.
ORDEN, Paulino C.
CARANTES, Pedro

It will be noted that the names of

RILLO, Manuel V.
MAYO, Toribio S.
CASTRO, Benito G.

appear for the first time as affiants for alleged induction at Baguio in
1st MD, (USAFFE).

It would appear that the whole unit of the 1st MD USAFFE of Baguio,
Mt. Prov. was NOT an operating unit and that the unit and any alleged
member of the unit should not be recognized.

/ar

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(USAFFE)
INDUCTED BY

| <u>AFFIANTS</u> | <u>FOR</u> | <u>INDUCTED BY</u> |
|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| BALAGOT, Mamerto | CALICA, Macario | SIAPNO, Isidoro |
| BISCOCHO, Filomeno | TAWAS, Pedro | " " |
| " " | KRUEGER, Joseph G. | " " |
| " " | KRUEGER, Frederick | " " |
| " " | CARISO, Guzman A. | " " |
| " " | ZAMBRANO, Leon O. | " " |
| " " | FUERTES, Incencio | " " |
| " " | BALAGOT, Mamerto | " " |
| " " | CENZON, Filibster | " " |
| " " | DICANG, Agapito | " " |
| " " | TAWAS, Juan | " " |
| " " | PADILLA, Teofilo M. | " " |
| " " | GUIREY, Lorenzo | " " |
| CALICA, Pergentino C. | RILLO, Manuel V. | " " |
| GARANTES, Pedro | TAWAS, Pedro | " " |
| " " | SABINO, Nicanor V. | " " |
| " " | KRUEGER, Joseph G. | " " |
| " " | TAWAS, Pedro | " " |
| " " | KRUEGER, Frederick | " " |
| " " | ZAMBRANO, Leon O. | " " |
| " " | TAWAS, Juan (deceased) | " " |
| " " | FUERTAS, Inocencio | " " |
| " " | CARINO, Guzman A. | " " |
| " " | CENZON, Filibster S. | " " |
| " " | BALAGOT, Mamerto | " " |
| " " | SICAT, Clemente M. | " " |
| CASTRO, Benito G. | YMSON, Domingo | " " |
| DOMINGO, Juan M. | RILLO, Manuel V. | " " |
| DUKA, Exequiel | SICAT, Clemente | " " |
| FONTANILLA, Juan L. | TAWAS, Pedro | " " |
| GUIREY, Lorenzo B. | BENITO, Jose Pe | " " |
| KRUEGER, Joseph G. | TAWAS, Pedro | " " |
| " " | BENITO, Jose Pe | " " |
| MANZANO, Claro L. | AMISTAD, Balao | " " |
| MARN, Bac | SICAT, Clemente | " " |
| ORDEN, Paulino C. | YMSON, Domingo | " " |
| PALAROAN, Alberto | KIWANG, Balteo | " " |
| PALMA, Domingo | CALICA, Macario | " " |
| RESURRECCION, Federico V. | BALAJADIA, Jose R. | " " |
| REYES, Emilio L. | RILLO, Manuel V. | " " |
| " " | FANGONIL, Sinfaroso L. | " " |
| RILLORTA, Gabriel | RILLO, Manuel V. | " " |
| " " | FANGONIL, Sinfaroso L. | " " |
| " " | BALAJADIA, Jose R. | " " |
| SABINO, Nicanor V. | TAWAS, Pedro | " " |
| TAWAS, Pedro | RILLO, Manuel V. | " " |
| " " | SICAT, Clemente M. | " " |
| VALDEZ, Amable O. | TAWAS, Pedro | " " |
| " " | FANGONIL, Sinfaroso | " " |
| VALDEZ, Bernardo O. | BENITO, Jose Pe alias | " " |
| | FLORES, Roberto | " " |

AFFILIANTS

FOR

(USAFFE)
INDUCTED BY

VALDEZ, Bernardo O.
VALDEZ, Fructuoso O.
" "

GACAYAN, Samuel
YMSON, Domingo
AMISTAD, Baloa

SIAPNO, Isidoro
" "
" "

Note:
VERZOSA, Manuel L.
" "

FONTANILLA, Juan L. MANUEL L. VERZOSA
PEREZ, Apolinario M.

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HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE PHILIPPINES
CAMP MURPHY, QUEZON CITY

(AGC3)

May 14, 1948

Mrs Candida N. Floresca
10 Aurora Hill
Baguio City

Madam:

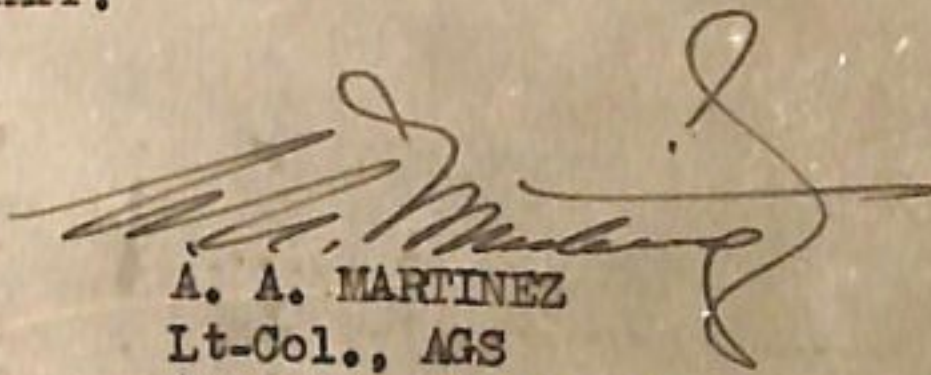
It appears on record that 1st Sergeant Facundo Floresca ASN Unknown, was a reservist called to active duty on December 18, 1941 at Headquarters, 1st Military District, Baguio City and was inducted into the USAFFE by Captain Isidro Siapno on the same day. On or about December 26, 1941, the members of the 1st Military District were ordered to proceed to Bataan. However, subject enlisted man was directed by Captain Siapno to stay at Baguio to do intelligence work under the command of Lieutenant Pedro Tawas. It appears on record further that subject enlisted man participated in the encounter with the Japanese where he was captured on March 24, 1942 by the Japanese and executed on June 4, 1942 at Fort Santiago.

It has been held, as this Headquarters hereby holds, that the failure of 1st Sergeant Facundo Floresca to reach the battle fronts of Bataan were not due to his own fault or negligence, but on account of circumstances of war which is hereby declared justifiable.

In view hereof, therefore, this Headquarters hereby holds that the deceased, 1st Sergeant Facundo Floresca, be declared missing in action from December 27, 1941 up to the time of his death June 4, 1942.

Respectfully yours,

FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF:



A. A. MARTINEZ
Lt-Col., AGS
Asst The Adjutant General

COPY furnished:

Director, RPD, PHILRYCOM, APO 707

C, FS, HNDF

C, ASB, HNDF

CO, MIS, AFP

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MEMO FOR RECORD

AGRD-201

1951

1. In the month of May 1950, Deceased Section, Vets. Branch in this Hqs. initiated a Field Investigation pertaining to the case of a subject individual by the name of CANALES, Luciano D.

2. The request for this Field Investigation was based on evidence which it was determined that the subject had no legitimate guerrilla service. As a result of this Field Investigation, Field Investigator reported that during the course of the field investigation, information developed that indicated the subject was not reported killed in action during the battle as stated by the widow in her claim Form 48. No record of any "line of duty" status on the subject's death could be found. As a result of the findings of Field Investigator, it was determined by this Branch that there could be other cases of attempts to make fraudulent claims against the U.S. Government for alleged guerrilla service, even though the subject individual might be carried on the Casualty Roster of a recognized unit.

3. In October 1950, it was determined that Field Investigations should be made on:

CASTILLO, Jose P.
MAKAYAN, Agapito Z.
MALIW, Juan V.
GARCIA, Honorato
CERVANTES, Aniano M.
CASTRO, Jr., Alfredo C.

