

# PHILIPPINE BOOKSHELF

**RETREAT WITH STILWELL.** By Jack Belden. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1943. 368 pp. \$3.00.

**JACK BELDEN**, thanks to his American courage, has lived to tell us this story of a defeat that is not so easy to tell. One who reads his book can not help but recall the story of Bataan as recounted by Clark Lee and Frederick S. Marquardt and make obvious comparisons.

Says Belden:

"Finally a Burma Freedom Army was formed. Four thousand young men flocked into this army, ready to die fighting the same enemy the Japanese were fighting. At last, at the end of March, these barely trained soldiers, equipped with few Japanese machine guns and rifles, went into action on the Irrawaddy River, fighting unskillfully but fanatically against the British Imperial Army."

Clark Lee:

"To the people who read about Bataan in the future, the words 'Filipino and American troops' will have an anonymous quality. 'Troops' is an impersonal word. It suggests a lot of anonymous men in uniform. The troops in Bataan were neither anonymous, nor impersonal, for Bataan was a very intimate and personal war. It was fought in such a small, confined area that thousands of people got to know each other very well. They shared each other's successes, the minor victories like shooting down a plane or knocking a sniper out of a tree. Together they shared the horrors of final defeat as they are now sharing the hell of life as helpless prisoners of brutal, vicious little men with big bayonets."

Belden:

"We no longer could forget the Burma War. All the jungle kisses of a Burmese maiden will not wipe it out. Nor will all the statements of the officials change the nature of the defeat, change the reasons for it, or obliterate the disgrace of it."

Frederick S. Marquardt said:

"Was Bataan worth while? . . . From the military standpoint their achievements more than justified their losses. They held an army estimated at two hundred thousand men for more than three months, when the Japs needed their troops for the campaigns to the south and to the west. They tied up a large number of Japanese supply ships, when those ships could have been carrying tanks and troops and munitions to other vital

war fronts. Most important of all, they forced the Japs to use up a very substantial amount of their hoard of war materials, something which the Japanese industrial machine was not able to replace as rapidly as the United States could turn it out.

Belden, however, is careful to point out that the Imperial soldiers fought bravely to the last. There were soldiers from the length and breadth of the British Empire, dark skinned Indians, bagpipe-playing Scotch soldiers, Irish, Canadian and Australian. In this tough crowd General Stilwell shines as one of the toughest; one who can outshoot and outwalk any one of his soldiers. General Stilwell's characterization plus a few other portraits make Belden's story of Burma one of the most dramatic reportings of the war.—A. B. M.

**I WAS ON CORREGIDOR.** By Anea Willoughby. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1943. 249 pp. \$2.50.

**MRS. WILLOUGHBY**, wife of the Executive Assistant to the High Commissioner, was in Manila when the war broke out and this book is an account of her experiences in the Philippines with native cooks and servants, other members of the small American official circle, and finally with the Filipino and American soldiers in Corregidor as it lay under Japanese siege. Although it has neither the panoramic breadth of Clark Lee's "They Call it Pacific", nor the mature insight and understanding of Frederick Marquardt's "Before Bataan and After", this book supplies more useful details about what happened there. Because of the official position of her husband, Mrs. Willoughby is able to give us some more valuable and hitherto unknown data and stories about life in Corregidor in those terrible days. Her account, for example, of the salvaging of the gold, silver and paper money stored in the vaults of the Fortress, is one of the few eye-witness accounts that we have of the dramatic incident. Her character sketches of Americans, based on close association with the people she describes, are intimate, informal, genteel. It is unfortunate however, that she felt she had to portray the Filipinos, too. For, like so many other casual visitors and tourists, Mrs. Willoughby saw only the unfamiliar and the different, and, reporting without understanding, she achieved not characterization but caricature.—A. B. M.

## Selected Current Literature

### Books

1. Daniel, Hawthorne. *Islands of the Pacific*. New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1943. 228 pp. \$2.50.
2. Greenbie, Sydney. *Asia Unbound*. New York, Appleton-Century, 1943. \$3.00.
3. Laubach, Frank C. *The Silent Billion Speak*. New York, Friendship Press, Inc., c1943. 201 pp. \$1.00. (For discussion on the Philippines, see Chap. II: "A Literacy Campaign from the Inside" and Chap. III: "The 'Each One Teach One' Idea Spreads".)
4. *Political Handbook of the World, 1943*. New York, Council on Foreign Relations, Inc., 1943. 202 pp. \$2.50. (See pp. 150-151, "Commonwealth of the Philippines".)

### Periodical Literature

1. Babcock, C. Stanton. *Philippine Campaign*. *The Cavalry Journal*, March-April, 1943, v. 52, pp. 7-10; May-June, pp. 28-35.

2. Crow, Carl. *Japanning the Philippines*. *The Nation*, July 31, 1943, v. 157, pp. 120-123.
3. Hazam, John G. *Islam and the Muslims in the Far East*. *Far Eastern Survey*, July 28, 1943, v. 12, no. 15, pp. 149-155. (See p. 152, "Moro Minority in Philippines".)
4. *One year in Washington*. *The United Nations Review*, June 15, 1943, v. 3, pp. 257-258.
5. Osmeña, Sergio. *The United Nations and the Philippines*. *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, July 1943, v. 228, pp. 25-29.
6. Robb, Walter. *New England's Part in the Philippines*. *Christian Science Monitor*, Weekly Magazine Sect., July 24, 1943, pp. 13, 15.
7. Valdes, Basilio J. *Philippine-American Relations*; text of address at commencement exercises, Parsons College, Fairfield, Iowa, May 30, 1943. *The United Nations Review*, July 15, 1943, v. 3, pp. 302-304.
8. Wheeler, John. *Rearguard in Luzon*. *The Cavalry Journal*, March-April 1943, v. 52, pp. 5-6.