

THE CPU COLLECTION OF WORLD WAR II DOCUMENTS ON THE PANAY RESISTANCE MOVEMENT (GUERRILLA)

Jose Balagot

1.0 *How it all began.* Actually, the greater bulk of World War II documents on the Resistance Movement, of which the present collection is a part, had their origin in the mountain fastnesses of Panay Island where they had been issued by leaders of the armed guerilla units or those of the civil resistance underground movement, during the darkest days of the Japanese occupation years from 1942 to 1945. Luckily, the CPU did not have to begin from scratch inasmuch as, by some turn of fortune, a wealth of these documents came into the possession of some of the faculty members of the CPU, who were active participants in the said movement. They were shown to the Dean of Graduate Studies, Dr. Leonard L. Bowman, who looked over the said materials, and who thought they were valuable acquisitions. This was the nucleus.

They are not just ordinary documents, despite the inferior quality of stationery on which the message is written. They had been gathered the hard way; secretly forwarded or brought over by carriers, usually a small group of barefoot guerrilla, who did not look like one. These boys had to go their way the best they could to the widely dispersed hideouts and outposts throughout all of Panay, crossing swollen streams and trudging over muddy roads during the rainy months, before reaching their destinations. These hardships would make reason enough which should induce one's concern for the preservation of these materials.

1.1 *How the CPU got involved.* During the early stages of this special project, no money for operational expenses was ever thought of. The documents were classified

and the work proceeded as an extra assignment, in the Office of Graduate Studies. However, after some time, President Howard was informed of the idea, and he readily gave his acceptance. He went further by obtaining from the Board of Trustees its approval for the project to use the Robbins Memorial Fund (P1,650.00), a bequest to the CPU by the late Joseph Robbins. This was partly utilized for the needed stationery and office supplies, binding of documents and other incidental expenses. No salary for personnel was set aside from this fund inasmuch as the work was part of the load given the undersigned for the semester. At the same time, the gathering of documents was carried on through writing letters to former participants of the Civil Resistance Movement and to leaders of the guerrilla, such as Col. Peralta, Col. Chavez, Major Tomas de Castro, Col. Amos Francia, among others. Two trips to Manila were made subsequently for the purpose of contacting personally these persons and other prospective donors. The response was encouraging. It may be stated here that the most substantial acquisition in point of pivotal or strategic importance was the file of the late Governor Tomas Confesor donated by Patricio V. Confesor, himself a former Second-in-Command of the Civil Resistance Movement on Panay during World War II, consisting of more than 20 volumes. This phase of the collection netted fifty-eight bound-volumes at the end of the school year 1963-64, with plenty more to spare of the Robbins Memorial Fund.

1.2 *How the Asia Foundation Grant of P7,384.00 was obtained.* During the early part of the CPU Summer Term in 1964, the Honorable Consul-General Lewis E. Gleck, Jr., a campus guest of this University, must have been informed of this special project, and came over purposely to see the project and browsed over a few of the volumes. His favorable impression could be understood by the fact that he took personal interest in having the work pushed on further. It was through his recommendation, more than anything else, that the Asia Foundation Grant of P7,394.00 has been allotted to CPU, "to secure additional

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documents for compilation and collection of materials through interviews of their individual source..."¹ This grant was to last for twelve months effective September 1, 1964.

Needless to say that this aid not only added greater momentum to the activity but also widened the range of territory covered in contacting prospective donors in view of the addition of a Field Man to go around in search for more donations to the project. When the 12-month period was ended and the allotment became exhausted, the collection reached a total of two hundred fourteen (214) neatly bound volumes. This number does not include other unsorted documents recently acquired which will be classified, pasted, and assembled for binding, and which, incidentally, could not be included in the previous bundles, due to lack of funds. According to a rough estimate, these unclassified documents may take no less than twenty volumes, which will be added to the 214 volumes when bound.

1.3 *The Asia Foundation Grant of P3,160.00 (additional) of 1965.* Another campus guest of CPU was Dr. John V. Hart, of Syracuse University, who came here while doing some special sociological study at Silliman University. His exact address is: c/o Administrator of Manuscripts, Carnegie Library, Syracuse University, New York City 13210, N.Y. He had the whole day together with the undersigned browsing over the volumes which he selected at random. Before he left on the following day, he suggested the idea of microfilming the documents to avoid disintegration of originals through handling or using of materials ...and with the cost to be paid by the institutions receiving copies of the microfilm. The idea of microfilming seemed acceptable to Dr. Howard, so he (Dr. Hart) talked to Mr. Raymundo V. Johnson, Representative of the Asia Foundation.²

When I went to the Asia Foundation Office in Manila

¹Letter of Hon. Lewis E. Gleeck, Jr. to Dr. Joseph T. Howard, Central Philippine University, dated May 1, 1964.

²Letter of Dr. D.V. Hart to President Howard, Central Philippine University, Iloilo City, dated May 12, 1965.

