

AIR MAIL

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AMERICAN CONSULATE

1943 DEC 13 AM 11 55
Calcutta, India, November 23, 1943.

Subject: Forwarding Affidavit of Philippine Seaman
Francisco Garcia.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

With reference to the Consulate General's despatch No. 855 of November 8, 1943, I have the honor to forward herewith copy of the affidavit made by Francisco Garcia, one of the sixteen Philippine seamen who escaped from Hongkong. The Department will now have received copies of affidavits made by all these seamen.

Two of the seamen in question, Pedro Ariola and Liberato Siat, were signed on the S.S. CLEMENT CLAY on November 23 as workaways. In consequence, only five of these seamen now remain in Calcutta.

Respectfully yours,

K. S. Patton
American Consul General

Enclosure:

Copy of affidavit made by
Francisco Garcia.

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PHB/dmt

Original and hectograph to Department.

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Before me, Philip H. Bagby, Vice Consul of the United States of America at Calcutta, India, duly commissioned and qualified, on this the ninth day of November, Ninotten hundred and forty-three, personally appeared FRANCISCO GARCIA, an escapee from Hongkong, who, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

That he was born at Manila on December 5, 1908; that his father's name was Francisco Garcia and his mother's name Romana Carneiro; that he has four brothers and seven sisters; that he has some cousins living in the United States, but does not know their address;

That in 1928 after completing his education he went to sea; that he worked on ships of Admiral and Company from 1928 until December 1941; that in April or May 1941, while on board the U.S.S. SUSAN, he visited Honolulu where his fingerprints were taken for a landing permit; that later in 1941, while on the same ship, he visited Westminster, Canada, where his photograph was filed when a landing permit was issued; that his last ship was the U.S.S. ARDUB, where he served as 3rd Assistant Engineer; that the U.S.S. ARDUB was in the port of Hongkong at the time of the Japanese declaration of war; that after the capture of Hongkong he was interned in the Waikoo Club;

That on November 15, 1942 he was given permission to proceed to Cebu in order to participate in a boxing match; that he saw the Reverend Lowell L. Davis, an American missionary, who received permission from the British Consul to allow Philippine seamen to stay on the U.S.S. ARDUB; that he stayed on this ship for five months and was then sent by the Reverend Davis to a small island (Coloane) to do farming;

That in April 1943 he with 50 others who were of American, Russian, British and Philippine nationality, took two boats and sailed to Free China, proceeding to Kailin by ferry and on foot; that the 16 Filipinos reported to the United States Army, who put them up for two weeks; that they then took the United States Army plane to Luning and stayed for four days; that the other nationals of the party were left at Luning;

That in the first week of May the party left Luning for Cebu by United States Army plane, arriving after three hours, and stayed with the United States Army for a week; that they then took a United States Army plane for Calcutta near Calcutta, arriving on May 16, 1943;

that he has no papers of identification at the present time; that the Reverend Lowell T. Wells has his Seaman's Certificate of Philippine Citizenship issued by the Commonwealth of the Philippines, Department of Finance, Bureau of Customs, Manila.

and further deponent saith not.

Francisco Garcia

Subscribed and sworn to before me at Calcutta, India,
on this the ninth day of November, A.D. 1943.

Philip A. Darby
Vice Consul of the United
States of America.