These names were picked from the Casualty Roster of the Hunters ROTC Gr1a, with resident addresses in Atimonan, Quezon, as it had been determined that there were names fraudulently placed on this roster and that the subject individuals whose names were fraudulently placed on this roster were from the barrio of Atimonan. During the course of the Field Investigation, information developed indicated that attempts to defraud the U. S. Government; and that the subject individuals did not have any guerrilla service as alleged in the Casualty roster during the years 1943, 1944 and 1945. Each of these cases has its own individual personal history, with the one inditement in common and that was, that a certain alleged Capt. Victor S. Catarroja had knowledge of the irregularities pertaining to the particular unit of which residents of the town of Atimonan were allegedly members.

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(Cont'd)

4. In the particular case of CERVANTES, Aniano M., he (Investigator) states in part: "Capt. Catarroja made a certificate with statements that differ from various other information, but stated that he could not tell the whole truth as he had made previous affidavits and he had to keep giving the same information, but that confidentially the subject was never a guerilla member and that he would contact Major L. W. Green and give the full facts on his false roster which was motivated by political men."

5. In the case of MAALIT, Juan V., Capt. Victor S. Catarroja states that the subject did not have any guerrilla service; that he was forced by political motives to make the false roster but he could not put that in writing as he had made previous affidavits; that he would try to come in for a confidential interview with Maj. L. W. Green and give a complete report on his activities that had defrauded the U. S. Government.

6. In the case of CASTRO, Jr. Alfredo C., statement is made that the claim is handled by Capt. Victor S. Catarroja and Atty. Vicente Manila, as were all other false claims in the Atimonan area.

7. In the claim of GARCIA, Honorato, that the claimant in this case had a contract with Capt. Catarroja and Atty. Vicente Manila calling a 50-50 split on any and all proceeds derived from this false claim.

8. On 26 Jan 1951 Capt. Victor S. Catarroja visited this office for an interview with Maj. L. W. Green. Capt. Catarroja was asked if the members of the Special Unit were from Atimonan or were there members from other towns. Then he stated that this unit was made up of members from Pelogo, Unisan, Pagpalipo, Padre Burgos, and Atimonan.

9. The subject individual, Capt. Victor S. Catarroja was shown the Casualty roster pertaining to this particular unit and was asked to identify those who had legitimate service and those who were placed on the roster illegitimately. This he did for the benefit of those concerned.

10. The Form 23 in the 201 file of Capt. Victor S. Catarroja indicates that his wife's name is Belen Vila and she resides at Atimonan, Tayabas (Quezon). This would suggest that Victor S. Catarroja had more than a passing interest in placing residents of this barrio illegally on the roster of this alleged special unit.

11. On 5 Jan 1951, the following were among the lists of questions asked and questions answered by Capt. Victor S. Catarroja:

"How long were you a resident of Atimonan?"

(Cont'd)

Answer: "In October 1944, I first started operating in Atimonan and in the barrios of San Andres, Bonduk, Malinao, Ilaya until May 1945. I went back to Atimonan in May, June and July 1946 when I helped organized the Home Guard for Peace and Order purposes." Extract of Form 23 executed by Capt. Victor S. Catarroja states, "that he was married on 9 Jun 42 at Atimonan, Tayabas. His wife's name is Belen Vila and she resides at Atimonan, Tayabas."

He was asked: "Are you willing to go over this roster and look over the names of those people who are on the roster and who did not, in fact, perform services as members of your unit?" Answer - "Yes, sir."

Question: "I now give you this extract of roster of persons whose home addresses is in the area in which your unit operated, this is marked Exh. A. Will you please indicate on the right hand side margin by writing "NO" opposite the names, the persons who did not perform any valid guerrilla service with your unit?" Answer - "I will and I am willing to have this attached to this statement as Exh. A."

(Name on roster, alluded to in above paragraph, with notations made as stated)

AGUILAR, Porfirio - - - Not dead

The rest of the following names are those who appear on the Casualty Roster and have no valid guerrilla service.

AMBAS, Emilio
CASTILLO, Jose
CERVANTES, Aniano
COLANTES, Mariano
ESCRITOR, Aproniano
GARCIA, Honorato
GARIN, Gualberto
HUTALIA, Diego
IMPERIAL, Gangerico
MALLIW, Juan
MAYAYON, Agapito
PARCO, Andres
CANALES, Luciano

Of these names the following have had Field Investigation made on them and found to be negative by this Headquarters.

CASTILLO, Jose P.
MAYAYON, Agapito Z.
MALLIW, Juan V.
GARCIA, Honerato
CERVANTES, Aniano M.
CASTRO, Jr. Alfredo C.

(Cont'd)

The 201 files which have been withdrawn from the Records Branch and who are listed on the Casualty Roster in this Headquarters.

VILLAROSI, Eulogio
OLIVEROS, Luis
BASCO, Gregorio
DIAZ, Marcial
AGUILAR, Vicente
GIRIN, Gualberto L.
GLOR, Felix
ESCRITOR, Aproniano

Of the 8 names 2 are identified as not having any legitimate guerrilla service by Capt. Catarroja. Five of those individuals who have Field Investigation were identified as not having any service by Capt. Victor S. Catarroja.

12. It is recommended that those 201 files pertaining to subject individuals, listed on this Casualty roster of the special unit and which contain any affidavits and/or any memorandum with reference to or initiated by Capt. Victor S. Catarroja have a redetermination made.

13. Also that where a "Request for Army Information" (VA 3101) has not been received, a copy of this Memo for Record be placed in the 201 file for reference.

J. E. WEDDLE, DAC
Claims Examiner

APPROVED:

OTTO STANHISER
Capt AGC
OIC, DS, Vets Br

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Authority NND 883078

SUBJECT: Report on the Baguio Ring

TO : Chief, Deceased Section, Veterans Branch

1. The screening of Baguio Ring cases was started on 16 Feb 1950.

2. Initially, this screening began with study of the Report of Field Investigation of Mr. Donald R. Green in the cases of Alexander Sisto, Eliseo Valdez, Federico Noveno and Nasario Astorga and of the interrelated case files of the various affiants to their alleged military service and activities.

3. Eventually, this office screening was expanded to include AGRD Archive records containing the journals and accounts of persons who were prominent in the Mt. Province resistance movement during the invasion period. These sources were particularly useful in providing background material and general historical perspective. (See Incl #1).

4. In the course of this study and screening, a total of 94 201 files have been examined.

5. The more noticeable irregularities are set forth below:

a. The major portion of claims for USAFFE service are based on alleged inductions by "Capt" Isidoro SIAPNO. Since SIAPNO has been determined to be not, himself, a USAFFE nor an authorized inducting officer nor to have held even pseudo induction ceremonies nor to have organized or participated in any resistance effort whatsoever, these claims are obviously false and of fraudulent intent.

Affidavit of Edmundo G. Navarro dated 3 Feb 1950 and Manuel L. Verzosa dated 7 Feb 1950 attached.

In a certificate certified by Dionisio Merayag dated 19 Jan 50 at Baguio City he states, "I was inducted into the USAFFE Dec 41 by Capt. Isidoro Siapno who is now deceased. I do not remember the exact date but I believe it was 17 Dec 41. There were about thirty (30) men inducted at this time in one group."

"We never had regular military formation and I do not remember the names of all the enlisted men."

"On the 27th of Dec 41 we were advised by SIAPNO to hide in the mountains because the Japanese were coming to Baguio."

