



Alberto Navarrete

Citation: "THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS TO ALBERTO NAVARRETE. Captain, Offshore Patrol, Philippine Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Lamao, Bataan, Philippine Islands, on January 17, 1942. While two Q-Boats of 1st Q-Boat Squadron, Offshore Patrol, under command of Captain Navarrete, were on patrol duty in Manila Bay off the east coast of Bataan, a group of nine enemy dive-bombers appeared and began attacking nearby shore objectives. Without thought of seeking personal safety or of leaving the scene of action as he might easily have done, Captain Navarrete maneuvered the boats of his squadron at high speed to positions from which he could attack the hostile planes. When subjected to dive-bombing attack by the enemy planes, he continued the fire of his machine guns with such accuracy that at least three of the hostile air-craft were hit and badly damaged and the enemy forced to discontinue the attack."

When two waves of Japanese bombers began attacking military installations along the east coast of Bataan, Capt. Navarrete, then in command of two Q-Boats on patrol duty in Manila Bay along the Bataan shore lines, knew that from their exposed position he and his men were in grave danger; but instead of ordering his men to run for cover as they might have done very easily, he gave orders to stay out in the open and be on the alert.

Each man stood, tense and ready, behind his respective post, with every machine gun primed for action, while the little Q-Boats recklessly sped toward the enemy planes. And as soon as these were within striking distance, Capt. Navarrete issued the command to commence firing. A deadly barrage of 50-caliber bullets met the attacking planes. And even when the planes started dive-bombing, the Q-Boats held to their positions, firing back in defiance as if the crew that manned them were deathless in their daring.

Then one of the planes started wobbling in mid-air. It had been hit. It was the leader of the enemy squadron. Then two more planes started whirling about, trailing black smoke and now heading toward Formosa. The other

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Pedro Q. Molina

Citation: "THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS TO PEDRO Q. MOLINA. Captain, First Provisional Infantry Battalion (Air Corps), Philippine Army, for extraordinary heroism in action at Nagaasa Point, Bataan, Philippine Islands, on January 25, 1942. During a concerted and extensive attack upon enemy positions, the unit which Captain Molina was serving as liaison officer was temporarily stopped and pinned to the ground by intense machine gun fire. Observing that an officer lying about twenty yards to his front was seriously wounded and bleeding profusely, he rushed forward to the aid of the wounded officer, without considering the hazards of the hail of enemy machine gun fire in the area, and carried him to safety behind the lines. The life of the wounded officer was saved by his prompt and heroic act."

If it is true that war brings out the worst in man, Capt. Molina's action in saving the life of a comrade at the risk of his own proves that war also brings out the best in man.

Capt. Molina was liaison officer of a unit which was part of the combined troops of the U. S. Army Air Corps and P. I. Army Air Corps, and assigned to defend that particular area in the vicinity of Nagaasa Point, Bataan. Toward the latter part of January 1942, the Japanese, coming in barges from Olongapo, were able to effect a landing at a point in Aglaloma Bay. In the furious skirmish that followed, the unit in which Capt. Molina was serving, was exposed to concentrated machine-gun fire, and temporarily pinned to the ground while death took its toll of the gallant defenders.

At the height of the fury of battle, Capt. Molina observed that another officer, Capt. Onrubia, lay about twenty yards away right in the path of the enemy fire, seriously wounded and bleeding profusely. Forgetful of his own safety, he rushed to the aid of his fallen comrade and carried him to a safe spot behind the lines. Capt. Molina received a bullet wound in the thigh, but Capt. Onrubia's life was saved.

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Filipinos Hear from Quezon On Memorial Day

IN a Memorial Day address broadcast to the Philippines, President Quezon paid tribute to the memory of the Unknown Soldier whose story of "unflinching courage and loyalty unto death . . . is written in blood, in the forests and hills of Bataan and on the rock that is Corregidor."

