

98-USF1-0.3 (26447)

Rpt of Oper - USARF & USFIP in the Philippine Is. (Prov CA Brigade AA)

ANNEX IX (Vol VIII)

8-DEC '41 - 4 Apr '42

Box 1158, Record Group 407, National Archives, College Park, MD

REPORT OF OPERATIONS OF THE PHILIPPINE PROVISIONAL COAST ARTILLERY

BRIGADE (AA) IN THE PHILIPPINE CAMPAIGN

I. The part played by the 200th Coast Artillery (AA) naturally falls in four separate and distinct categories during the defense of the Philippine Islands from December 8, 1941 to April 4, 1942. These phases are:

- (1) Operations of the 200th CA (AA)
- (2) Operations of the 515th CA (AA)
- (3) Operations of Groupment "A" (AA)
- (4) Operations of The Philippine Provisional Coast Artillery Brigade.

As these steps are the natural growth and expansion of the anti-aircraft artillery, the operations report will, in accordance with this natural sequence, follow the outline as shown above.

A. 1. ORGANIZATION: The 200th Coast Artillery (AA), Colonel Charles G. Sage commanding, arrived in the Philippine Islands in two echelons during September 1941 and assembled at Ft. Stotsenburg on 26 September. Strength of the regiment on that date was approximately 1900 officers and men (loss of all records prevents use of accurate figures). The morning of 8 December 1941 96 enlisted men (truck drivers) and 96 trucks were detached from the 200th CA (AA) and attached to the Provisional Group Self-Propelled Artillery. That afternoon approximately 30 officers and 500 enlisted men, with 40 vehicles, were detached on orders of the Commanding General USAFFE for the purpose of putting into operation anti-aircraft artillery equipment then available at Manila. Lt. Col. Harry M. Peck, executive officer of the 200th CA (AA), was placed in command of that group, which first was known as the Provisional 200th Coast Artillery (AA) of Manila and later was designated the 515th Coast Artillery (AA). Other detachments from the 200th, to various installations and organizations, totalled approximately 25, with the result that the remaining strength of the 200th on 9 December was approximately 1200. Early in January 1942 additional transfers to the 515th CA (AA) and other organizations further reduced this figure about 150. This reduction was replaced in part by the addition of about 160 Air Corps officers and enlisted men, who were picked up at Clark Field after the raid on that field had caused a widespread breaking up of Air Corps organizations.

On 25 December one battery of the 92d CA(AA) (PS) was joined to the 200th by the regimental commander and used with that regiment for several days, until contact could be established with the commanding officer of the 92d, then on Corregidor. This battery was commanded by Captain John McM. Gulick, CAC.

2. OPERATIONS: The 200th CA (AA) was assigned about 3 December 1941 to the Philippine Coast Artillery Command. The regiment was in action almost daily from 8 December 1941 to 8 April 1942 against Japanese aviation. The night of 24-25 December the regiment moved from the Clark Field area to the Hermosa-Layac Junction-Dinalupihan area, to provide anti-aircraft defense for the river crossings and bridges. The night of 27-28 December two gun batteries were sent to Calumpit bridges to relieve batteries of the 515th CA(AA) and continue the anti-aircraft artillery defense of those bridges. These batteries were withdrawn to Hermosa after daylight 1 January 1942, following the destruction of the bridges at Calumpit by Engineer forces at 0615 that morning. The night of 1-2 January the regiment withdrew to KP 148, and bivouacked there until the night of 8-9 January, when it established an anti-aircraft artillery defense for Bataan air field. On 21 March the 200th was relieved by order of the Commanding General USFIP of assignment to the PCAC and assigned to Groupment "A" (AA). The same day Colonel Charles G. Sage was by order of the Commanding General Luzon Force, relieved as commanding officer, 200th CA (AA) and assigned as commanding officer of Groupment "A" (AA). Lt. Colonel Memory H Cain assumed temporary command of the 200th, pending transfer from the 515th CA (AA) of Lt. Colonel John C. Luikart. On 7 April the 200th was relieved from assignment to Groupment "A" (AA) and assigned to the Philippine Provisional Coast Artillery Brigade (AA) by order of the Commanding General USFIP. In the late afternoon of 8 April all anti-aircraft artillery equipment except such as could be used to support an infantry defense position was destroyed in accordance with orders from the brigade commander. The same orders required the 200th to occupy, as infantry, a defensive position just south of Cabcaben air field, the left of the regiment on the main road. In this position, the 515th CA (AA), assigned a similar mission, was on the left (west) of the 200th. In the early afternoon of 9 April the 200th CA (AA) surrendered to the Japanese as a part of