"During the time I was in the USAFFE there were never actual engagements with the Japanese. SIAPNO received orders that we were to join the forces in Bataan but none of the USAFFE in Baguio

went to Bataan except the regular army in Camp Allen who were able to go down about the 12th of December 41.

b. A small portion of the claims for USAFFE status are based on alleged inductions by Lt. Col. (then Major) Manuel L. Verzosa or his adjutant, Capt. (then 2d Lt) Edmundo G. Navarro. Lt. Col. VERZOSA's own testimony regarding these inductions is contradictory but his final affidavit, made when he knew that we had become suspicious of these Baguio inductions, would indicate that he conducted no inductions in person but left such inductions to NAVARRO, a normal procedure. NAVARRO asserts that he did induct many persons into the USAFFE but that these were all reservists and not civilian volunteers, because he was not authorized to induct any but reservists. Both VERZOSA and NAVARRO state that no inductions were made prior to 20 Dec 41 or after 22 Dec 41, since VERZOSA and NAVARRO were not, themselves, inducted until 20 Dec 41 and they both left Baguio along with all members of their command on the morning of 23 Dec 41. The statement of Lt. Col. (then Maj) Everette L. Warner, who inducted VERZOSA and NAVARRO shows that the probable date of this induction was 21 Dec 41. Since many of the alleged VERZOSA or NAVARRO inductions are claimed for dates earlier than 20 Dec 41 and still others are those of persons who claim to have been civilian volunteers, it is obvious that such claims are false and made with fraudulent intent. (Affvt attached). (See Exh. 1 & 2)

c. At least one minor-DIONISIO ALAFRIZ JR. is alleged to have been inducted into the USAFFE by VERZOSA and SIAPNO. His 201 file shows that he was only 16 years old at the time of this alleged induction.

Joint affidavit of Dionisio F. Alafriz and Alejo A. Ham dated 24 Nov 1947 attached.

d. A number of females also claim induction by SIAPNO. Some of these claimed induction as medical assistants (not nurses) and others as telephone operators. Obviously, these claims are fraudulent, since there was no women's corps in the USAFFE. Lt. Col. Warner, in his certified statement, casts further light on the alleged "services" of the female telephone operators when he states that he had to train Philippine Scouts to operate the telephone switchboards at Baguio because all the civilian women operators had left.

Extract taken from a certified Report of Everett Lauman Warner, Lt. Col., FA, Army of the United States, attached, and affidavit of Crusita F. Naku attached.

In an affidavit dated 1 July 46 executed by Guzman A. Carino, he state, "That shortly after my induction, Captain Siapno asked me about the possibility of organizing a group of women to help the Army; that in compliance with the request of Captain Siapno, I highly recommended then Miss CRUSITA F. NAKU as the leader of the above proposed unit."

"That on 19 Dec 41, upon my recommendation, the following women were inducted by Captain Siapno at Kayang Street, Baguio City, vis:

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- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. CRUSITA F. NAKU | 4. REMEDIOS RAMOS |
| 2. PIA VERGARA | 5. MARIA CABANLIG |
| 3. AUREA R. RIGOR | 6. EMERCIANA HUFANA" |

e. In addition to their false claims for USAFFE status, the preponderance of claims also allege service with the so-called Cushing Regiment, an unrecognized unit of the Folsoms Fil-American guerrillas. Records of the Guerrilla Affairs Division, PHILRYCOM, indicate that this organization was a post-liberation unit; conceived in fraud and nurtured by the contributions of its "members". "Lt. Col." Isidoro SIAPNO is listed as the executive officer of this organization on rosters found in the various 201 files. His death in December 1945, was later than the liberation period, so that he was alive and active when the Cushing Regiment was being formed as a post-liberation unit. The bogus nature of this unit is indicated by the attached letter from the Commanding General, PHILRYCOM, and the synopsis of information on the reverse of this letter. (See Incl #2). This, of course, further impugns the integrity of SIAPNO and shows that, as a principal in the formation of a fake guerrilla unit, he has demonstrated his willingness to attest to military services not in fact performed and to confer military status in return for money payments.

6. The cases considered are listed below. For convenience in identification, Army ranks and serial numbers assigned on processing are used. These are merely an additional identification and DO NOT CONFER ANY MILITARY STATUS.

| NAME & IDENTIFICATION | VA Claim | USAFFE STATUS | GUERRILLA STATUS | DATE PLACED IN CLOSED FILE |
|---|-------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. SIAPNO, Isidoro (Deceased) Capt. Inf. O-33569 | None | Neg. | Neg. | |

(See list attached)

7. New cases are being uncovered at intervals, even though the screening effort has now being completed. It is contemplated that, as such cases are discovered, appropriate action will be taken to review past determinations and initiate any necessary corrective action for the particular case in question.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, JUSTINIANO C. ESTRELLA 39 years old, married, residing
at Sta Cruz, Laguna, hereby declare that I understand my rights

under the Constitution and laws of the Philippines; that I also understand that my statements will be used to prove material facts in support of a claim for veterans benefits from the United States Government, and that I make these statements voluntarily and freely:

That I was the Commanding Officer of the 3rd Army Corps, Fil-American (David's Command), operating in Laguna, Batangas, Cavite, Rizal and partly in Manila.

That to the best of my knowledge the following persons who had been included in my casualty roster were not certified to be guerrilleros after going thru my original roster; that these persons were represented to me as bonafied guerrillas by some of the persons whom I trusted into submitting to me a casualty roster after the liberation period; that I have not known at any instance in which these persons rendered services in my organization; that in taking the word of my officers who submitted these names in which my affidavit has appeared, I sincerely believed these men had been in my opinion had rendered services in my guerrilla organization as hereintobefore upon thinking and upon going thru my records I can not certify that these men had any previous services in my organization. I am declaring the following persons and/or casualties as not genuine guerrilla members of my command.

ZOILLO F. DOLORFINO, CEFERINO ESTELLA, ANGELES BIASON, PAULINO SARBADILLA, SALEDA T. JOYOSA, SANTOS VILLAREAL, JOSE R. VITASA, GUILLERMO M. MENDOZA and FEDERICO CONCEPCION.

And that in my affidavits if there are any discrepancies which should be taken into consideration with regards to the persons or casualties that I have mentioned in this certificate, those persons referred to in this certificate to the best of my knowledge are not bonafide guerrillas. My reason for certifying that these persons were certified guerrillas was that during the time I so certified such affidavits was that I was approached by certain officers of my command to certify that these men had served as members of our guerrilla organization. I can not at present recall the names of the persons who asked me to certify for these persons to have been guerrilla members of my organization, but I can certify now after consulting my records and asking Colonels Fernando C. Liwanag and Juan C. Rivera who were officers under my command that these persons were not under our command during the Japanese Occupation. To the best of my knowledge I can only certify that whatever discrepancy may appear were made thru discrepancies presented by my unit commanders. I wish to state that the Straughn's Fil-American Irregular Troops (David's Command), as a whole has been to the best of my knowledge a legitimate guerrilla organization which during the Japanese Occupation and during the liberation period fulfilled its patriotic duty to the United States Government and to the Commonwealth of the Philippines. It can be stated that in so presenting so many casualties of guerrillas and so many guerrillas who deserve that recognition of both governments an error can be made due to the fact that the large amount of men concerned and the time that has elapsed. I, as the Commanding Officer could not keep tract of all the activities of my men, therefore I had to take the word of my unit commanding officers as to the men who rendered continuous services for the cause of liberty, justice and equality for the United States Government and the Commonwealth of the Philippines. So hereintobefore to the best of my knowledge and belief, as the Commanding Officer of the Fil-American Irregular Troops (David's Command), I wish to

