

~~333.5 - INVESTIGATION~~

~~Hqs. 2ND Bn. 42ND INF REGT~~

~~1945~~

Book No. 1

(93-1)

45TH Inf (MBD)

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29 July 1946

Report on the 45th Infantry Regiment, Barrion's Manila Division

In compliance with instructions from the Chief of Branch, Guerrilla Affairs Branch, G-3, AFWESPAC, Lt Grant S. Wilcox and Lt Pastor R. Escano contacted the guerrilla organization known as the "45th Infantry Regiment, Barrion's Manila Division", on date in order to determine (1. whether or not the dates of recognition for previously recognized members be revised (2) whether or not the unrecognized members of this unit be recognized by the United States Army.

ALLEGED HISTORY

In March of 1942 before the fall of Bataan, Arcadio C. Santos, a carpenter by trade, was approached by an American, John E. Hoover, alias Pat Hoover, to stay in Santo's home at Riverside, San Francisco del Monte (Quezon City) and hide out from the Japs. Hoover was a Spanish-American War veteran and had been in the Philippines since the Philippine Insurrection. He had built up a fair fortune from his gold mining interests on Luzon.

With Hoover financing and furnishing advice Santos collected seventeen arms of assorted types. With headquarters in San Francisco del Monte, seventeen men were recruited into the unit to get it started. In May 1942 this unit underwent its first raid from the Japs, and two men were killed; the rest fled.

In August 1943 the unit began to function as a military organization and named itself the 45th Infantry Regiment with Lt Col Arcadio C. Santos as CO. In spite of limited resources this unit functioned as an independent unit and extended at all times ready cooperation to all other guerrilla bands, except the Hukbalahaps. The regiment consisted of a regimental staff and three battalions. The unit subsisted through the meager voluntary contributions of the towns people of San Francisco del Monte. Pat Hoover continued to hide in Manila and help finance the unit. The unit started rudimentary military training of the men in the regiment with principle activities focused on intelligence work and harrassing and ambushing the Japs soldiers and nationals for the purpose of obtaining their weapons. Utmost quietness and secrecy of activities was maintained for the welfare of the civilian population.

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When Col. Dan Barrion, ECLGA's Adj. Gen., split with Ramsay, Santos approached Barrion about a union of their forces and the forming of a division. In October 1944 Barrion's Manila Division was formed by the union of Santo's 45th Inf Regt and the two ex-ECLGA units, the Rei-Zar Regiment and the South Sector Regiment.

Some of the men from the 45th Inf Regt were sent to the training camp near Novaliches. The unit continued to gather intelligence and spread propaganda under Barrion's Division.

During the liberation of Manila, some of the 45th Inf Regt men were attached to US outfits. Over 400 men were later assigned with Saber Force (group of all guerrilla unit attached with 1st Cav Div units) and remained with the force until it was disbanded in November 1945.

FINDINGS

The following listed persons were among those interviewed in regard to the 45th Infantry Regiment, Barrion's Manila Division, and the findings are based upon their statements:

UNIT MEMBERS

1. Lt Col Arcadio C. Santos, Unit Co
2. Maj. Domingo T. Bermudez
3. Capt Ramon S. Baluyot
4. Capt Laureano Benitez
5. Capt Felix A. Gonzales
6. Capt Marcia Geronimo
7. 1st Lt Pedro Austria
8. 1st Lt Roman Enfesta
9. 2d Lt Francisco R. Nero
10. 2d Lt Ruben Inocencio
11. 2d Lt Marcelino R. Vicente
12. 2d Lt John W. Keene
13. 2d Lt Santos E. Batimana
14. T/Sgt Esterlito Sebastian
15. T/Sgt Rodrigo Madrinal
16. S/Sgt Alberto Lopez
17. S/Sgt Juanita Baltao
18. Sgt Augusto Cordeta
19. Sgt Atilano Valenzuela
20. Sgt Feliciano Pinentel
21. Cpl Quirino de Guzman
22. Pfc Elpidio Macatulad
23. Pfc Pablo Lucas
24. Pfc Segundo de la Cruz
25. Pfc Antonio San Jose
26. Pfc Erenio Benin
27. Pfc Asiento Beran
28. Pfc Dementerio Antonio

29. Pfc Gregorio Madura
30. Pvt Saturnino Valenzuela
31. Pvt Candido Coronel
32. Pvt Gregorio Domingo
33. Pvt Ismael Aranzase
34. Pvt Silvino Velasco
35. Pvt Apolinario Simplicio

