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FILE: 500-3-14

TITLE: Report about six American soldiers who were cared and protected in
Capalonga, Camarines Norte.

ORIGIN: Capalonga, Camarines Norte

DATES: Sept 22, 1945

CLASSIFICATION:

AUTHENTICITY: Originals

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Handwritten:
Hudson
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COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES
Province of Camarines Norte
CAPALONGA
Office of the Mayor

September 28, 1948.

SUBJECT: - Report about six (6) American
soldiers who were cared and protected
in Capalonga, Camarines Norte.
TO: - - - The Secretary of War, Washington D. C.
United States of America, and
The General Headquarter of the American Forces
Manila, Philippines.

S i r s :

For your information and in particular for the families con-
cerned, I have the honor to report to you that during the month of June
1942, six American soldiers (war prisoners) arrived in my office at the
barrio of Itoc, municipality of Capalonga, Camarines Norte. They escaped
from the Japanese soldiers because they ^{could} not endure the cruelties and
maltreatments inflicted to them while working on Camarines Norte-Sayocor
road. They were brought to me by the guerilla men of this place for pro-
tection and care. The names of these Americans were.:

1. - Frank R. Rooney, Captain,
2. - Gleen Reul, Army Clerk,
3. - Wayne MacVey, Private,
4. - Harry Warwick, "
5. - Garland Smith, " and
6. - Louis Bailey, Master Mechanic.

I assumed the duty and responsibility to care for these Ameri-
cans during the duration of war and selected a secluded place in the bar-
rio of Itoc, Capalonga, C. Norte where they could live secretly.

A house in the homestead of a faithful friend named Gregorio
D. Portugal was selected by me as the most appropriate place where the
heroin named Americans could be hidden and accommodated. The said Gregorio
D. Portugal had been requested by me to care for the Americans and to act
as our messenger in bringing communications between me and the said Ameri-
cans; while the state of affairs was then going on smoothly, Japanese sol-
diers formally occupied Capalonga during the middle part of June 1942 and
the undersigned had been ordered to go to town to assume the post of mayor-
ship. In view of this order I held a conference with Captain Rooney who
after serious deliberation on this subject advised me to accept the post
of mayership for the common good of my family and the said Americans.

I began to act as mayor of the Japanese puppet government on
July 1st., 1942 and the Americans were then under my secret care. I must
mention hereon that before assuming my post one of the Americans, Louis
Bailey was taken by two Civilian Americans who happened to pass from vi-
zons camp. They informed me that they would be going to Nagao, so they
had been transported to Nagao, a town in Ilogabon province. I could not
tell me to whether these three Americans arrived at their destination for
since then I did not hear anymore news from them; so only five Americans
remained under my care. Since June 1942 up to September of the same year,
I used to visit personally the five Americans. They were happy and healthy
except Capt. Rooney who had been sick with dysentery. Despite our effort to
cure him, he died Sept. 27, 1942 Sat, before his death he told me to bury

him in a secluded place so that his parents may take his remains to America. I had him buried in the homestead of Sr. Gregorio D. Portugal in Iteoc, Capalonga, Camarines Norte and the place can be indicated by us to the family of the deceased if they care to do so. Captain Rooney is from San Francisco, California. He is a good singer and about 32 years old. If your office can bring this matter to the family concerned, I will feel grateful of having complied a little service of gratitude for the one who died unselfishly and patriotically for the good of our country.

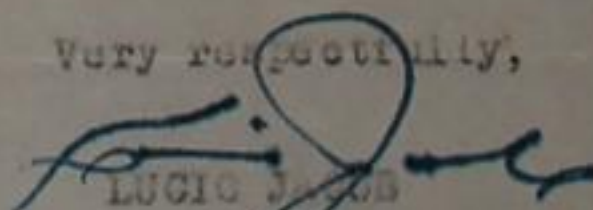
After the death of Capt. Rooney, only four Americans were then under my care. I ~~was~~ continued to supply them food thru Gregorio Portugal and they continued to live in the place indicated above up to December 27, 1942. On this date a very sad incident occurred. Some one had reported that I was traitor to the Japanese government and was caring and protecting four Americans in Iteoc. So without my knowledge two (2) platoons of Japanese soldiers on Dec. 27, 1942 raided secretly the barrio of Iteoc where the four Americans namely; Wynn McVey, Garland Smith, Glenn Reel and Harry Barwick had been actually arrested.

In connection with the American apprehension Gregorio Portugal, Bro. Lieut. Pedro Estarce of Iteoc, Bro. Lt. Egenio Regidor of neighboring barrio of Mabini and the undersigned had been arrested on the same day also. I had been ousted in that day from my post as Mayor and the people were told by the Japanese officer that the undersigned ought to be killed for what he did. The four Americans and the persons named herein were immediately sent to the Japanese headquarter in Mambulo where a short investigation had been conducted. As a result of this investigation Gregorio Portugal and Pedro Estarce were released while the four Americans, Egenio Regidor and the undersigned ~~had~~ ~~been~~ ~~investigated~~ ~~in~~ ~~Daet~~ were sent to Daet as prisoners. The Americans and the undersigned had been investigated in Daet and after several days confinement in Daet we were returned to San Mauricio, Mambulo, C. Norte. The four Americans, Egenio Regidor and the undersigned were all tied up tightly and for a period of four days we were not given food to eat nor water to drink and on the fifth day we were sent to Camp Stotsenberg, Panganga. I remember very well that the four Americans Egenio Regidor and the undersigned arrived in Stotsenberg on January 8th., 1943 at six o'clock P. M. That was the last day that I had seen the four Americans. They were not carried to the jail where we were carried to. I can not tell as to whether those four Americans had been carried to other camp or ~~might~~ what might had been their fate. It is not superfluous to mention herein that we suffered a great deal during our confinement and we were ~~always~~ ^{always} locked in the dungeon.

After several months confinement in Camp Stotsenberg, we were investigated and afterward we were asked to wash our hand up to our elbows and we were required to sign Oath of Allegiance. We were warned to forget America and in case of a repetition of any crime against the Japanese government we will be killed at once including our family. We were definitely released and returned here again in Capalonga on March 7th., 1943.

Thus, Egenio Regidor and the undersigned were saved from a sure death.

Very respectfully,


LUCIO JACOB
Mayor

DISTRIBUTIONS:

1. The Secretary of War, Washington D. C., U. S. of America.
2. The General Headquarter of the American Forces, Manila, P. I.
3. File.

From
The Mayor
Cepulobanga, C Norte



The General Headquarter,
American Forces,
Manila, Philippine Islands