AGFD
IB-I Form #15
27 Sept 50

Incl G

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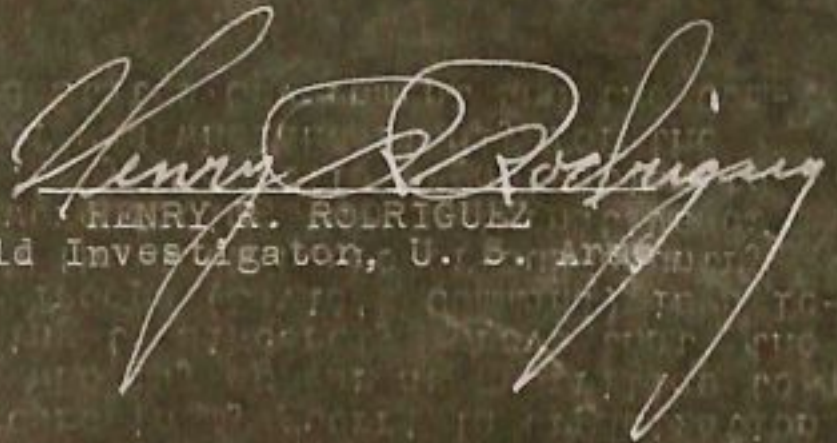
declare the above mentioned men were not members of my guerrilla organization, and if so entered I was made to believe that the above mentioned persons were guerrillas which according to my personal records they could have not been guerrilla members of David's Command. I wish to state that the above mentioned persons could not have been members of our guerrilla organization and if so entered into the casualty roster were so entered without my knowledge and without knowing that they were guerrillas. To the best of my knowledge and belief these persons were presented as guerrillas without my knowledge of knowing, so, I took the words of my respective unit commanders that they were so, but I can not and I will not certify that they were guerrilla members of my organization into a declaration of persons whom I can not certify according to my personal records that they are guerrillas. Therefore as the above mentioned persons which had been claimed thru affidavits of myself or other commanding officers, I will freely testify and certify that those persons are not and could not have been guerrillas of my organization. To explain why I wish to state these facts is because I do not wish to jeopardize the whole command of my unit which served patriotically during the Japanese Occupation and during the liberation period for that freedom of cause, for the liberation of the Philippines and for the standards of democracy which we Filipinos have been brought up to believe in knowing that in justice and only democracy can we know that justice shall accomplish its end. Therefore it can be taken into consideration that no man can truthfully state what actions have happened in the Philippines during the Japanese Occupation. I am granted to say that if any man can state exact facts of what occurred in the Philippines during the Japanese Occupation, he would have had kept a diary of day by day action or he would have had to have been a lawyer or someone who had such power of intelligence to have been able to know what had happened. I will grant that I have made a mistake and I will grant that such a mistake maybe against my character and word but do not forget that those mistakes made, were made in a period of time when a person had to take the word of men whom he believe that they were trusted and were giving the correct facts. Therefore I wish to humbly present my side of what had happened and if, I am judge to be wrong then, those who judge me wrong can not understand the question of guerrillas after passing a period of two to five years or more. Can anyone question that fact? I have now declared that I believe to the best of my knowledge and belief is a true and correct fact. I wish to state that if I had made a mistake in the previous attesting evidence that these men were guerrillas I am now declaring that those persons in which my affidavits has appeared and those persons in which no affidavit appears to the best of my knowledge and belief they were not guerrillas of my organization. This fact I state voluntarily without promise of any reward, without threat or any force or any intimidation because I believe that although there appears in my guerrilla organization certain facts and certain persons who may appear as guerrillas to the best of my knowledge I am trying to sincerely prove that the Straughn's Fil-American Irregular Troops (David's Command) is a legitimate organization which during the dark hours of our country and the United States of America were facing that alternative of who would be the victorious party. My guerrilla organization to the best of my knowledge and belief was wholeheartedly for the justice of democracy of the United States Government and the Commonwealth of the Philippines.

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

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Justiniano C. Estrella
JUSTINIANO C. ESTRELLA

Witnessed by the undersigned on 14th day of April 1951,
at Manila, Philippines.


HENRY A. RODRIGUEZ
Field Investigator, U. S. Army

KAWIT, Cavite (Jimenez)

Handog, Fortunato L.
Santiago, Alberto R.
Rieta, Dominador P.
Rieta, Delfin V.
Ramirez, Andres P.

Calamba, Laguna (Marking's Fil-Am.Trps)

Zorilla, Marcelo P.

Leyte

Dajes, Marcelo C.
Arguelles, Filemon
Garrido, Ciriaco
Portillano, Domasino

Majayjay, Laguna (Straughn (David's Command))

Solisa, Felix

Jala, Jala, Rizal (FAIT David's Command)

Belleza, Hilarion
Labro, Vicente
Carungay, Eulogio
Gellido, Modesto
Mirando, Benito
Bellido, Felicisimo
Vidallo, Miguel

Kawit, Cavite (FACGF)

- Jimenez, Liberato C.

10th Inf. (Cavite)

Canales, Luciano D.
Escritor, Aproniano
Glor, Felix
Carin, Gualberto L.
Aguilar, Vicente P.
Diaz, Marcial
Basco, Gregorio
Oliveros, Luis P.
Villarosa, Eulogio

Atimonan, Quezon (Catarroja)

Cervantes, Aniano M.
Castillo, Jose P.
Makayan, Agapito Z.
Maaliw, Juan V.
Garcia, Honorato
Castro, Jr. Alfredo C.

Catarroja, Victor S.

4. Information in the 201 file of subject individual alleged induction into the 1st MD, USAFFE on the 18th December 1941. This is false, as no military records commander Verrone nor Adjutant Verrone had the authority to induce anyone before 20 Dec 41.

5. A thorough search of all available PA Archives has been made in this case. Subject individual's name does not appear. (See 13-3-13a in this file.)

AGRD-V201

SIAPNO, Isidoro, Capt. O-33569

21 April 50

All the personnel of the 1st Military District including the late Capt. Isidoro Siapno who was called to active duty on 18 Dec 41 and inducted into Chief, DS, Vets Br. 1st Adjutant Chief, Records Br

1. There is evidence in this headquarters that indicate many irregularities in the alleged inductions of the 1st MD during the period 18-23 Dec 1941 at Baguio, Mountain Province. Reference: field investigation conducted by Mr. Green this headquarters during Nov 1949.

Sisto, Alexander - our file #1885
Valdez, Eliseo O - our file #1886
Noveno, Federico - our file #1887
Aatorga, Nasario - our file #1888

2. There are also many misrepresentations that have been made in the filing of claims for Veteran's benefits. This has been done to the extent that all claims originating in the Baguio Area are doubtful.

a. Affidavits are "manufactured" and "True Copies" certified to without any due regard for originals.

b. AGRD forms have been mimeographed in Baguio by Joseph Krueger and sold to dubious claimants for P32.50. (Ref: claim of Sisto, Alexander our file #1885, which states in part, "My claim papers were prepared by Joseph Krueger, who charged me P32.50 for all the papers and forms including stamps."). (Certificate attached) Ex #1

c. Attention is also invited to the attached "Juan dela Cruz" letter which makes the accusation that Capt. Isidoro Siapno was in business of furnishing documents supporting military service in return for monetary consideration. Although this letter is not considered proof that such a situation existed, it is nevertheless, interesting to see how closely the accusation parallels the conclusion reached by this headquarters regarding the widespread irregularities in claims for military service in the 1st MD. Ex #2

d. Attached is a form executed in the case of Sergio Mayegayeg. This form was printed by a commercial printing firm for use in establishing "Proof of USAFFE Status" and to be used in the City of Baguio, Philippines. It is quite obvious that this form was "tailor made" to accommodate the many fraudulent claims emanating from Baguio Area. Ex #3

3. The above subject individual is alleged to have made many unauthorized inductions of personnel, from Baguio Area, into the 1st MD of the USAFFE.

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4. Information in the 201 file of subject individual alleged induction into the 1st MD, USAFFE on the 18th December 1941. This is false, as neither District Commander Verzosa nor Adjutant Navarro had the authority to induct anyone before 20 Dec 41.

5. A thorough search of all available PA Archives has been made in this case. Subject individual's name does not appear. (See DS-F-13A in this file)

6. In an affidavit dated 26 Nov 47, Manuel L. Verzosa states, "That all the personnel of the 1st Military District including the late Capt. Isidoro Siapno who was called to active duty on 18 Dec 41 and inducted into the USAFFE by my District Adjutant on that same date were absorbed into the 11th Infantry Division, USAFFE while we were still in Baguio City." However, District Adjutant did not have the authority to make inductions prior to 20 Dec 41. Maj. Verzosa himself states that he was not inducted into the USAFFE until 20 Dec 41. (Ref: field investigation conducted by Mr. Green, this headquarters during Nov 49) It is quite obvious that this headquarters cannot accept the affidavit of Lt. Col. Verzosa.