The President said: "Memorial Day this year finds us still engaged in the grim task of winning the war. Behind us are memories of blood and suffering, of battles fought and lost. Ahead of us is the hope and promise of certain victory. While we move steadily forward to that certain day, it is well for us to pause a moment and pay tribute to the memory of the Unknown Soldier. From his gallant example we must gather strength and vision for the giant, grim task that lies ahead of us. His was unflinching courage, his was loyalty unto death. His story is written in blood, in the forests and hills of Bataan and on the rock that is Corregidor.

"It is a story of supreme sacrifice. He and his comrades fought to the bitter end, knowing that they themselves had no hope. They were a lost battalion—men doomed to certain defeat. And yet, when the Battle of the Philippines was over, Secretary of State Cordell Hull could say to the world: 'Corregidor and Bataan stand for reverses that are but preludes to victory.' For there is such a thing as losing in victory, and winning even in defeat. Our soldiers fought a forlorn-hope battle, and they lost. But not in vain. For with their blood they have earned for us the respect of the world, the undying friendship of America, the comradeship of thirty-one United Nations. Shoulder to shoulder with these gallant allies we shall, in God's good time, march onward to victory."

CONTINUING, he reminded our countrymen in the Philippines that the same promise of independence given by Premier Tojo during his visit to Manila was given to the men of Bataan and Corregidor, who paid no heed to it because they knew what had happened to China, Manchukuo, and Korea.

"Not many weeks ago, on the anniversary of the Fall of Corregidor, Premier Tojo came to Manila to reiterate Japan's promise of independence. That same promise had been given to the men of Bataan and Corregidor. But there was only one answer, and that answer was sounded at the mouth of their guns. Those men knew history. They have read it as it is written on the face of China, Manchukuo and Korea. They knew that surrender to Japan could only mean one thing—the surrender of our human freedom and dignity—the death of our ancestors' dream of a free and independent Philippines.

"That is why they fought though they knew that they themselves had no hope. And though we mourn over their graves today, though our country groans under the iron heel of the invader, still we know in our heart of hearts

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Alberto Navarrete . . .

Japanese planes followed. And so, temporarily at least, all was quiet again on the Bataan eastern front.

Capt. Navarrete, the hero of this brief encounter, is a slender and tall, handsome lad, so bashful and unassuming that the honor that came upon him as his due as a result of this intrepid action, must have embarrassed him no little. He was only doing his duty was his self-effacing remark.

Born in Pangasinan and educated in Philippine public schools, he was a third year engineering student at the Mapua Institute of Technology when he enrolled as cadet in the Philippine Constabulary Academy from which he graduated in 1935.

Where his brother-in-arms Capt. Molina was gay and full of life, Navarrete was pensive, and much too serious for his young years. He is noted for his pleasing personality and quiet efficiency.

The last time he was heard from—it was the latter part of February—he and his men in their frail, speedy Q-Boats were still patrolling the coasts of Manila Bay, hoping to make good and real to the bitter end that little phrase of a song, Navarrete and his men learned in school and knew by heart:

*"Ne'er shall invaders
Trample our sacred shores"*

Pedro Q. Molina . . .

Capt. Molina, or P. Q. as he was popularly known, is a thoroughly progressive young Filipino. Nearly six feet tall, naturally athletic, well-built, and fair complexioned, he held his own among all officers of the corps. With his genial camaraderie and winning personality, he made friends among officers and enlisted men.

Educated at the Ateneo de Manila, he joined the Philippine Army a few years after the passage of the National Defense Act, and in 1938 came to the United States to study.

He took up flying at Randolph Field, Texas and later enrolled for advanced instruction in Kelly Field. He also underwent training in Chanute Field, Illinois. He returned to the Philippines in the spring of 1940 with his American wife, a former army nurse in Texas, Miss Virginia James Dickson. She is a native of Oklahoma. Incidentally, the Captain is a nephew of President Quezon.

It is presumed that Capt. Molina is now a prisoner in one of the Japanese prison camps somewhere in the Philippines. But wherever he may be, those who know him well and remember him with fondness, believe that he must be spreading cheer and hope among his fellow prisoners, for a prison camp does not kill the spirit of a soldier like P. Q.