OTHERS

36. Col Can Barrion, CO of Barrion's Manila Division
37. Col Mohammad Nassao, CO of Rei-zar Regiment
38. Lt Col Romeo Alcid, CO of South Sector Regiment
39. Col Dionisio Banting, Straughn Div.
40. Col Agustin Marking, Markings.
41. Col Fausto Alberto, ECLGA
42. Col Li Hai Jo, COWHA
43. Lt Col Mario Marcelo, Straughn Div.
44. Maj William N. Davis, Barrion Div Staff
45. John E. Hoover, Financial supporter and advisor of unit
46. Lt Comdr George Rowe, SWPA, Mindoro
47. Gerald G. Berg, SWPA, Mindoro

Other sources of information were the complaint file in the GAB records section, CIC and CID.

The approximately 500 men of the 45th Infantry Regiment who actually were attached to US outfits during the liberation have already been recognized.

The organizer and present CO, Arcadio C. Santos, was a carpenter before the war. He had a very meager education and no military training previous to the war. He obtained his guerrilla and military "know how", he says, from dabbling with various small guerrilla units early in 1942. Despite his handicaps Santos did possess several good qualities to inspire men to follow him.--especially the poorer classes around San Francisco del Monte and North Manila.

Santos is an ardent and hard worker, but the officers of the 45th Infantry Regiment under him were an unmilitary group. For the most part, they lacked any sense of military responsibility and were incompetent with little or no military ability. Consequently the unit was poorly organized and control weak.

This investigating team noticed that, during the investigation of the 45th Infantry Regiment, the cooperation and aid Santos got from his subordinate officers was pathetic. These officers neglected the welfare of the men under them, were

selfish and assumed no responsibilities for their share of the duties in the regiment. Santos appears to have carried the entire load upon his own shoulders.

Like many guerrilla units the 45th Inf Regt during the occupation consisted of a small group, the preponderance of which was officer strength. Not long before and around the time of the liberation these men who wished to be recognized in the rank of officers found themselves confronted with the necessity of justifying their ranks as per US Army T/O if they wished to be recognized in such ranks by the US Army. So the leaders of the 45th Inf Regt, like other units, padded their rosters to meet T/O strength. It therefore follows, and was clearly that the indicated to the investigating team, enlisted men and many of the officers had no knowledge of the unit as a unit and could come no where near estimating the unit strength as given by the leaders.

None of the high ranking officers except Santos, the unit CO, claims anywhere near the strength of 4,000 men. Santos is rather generous and liberal when it comes to interpreting the word "guerrilla".

Lt Col Santos claims that he had 3,298 members in the unit at the end of 1944. There were never more than 500 men of the 45th Inf Regt attached to US outfits during the liberation, yet in 1945 Santos had to recruit new members for attachment to US outfits.

John H. Hoover, president of a gold mining company, was contacted in Manila by the investigating team. He stated that he wasn't the slightest bit interested in being called a guerrilla himself. He did encourage guerrilla activities and gave out a deal of money to buy arms and ammunition to the 45th Infantry Regiment. He in return had a group of men around his hiding place on the look out for approaching Japs. From Hoover it was gathered that the biggest guerrilla work the 45th Infantry Regiment did during the occupation was to furnish guards to act as lookouts around his hide out. But from the investigating team's viewpoint the guards weren't guerrillas but rather hired guards of Hoover since he bought their weapons and furnished their subsistence.

During the occupation this unit's activities were never on an effectively organized scale. After joining Barrion's Manila Division some of the men were sent up to the training camp near Novaliches on a one month rotation basis. This one month's training at Novaliches in late 1944 was the sole activity of many members prior to the liberation. Other members interviewed did nothing and others said that they spied on the Japs. Other than for those members who took some training at

Novaliches the members lived at home and followed their civilian pursuits, most of them being married and having families to look out for.

Many of the members interviewed, officers and enlisted men, had no knowledge of the Rei-Zar Regiment, the South Sector Regiment and the COMINF; the other regiments of Barrion's Manila Division. Most of the men had heard of Barrion.

The investigating team interviewed four or five members who claimed they were attached to the Saber Force and had not been paid. Upon questioning it was found that one returned to his home because of sickness, but the others deserted over dissatisfaction with a soldier's life in the field against the enemy.

This unit was poorly organized, and poorly led. Other than recruiting activities, no proof can be established of guerrilla activity prior to the liberation.