7. In an affidavit dated 18 Jul 45, (attached) Thomas T. Asuncion states, "That on or about Dec 18 1941, I was a witness to the induction of Capt. Isidoro Siapno into the service of the USAFFE, the ceremony of which was conducted by said Major Manuel L. Verzosa through his adjutant 2nd Lieutenant Edmundo Navarro, Inf, in the headquarters of Camp Allen, 1st Military District, Baguio, Mt. Province." Lt. Col. Verzosa verified this in his affidavit (attached), that the induction was made by his adjutant. District Adjutant did not have the authority to induct anyone prior to 20 Dec 41. (Memo of E.G. Navarro dtd 3 Feb 50)

8. Memo for Record of Capt. Allan W. Mitchell in par. 5 (copy attached) states, "Although service might be credited for five days (18 Dec 41 to 23 Dec 41) veteran's benefits should be denied inasmuch as claimant had fraudulently accepted arrears in pay based on misrepresentation of facts (Par. 2)." These dates are wrong and cannot be admitted into the record of subject individual as will be noted elsewhere in this Memo for Record. No induction could have been made into the 1st MD before 20 Dec 41. Therefore, it is believed subject individual cannot be entitled to USAFFE service.

9. Alleged guerrilla service of subject individual cannot be granted due to insufficient evidence to substantiate the facts alleged. (Ref: Memo for Record by Capt. A. W. Mitchell and also indorsement of Maj. J. B. Chesson attached).

10. It is quite obvious that this case is built up on a series of false affidavits purporting to prove military service.

11. It is recommended:

a. That the case of SIAPNO, Isidoro in a claim for USAFFE and Guerrilla Service be determined **NEGATIVE**.

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b. That all affidavits executed by subject individual be dishonored.

c. That 201 file of subject individual be marked "CLOSED" and placed in Security Storage.

d. That a copy of any other affidavit executed by SIAPNO, Isidoro be placed in his 201 file for further record and comparison.

OTTO STANHISER
Capt AGD
Chief, DS, Vets Br

10 Incls:

1. Aff. by T.T. Asuncion dtd 18 Jul 45
2. Aff. by M.L. Verzosa dtd 26 Nov 47
3. Aff. by M. L. Verzosa dtd 18 Jul 45
4. Memo for Record sgd by A. W. Mitchell dtd 25 Oct 48
5. C/N by J. B. Chesson, Jr dtd 28 Oct 48
6. Cert. by B. M. Sisto dtd 7 Jan 50
7. Cert. by E.G. Navarro dtd 3 Feb 50
8. Cert. by M.L. Verzosa dtd 7 Feb 50
9. Aff. by S. Domogen dtd 19 Nov 49
10. Ltr of J dela Cruz dtd 1 Apr 48

AGRD-V 201

VERZOSA, Manuel L. Lt. Col. O-1146

25 Apr 50

Chief, DS, Vets Br.

Chief, Records Br.

(Continued)

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

1. The above named individual has been frequently mentioned as an alleged inducting officer for the USAFFE during the period 17 - 23 Dec 41 at Camp H. T. Allen, Baguio.
2. Field investigation and record checks have shown that many of the claims based on inductions by Lt. Col. (then Major) VERZOSA are fraudulent and that the majority of the remaining allegations regarding USAFFE status for persons residing in or near Baguio City are based on alleged inductions by "Capt." Isidoro SIAPNO, who is, in turn, alleged to have been inducted by VERZOSA.
3. Lt. Col. VERZOSA has made several conflicting statements regarding his induction activities at Headquarters, 1st MD, Baguio City. Copies of these affidavits are attached.
4. In an affidavit dated 7 Feb 50 by Manuel L. Verzosa, he states that, "at the time I was District Commander of the 1st MD and inducting the reservists into the USAFFE, myself and my District Adjutant were the only persons authorized to make such inductions. I left such inductions to my Adjutant which was part of his normal function."

In an affidavit dated 2 Feb 50, Verzosa presents the information that after the outbreak of the War II, he was inducted into the USAFFE on 20 Dec 41. That during the period between 21 - 23 December, he recall the names of some of the men whom he inducted personally but none of the enlisted men. He states, I do remember Isidoro Siapno and Lt. Disini who were among the first to be inducted together with Maj. Aberin, Felix Agudo, Dionisio Alafritz and Sinfaroso Panganil.

In an affidavit dated 18 of July 1945 in favor of "Capt." Siapno: VERZOSA states "that on or about the 18th of December 1941, in pursuance of instructions received by me from Headquarters, PA, Manila, orders were issued out in my District calling all reserve officers to active duty. That "Capt."

VERZOSA, Manuel L. Lt. Col., O-1146

(Continuation)

Isidoro Siapno was one who reported on or about 18 Dec 41 and was inducted the same day by my District Adjutant.

In another affidavit made upon request of the widow of alleged "Capt." Siapno he asserts that at the outbreak of the war II, he was assigned as District Commander of the 1st MD that all the personnel of the 1st MD including the late "Capt." Siapno, was also inducted into the USAFFE on 18 Dec 41. It will be noted here that he, himself was not inducted into the USAFFE until the 20th of December. As shown in his affidavit dated 2 Feb 50, which is attached.

On the 3rd of Feb 50, Lt. Edmundo G. Navarro, Adjutant of 1st MD, made an affidavit in which he testifies that on the 20th of Dec 1941, all of the Headquarters personnel of the 1st MD were inducted into the USAFFE by Maj. Everett L. Warner, and that I received instructions by radio from Headquarters, PA, authorizing the District Commander or the District Adjutant to induct reservists and that I remember that I was not authorized to induct any civilians into USAFFE at that time.

5. It is believed that Lt. Col. VERZOSA, by these conflicting and contradictory statements, has demonstrated his unacceptability as an affiant for cases involving the 1st MD.

6. It is, therefore, recommended:

a. That the 201 File of VERZOSA, Manuel L., Lt.Col., O-1146 be marked "CLOSED" and placed in Security Storage.

b. That any affidavit executed by VERZOSA be regarded with extreme caution before acceptance.

c. That a copy of my other affidavit executed by VERZOSA be placed in his 201 File for further record and comparison.

OTTO STANHISER
Capt AGD
Chief, DS, Vets. Br.

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5 Incls:

- 1- Affvt dtd 18 Jul 45 by Manuel L. Vernosa
- 2- " " 26 Nov 47 by Manuel L. Vernosa
- 3- Cert. dtd 2 Feb 50 by Manuel L. Verzosa
- 4- " (Photostat cpy) dtd 7 Feb 50 by Manuel L. Verzosa
- 5- " (Photostat cpy) dtd 3 Feb 50 by Edmundo G. Navarro

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HEADQUARTERS
ADJUTANT GENERAL RECORDS DEPOSITORY
PHILIPPINES COMMAND (AIR FORCE) AND THIRTEENTH AIR FORCE
APO 900

Do Not Remove From Attached Sheets

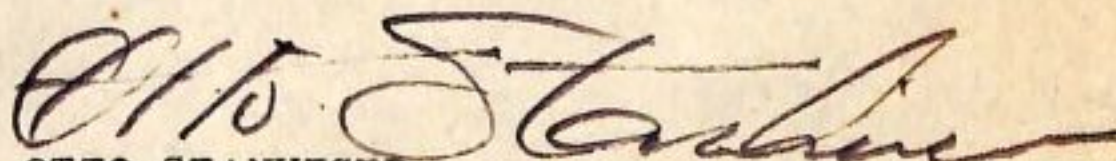
FILE NO.

