

DRIVE
RIGHT

The

FREEMAN

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NO. 5

U. S. Pres. Outlines War Moves

LT.-COL. ABCEDE COMMENDED BY MAJOR-GEN. RAPP BRUSH

40th Div. Commanding General Praises
Colonel And His Men For "Splendid
Service Rendered."

Deeds Are Milestones On The Path
To Liberation And Peace

Lieut.-Col. Salvador Abcede, commander of the Negros Island forces, Seventh Military District, P.A. today (June 1) was commended by Maj.-Gen. Rapp Brush, commanding general of the veteran 40th Infantry Division.

General Brush commended the colonel and his troops for "the splendid service rendered" the 40th Division since it landed March 20 on Negros.

The general's praise was based on the combat performance of the Filipino soldiers both before and after the return of the liberating American armed forces.

Since the initial 40th landing, 7MD officers and enlistees have successfully executed numerous combat missions assigned them by General Brush.

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Processing of 7MD Personnel Begins

Processing started in 7MD 26 May 45. The first unit processed was the 74th Infantry Regiment stationed at Bacolod City.

Lack of adequate transportation facilities did not prevent officers and soldiers on AWOL to report to their post and stations for processing. Even those who left the island came just on time.

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Gov. Montelibano Back from Manila

Acting Governor Alfredo Montelibano arrived in Bacolod at 8pm 4 June 45, after an absence of more than four weeks. The governor was optimistic over the results of his conferences with high Commonwealth officials in Manila.

The problems he took up during his stay in Manila concerned currency, status of our soldiers, sugar, government employment, and rehabilitation and reconstruction.

"I have conferred with Gen. ...
(Continued on page 3)

50,000 Japs Fall In Luzon Campaign

MANILA, 31 May 45. Troops of the First Corps of the U. S. 6th Army have killed almost 50,000 Japs in North Luzon at a cost of less than 10,000 American soldiers, killed, wounded and missing, according to Maj. Gen. Imitis Swift, Corps Commander, and added that 214 enemy tanks were destroyed against negligible loss of American armor.

The Corps, now poised for a drive into the fertile Cagayan Valley in Northern Luzon, reached their present positions after overcoming Jap resistance which Swift said was "so fierce words could not describe it." The Japs were cleaned out of caves as deep as eight feet in mountains nearly a mile high in Villa Verde, adjacent to Cagayan Valley.

Primary Task To Win War In Japan
Completely, Quickly

Pays High Tribute To Leadership Of
President Roosevelt

WASHINGTON, 3 June 45—President Truman, in a special message to Congress today said, "The primary task facing this nation is to win the war in Japan, to win it completely, and to win it as quickly as possible."

He outlined in detail the problems, difficulties and dangers which confront the U. S. in finishing the war against Japan, and the manner in which America plans to meet and overcome them. The President said the U. S. military policy for the defeat of Japan calls for:

1. Pinning down Japanese forces where they now are and keeping them divided so they can be destroyed piece by piece.
2. Concentrating overwhelming power on each segment which we attack.

3. Using ships, aircraft, armor, artillery and other materials in massive concentrations to gain victory with as small loss of life as possible.

4. Applying relentless and increasing pressure to the enemy by sea, air and on land so that he cannot rest, reorganize or

(Continued on page 3)

Okinawa Fighting Nears Conclusion

Guam, 3 June 45. Major Gen. John R. Hodge, 24th Corps Commander of the 10th Army on Okinawa, declared that only mud appears to be holding up conclusion of the battle on Okinawa. He expressed doubt if the enemy, now crushed around Shuri town, could muster a depleted strength for an effective last ditch stand, for he saw

(Continued on page 3)

Nip Surrenders To Regt'l Surgeon

A Japanese soldier surrendered to Lieut. Pedro A. Arches, Regt'l Surgeon, 76 Infantry, on 28 May 45. The medical officer was on his way back to his CP from an inspection tour of 3rd Bn perimeter when he discovered the enemy hiding in a thick bush. The Jap was turned over to a representative of the 160th Infantry, 40th Division.

'Room For All' Says District Commander

Lieut. Col. SALVADOR ARCEDE, DC, 7MD, declared that there is a room for every officer and enlisted man who would like to continue in the Service.

The District Commander also said that no one should feel that he is being "kicked out". The District Hqs would welcome all men who desire to stay with their Units, he added.

