



TWENTY YEARS of the AFP

By the Military History Branch

EVER SINCE the advent of American sovereignty in the Philippines, there had been insistent agitation for political independence. And yet little attention was paid to the military needs as a factor of Philippine independence. Surprisingly, the first public official to advocate military training for the Filipinos as a preparation for self-government was an American, General Leonard Wood. In his report to the Secretary of War, after conducting a survey of Philippine conditions jointly with former Governor W. Cameron Forbes, among others, Gen. Wood recommended that steps be taken immediately to organize and train a Filipino military force as a

measure of national preparedness.

General Wood's recommendation was not given the attention it deserved. But the idea persisted, and upon assuming the post of Governor General of the Philippines in October 1921, Gen. Wood continued his militant fight for the establishment of this force. He expected to gain for his cause the support of the Filipino national leaders. The latter, however, were not receptive, largely because of their belief that the defense of the Philippines was an exclusive affair of the United States Government. Besides, they reasoned that the Philippine Government should not invest on a military establish-



ment over which, they felt, they would not have control.

Military Consciousness

Several years after Wood was relieved of his Philippine post, the Filipino leaders became military-minded. This new awakening was an offshoot of the worsening international situation in the early 30's, particularly in the Far East, where the Japanese had launched a war of aggression against China. Moreover, by that time there was already an assurance that Philippine independence was forthcoming.

In 1934, the Philippine Legislature passed House Bill No. 735, providing for the creation of a Bureau of National Defense. Mainly because of budgetary limitation, the then Governor Frank

Murphy vetoed the Act, making the observation that further consideration of the problem of national preparedness would "make it possible for the Philippine Government to avail itself of the knowledge and aid of experts equipped by years of experience and study of the technical aspects of the military defense of the Philippines."

Murphy's counsel prompted Mr. Manuel L. Quezon, then President of the Philippine Senate and the highest Filipino official in the government, to request the United States Secretary of War to recommend congressional amendment of an Act of 19 May 1926, which provided for the detail of United States Army, Naval, and Marine Corps officers to assist the other American republics in military and naval matters. Through this amendment it was proposed to make the Act applicable to the Philippines.

Early in 1935, the United States Congress approved the requested amendment. This enabled Mr. Quezon, now President-elect of the Philippine Commonwealth, to secure the services of General Douglas MacArthur, whose second term as Chief of Staff of the United States Army was about to expire, concurrently as Military Adviser to the Philippine Commonwealth and Chief of a Philippine Military Mission of United States Army officers. It was MacArthur, ably assisted by a staff of American and Filipino officers of the United States, who

was largely instrumental in drafting and executing the provisions of the National Defense Act of the Philippine Commonwealth. Incidentally, upon his retirement from active service of the United States Army in 1937, MacArthur was retained as Military Adviser and was given the rank of field marshal of the Philippine Army.

Legal Basis

The Commonwealth Constitution, adopted in 1935, stated among its declaration of principles the following: *"The defense of the State is a prime duty of government, and in the fulfillment of this duty all citizens may be required by law to render personal military or civil service."* As early as 15 February 1899, General Antonio Luna had worded this same principle as *"an inalienable right to defend our soil!"* The right of the government to conscript its citizens in the training of an army was thus clearly enunciated.

Commonwealth Act No. 1, otherwise known as the National Defense Act, was approved on 21 December 1935. This established the legal basis for the organization of a Philippine Army. However, it was not until the following month that Headquarters Philippine Army and the component of the Regular Force were organized under authority of Executive Order No. 11, issued by President Quezon on 11 January 1936.

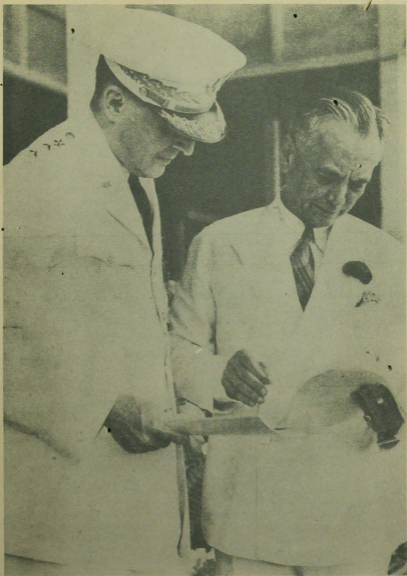
Executive Order No. 11 raised Colonel Jose de los Reyes of the

Philippine Constabulary to brigadier general in the Regular Force and designated him Acting Chief of Staff of the Philippine Army. Brigadier General Basilio J. Valdes and Colonel Guillermo B. Francisco were likewise designated as Acting Assistant Chiefs of Staff. Furthermore, the Executive Order transferred the Philippine Constabulary to form the nucleus of the Philippine Army, pursuant to provisions of Section 18 of the National Defense Act. At the outset, the Philippine Constabulary constituted almost two-thirds of the authorized Regular Force of 10,000 officers and men.