SUBJECT: ALLEGED INDUCTIONS BY CAPT. ISIDORO SIAPNO DATE: 17 Feb 50

FROM: Chief, DS, Veterans Branch TO:

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

1. It has been determined that alleged inductions by Capt. Isidoro SIAPNO at Camp H. T. Allen and other places in and around Baguio City are not allowable as a basis of USAFFE status.
2. Isidoro SIAPNO had no authority to induct into the USAFFE.
3. It has been revealed by Field Investigation that these alleged inductions are spurious and that they have been used for fraudulent purposes to obtain benefits from the U.S. Government on the basis of a military status which did not exist.
4. Reference:
 - a. Report of Field Investigation in the cases of,
 - 1 - VALDEZ, Eliseo O., File #1886
 - 2 - NOVENO, Federico P., File #1887
 - 3 - ASTORGA, Nasario, File #1888
 - 4 - SISTO, Alexander, File #1885
 - b. CONFIDENTIAL check sheet, Chief, DS, Vets. Br., AGRD, dtd 17 Feb 50, Subj: BAGUIO RINF. (See case files of TAWAS, Pedro; KRUEGER, Joseph; SIAPNO, Isidro in "CLOSED" Files)
5. Any case alleging USAFFE service based on induction by ISIDORO SIAPNO will be adjudicated NEGATIVE for such status and will be sent to "CLOSED" Files as an attempted fraud.



OTTO STANHISER
Capt AGD
Chief, DS, Vets. Br.

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SUBJECT

AFFIANT

| | | | |
|---------------------------|----|-----------------------------|----|
| KRUEGER, Joseph A. | .. | KREUGER, Joseph G. | .. |
| VAI DEZ, Amable O. | .. | * VALDEZ, Amable O. | .. |
| BISCOCHO, Filomeno | .. | * BISCOCHO, Filomeno | .. |
| ASUNCION, Tomas | .. | * ASUNCION, Tomas | .. |
| CARANTES, Pedro | .. | * CARANTES, Pedro | .. |
| TAWAS, Pedro | .. | * TAWAS, Pedro | .. |
| REYES, Emilio | .. | * REYES, Emilio | .. |
| HAM, Alejo A. | .. | * HAM, Alejo A. | .. |
| FONTANTILLA, Juan I. | .. | * FONTANTILLA, Juan I. | .. |
| SABINO, Nicanor V. | .. | * SABINO, Nicanor V. | .. |
| DICANA, Agapito | .. | * DICANA, Agapito | .. |
| RIMANDO, Antonio | .. | * RIMANDO, Antonio | .. |
| RODRIGUEZ-NAVAS, Juan | .. | * RODRIGUEZ-NAVAS, Juan | .. |
| RESURRECCION, Federico V. | .. | * RESURRECCION, Federico V. | .. |
| KRUEGER, Frank Jr. | .. | * KRUEGER, Frank Jr. | .. |
| ORDEN, Paulino C. | .. | * ORDEN, Paulino C. | .. |
| RILLO, Manuel V. | .. | * RILLO, Manuel V. | .. |
| VERGARA, Segundo G. | .. | * VERGARA, Segundo G. | .. |
| CALICA, Pergentino C. | .. | * CALICA, Pergentino C. | .. |
| CASTRO, Benito G. | .. | * CASTRO, Benito G. | .. |
| de la VICTORIA, Cezar | .. | * de la VICTORIA, Cezar | .. |
| CUYUPAN, Vicente | .. | * CUYUPAN, Vicente | .. |
| LUIS, Demetrio A. | .. | * LUIS, Demetrio A. | .. |
| GUIREY, Lorenzo | .. | * GUIREY, Lorenzo | .. |
| RILLORTA, Gabriel | .. | * RILLORTA, Gabriel | .. |
| ABERIN, Isidoro | .. | * ABERIN, Isidoro | .. |
| AGUTO, Cornelio G. | .. | * AGUTO, Cornelio G. | .. |
| MORALES, Gaspar G. | .. | * MORALES, Gaspar G. | .. |
| GARCIA, Apolonio | .. | * GARCIA, Apolonio | .. |
| ESTEPA, Honorio R. | .. | * ESTEPA, Honorio R. | .. |
| NAVARRETE, Maximo S. | .. | * NAVARRETE, Maximo S. | .. |
| BALAGOT, Mamerto L. | .. | * BALAGOT, Mamerto L. | .. |
| KREUGER, Frederick L. | .. | * KREUGER, Frederick L. | .. |
| VERZOSA, Manuel | .. | * VERZOSA, Manuel | .. |
| CRISOLOGO, Fortunato | .. | * CRISOLOGO, Fortunato | .. |
| MAYO, Toribio S. | .. | * MAYO, Toribio S. | .. |

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, MANUEL L. VERZOSA, 56 years old, Married, residing at 75 Menlo, Rizal City hereby declare that I understand my rights under the Constitution and laws of the Philippines; that I also understand that my statements will be used to prove material facts in support of a claim for veterans benefits from the United States government, and that I make these statements voluntarily and freely:

This statement is in amplification of my sworn certificate executed 2nd February 1950.

At the time I was District Commander of the 1st Military District and inducting reservists into USAFFE in Baguio, myself and my District Adjutant, Lt. Edmundo Navarro, were the only persons authorized to make such inductions. I left such inductions to my Adjutant which was part of his normal functions.

At no time was authority delegated to any person other than myself or my Adjutant to make inductions into USAFFE. I had no authority to make such delegation of authority, and when we evacuated Baguio on 23rd December 1941, no person was left from the 1st Military District authorized by me to make inductions in USAFFE.



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

Manuel L. Verzosa
MANUEL L. VERZOSA
Signature

Witnessed by the undersigned on 7th day of February, 1950,
at The Times Bldg. Manila.

s/ Donald R. Green
t/ DONALD R. GREEN
Field Investigator, U. S. Army

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 883078

ATIMONAN

May 1950 - The case of Canales, Luciano D. was sent for Field Investigation in order to determine proof of service, date and circumstances surrounding death of subject individual. In the course of field investigation it was found that in the particular place of Atimonan, Tayabas where subject was a resident, there were many attempts made by some residents to defraud the U. S. Government for alleged guerrilla services. It was proven that in this particular case of Canales, Luciano, whose name is listed in the casualty roster of a unit, has in fact doubtful service which prima facie proves that his name was included one way or the other in the recognized casualty roster through means questionable in character.

12 Oct 50 - Making the case of Canales, Luciano as a basis, an examination of the casualty roster was made particularly those individuals who resided in the place of Atimonan, Quezon. The names, Castillo, Jose; Makayan, Agapito Z.; Maaliw, Juan V.; Garcia Honorato; Cervantes, Aniano; and Castro Jr. Alfredo C.; were picked from the casualty roster of the Hunter's ROTC Grla. 201 files of the above names were requested from Record Branch and were sent to Investigation Branch for field investigation. In the course of investigation, informations developed indicated that attempts to defraud U. S. Government were again found. It has been determined that the above named individuals although carried in the casualty roster did not in fact render any valid Grla service and that these names were fraudulently placed in the roster. During the progress of investigation, one Capt. Victor S. Catarroja was found to be responsible one way or another in the perpetuation of having fraudulently placed such names in the recognized casualty roster.

On the 5th of Jan 1951 Capt. Victor S. Catarroja was interviewed by Maj. Green, Investigation Branch this office. The casualty roster of the Hunter's ROTC was shown to him and was asked if he was willing to go over such roster and look over the names of those people who are on the roster and who did not in fact perform services as members of his unit. This he did and stated that the following individuals were not dead nor have they rendered any valid Grla service:

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Aguilar, Porfirio | Castillo, Jose |
| Ambas, Emilio | Colantes, Mariano |
| Cervantes, Aniano | Garcia, Honorato |

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Escritor, Aproniano | Hutalia, Diego |
| Garin, Gualberto | Makayon, Agapito |
| Imperial, Gangerico | Canales, Luciano |
| Parco, Andres | Maaliw, Juan |

The 201 files of the above name subject individuals were drawn from Record Branch together with all those 201 files of individuals who were alleged to have been members of the Special Co. Hunters ROTC^{and} in that 201 files were found the affidavits and/or any memorandum with reference to or initiated by said Capt. V. Catarroja were all redetermined on 4 Apr 51.

MAJAYJAY

24 May 50 - Case of Solisa, Felix R. was sent to field investigation for the purpose of obtaining proof of military service from the date of induction, and circumstances surrounding death of subject. Subject's name although appearing in the recognized casualty roster of Straughn FAIT (David's Command) is shown in the 201 file as a Mayor of Majayjay, Laguna at the time of his alleged capture.