DECLASSIFIED
73597
Authority

the Philippine Provisional Coast Artillery Brigade (AA).

(Note: The undersigned, for the purpose of brevity, has included in this report the period from 21 March to 9 April. Although not in command of the 200th during this period he is familiar with the facts.)

3. MISCELLANEOUS: Considerable difficulty was experienced with ammunition issued to the regiment. All 3-in. gun ammunition was equipped with powder-train fuze. Since the youngest rounds were manufactured in 1932 it was only natural that most of the fuzes were badly corroded. Replacement fuzes received also were in most cases corroded to such an extent that their usefulness was doubtful. Incidence of duds was abnormally high. The extreme example witnessed by the undersigned was the firing of 17 rounds, only two of which were detonated. The scarcity of ammunition, and the knowledge that no more could be received necessitated drastic limitation of the number of rounds to be fired per gun per target. Continued observation of effectiveness of fire finally brought a limitation of three rounds per gun per target. The 515th CA(AA) adopted the same rule, after conferences between the regimental commanders.

Total ammunition issued to the regiment:

3-in. Antiaircraft shell, powder-train fuze	Approx.	9200
37mm Antiaircraft shell	Approx.	15000
.50 Cal machine gun		none

Ammunition destroyed prior to surrender:

3-in	approx.	4000
37mm	approx.	6000
.50 cal	approx.	50000

(Note: .50 Cal. machine gun ammunition was secured in large quantity from Clark field storage after that field was abandoned by the Air Corps. The 515th CA(AA) was supplied with this ammunition as needed.)

It is not possible to give accurate dates, nor the number of engagements with Japanese aircraft. Total verified enemy planes destroyed 8 December 1941 to 8 April 1942: 51.

Incidence of malaria in the regiment was well below the average for troops on Bataan, but this malady combined with loss of strength due to the

reduced rations to produce a very considerable loss of combat efficiency. This loss was estimated at the time to be between 65% and 70%, as of the last few days before surrender.

B. 1. ORGANIZATION: In the late afternoon of 8 December 1941, pursuant to orders of the Commanding General USAFFE, approximately 30 officers and 500 enlisted men and 40 vehicles were detached from the 200th Coast Artillery (AA) at Ft. Stotsenburg, Philippine Islands, and assigned a mission to receive, put into action and operate antiaircraft artillery materiel available at Manila, and to provide antiaircraft artillery defense for that city. Lt. Colonel Peck, executive officer of the 200th CA (AA), was placed in command of this detachment, which tentatively was designated the Provisional 200th CA (AA) of Manila. On 19 December 1941 this organization was officially designated the 515th Coast Artillery (AA), with Colonel Peck (Promoted that date) as commanding officer. At Manila approximately 750 officers and men of the Philippine Army were assigned to the regiment for training. Additional transfers in early January from the 200th CA (AA) brought the American enlisted strength of the regiment to approximately 550. All but 186 of the Philippine Army personnel were detached from the regiment by 15 March 1942.