Col. Dan Barrion, commanding officer of Barrion's Manila Division, recommends the 45th Inf. Regt for recognition.

Col Marking Agustin and Col Terry Adevosco state that Barrion has already had too many men recognized.

POLITICAL ASPECT

This unit supports Manuel A. Roxas

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. After careful study of the records and individuals concerned and in view of findings included, it is recommended that, with the exception of those members previously recognized, the 45th Infantry Regiment, Barrion's Manila Division be not favorably considered for recognition.

2. It is further recommended that the dates of recognition of the recognized members of the 45th Infantry Regiment, Barrion's Manila Division remain unchanged since the organized aid given to the liberation effort did not become effective prior to such dates.

Grant S Wilcox

GRANT S. WILCOX
91339330
2d Lt, Infantry

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Activities including type During the Occupation and Liberation

I was verbally inducted into the service of the ROTC (Hunters) Guerrilla 23 March 1942 by Captain Ernesto Gonzales, (alias Parpan). I was appointed as First Lieutenant and assigned Battalion S-2. The nature of my assignments were purely Intelligence and Propaganda. After serving for almost six months with the said organization, I organized my own unit with the consent of Captain Parpan. It was known as South Central Luzon Guerrilla Area, 45th Infantry MT Corps. The strength was one company. Our mission was to gather important military informations against the Japanese.

On 3 January 1943, the Company grew to a Battalion, known as South Central Luzon Guerrilla Area, 1st Battalion, 45th Infantry. As organizer and Commanding Officer of this unit, the 1st Battalion was engaged in gathering military informations such as, Japanese movements, concentrations, and installations. These intelligence reports were coordinated with our combat plans. On 12 August 1943, the 1st Battalion became the South Central Luzon Guerrilla Area, 45th Infantry Regiment. It caused a bigger sector of activities, from Meycauyan, San Mateo, Montalban, Novaliches, Balintawak, and Manila proper. The Regiment was engaged in sabotaging military installation, communication lines, and ambushing Japanese patrols and garrisons. Intelligence reports were coordinated with our combat and sabotaging plans.

At the rate of enlistment going on, the 45th Infantry Regiment became the United States Philippine Islands Forces 44th Lightning Division 11 August 1944. On 3 October 1944, this unit was affiliated with the Southwest Pacific Area Special Detachment and the triangular divisional commander was Colonel Dominador Barelea, (alias Dan Barrion). During this affiliation, this unit was designated as Southwest Pacific Area Special Detachment, 45th Infantry Regiment. We covered the same area of operation and the lines of activities remained as amplified above. On 9 February 1945, this unit was designated as United States Philippine Islands Forces, 45th Infantry Regiment, Manila (Barrion's) Division as per orders of Colonel Dominador Barelea.

The United States Philippine Islands Forces, 45th Infantry Regiment, Manila (Barrion's) Division, was attached to various units of US Army, namely the 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion, 209th AAA AW Battalion Battery "B", 1550th AAF Base unit, 4025th Signal Service Group, 103d Infantry Regiment, 751st Artillery, 3153d Signal Service company, Manila Leave Center, 738th Military Police Battalion. The longest period of attachment was from 11 February 1945 to 24 July 1945, when the United States Philippine Islands Forces, 45th Infantry Regiment, Manila (Barrion's) Division was engaged in actual combat against the Japanese in Antipolo Wawa Front, Batangas, Laguna and Tayabas. During all these periods, this unit was attached with the 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, US Army.

ARCADIO C. SANTOS
ARCADIO C. SANTOS
Lt Colonel, Infantry
CO 45th Inf Regt.

UNITED STATES PHILIPPINE ISLANDS FORCES
GHQ, MANILA (BARRION'S) DIVISION

28 December 1945

SUBJECT: Report re-result of war widows goods distribution

TO : C. O., Manila (Barrion's) Division

1. The undersigned respectfully submits lists of goods distributed to every corresponding barrio's under the Rei-Zar Regiment.