During the course of field investigation the claimant in this case refused to make any statement without the presence of her lawyer, Mr. Union Cayanan. Further conversation with the claimant, however, stated that he did not know subject was a guerrilla until after the liberation of the Philippines and that his claim was handled by Mr. Cayanan and one Alberto Villaraza, who was a former guerrilla member who knew all the persons that would be in a position to attest subject activities. As a result of the above information, several names were taken from the casualty roster of Straughn FAIT (David's Command) with residence in Majayjay, Laguna, and were sent for Field Investigation.

In an interview with Col. J. C. Estrella, he declared that the following persons and/or casualties is not guerrilla members of his command:

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Zoilo F. Dolorfino | Ceferino Estella |
| Angeles Biason | Paulino Sarsadilla |
| Saleda T. Joyosa | Santos Villareal |
| Jose R. Vitasa | Guillermo M. Mendoza |

Federico Concepcion

The 201 files of the above subject individuals were therefore requested from Records Branch and adjudicated negative on Jun 1951.

JALAJALA

On 10 Feb 50 - the case of Bellido, Felicisimo Z. was sent for field investigation. Results of the field investigation revealed that although subject individual's name appears in the casualty roster, he did not render valid guerrilla service and that documents of claimants in Jalajala were prepared by one Hilarion Belleza, Occupation Vice-Mayor.

In view of the above, on 29 Nov 50 the following names were taken or (chosen) from the casualty roster of Straughn FAIT (David's Command):

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Corneta, Filemon | Perez, Felicisimo |
| Medina, Teofilo | Villaran, Apolonio |
| Mendoza, Francisco | Igno, Felipe del R. |
| Senia, Gregorio | Lawas, Nazario |
| Lawas, Isidro | |

whose residence are Jalajala, Rizal.

Field Investigation revealed that the above subject individuals did not render active full time continuous guerrilla service. Cases were therefore, determined negative on Jun 1951.

51ST INF. MMD. ECLGA.

On 19 Aug 49 - The case of Ricardo A. Sanchez was sent for field investigation. This investigation revealed that several units of 51st Inf, MMD, ECLGA are allegedly conducting some sort of guerrilla training on Binuangan Island. That on 22 Nov 44 an unidentified Huk Units raided that place. Several officers and EM were killed and among these are:

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sanchez, Ricardo A. | Gregorio, Federico de la C. |
| Bienvenido, Ricardo V. | Crespo, Marcelo M. |
| Rique, Eleuterio A. | Tatlonghari, Albino C. |
| Villanueva, Francisco | |

It has been determined that these individuals performed no valid guerrilla service. Cases were determined negative on Jun 1951.

1. The screening of Baguio Ring cases was started on 16 Feb 1950.
2. Initially, this screening began with study of the Report of Field Investigation of Mr. Donald R. Green in the cases of Alexander Sisto, Eliseo Valdez, Federico Noveno and Nasario Astorga and of the interrelated case files of the various affiants to their alleged military service and activities.
3. Eventually, this office screening was expanded to include AGRD Archive records containing the journals and accounts of persons who were prominent in the Mt. Province resistance movement during the invasion period. These sources were particularly useful in providing background material and general historical perspective. (See Incl #1).
4. In the course of this study and screening, a total of 94 201 files have been examined.
5. The more noticeable irregularities are set forth below:

- a. The major portion of claims for USAFFE service are based on alleged inductions by "Capt" Isidoro SIAPNO. Since SIAPNO has been determined to be not, himself, a USAFFE nor an authorized inducting officer nor to have held even pseudo induction ceremonies nor to have organized or participated in any resistance effort whatsoever, these claims are obviously false and of fraudulent intent.

Affidavit of Edmundo G. Navarro dated 3 Feb 1950 and Manuel L. Versosa dated 7 Feb 1950 attached.

In a certificate certified by Dionisio Marayag dated 19 Jan 50 at Baguio City he states, "I was inducted into the USAFFE Dec 41 by Capt. Isidoro Siapno who is now deceased. I do not remember the exact date but I believe it was 17 Dec 41. There were about thirty (30) men inducted at this time in one group."

"We never had regular military formation and I do not remember the names of all the enlisted men."

"On the 27th of Dec 41 we were advised by SIAPNO to hide in the mountains because the Japanese were coming to Baguio."

"During the time I was in the USAFFE there were never actual engagements with the Japanese. SIAPNO received orders that we were to join the forces in Bataan but none of the USAFFE in Baguio went to Bataan except

the regular army in Camp Allen who were able to go down about the 12th of December 41.

b. A small portion of the claims for USAFFE status are based on alleged inductions by Lt. Col. (then Major) Manuel L. Versosa or his adjutant, Capt. (then 2d Lt) Edmundo G. Navarro. Lt. Col. VERSOSA'S own testimony regarding these inductions is contradictory but his final affidavit, made when he knew that we had become suspicious of these Baguio inductions, would indicate that he conducted no inductions in person but left such inductions to NAVARRO, a normal procedure. NAVARRO asserts that he did induct many persons into the USAFFE but that these were all reservists and not civilian volunteers, because he was not authorized to induct any but reservists. Both VERZOSA and NAVARRO state that no inductions were made prior to 20 Dec 41 or after 22 Dec 41, since VERZOSA and NAVARRO were not, themselves, inducted until 20 Dec 41 and they both left Baguio along with all members of their command on the morning of 23 Dec 41. The statement of Lt. Col. (then Maj) Everette L. Warner, who inducted VERZOSA and NAVARRO shows that the probable date of this induction was 21 Dec 41. Since many of the alleged VERZOSA or NAVARRO inductions are claimed for dates earlier than 20 Dec 41 and still others are those of persons who claim to have been civilian volunteers, it is obvious that such claims are false and made with fraudulent intent. (Affvt attached). (See Exh. 1 & 2)

c. At least one minor-DIONISIO ALAFRIZ JR. is alleged to have been inducted into the USAFFE by VERZOSA and SIAPNO. His 201 file shows that he was only 16 years old at the time of this alleged induction.

Joint affidavit of Dionisio F. Alafriz and Alejo A. Ham dated 24 Nov 1947 attached.

d. A number of females also claim induction by SIAPNO. Some of these claimed induction as medical assistants (not nurses) and others as telephone operators. Obviously, these claims are fraudulent, since there was no women's corps in the USAFFE. Lt. Col. Warner, in his certified statement, casts further light on the alleged "services" of the female telephone operators when he states that he had to train Philippine Scouts to operate the telephone switchboards at Baguio because all the civilian women operators had left.

Extract taken from a certified Report of Everett Lauman Warner, Lt. Co., FA, Army of the United States, attached, and affidavit of Crusita F. Naku attached.

In an affidavit dated 1 July 46 executed by Guzman A. Carino, he state, "That shortly after my induction, Captain Siapno asked me about the possibility of organizing a group of women to help the Army; that in compliance with the request of Captain Siapno, I highly recommended then Miss CRUSITA F. NAKU as the leader of the above proposed unit."

"That on 19 Dec 41, upon my recommendation, the following women were inducted by Captain Siapno at Kayang Street, Baguio City, viz:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. CRUSITA F. NAKU | 4. REMEDIOS RAMOS |
| 2. PIA VERGARA | 5. MARIA CABANLIG |
| 3. AUREA R. RIGOR | 6. EMERCIANA HUFANA" |

e. In addition to their false claims for USAFFE status, the preponderance of claims also alleged service with the so-called Cushing Regiment, an unrecognized unit of the Folsoms Fil-American guerrillas. Records of the Guerrilla Affairs Division, PHILRYCOM, indicate that this organization was a post-liberation unit; conceived in fraud and nurtured by the contributions of its "members". "Lt. Col." Isidoro SIAPNO is listed as the executive officer of this organization on rosters found in the various 201 files. His death in December 1945, was later than the liberation period, so that he was alive and active when the Cushing Regiment was being formed as a post-liberation unit. The bogus nature of this unit is indicated by the attached letter from the Commanding General, PHILRYCOM, and the synopsis of information on the reverse of this letter. (See Incl #2). This, of course, further impugns the integrity of SIAPNO and shows that, as a principal in the formation of a fake guerrilla unit, he has demonstrated his willingness to attest to military services not in fact performed and to confer military status in return for money payments.

