

9/28/74

Memo for Capt John W Whitman

1. You have my permission to furnish a copy of the Operations Report, 57<sup>th</sup> Inf (PS) to TIS library.
2. Regarding your query about Colonel George S. Clarke's relief from command of the 57<sup>th</sup> on 14 Jan '42: Based on the report of a staff officer from Luzon Force it was decided that Col Clarke was unfit to command troops in combat by reason of his health. As you know, Col (later BG) Arnold S Funk commanded the Regiment for about one week after Col Clarke's relief - then Lt Col Philip T. Fry, who up to that time commanded the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn 57<sup>th</sup> Inf (PS), assumed command. I remained in the position of Regt Exec. Col Fry arrived in P I on USAT Coolidge a very short while prior to Pearl Harbor and joined the regt, as I recall, after we had moved into the fuel near Ft McKinley on learning that the USA was at war with Japan. He was senior to me but Col Clarke, with his consent, assigned him to command the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. I continued on as Regt Exec. Back to Col Clarke's relief - Prior to his relief, he remained in the C.P. constantly and required his staff to do the same. This failure on the part of the enlisted men and junior officers to see their C.O. and his staff, undoubtedly had an adverse effect upon regimental morale. You are right, the Scouts were superb soldiers, but like all soldiers they needed competent leadership. Their performance reflected the type of leadership they received. Later, General Jonathan M Wainwright was to praise the Philippine

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Scout and specifically the Scout of the 57<sup>th</sup> Inf (PS)  
in the highest terms

3. About the last road and the organization of the 57<sup>th</sup> Inf battle line. The MLR ran east and west through a barrio named Mabatang. The OPLR ran generally east or west through a barrio named Kalaguiman. I'm sure you have a good map of Bataan. Check my spelling from your map — also the distance between the last road at Manila Bay at Mabatang. The line from last road to Bay was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn under command of Major Royall Reynolds Jr. The road, as I remember it was single track and metaled with coarse gravel plus an abundance of sea shells mostly pulverized by traffic. Our Reserve line ran generally east and west through the barrio of Abucay. I believe the last road was included in the sector of the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. To the west for a distance of 700-800 yards (this is entirely based on memory) the line was held by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn under Lt Col P. T. Frey. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn was in reserve near Abucay, under the command of Lt Col Frank Brokaw. Regimental Headquarters was in the Church at Abucay. Captain John E Olson Adjutant, 1 Lt Frank O. Anders, Intelligence Officer, Major Harold K Johnson, Operations Officer. Until his relief O/a 14 Jan '42 Col Clarke was in command, and I was his Exec Off. The entire front of the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn was covered by fish ponds

and its MHR extends along a dyke. The MHR 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn extends along a tree-lined road (little more than a trail) or beyond this was a cane field through which the enemy had access. This was soon burned to provide adequate fuel of fire for M.G.'s and rifles - but not beyond the Japanese had used the cane field to their advantage. Some barbed wire was used in part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn position, but the amount was limited by its availability. Little if any was used in the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn front line but 60 mm mortars but no ammunition. Our hopes impelled us to hold onto these weapons that could have been so valuable. There was the chance that supplies could have been on the way.

3. Withdrawal from the Abucay line took place 23 January. This was covered by the troops of a Philippine Army regiment - I think, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Inf (PA). As time off, I was most unhappy about some of the confusion that existed within our ranks. This was a relative condition. At the time we did not realize that the Philippine Army regarded our performance as something to emulate. But no one can deny the existence of confusion - far too much in fact. However it was our first experience under just these conditions - and I must confess, on looking back, I think it was remarkable that we did as well as we did.

Are you sure you have the correct address of Dr Calvin Chunn. If not, ask Cal. Ray M. O'Day 1814 NW Blue Ridge Dr, Seattle, Washington, 98177, for it. I'm sorry, but I am not in touch with Chunn, or I give it to you.

General Johnson is a very busy man but you will find him most sympathetic toward your project I am sure - Same for Cals. John E. Olson and Frank O. Anders. I believe I have already furnished you their addresses.

BG Royall Reynolds Jr, 1521 - 23rd Rd South, Arlington Va 22202, will be willing to help I am sure. He was C.O. 1st Bn 57th Inf

Cal Fry was a gallant av bone officer. In February he developed a bad heart and after going to the hospital several times, I assumed permanent command and was promoted to Brig Colonel toward end of February.