(a) Tinejeros

19 Women dress
5 Men's shirt
12 Men's pant
2 Overcoats
70 pairs of sock
30 Childrens dresses
140 - - pieces

(b) Merulas

24 Women's dresses
7 Women's dresses
5 Men's pants
40 Pairs of sock
70 - - pieces

(c) Paso de Blas

15 Women's dresses
3 Men's Shirt
5 Men's pant
2 Overcoat
2 Jackets
60 Pairs of socks
10 Childrens dresses
97 pieces

(d) Pugad Baboy

30 pairs of socks
11 Women's dresses
3 Men's shirt
5 Men's pant
49 pieces

(e) Talipapa

10 Women's dresses
2 Men's shirt
4 Men's pants
30 pairs of socks
5 small dresses (Children)
51 pieces

(f) Novaliches

36 Women's dresses
10 Men's shirt
12 Men's pants
2 Overcoat
2 Jackets
100 pairs of socks
25 small pieces of dresses (Children)
187 pieces

(g) Kangkong

6 Women's dresses
4 Men's shirt
3 Men's pants
20 pairs of socks
5 Childrens dresses
38 pieces

RAMON DE OCAMPO
Capt., Infantry
Ex. O., 1st Bn.

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UNITED STATES PHILIPPINE ISLANDS FORCES
GHQ, MANILA (BARRION'S) DIVISION

27 Dec 45

Received from the Colonel, 4 Bales of clothings, to be distributed to war widows (Rei-Zar Regiment). The following items below were the contents of each bales.

36	women's Dress	:	36	women's Dress	:	36	women's Dress	:	23	women's Dress
10	Men's Shirt	:	10	Men's Shirt	:	10	Men's Shirt	:	10	Men's Shirt
12	Men's Pants	:	12	Men's Pant	:	12	Men's Pant	:	12	Men's Pant
2	Overcoat	:	2	Overcoat	:	2	Overcoat	:	2	Overcoat
2	Jacket	:	2	Jacket	:	2	Jacket	:	2	Jacket
100	Pairs of sock	:	100	Pairs of sock	:	100	Pairs of sock	:	100	Pairs of Sock
25	Children's Dress:		25	Children's Dress		25	Children's Dress		30	Children's Dress

Ramon de Ocampo
RAMON DE OCAMPO
Capt., Infantry
Ex. O., 1st bn.

Manila (Barrion's) Division

Distribution:

Concerned
file

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PHILIPPINE ISLANDS FORCES
GHQ, MANILA (BARRION'S) DIVISION

24 Dec '45

SCHEDULE OF DISTRIBUTION OF CLOTHES TO VARIOUS
SECTORS OF THIS COMMAND? 25 Dec '45.

1. Marulas (Pasong Balate) under the supervision of - 0900 hrs 35
() Lt. Maximo Aviles
2. Pugad Baboy (Ugong) & under the supervision of - 1000 hrs 15
Camotan & Lt. Pio de los Angeles
3. Hapay na Manga (Lawang Bato) under the supervision of - 1200 hrs ~~25~~ Pedro Dalawa
(Maysan) Lt. Julian Gregorio 15
(Canamay) Capt. G. Antonio
4. Novaliches (Bagumbong) under the supervision of - 1300 hrs 83
(Galed) Lt. Emilio Mendoza
(Ilana)
5. Talipapa (Sangadaan) under the supervision of - 1400 hrs 13
Lt. Pacifico del Mundo
6. Ouliat under the supervision of Lt. B. Haveria - 1500 hrs
7. Kangkong under the supervision of Lt. F. M. Busebio - 1600 hrs 15
^{vision}

RAMON DE OCAMPO
Capt., Infantry
Ex. O. 1st Bn

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HEADQUARTERS
MANILA (BARRION'S) DIVISION
394 P. PAREDES

5 March 1947

MEMORANDUM:

TO : ALL REGIMENTAL COMMANDERS

SOUTH SECTOR, REI-ZAR, 45TH:

1. All concerned who submitted roster are directly responsible for the authenticity of persons appearing there in.

HEADQUARTERS
MANILA (BARRION'S) DIVISION
394 P. PAREDES

5 March 1947

MEMORANDUM:

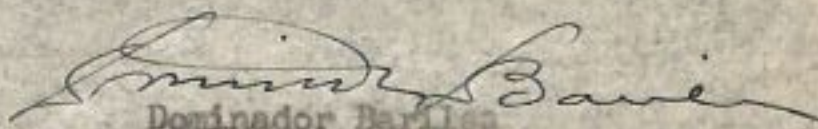
TO : ALL REGIMENTAL COMMANDERS
SOUTH SECTOR, REI-ZAR, 45TH:

1. All concerned who submitted roster are directly responsible for the authenticity of persons appearing there in.

2. Each Unit Co. or anyone who submits names to the higher echelon must authenticate all persons in such list signed in triplicate (one to be attached with the roster, one for the Commanding Officer and the other for his personal file).

