

Biography of Wor. Bro. Cornelio Dato Julian of Sta. Maria, Ilocos Sur A Masonic Hero

By Rev. GRACIANO P. PADA, SR.

He was born in Barrio Lesseb, Sta. Maria, Ilocos Sur on September 13, 1892, eldest of the four children of Mr. Gregorio Julian and Mrs. Simona Dato. While a boy Cornelio Julian helped his father farm their land, herd their cattle, never dreaming that some day he may cross the ocean, be an army officer, become a famous physician and surgeon and to die a hero patriot like others who have gone beyond.

He studied the English language in Sta. Maria under an American teacher named Mr. Charles Hook Simpson. He studied in the Vigan High school in 1912-1913 and got acquainted with Rev. Hudleston, then an American Missionary, who took him along with him back to the United States. While in the U.S. he worked his way through, and entered the Ohio Wesleyan University and got his Bachelor of Arts degree on June 27, 1919. He also enrolled in the College of Medicine of the University of Cincinnati, Ohio and obtained the degree in Medicine and surgery on June 16, 1923. He was then a self-supporting student, and did not depend upon any help from home (Philippines), instead he was able to help his younger brother.

In July 5, 1923 he went into private practice in Ohio, and in March 28, 1928 he was commissioned 1st Lieutenant in the medical corps of

the United States Army. Later on he was raised to Captain, but decided to resign and return to his native land, in 1934.

After successfully passing the medical examination, he established the Julian Hospital at Sta. Maria, Ilocos Sur. He had had a successful venture, his patients were his best friends, all over the country, He was an open-hearted and generous.

In 1937 he returned to the United States to attend the International Conference of the Methodist church as a communicant, active member and outstanding leader in Atlantic City, New Jersey, and to specialize in eye surgery in Mayo Clinic, in the Rockefeller Medical Center, New York City. In this same year 1937 he joined Masonry at the Angalo Lodge No. 63, F. & A.M., Vigan, Ilocos Sur, and had become its Master two years before the Japanese War.

During the war, Dr. Julian tried his best to serve his people in many ways so as to alleviate them from hardship. He evacuated his hospital to Lesseb and then to Cabcaburao, Burgos, Ilocos Sur. Many of patients were students coming from Manila on foot thru the USAFFE Trail although his medical supplies were exhausted, resorting thereafter on herbs and plants. One of his important patients was Dr. Jose O. Barcelona, who was brought to his evacua-

tion place at Lesseb, Sta. Maria in an improvised stretcher.

When the call to join the resistance movement against the Japanese was given, Dr. Julian was among the first to respond to the call, together with Lt. Laureano Ayson, Benito Dolor, Benjamin M. Antonio, Bernardino F. Reyes, Cipriano N. Escobar, Enrique M. de Leon and the late Joaquin R. Escobar. Dr. Julian was then a captain, who organized a complete infantry company with headquarters in the hills east of the town of Sta. Maria.

In February, 1942, Sta. Maria was occupied by a Japanese garrison quartered in the compound of the Santa Maria Rural High School. Captain Julian was the Commanding Officer and he conducted medical and physical examinations on all the officers and enlisted men of his unit at this residence in the town close to the garrison. In Sept. 1942 an order from higher guerrilla headquarters called for the abandonment of their unit so as to join the 121st Infantry Regiment as Regimental surgeon. Mr. Laureano T. Ayson, author of this biography served under him as an enlisted man with Dr. Jose O. Barcelona, then a lieutenant in the dental corps, as his junior officer. Captain Julian ministered to the needs of his guerilleros and to the civilian population although his supplies ran out, thus resorting for some times in the use of the medical herbs and plants.

Captain Julian was a tireless soldier, and when they travel he is always on the lead. He and his companions had to travel and move from place to place whenever they receive warnings that the Japanese soldiers are approaching them, until they came to Supo, San Emilio, the head-

quarter of Capt. Vicente Abaya, and in this instant, Capt. Julian nearly fell down a steep precipice had he not been saved by a Tinguian guide. They were with Mayor L.T. Ayson, Dr. Jose O. Barcelona, T. Ayson and 2 enlisted men on time to celebrate the Armistice Day in the presence of 6 American soldiers who then escaped from their Japanese captors, and one of them was Sgt. Alberto R. Hebert, who accompanied Capt. Julian to the lowland on a secret mission.

Captain Julian as a soldier is a disciplinarian. He wanted his men to be polite and respectful to women, and thru this discipline, he was not very popular to the guerilla soldiers, some are antagonistic to him. In 1943 the Japanese forces tried their best to capture the guerilleros without let-up, and it so happened that Capt. Julian was captured and was concentrated in Bongabon, Nueva Ecija, for 3 months with other prisoners of war. He was released on parole Dec. 9, 1943 and returned to Sta. Maria to resume his medical practice and be with his family. Sensing that there was trouble in town, he moved his family to Bantay, where he practiced his profession up to the time of his disappearance. In one night late in 1944 without any previous warning of any kind some unknown persons called for him in his temporary residence at the Govantes dike between Bantay and Vigan and since then he never returned.

Capt. Julian is survived by his daughter Clarita, in the Bilacan National Agricultural School, in San Ildefonso, Bulacan, a niece, Dr. Adelina B. Julian, Resident Physician in Tacoma Gen. hospital, Tacoma, Washington, a sister, Agustina at barrio Lesseb, Sta. Maria, two brothers Julio and Ignacio in Honolulu, Hawaii, and Seattle, Washington, respectively.

Capt. Julian, besides being a mason, was a member (life) of the American Medical Association and the National Geographic Society. He was a God fearing man, respectful, and he has many friends in the Philippines as well as abroad. It is a request made by his relatives that should any one identify the exact

burial place, they shall be very much obliged so that a more decent interment could be done on his remains as a mason and good Christian.

In view of the above qualifications and character, Wor. Bro. Cornelio Dato Julian is hereby declared a hero and patriot by our lodge.



VISITATIONS

Anent the policy of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Philippines for a closer relationship between sister lodges, the incumbent Master of Cavite Lodge No. 2, Wor. Bro. Cresencio G. Santiano, accompanied by some of his officers and members, conceived the idea of inter-lodge visitation in the Southern Islands. During the period 14-23 October 1963, they visited Cebu Lodge No. 128 and Mactan Lodge No. 30 at Cebu City and Iloilo-Acacia Lodge No. 11 at Iloilo City. The Brethren of those Queen Cities received them royally if not fraternally. They performed and participated in the conferral of degrees in those lodges. They were treated to guided tours to some interesting and historical spots in those cities and the following were very instrumental in making their visits a most enjoyable one: Wor. Bros. C. J. Huang and Gus Santos of Mactan Lodge No. 30, Wor. Bro. L. E. Makayan and Samson Ong of Cebu Lodge No. 128, and Wor. Bros. R. J. Jeruta and Gil Octaviano of Iloilo-Acacia Lodge No. 11.

According to those visited, they say this was the first time that Brethren from Luzon Lodges have visited lodges in the Southern Islands. Likewise, the Brethren of Cavite Lodge No. 2 realized that as the sun at meridian heights imparts warmth, beauty and gladness over the face of the Southern Islands, so Masonry, preaching and practicing the principle of "brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God" brings forth to humanity the blessings of mutual affection, harmony and happiness that cement all men of goodwill into a lasting fellowship. It is felt that this visitation has strengthened the brotherly tie that unites all Masons, until time shall be no more.