6. The cases considered are listed below. For convenience in identification, Army ranks and serial numbers assigned on processing are used. These are merely an additional identification and DO NOT CONFER ANY MILITARY STATUS.

| NAME & IDENTIFICATION | VA CLAIM | USAFFE STATUS | GUERRILLA STATUS | DATE PLACED IN CLOSED FILE |
|---|----------|---------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. SIAPNO, Isidoro (Deceased) Capt. Inf. 0-33569 | None | Neg. | Neg. | |

(See list attached)

7. New cases are being uncovered at intervals, even though the screening effort has now being completed. It is contemplated that, as such cases are discovered, appropriate action will be taken to review past determinations and initiate any necessary corrective action for the particular case in question.

KAWIT, CAVITE

On 24 May 50 the case of (Jimenez) Fructuoso Macagaling was sent for Field Investigation to obtain:

- (a) Proof of guerrilla service
- (b) Proof and circumstances surrounding death of subject
- (c) Proof of Parentage of subject.

During the course of Field Investigation, information developed indicated that subject never had any guerrilla status nor did his step-brother Major Liberato C. Jimenez. That the mother and father of the subject were told in 1945 to present a claim to the U. S. Army as the subject had been entered as a guerrilla casualty, and this was the first time that the mother of subject heard the subject was a guerrilla member. That the intent to defraud the U. S. Government in this claim can be blamed on Major Liberato C. Jimenez, as he prepared the roster and all the papers in this case.

It has also been determined that the subject was buying and selling scrap iron for the manufacture of "boat spikes" for sale to the Japanese Navy during the later part of 1943 and early 1944.

As a result of the above findings, the following individuals who are carried in the Casualty Roster of "D" Co, 1st Bn, 10th Regt, FACGF whose Commanding Officer was L. C. Jimenez natives of Kawit, Cavite were taken from the Records Branch and sent to Field Investigation on 27 Sep 50.

HANDOG, Fortunato L.

SANTIAGO, Alberto

RIETA, Dominador P.

RIETA, Delfin V.

RAMIREZ, Andres P.

The above named individuals were found to have performed no valid guerrilla service and their names were fraudulently inserted in the Casualty Roster.

Above cases were adjudicated Negative on 23 Apr 51.

FIELD MEMORANDUM

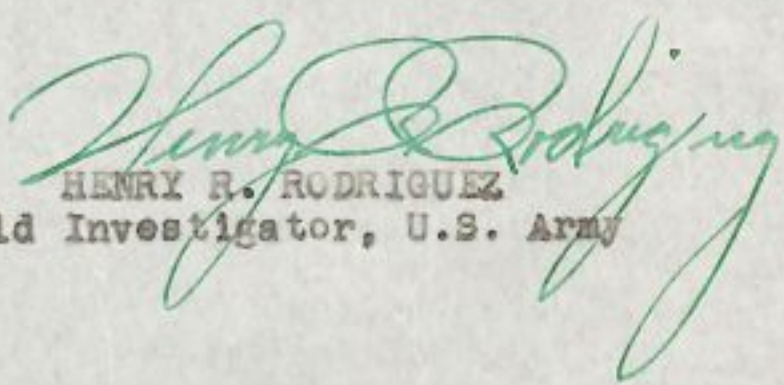
SUBJECT: SOLER, Manuel

Case # 4288

Information was obtained which pertains to Cases No. 4288 and 4479 concerning the guerrilla activities in the surrounding vicinity of Atimonan, Quezon as follows. Before the outbreak of World War II the province of Quezon, from the municipality of Atimonan to Lopez this was a rabid pro-Japanese area. When the Armed Forces of the US and the Commonwealth of the Philippines were defeated, there were persons who took unfair advantage of this defeat by becoming not only friends to the enemy but as accomplices to the enemies dastardly action against those who believed that in the end victory would be won by the justifiable people. In the mentioned areas from Atimonan to Lopez, there were many who took the advantage of seeing the opportunity in placing themselves as Gods who could control the lives of the majority. In the vicinity of Atimonan, it was known by those few courageous guerrillas as "Little Tokyo"; because of the staunch support that was given by persons who tried to seize an opportunity not to improve their country but for their own personal aggrandizement. It is a known fact that in these areas Vera kept the only known resistance during the Japanese occupation. In the two cases now presented and numerous others the deaths of the so called guerrillas were attributed to the Japanese or their followers. The undersigned questions these deaths of supposedly so called guerrillas for the following reasons: The areas described were under the control of Japanese sympathizers who in many instances murdered people for unknown motives. Many of these executions were committed for the following reasons: Before the war there were two political parties, one known as the "Ganaps" and the other was the Nationalista party. During the Japanese occupation, the Nationalista party refused to submit to the aggressors and their satellites who were the "Ganaps, Makapilies and Yoins", but instead fought their own private war against the enemy. Unfortunately many of these executed persons were not guerrillas but when it became known that persons were going to be paid for their guerrilla activities then in these areas there arose a large guerrilla force. A guerrilla force of such vast number of men that when it is taken into account the large number of persons who were pro-Japanese then the Japanese and their collaborators could have been exterminated. It is a known fact that some of the alleged guerrilla organizations were not in existence because during the liberation of the Philippines when the American Army was in this sector they had a guerrilla officer who was supposed to contact the guerrillas operating in this sector. This guerrilla officer had to go to Lopez where he contacted Vera, the guerrilla resistance leader. He did not contact any guerrilla leader in Atimonan nor in its surrounding vicinity. It is logical to believe that if there had been any guerrillas operating in Atimonan and its vicinity, undoubtedly this officer would have contacted these guerrillas. It is logical to state that the guerrillas in these areas undoubtedly are liberation guerrillas or either they became guerrillas through the aid of unscrupulous persons. The information as presented above was obtained by the undersigned from various sources. Naturally as considerable time has elapsed and the injustice committed by the perpetrators in many instances, the persons suffering this injustice are reluctant in giving information. An example is

given, the present Chief of Police of Atimonan, Primitivo L. Marasigan is supposed to have been a P.C. who did not surrender but became a guerrilla, and yet information from rumors reveals that Primitivo L. Marasigan was a member of the Bureau of Constabulary.

The evidence that was obtained on 29 May 1951 from affiants, Manuel Campomanes, Bienvenido Susada and Primitivo L. Marasigan reveals that the persons listed in Incls. C-1 and C-2 were not guerrillas. The inclosure C-2 are the names of men picked out by the above mentioned affiants from the roster of Unrecognized Enlisted men of the 46th Inf Regt. 44th Hunters ROTC Division on file at this headquarters. These men were not guerrillas and supposedly this roster was compiled by Victor Catarroja. It is reasonable to believe that with the evidence presented in cases 4288 and 4479, any future cases that may pertain to the area of Atimonan, these cases could be determined on the evidence presented herein. The evidence as presented in Incl. F is from an acceptable affiant but it is logical to believe that affiant is presenting correct historical facts. This evidence tends to prove that in 1945 during the liberation there was only one known guerrilla unit which was under the command of Gen. Guadencio Vera.


HENRY R. RODRIGUEZ
Field Investigator, U.S. Army

28 June 1951

MEMO FOR RECORD

AGRD-201 _____

23 Jul 1951

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

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

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

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

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

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

In view of the above findings, it has been determined that the above listed subject individuals are also Negative for recognized guerrilla status even though their names appear on Recognized Casualty Roster.

*The above cases were adjudicated & forwarded on
20 Jul 51.*

~~J. E. WEDDLE, DAC~~
Claims Examiner

APPROVED:

~~OTTO STANHISER~~
Capt AGC
OIC, DS, Vets Br

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