(July 1965), to report on the ₱7,394.00 grant and to follow up about the microfilming proposal, the additional grant of ₱3,160.00 was readily approved, and the agreement was signed, the main purpose of which was... "To retype all deteriorating documents in the collection or those that cannot be microfilmed in their present condition to insure their preservation..." The agreement was good for three months, and did not include microfilming plans.¹ At the termination of the period, there were 2,592 pages or sheets, typewritten, as of November 30, 1965, These are ready for microfilming.

1.4 *Present needs for carrying on the project: Money.* (for salary and supplies) On the basis of priority, the following things need to be done:

- 1st: To work on the unsorted documents recently acquired and to have them bound — (about 20 volumes). This work should cost about ₱80.00 including materials for pasting and the cost of binding.
- 2nd: To continue the retyping of deteriorating documents to make them ready for microfilming. This might require four or five months with two full-time typists on the job. The cost of stationery and supplies is estimated to reach about ₱300.00, salaries of typists excluded.
- 3rd: To microfilm selected documents, which could be done either in Manila or at some other place. See price quotations by the Microfilm Corporation of the Philippines, 500 Echague, Quiapo, Manila, Telephone 4-28-91 (Miss Chamber's file), for possible rough estimate of microfilming costs.
- 4th: To take steps necessary to make the collection more functional to qualified users or researchers, including cataloguing, indexing, cross-indexing, etc. This job could be done jointly if desired by

¹Letter of Mr. James C. Porterfield, Acting Representative, Asia Foundation, to Professor Jose C. Balagot, Central Philippine University, Iloilo City, dated July 20, 1965.

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the University Research Center, and/or the CPU
Library.

1.5 *Sources of documents collected.*

- a. The Sixth Military District, or Armed Resistance Movement, the remnants of the USAFFE under Brig. Gen. Christie — the unsundered officers and men thereof;
- b. The Underground Civil Resistance Movement under the leadership of the late Tomas Confesor in Panay;
- c. Files of Deputy Governors, Municipal Mayors, and their instrumentalities in the field covering Iloilo. Antique, Capiz, and Romblon;
- d. The SWPA Command. Australia, under Gen. Douglas MacArthur; radiograms. instructions, radio broadcasts, during the War Years;
- e. Japanese-propaganda material — pamphlets, air-dropped leaflets, newspapers from Japanese-occupied areas of Iloilo.

1.6 *Content of the documents.* It is not possible to enumerate even just only a major portion of the content; hence it may suffice to give a few insights, such as the following:

The wonderful fortitude of spirit of the people, their capacity to stand strong even under pressure of all kinds;

The continuous struggle to obtain food and other prime necessities to survive the war;

The tools of terror resorted to, like murder, bombing torture, rape, destruction of life and property by the enemy;

Secret landings of arms and ammunitions through submarine rendezvous, under Commander Chic Parsons, USNR;

Authority to print Emergency Currency in Panay, on orders of Gen. MacArthur;

The imposition of Martial Law over Panay by the Armed Forces;

First Radio Contact with Washington, D.C.
by Guerrilla Units;

Rampant abuses committed, the looting,
killing, and acts of banditry in the countryside
and isolated areas;

The power struggle between Col. Peralta
and Governor Confesor;

Message-center notes of Col. Peralta, CO,
6thMD with Stations WIC, KML, DK2, WAM,
KRC, and other friendly stations;

Other operational workings of the resistance
movement in the widely-scattered areas;

Etc., etc.,

WORLD WAR II DOCUMENTS

(Editor's Note: This constitutes Mr. Balagot's first at-
tempt to index the documents, which is a gigantic
task, indeed. We hope to be able to continue this se-
ries.)

Armed Guerilla, Organiza- tion of	Vol. 1 & Vol. 15
Army-Civil Government Con- troversy	Vol. 130
Army-Civil Government Power Struggle between	Vols. 78, 85, 93, 96, 98, 99, 100, 117, 131, 132, 195
Army-Civil Government Re- lations, Principles of ..	Vol. 78
Army Units, Organization of	Vol. 65
Civil Affairs Office, Organi- zation of	Vol. 88 & Vol. 137
Civil Affairs Office, Regula- tory Activities of	Vol. 101
Civil Resistance (Governor Confesor's Manifesto). Organization of	Vol. 69
Civil Underground Resis- tance, Organization of	Vol. 31 & Vol. 40
Currency, Printing of Emer- gency	Vols. 80, 82, 93, 94, 102, 103, 106, 110, 136, 137

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Food Production Campaign	Vols. 73, 77, 78, 84, 101, 103, 105, 108
Guerrilla Resistance Move- ments (Leyte, Samar, Central Luzon, Bicol Area, Northern Luzon, Panay, Bohol, Mindanao- Sulu), Organization of	Vol. 83
History Section of Army, Or- ganization of	Vol. 51 & Vol. 52
Provincial Guards, Civil Gov- ernment, Organization of	Vol 71, 74, 77, 104, 118
Puppet Officials Planted by Army	Vols. 75, 82, 104
Safety and Security, Plans for Civilians'	Vol. 74