2. OPERATIONS: The newly-formed regiment, assigned to the Philippine Coast Artillery Command, had drawn equipment and had one battery in position by 1000 9 December; all batteries were in position and ready to fire by 1600 9 December, and were then in action daily against Japanese aviation at Manila until 25 December 1941. On 19 December the 515th CA (AA) was ordered to establish antiaircraft artillery defense for the Calumpit Bridges. This defense was established by four batteries on 20 December. The night of 25-26 December the regiment (less four batteries) moved to the vicinity of Orani. The night of 27-28 December the four batteries in defense at Calumpit Bridges (having been relieved by elements of the 200th CA (AA)) moved to join the 515th CA (AA) in establishing antiaircraft artillery defense of the air fields near Orani and Pilar. On 13 January 1942 the regiment joined the 200th CA (AA) in the defense of Bataan air field. On 26 January the regiment established antiaircraft defense for Cabcaben air field. On 21 March the regiment

was relieved from assignment to the PCAC and assigned to Groupment "A" (AA) by order of the Commanding General USFIP. On 7 April the regiment was relieved of assignment to Groupment "A" (AA) and assigned to the Philippine Provisional Coast Artillery Brigade (AA), by order of the Commanding General USFIP. In the evening of 8 April 1942 the brigade commander ordered the 515th to destroy all antiaircraft artillery material and equipment except that which could be used to support an infantry defensive position, and at the same time ordered the 515th CA (AA) to occupy, as infantry, a defensive position on the high ground just south of Cabcaben air field, with its right flank on the main road at Cabcaben. The 200th CA (AA) received similar orders and occupied a position to the right (east) of the 515th CA (AA). About noon 9 April 1942 the 515th CA (AA) surrendered to the Japanese as a part of the Philippine Provisional Coast Artillery Brigade (AA).

3. MISCELLANEOUS: Loss of all records makes it impossible to list by dates, engagements with Japanese aviation. Total enemy planes destroyed (verified) from 9 December 1941 to 8 April 1942, both dates inclusive: 35.

Total ammunition issued to the regiment:

3-in. Antiaircraft, powder-train fuze - approx.	9200
37mm Antiaircraft	approx. 15000
.50 Cal machine gun	none

(Note: a sufficient supply of the last item was secured from the 200th CA (AA))

Ammunition destroyed at time of surrender:

3-In.	Approx.	5000
37mm	Approx.	9000
.50 Cal	Approx.	8000

Beginning about 6 January 1942, when the organization was placed on one-half ration, there was a rapid falling off of physical strength noticeable in all personnel of the regiment. About 15 January there was a considerable increase in malaria and from that time until the surrender it is estimated that the combat efficiency of the regiment delined steadily, probably being approximately 25% on 8 April. The extreme example noted was in Battery B, where for four consecutive days there were but 19 officers and men able to do duty of any kind. The present strength of that battery was 100 officers and men.

C. 1. ORGANIZATION: Groupment "A" (AA) was formed 21 March 1942 by order of the Commanding General USFIP, to be comprised of the 200th CA(AA) the 515th CA (AA) and Battery A, 2d CA (AA) (PA). Colonel Charles G. Sage was relieved of command of the 200th CA (AA) and assigned to command the Groupment on the same day, by order of the Commanding General, Luzon Force. The Groupment was charged only with the training of personnel and materiel supply and maintenance for Battery "A" 2d CA (AA)(PA). Groupment "A" staff was named as follows, each officer being transferred to Groupment Headquarters from the organization indicated:

Executive Officer: Major James H. Hazlewood, 515th CA (AA)

S-3 and S-4: Major William B. Reardon, 200th CA (AA)

S-1 and Motor Transportation: Captain Alfonso B. Melendez, 515th CA(AA)

S-2, Munitions, Communications: Captain Thomas R. Taggart, 200th CA(AA)
 Groupment "A" (AA) was inactivated 7 April 1942, by order of the Commanding General, Luzon Force, when most of its elements were incorporated into the Philippine Provisional Coast Artillery Brigade (AA).

