

THE MANILA GUARDIAN

Independent Monthly Magazine
Founded in 1937

F. BEN BRILLANTES
Publisher

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EDITORIALS

THE CASE OF FILIPINO INTERNEES

From Washington comes the heartening news that the War Claims Commission has already taken steps to implement the provisions of Section 8 of the War Claims Act of 1948 directing that body to "inquire into and report to the President, for submission of such report to the Congress on or before March 31, 1949 (extended to March 31, 1950), with respect to war claims arising out of World War II, other than claims which may be received and adjudicated under the preceding sections of this Act."

The case of Filipino civilian internees, who are excluded from the benefits provided for in the act, is very simple. In plain terms it is this: The American government, as a gesture of justice to its citizens, who for reasons of their own or for the inability of their government to evacuate them, fell into the hands of the enemy and held prisoners for the duration, has decided to grant these citizens monetary benefits from former enemy assets now in the possession of the U.S. government. Filipino civilians who found themselves in the same prison camps or in Japanese torture chambers for no other reason than that they upheld American principles of democracy at the darkest hours of the war, should also be given the same compensation from former enemy property located in the Philippines. These Filipino civilians could have avoided internment, torture and even death. But they chose these rather than betray a cause for which they pledged to fight to the bitter end.

The Philippine Ex-Political Prisoners Association which is carrying on the drive for Filipino internees is fully convinced that justice will be accorded to those who were Americans in their ideals and principles during the war but foreigners within the purview of the War Claims Act. It has faith in the War Claims Commission, in Congress, in the President and in the American people whose sense of justice is regarded as a byword in international relations.

THE LIBERATION OF MANILA

Five years ago last month Manila woke up from its nightmare of occupation into a day of freedom. It was the fulfillment of MacArthur's promise to return, a promise which had been the shibboleth of thousands and thousands of underground fighters.

The story of the liberation of Manila will be told over and over again throughout the years to come as an epic of American military endeavor. With it will also go the story of brave Filipino guerrilla leaders who paved the way for the event.

THE MANILA GUARDIAN IS PUBLISHED IN THE CITY OF MANILA, PHILIPPINES WITH EDITORIAL AND BUSINESS OFFICES AT ROOM 301 SAMANILLO BLDG., ESCOLTA. F. BEN BRILLANTES, PUBLISHER; MOISES T. GUERRERO, EDITOR; MILAGROS A. ROMULO, BUSINESS MANAGER; HELEN PERIQUET, ADVERTISING MANAGER; KAI O. PETERSEN, CIRCULATION MANAGER; MACARIO SOMERA, MANAGER, WASHINGTON BUREAU, 605 BARR BLDG., WASHINGTON, D.C.; JOSE B. BALLESEROS, MANAGER, HONOLULU BUREAU, HONOLULU, HAWAII. ENTERED AS SECOND CLASS MATTER AT THE MANILA POST OFFICE ON NOVEMBER 11, 1949. SUBSCRIPTION MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE AND ADDRESSED DIRECTLY TO THE PUBLISHER. P1.00 A YEAR P2.50 SIX MONTHS. FOREIGN, DOUBLE THE LOCAL RATES POSTAGE INCLUDED.