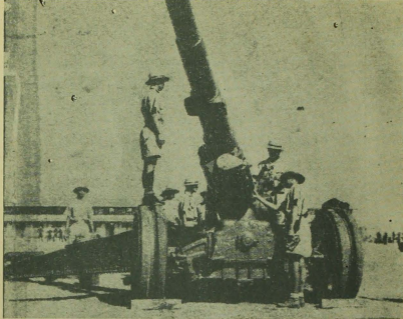
The Constabulary, now reduced to the category of a division of the Philippine Army placed under a Provost Marshal, continued to discharge regular police duties as heretofore. From its ranks were drawn teams of officers and men who initially served as cadres in the various Philippine Army training centers. These cadres were charged with the primary duty of assisting in the instruction of the 20-year old draftees who were called for military training from time to time.

PC Separated

Before long, it was found inappropriate that the Philippine Constabulary, which was under army control, should exercise police functions. Hence on 26 October 1936, President Quezon approved Commonwealth Act No. 88 creating the State Police Force, which nationalized all police forces in the country into a separate organization. Thereafter the constabulary was relieved of its police powers and remained an integral part of the Philippine Army.



Gen. Douglas MacArthur and Pres. Quezon go over the Commonwealth Act No. 1, otherwise known as the National Defense Act, approved on 21 December 1935.



These are artillery trainees in the early years of the Commonwealth regime, manning one of the big guns at Camp del Pilar, P.A. artillery training center.

After a little over a year of unsatisfactory existence, the State Police Force was recommended by President Quezon to the National Assembly for abolition. In its place the Philippine Constabulary was to be reconstituted into a separate organization, distinct and divorced from the Philippine Army. In instituting this change President Quezon said:

"My proposal is that we separate the Constabulary completely from the military sections of the Army, and employ it to carry out, under the supervision of the President, those police functions that de-

volve upon the central government. Thus while every officer and man will be indentified with the Army, will receive his basic disciplinary training therein, and will be the possessor of those military traditions and customs that place a premium upon personal integrity and hold performance of duty in higher regard than personal gain, the organization as a whole will be definitely separated, theoretically and practically, from the defense forces of the Nation."

The separation was finally accomplished by Commonwealth Act

No. 343 of 23 June 1938, which was implemented by Executive Order No. 153, issued that same day.

The close relationship between the two organizations was maintained. So, when there arose the national crisis in 1941 and it became expedient that the Constabulary units be made to discharge purely military duties, its incorporation with the Philippine Army was readily accomplished by the assignment or induction of its personnel into the latter. This was feasible since Constabulary officers were assigned from Army rosters, and all its enlisted personnel were reservists of the Army.

Early Army Set-up

At its organization on 11 January 1936, the Philippine Army was placed under the direct supervision of the President of the Philippines, in his capacity as Commander-in-Chief. To effect better supervision by the civil authority, however, Commonwealth Act No. 430 was approved on 31 May 1939, providing for the creation of a Department of National Defense which shall be "charged with the duty of supervising the national defense program of the country," and of "executive supervision" of such offices to be placed under it by the President. The act was implemented by Executive Order No. 230, issued on 31 October 1939, which placed the Philippine Army under this new Department. The Honorable Teofilo Sison, former Secretary of the Interior, became the first Secretary of National Defense.

Prior to 1939, another notable

step taken to insure the healthy development of the Philippine Army was the approval of Commonwealth Act No. 408 on 14 September 1938, which established "a system of military justice for persons subject to military law." The Army's "Articles of War" is the result of this act.

The Regular Force of the Army as provided for in the National Defense Act, consisted of the General Staff Corps and the following arms and services: (1) Infantry; (2) Cavalry; (3) Field Artillery; (4) Coast Artillery; (5) Air Corps; (6) Corps of Engineers; (7) Chemical Corps; (8) Signal Corps; (9) Off-Shore Patrol; (10) Adjutant General's Service; (11) Judge Advocate General's Service; (12) Inspector General's Service; (13) Quartermaster Master Service; (14) Finance Service; (15) Medical Service; (16) Ordnance Service; (17) Chaplain Service; and (18) Corps of Professors and Cadets of the Philippine Military Academy. Of the arms the Air Corps and the Off-Shore Patrol now enjoy a wide degree of independence since their elevation to major commands in 1947 and later to major services in 1950.

The Army as contemplated by the National Defense Act is essentially a "Citizen Army", so-called because it is largely composed of a trained reserve to be built up by conscription of 20-year-old Filipino males at an average annual rate of 40 thousand during the Commonwealth regime

and 3,000 in the post-war years. It should be noted, however, that before the war, military training instruction was given for a period of five-and-one-half months, whereas since 1948, upon resumption of military training, the period of instruction has been increased to ten months.

