

Filipino Regiments Highly Commended

High praise was officially bestowed recently upon the First and Second Filipino Regiments, formerly in training at Fort Ord, California. A letter commending these regiments, composed of Filipinos from all parts of the Philippines, was sent to the Commanding General of the United States Army Ground Forces in Washington by Col. Roger S. Fitch, commanding Fort Ord. Colonel Fitch's commendation in full follows:

"1. During June and July of last year, the First Filipino Regiment was stationed at Fort Ord in the temporary camp known as Salinas Garrison, under the command of Col. R. H. Offley. This regiment came back to Fort Ord again in October and was stationed near the main entrance of the Main Garrison. As it increased in strength, an additional battalion was formed and finally the Second Filipino Regiment grew out of the First Regiment and was, while there, under the command of Lt. Col. Charles L. Clifford.

Enviably Record

"2. These two regiments were recently ordered away from here and all of us, both of the post staff and of the field forces stationed here, regretted very much to see these fine organizations leave here. We were sorry to have to say goodbye to these fine regiments. They made a most enviable record while at Fort Ord and were outstanding in their devotion to duty and their fine conduct, both in the Garrison and in the surrounding communities. They regularly worked exceptionally hard to perfect themselves in their military training and they all seemed imbued with the purpose of qualifying themselves, as soon as possible, for duty at the front. Their only thought seemed to be

to get within reach of the Japs and take their full part in freeing their beloved Islands.

"3. Finally, upon their departure from here, they left their barracks, their company streets and their entire area in such fine condition as to cleanliness, sanitation, appearance and property accountability, as to call forth the highest praise from all the staff officers who had occasion to check upon those matters. These two regiments were again outstanding.

"4. It seems right and proper that I should bring to the attention of high authority the exceptional record which the First and Second Filipino Regiments, under their respective commanders, Col. R. H. Offley and Lt. Col. Charles L. Clifford, made while at Fort Ord."

Much Intelligent Effort

By command of Major General Head, of the II Armored Corps, San Jose, California, the foregoing commendation was indorsed by his chief of staff, Col. John L. Pierce, as follows: "The expression of the Commanding Officer, Fort Ord, California, reflects great credit on the First Filipino Infantry. Such praise could only result from much intelligent effort on the part of both officers and men of this regiment."

Colonel Offley published to his entire command the letter of commendation and indorsement "in order that all may see and appreciate what happens when a job is well done" with this message: "The Commanding Officer desires to thank each and every officer and man for the fine spirit displayed. The credit belongs to you."

Identity Cards Help Filipinos Get Jobs

Filipinos may now be employed in any office of the Federal Government, in navy yards and shipyards, in defense industries, so long as they can show proof of their Philippine citizenship.

A Filipino seeking employment in defense industries is required to produce his birth or baptismal certificate. The great majority of the Filipinos in the United States, however, do not have either of these documents.

To provide proof of Filipino nationality, the Office of the Philippine Resident Commissioner issues a Certificate of Identity. The certificate states that the bearer is a Filipino citizen, owing allegiance to the United States. The photograph of the bearer is attached to it. Before the

Certificate of Identity can be issued, the applicant is required to fill out an application form.

The Certificate of Identity is accepted by the various departments of the Federal Government and by defense industries as proof of Philippine citizenship in lieu of a birth certificate. About 7,400 of these certificates have been issued up to February 3, 1943.

Application forms for the Certificate of Identity may be obtained from the Office of the Philippine Resident Commissioner, 1617 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C. The Certificate of Identity is issued free of charge.

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