2. OPERATIONS: At the time of its inception, elements included in Groupment "A" were disposed as follows: 200th CA (AA) (less one battery) defense of Bataan Air Field; 515th CA(AA)(less one battery) defense of Cabcaben Air Field; Battery "A" 2d CA(AA)(PA) assigned to beach defense; Battery "G", 200th CA(AA) in defense near Headquarters I Corps (had been so employed since about 9 February); Battery "B" 515th CA(AA) in defense near Headquarters I Corps (had been so employed since about 2 March). Early in April Battery "F" 515th, was employed in antiaircraft artillery defensive operations in the field artillery area of II Corps. Battery "F", 200th CA(AA) was employed in late March and the first days of April on a roving mission on the main east road, to combat strafing planes. Battery "B", 515th, was being withdrawn from its I Corps position to the vicinity of Sisiman bay at the time Groupment "A" was inactivated. About 25 March the Japanese flew their first night missions. These formations were illuminated by Groupment searchlights, permitting lights on Corregidor to remain out of action. This procedure was followed during the several subsequent night missions, apparently with success, since bombs dropped in these night attacks did not hit Corregidor.

3. MISCELLANEOUS: A survey of elements of the Groupment, conducted about 4 April disclosed that the combat efficiency of these organizations had been seriously lowered by sickness and by general loss of strength due to the

the reduced ration. An estimate made by the regimental surgeons of the 200th CA(AA) and 515th CA(AA) on that date stated that efficiency in these regiments had been reduced approximately 60%-65%. Not only were the officers and men on a drastically reduced ration, but also they were required to carry duty loads far above normal requirements because the regiments, while performing combat duties expected of organizations fully complemented, actually were manned at less than half strength. Verified reports of enemy planes destroyed by elements of the Groupment, from 8 December to 6 April 1942, inclusive, were:

By the 515th-----31

By the 200th-----43

Total for Groupment-----74

D. 1. ORGANIZATION: GO 7 USFIP dated 7 April 1942 created the Philippine Provisional Coast Artillery Brigade (AA) and stipulated that the brigade should be comprised of Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Battery (to be formed by transfer of necessary officer and enlisted personnel from the 515th CA(AA) and the 200th CA(AA), the 515th CA(AA) and the 200th CA(AA). Colonel Charles G. Sage was that date relieved of command of Groupment "A"(AA) (Which itself was inactivated) and assigned to command the Provisional AA Brigade, by order of the Commanding General, Luzon Force. The staff named for Groupment "A" was transferred to be staff for the Brigade.

2. OPERATIONS: Brigade activities continued all those formerly under control of Groupment "A"(AA), except that Battery "A", 2d CA(AA)(PA) was not included in the brigade. Intense enemy air activity, both bombing and strafing of all American areas and installations on Bataan continued throughout 7 and 8 April and until about noon 9 April. All batteries in the brigade were in action during daylight hours 7 and 8 April. A report from S-3, 200th CA(AA) at 1745 8 April indicated that Japanese ground forces had penetrated almost to Lamac. This information was telephoned to the Commanding General, Luzon Force, who directed that another reconnaissance be made and report telephoned, since at that time he had no information to support this first report. This mission was performed by Captain Anthony R. George, S-3, 200th CA(AA), and at 1855 he reported by telephone to the brigade commander that just a few minutes earlier he had been under Japanese fire at KP 148.5. This information was transmitted by phone to the Commanding General, Luzon Force, who immediately ordered the brigade to destroy all antiaircraft artillery equipment except

such as could be used to support an infantry defensive position, and to occupy, as infantry, a defensive position just south of Cabcaban air field. These orders were given at 1920 to the commanding officers of the 515th and 200th regiments; the 515th to be on the left, with its right flank on the main road; the 200th to be on the right with its left on the main road. The position was occupied by the regiments, after the destruction of their antiaircraft equipment, at 0030 9 April. Pursuant to orders of the Commanding General, Luzon Force, the brigade surrendered to the Japanese at approximately 1200 9 April.

3. MISCELLANEOUS: Verified enemy planes destroyed by the regiments of the brigade, 8 December 1941 to 8 April 1942, both dates inclusive:

By the 515th CA(AA)-----35

By the 200th CA(AA)-----51

Total for the Brigade-----86

Charles G. Sage

CHARLES G. SAGE,
Brigadier General, AUS,
Commanding.