Same Jap Tactics In South

TACTICS applied by the Japanese now pocketed in the mountains of Dumaquete are similar to the ones they are applying here in central Negros battlefield, according to Lt. Col. Ernesto S. Mata, CO, 72nd Division, who just arrived from Oriental Negros on an inspection trip. He added that the American and Philippine Army troops in that area expect to finish the enemy by the end of this month.

Vacated Posts Will Be Returned

Hon. SALVADOR BENEDICTO, member, provincial board, said lately that vacated positions of officers and men who enlisted for military service with the Seventh Military District will be reserved for them whenever they could effect their release from the Army. "It has always been the policy of the Government to give back former posts of employees who have served the Cause, that is why all positions now in the Government are temporary."

Mayor Over- hauls City Police Force

Mayor Aurelio L. Locsin of Bacolod announced recently the reorganization of the local police force in order to create an efficient and honest police department. The city executive also declared that public safety, peace and order must be preserved in the City at all cost and he has the opinion that only a force that is strong and highly efficient could maintain public order.

The Mayor began to eliminate those in the present police bureau not qualified for the post. A policeman should be at least 5 ft 6 inches tall, second year high school, and with no previous criminal record.

After the reorganization, the Mayor will hold classes for the policemen who will be instructed on subjects connected with their work, some of which are: civil statutes, city ordinances, first aid, jitsu and fencing. Boxing and wrestling lessons will also be given.

Screen Star Liberator Wing Commander

James Stewart, Hollywood's most eligible bachelor, was recently promoted to Colonel in the AAF and appointed Commander of Liberator Bomber Wing.

Stewart was once stationed at Moffet Field, California, as a private and then raised to a Corporal. But since he had many flying hours as a civilian he was later commissioned Second Lieutenant. His rise was slow until lately when he was promoted to his present rank. The Dumaquete Free Philippines said the assignment pays a great tribute to Colonel Stewart who has proven himself a valuable fighter and leader of men.

The screen actor was twice rejected by the army authorities for being underweight. Before he finally passed all qualifications, Stewart starred in such popular films as The Philadelphia Story with Katherine Hepburn, Mr. Smith went to Washington with Jean Arthur, and Destry Rides Again with Marlene Dietrich. He was awarded the Academy "Oscar" for his magnificent performance in Mr. Smith Went to Washington in 1938.

More Supplies For Front Lines

Major Jaime Dacanay, G-4, 7MD, and DQM, declared soldiers fighting in the front lines will be given priority in matters of supplies over administrative units. He said that the combat teams will have all necessary considerations by supply offices under his jurisdiction.

Supplies placed in reserve are being stocked for emergency measures and unless it is absolutely necessary these commodities must not be rationed.

Major Dacanay also said that he is not giving out supplies to families of officers and enlisted-men due to the fact the present allotment from the G-4, 40th Division is not enough to feed the actual number of the Filipino forces now in the front.

Families of soldiers who have no means whatsoever will be extended help if there should be an excess of supplies for all the units, he added.

Municipal Mayors

Below are the names of town executives for Occidental Negros released by the Office of the Provincial Governor:

Bago, Basilio Lopez; Binalbagan, Augurio Abeto; Cadiz, Manuel Escalante; Calatrava, Honorato Ulgasan; Cawayan, Godofredo Lirazan; Escalante, Victor B. Redonia; Himamsayan, Agustin M. Gatulao; Hinigaran, Ricardo G. Lagtapon; Ilog, Emiliano Tejada; Isabela, Manuel Yulo; Kabankalan, Norberto Cordova; La Carlota, Jose Y. Jalandoni; La Castellana, Gregorio Henares; Manapla, Mamerto Ferraris; Murcia, Jose D. Santiago; Pontevedra, Miguel Perez; Pulapandan, Jose C. Jacildo; Sagay, Teodoro Lopez; San Carlos, Eugenio Antonio Jr. San Enrique, Jose Sola; Saravia, Jose Yorac; Silay, Atty. Ricardo Ledesma; Talisay, Mumeriano T. Villalva, Valladolid, Ananias Oricio, Victorias, Jose Jover.

Season's Outstand- ing Social Affair

The Saturday's Children's party and dance turned out to be one of the liveliest social events of 1945. Feminine pulchritude was on display amidst officers in khaki uniform and gentlemen in coats and ties. The food was plentiful, the service par excellent, and everybody had fun.