3. The Undersigned will not, under no circumstance approve any roster submitted to this Headquarters without compliance of the above instruction.

4. In this connection this Headquarters has adopted a form for the guidance of all concerned.


Dominador Bariles
Colonel, Inf.
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:

M. SOUTH SECTOR REGT.	I
REI-ZAR REGT.	I
45TH REGT.	I
FILE	I

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United States Philippine Islands Forces
Manila (Barrion's) Division, Hq. ___ Co. 45th Inf.

SUBJECT: Unrecognized Roster

TO : ^{REI-ZAR} Co. ~~45th~~ Inf. Manila
Barrion's Division, USPIF

1. In compliance with the order of the Co. ~~45th~~ Inf. MBD, USPIF, to submit a roster of the unrecognized member of the command, I hereby submit the following names:

2. I hereby certify that the above men are personally known to me and are bona-fide ^{member} of ___ Co. ~~REI-ZAR~~ MBD, USPIF.

That I am directly responsible for the authenticity of the above listed men and for whatever anomalies that may arise in the future. And that these men if recognized are available for processing.

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Signature: _____

Designation and Rank

Report on First Battalion, Forty-Fifth Infantry
Regiment, Barrions' Division.

In accordance with verbal instructions from Chief of Section, Guerilla Affairs Section, United States Army Training Group, AFWESPAC, Lieutenant Robert L. Morton contacted the "First Battalion, Forty-Fifth Infantry Regiment, Manila, Barrions' Division" in order to determine whether or not the organization should be recognized by the United States Army. The following report is a summary of the investigation and basis for the recommendation.

History

The "First Battalion, Forty-Fifth Infantry Regiment, Manila, Barrions' Division" was formed by Arcadio G. Santos in the month of January 1943. The organization gradually increased in size, and in August 1943 the Forty-Fifth Infantry Regiment was formed, with the First Battalion being as its nucleus. Arcadio G. Santos assumed the rank of lieutenant colonel, and extended his organization to a regiment consisting of three battalions.

During the period of the Japanese occupation the activities of this unit were slight. Training of the men, ambushing, intelligence and sabotage was claimed to have been accomplished prior to the liberation of the American Forces. About September 1944 Lt. Colonel A. G. Santos communicated with Colonel Barrion and offered him cooperation and coordination relative to guerrilla activities, and to attach the Forty-Fifth Infantry to Colonel Barrions guerrillas under the latter's command. This was agreed and a triangular division was formed under Colonel Dan Barrion.

On 11 February 1945, one hundred (100) men from the First Battalion, were attached to the 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Part of these men were armed and the remainder were given hand grenades. These men remained with the 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion until 17 February 1945.

On 24 March 1945, one hundred sixty-five officers and men from the First Battalion were attached to the First Squadron, Seventh Cavalry, and worked until 15 July 1945.

Findings

Upon questioning Lieutenant Colonel Arcadio G. Santos and some of the members of this organization it was found that the greater part of the men attached to American units have already been recognized. Of the one hundred (100) officers and men attached to the 637th Tank Destroyer Bn, approximately thirty (30) of these men were recognized. The remaining seventy (70) men helped make up the one hundred sixty-five (165) officers and men that were attached to the Seventh Cavalry from 24 March 1945 to 29 April 1945. It was claimed that these men were attached to

the Seventh Cavalry until 15 July 1945 at which time they were relieved by Hunter's ROTC, but there is not sufficient proof to back up this statement. Lieutenant Colonel Santos stated that the greater portion of these men who were attached with the Seventh Cavalry were placed on another roster, and were recognized by the Sixth Army.

The letters of recommendations from the Seventh Cavalry and the 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion are recommendations and activities of the members of the First Battalion, and according to a statement from Santos the greater portion of them are already recognized.

Politics

This unit does not appear to have any political affiliations or aspirations.

Recommendations

After careful considerations of the statements made by the present members and an analysis of the documents presented, it is recommended that the "First Battalion, Forty-Fifth Infantry Regiment, Manila, Barrions' Division" be not favorably considered for recognition.

That no further investigation or recommendation be taken of that portion of the First Battalion that was attached to the Seventh Cavalry or 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion.

Robert L. Morton
ROBERT L. MORTON
1st Lt. Ord
Contact Team "G"

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