

(Gallery of National Heroes)

GREGORIO DEL PILAR

By Pacifico Bernardo

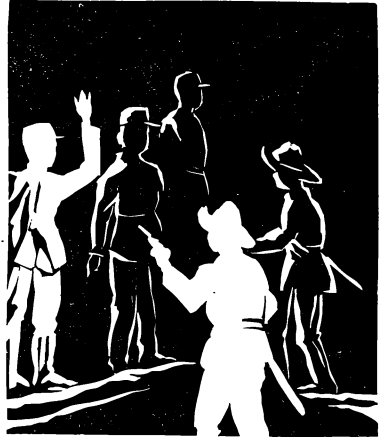
FROM our Gallery of Revolutionary Heroes, there is one about whom we know so little, for very little has been said or written about him. Except for the never-to-be-forgotten battle of Tila Pass with which his name has been inseparably linked, Gregorio del Pilar's life is so to say—"a blank page" to a great many of us.

With the coming of his birthday which falls on the 14th of November, recounting his many virtues and string of achievements would be but paying a tribute to the "young hero" in the absence of a national holiday to commemorate his natal day.

Born on Nov. 14, 1875 exactly fifty-one years ago on his coming birthday, he was lucky in having lived at a time when our country needed most, men of courage; high sense of loyalty and patriotism such as he possessed. Coming from a family of heroes, it was no wonder that he should be classed with our best men at a very young age. His father was Fernando H. del Pilar, brother of Marcelo H. del Pilar, another revolutionary hero. His mother was Felipa Sempio. He was brought up by his aunt Doña Hilaria del Pilar, the wife of Deodato Arellano the first supreme head of the Katipunan.

He obtained his primary education in his home town in Bulacan. Later he came to Manila and studied in the Ateneo de Manila, where he obtained his bachelor's degree. Before he graduated from this school he had already joined the Katipunan, taking his oath, before its supreme head Andres Bonifacio. Immediately after receiving his diploma he joined the forces of the Katipunan.

From that time on, he distinguished himself from the common mass by reason of his ingenuity, bravery, loyalty, and great



respect for justice and righteousness. Starting with but a handful of men, whose only weapons were courage and loyalty, they ambushed a group of Spanish soldiers from whom they obtained several pistols and guns. That incident marked the beginning of a series of attacks in which he always came out victorious in spite of the great odds against which he was fighting. One of the outstanding achievements to his credit in the earlier part of his career was the capture of Paombong, an account of which was given in his report to Gen. Marmerto Natividad. With only eleven men with him using his brain to advantage, he was able to capture the town of Paombong within three minutes. It was his tact and ingenuity that made possible his rapid rise to the position of a Brigadier General in three years.

As a soldier he was a model of bravery and loyalty, but as a captor he was loved and admired even by his enemies. He

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HOBBY PAGE

conducted
by gilmo. baldovino

The Young Citizen Stamp Club

Stamp collecting is an interesting hobby. It is a hobby that more people follow than any other hobby. At present, among the most popular stamps are those stamps which picture airplanes. These stamps are known as airmail stamps.

Do you know what airmail stamps are for? Regular stamps are issued to pay postage on letters carried by several kinds of transportation as the trains, automobiles, trucks or ships. Now, airmail stamps are issued to pay postage on letters that are carried by planes. But there is another purpose in issuing these airmail stamps. When aviators did some heroic deeds, stamps are issued to honor them. In the year 1927, Charles Lindbergh bravely flew across the Atlantic Ocean. It was Spain, three years after this flight of the "Lone Eagle," that issued a one peseta airmail stamp. This stamp carries the picture of Lindbergh, the plane "Spirit of St. Louis" and the Statue of Liberty in the harbor of New York.

Some airmail stamps show scenes of a country. An airmail stamp from Greece is an example of these stamps. This stamp shows a large mail and passenger plane flying over the ancient ruins of Athens.

It is interesting to collect these airmail stamps. These stamps show all kinds of planes. An airmail stamp from the country of Latvia shows a plane which was built in 1903 by the Wright Brothers. The Wright Brothers are the first two Americans that built the first successful plane in the world. These two brothers are often called the Fathers of Flight.

WHAT IS YOUR HOBBY?

Is your hobby collecting books, stamps, dolls, coins, stones, leaves, fruits, aquarium fishes; making albums, studying nature, music or dancing; making things with your tools or with your needle; taking pictures, drawing or painting? Or do you have some other hobby?

Write a letter to *The Young Citizen's Hobby Page* telling about your hobby. Remember, this is your own page—let us make it a good one.

Address your letter to *The Young Citizen's Hobby Page* c/o Community Publishers, Inc., 405 Padre Faura, Manila. Give your name, address and age. We will greatly appreciate it if you will send us your snapshot and a picture of your hobby.

All letters or pictures about your hobby will be published and answered in this page.

One of the most beautiful airmail stamps that was issued recently is the Trans-Pacific Airmail stamp. This stamp was issued only several months ago. This was issued to commemorate the flight of the *China Clipper* that successfully crossed the Pacific Ocean.

Have you many airmail stamps in your collection? And can you name all the planes they picture? The Young Citizen Stamp Club which is the title of this column is the Young Stamp Collectors' own page. Our Stamp Editor will be glad to answer any questions you may wish to ask regarding stamps. In your letter, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

GREGORIO DEL PILAR

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treated his captives kindly such that at one time a captive said, "I feel as tho I were at home in my captivity."

His respect for justice and uprightness was shown when his elder brother accidentally ran over an old woman with a bicycle he was riding. Upon learning of the incident he ordered his brother to see the old woman and offer an apology or else he would be dismissed from the service and sent to prison. His elder brother was at that time a colonel in his brigade.

His respect for the rights of others was embodied in his order to his soldiers who were strictly forbidden never to rob, plunder, or violate women. Such were the virtues of this "young general" and for them we should love, honor, and respect his memory.

He died, Dec. 19, 1898 at the battle of Tila Pass, a hero's death. On his diary was found this quotation written just before he died—"I am surrounded by odds that will soon overpower me and my brave men, but I am content in the thought that I die fighting for my country." He was certain of his death at that battle but his courage never failed him. Inspired by his loyalty and devotion to duty, each of his sixty soldiers faced death as calmly and willingly as their illustrious general. For his bravery General March buried him with the military honors that was due his rank.

May our youth follow his unselfish devotion to his country.