CHURCHES

Schedule Of Services
CATHOLIC—Cathedral

Daily Masses: 1st, 6:30 am; 2nd 7 am; 3rd, 7:30 am.

Sundays and Holidays:

1st, 6 am; 2nd, 7 am; 3rd, 8 am. 4th, 9 am.

Sunday Benediction: 4:45 pm.

BACOLOD EVANGELICAL

Sundays: 9 to 10 am;

Sunday School Classes: 7 to 8 am.

AGLIPAYAN

Daily Mass: 6 am.

Sundays and Holidays: 1st 6 am;

2nd 8 am

Col. Abcede Commended...

(Continued from page 1)

Colonel Abcede's men, who have known the mountainous Negros inland since childhood, have served as leading scouts and guides, piloting 40th infantrymen to Jap hideouts in the hilly, unchartered jungles.

The long, thin lines of communications between the unloading and re supply beaches, targets of fanatical Jap demolition teams, have been secured by the colonel's Filipino forces.

These vital missions included around-the-clock vigilance over night infiltrations.

On the division's flanks, 7MD battalions blocked enemy movements and kept him under confining surveillance while the 40th pounded the center.

However, 7MD contributions have not been limited to the outer reaches of the Negros battlefield. One of Colonel Abcede's regiments is currently on the main frontline beside the Yank, carrying a share of the assault against the tenacious Japs in their jungle-covered mountain caves and spider foxholes.

The Philippine Army troops have accounted for more than 200 dead.

In this sector, the Filipino forces, whose three years of Jap fighting consisted mainly of unsupported infantry thrusts, are launching coordinated attacks.

American artillery and air power team with the local footsloggers in their battle up steep mountains against well fortified positions.

While the seasoned soldiers of guerilla warfare are thus engaged, others are preparing to enlarge their ranks. Schools on soldiering, weapons, administration and combat tactics that sped General MacArthur's jungle fighters from New Guinea through the Philippines, are being conducted for the colonel's troops.

Prior to the return of the

U. S. President...

(Continued from page 1)

regroup his battered forces or dwindling supplies to meet our next attack.

The President paid tribute to Franklin D. Roosevelt, who "was responsible for a victory than any other single human being. Under his guidance this great nation grew to be the most powerful military force in history. Under his leadership Allied strategy was developed which broke down Hitler's fortress and crumbled Germany itself into ruin and unconditional surrender and has brought us within striking distance of Tokyo."

Okinawa Fighting...

(Continued from page 1)

confident that all Japanese front line troops had been killed in the long and costly stand on the defense line across the island.

The small Jap forces remaining are less experienced and short of leadership as well, since many frontline officers have been slain. Artillery fire continues to fall off gradually, and with at least 350 Jap field pieces knocked out by air bombs and naval gunfire.

U. S. 10th Army leathernecks, after crushing the powerful enemy Shuri defenses, pursued the Japs garrison remnants so closely that enemy forces were unable to establish new defense positions southward.

Americans, the local forces waged unrelenting harrassing attacks on Japanese troops. In addition, they secured vital intelligence information of enemy strength and activity which proved of value in the preparation of the American plan of attack.

Throughout all this period, Filipino troops fought with meager combat equipment. Canteens for long marches were rare. They battled with few helmets for head protection, without adequate uniforms to shield them against the elements and countless other items of essential military equipment.

These things are now gradually being supplied and enlistments are being taken from former guerilla ranks to form the Philippine Army.

What the local boys lacked in the implements of modern warfare, they made up with unfaltering spirit emanating from their traditional resistance to oppression and their loyalty to American and the Philippine Commonwealth.

Their deeds are milestone on the path to liberation and peace.

The Negros Legion

Plans for THE NEGROS LEGION, an exclusive organization of officers and men of the Seventh Military District and those loyal civilians who helped form the united armed resistance against the Japanese, are now underway.

The primary aims of this society are, first: to unite in political, social and economic organization all the officers and enlisted men who fought the Japs in Negros and Siquijor; second, to voice collectively the sentiments of all members of the organization; third, to protect the individual interest of each member from any political, social and economic persecution in the future.

Processing of 7MD...

(Continued from page 1)

Another team will be arriving in Negros to hasten the processing of all officers and enlisted personnel of the 7MD, according to the District Commander, who also made clear his hopes that all those officers and men not present at their stations should come on time to have their claims made of record.

Montelibano Back...

(Continued from page 1)

MacArthur, Pres. Osmeña and the Secretary of National Defense, Tomas Cabilin in behalf of our boys," he said. "I have observed that they have a very high regard for the Negro force. It is the common opinion in Manila that 7MD has the best record in the Islands. I am confident that Negros, both the army and civil government, will receive equal to the best, if not the best solution of her problem."

Regarding the currency problem, the governor is sure that it will be redeemed at par value after the requisites have been complied with. Script money used by the 7MD will be paid off by the U. S. Army, and those spent by the civil government will be attended to by the Commonwealth Government, the provincial executive said.

Last Sunday, 3 June 4, he dined with Pres. Osmeña and Senator Hernaes at Malacañang. Rehabilitation questions were taken up and solutions agreed upon were favorable for Negros.

The present set-up of the provincial government in Negros is temporary, the governor disclosed. Those who stayed in the mountains will have priority in government posts if they are civil service eligibles.

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EDITORIAL

We Must Do Our Part

Here in the City where save for the roar of army trucks and rumble of jeeps and the unusually high prices of commodities, everything has settled down to more or less peacetime atmosphere.

But it seems also that we have forgotten that fighting still rages a few miles away from where we leisurely drink a cup of coffee.

Civilians should particularly use some means and extend what little help they could to the Fil-American troops engaged in a death-struggle against a desperate and treacherous enemy. Instead of giving weekly parties for Army personnel in Bacolod who are apparently having a lot of fun by themselves, why should this act of generosity be not also extended to our troops in the battlefield? Charitable institutions should bear in mind that a piece of native-made candy, a slice of home-baked cake would give the boys up their something to brag about.

These little things may not be as delicious as those rationed to them, but then the thoughtfulness, the spirit, is a vital factor in bolstering up their over-fatigued morale.

Our boys have already done much in the past. This fact was acknowledged by Major General Rapp Brush when he commended the District Commander and his men for "the splendid service rendered". We are confident that our boys will continue to fight with vim and vigor, and would exert greater efforts to wipe out the enemy if they know that while they are fighting for God, Country and People, those back home are also working hard and making sacrifices.

We should not be indifferent to those heroes whose deeds are "milestones on the path to liberation and peace". We must also do our part for it is only thus that we could expect this human conflict come to an early, successful end. ACF.

COLUMN RIGHT

Sometimes Critical, often Amusing,
but always Authentic

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IT was funny in the early morning of June 1 when the order to drive on the right lane of the highways took effect. Even American drivers seemed to have already got used to our traffic rule here because many still kept to the left and until a companion would touch them on the elbow or remind them of the new regulation that they swayed to the right.

After both vehicles had passed each other there could be seen a ticklish smile on each driver's face.

.....

An American driver of the Red Cross dropped late one afternoon at District Hqs. Bacolod Branch, and inquired for the address of a certain Mr. Babista whose wife in Manila was sending word to him through the American Red Cross. The driver was informed that there is only one Babista in Negros and that fellow was formerly senior inspector of the Japanese constabulary.

"A collaborator?" he asked, and like a flash he tore the letter to bits. In that case I won't trouble myself looking for him and give this letter. You know what I mean," he continued and immediately turned his back and left.

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On intersections bordering the public plaza we saw American MPs and Filipino public safety officers directing traffic, 1 June 45. This is a great improvement to avoid accidents and make pedestrians safe from reckless drivers and the authorities concerned should be congratulated.

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There has been a great invasion force of flies in the City lately. Would it not be for the public good if street garbage can be covered, dumps and other stagnant pools be applied with preventives. Or how about closing up some refreshment parlors, cafes and restaurants infested by these germ carriers temporarily.

SALVAGED CLOTHES:—Salvaged clothes dumped by the Americans at the DQM supply depot were immediately apportioned to all combat units in the front lines. A representative from The FREEMAN was present when the second-hand uniforms were distributed.

"I hope some more will be coming so that every soldier in the firing line could have his own share," Major Jaime Dacanay, G 4, 7MD, and DQM, said.

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This weekly publication belongs to the Army, by the Army, and for the Army. Address all contributions to The Editor, DHQ, Bacolod City. State name, rank, designation, unit. Articles should be typewritten and double spaced.