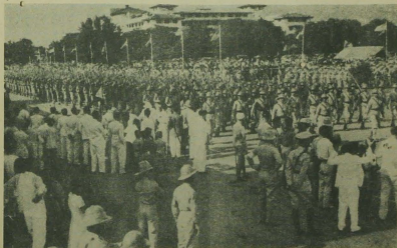
Initially, in April 1936 all 20-year old Filipino males were required to register. Out of the registrants 40 thousand were selected to undergo the five-and-one-half-month military training, one-half of the number to train from January to June 1937 and the other half from June to December 1937. By January 1938, when the first half of the second group of trainees reported for training, the Philippine

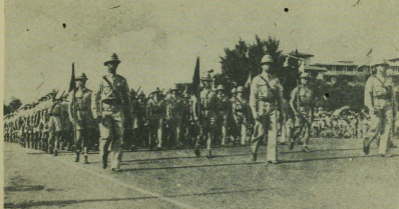
Army could well count on a trained reserve of 40 thousand young men. General MacArthur had envisioned that within the 10-year Commonwealth period the Philippine Army would be able to train a Reserve Force of about 400 thousand officers and men. The war, however, disrupted the training program. Nevertheless, by 1941 the Philippine Army had in its roster of reservists no less than 160 thousand troops from whom were mobilized the men to constitute the ten reserve divisions inducted into the United States Army.

Reserve Divisions

For the purpose of recruiting, training and mobilization of national manpower and resources the country was divided into ten

The first anniversary of the Philippine Commonwealth — November 15, 1936.





Infantry trainees from the first Regular Division, P.A.

Military Districts, each of which was under a District Commander. The latter, assisted by a special staff, synchronized all activities within his territorial jurisdiction, relative to the program of national defense. In addition, in time of war the District Commander was made responsible for the defense of his territory. In this task he was directly under the control of the Chief of Staff.

In the event of foreign aggression, it was contemplated that the Reserve Force of the Philippine Army be mobilized and constituted into divisions, which were drawn up on paper just as soon as enough men were trained and entered into the rolls of reservists. These divisions were given uniform designations so as to readily identify them with the districts from which their personnel were drawn. The method was to write down the numerical

designation of the district.

Now take the 11th Division. The first numeral 1 stood for 1st Military District, while the other 1 indicated the fact that this division was the first to be organized from among the reservists of the 1st Military District. Similarly, in the case of the 81st Division, figure 8 represented the 8th Military District, while 1 denoted that this was the first division organized in the Cebu-Bohol area. Should another division be organized within any of the ten districts it would be designated as the 12th, 22nd, or 32nd Division, as the case may be.

Prelude to War

The process of buildup was taking shape with considerable headway when the world crisis set in. On 27 May 1941, the President of the United States proclaimed "that an unlimited

national emergency confronts this country, which requires that its military, naval, air and civilian defense be put on the basis of readiness to repel any and all acts of aggression directed toward any part of the western hemisphere." 6

Two months later, on 26 July 1941, under a provision of the Tydings-McDuffie Law, President Roosevelt called into United States Army service "all the organized military forces of the Philippines" and ordered that they be merged with the United States Army. Recalled to active duty, MacArthur was designated commanding general of the newly activated United States Army Forces in the Far East, popularly known as USAFFE.

Shortly after a definite plan was evolved calling for the progressive activation and induction into the USAFFE of ten Philippine Army reserve divisions, one to come from each Military District. United States Army officers were assigned as inducting officers. To synchronize the training and issuance of supplies and equipment to the inducted units, American army personnel were assigned as instructors and unit advisers in each of the Filipino divisions, generally on the basis of two officers per battalion and one non-commissioned officer per company. Special regimental units, like the Combat Company and the Medical Company, were also assigned one commissioned officer and one non-



Photo shows 20-year-old Igorots from Mountain Defense Act took effect.

commissioned officer as instructor.

Late in July 1941, warning orders were issued by HPA alerting thousands of reservists who were due for call to active duty. On 3 August 1941, the personnel of ten infantry regiments, one per division, reported to their respective district mobilization centers. This was followed on 28 August by the activation of the officers and key men of the other regiments and special and technical



Province, who were required to register in April 1936 as the National

units of the ten reserve divisions. On 1 September, all of these elements of the Philippine Army were inducted into the USAFFE. The ten regiments were immediately given combat training on the regimental level, while the other officers and key men were given intensive refresher courses to prepare them to take over the training of the men scheduled to report for duty at later dates. Meanwhile, by virtue of its induction on 15 August, the Air

Corps earned the distinct honor of being the first component of the Philippine Army inducted into the USAFFE.

The preparation for the emergency was further intensified in September 1941, when USAFFE Headquarters authorized the opening of a "Division Staff School" at Camp Henry T. Allen in Baguio. This school turned out graduates who later on were to assume responsible command and staff duties in the regiments

and divisions, beginning mid-November of 1941.

From September to the outbreak of war, miscellaneous divisional and non-divisional elements of the Philippine Army were inducted into the USAFFE. Yet at the outbreak of hostilities not one of the ten divisions was at full strength. Mobilization had to be accelerated. And to fill up the acute need for manpower, volunteers were accepted for service with the Philippine Army and subsequently inducted into the USAFFE. Philippine Constabulary units in Manila and in the suburbs, like the 1st and 2nd PC Regiments, which were activated in Bataan as the 2nd Regular Division, as well as the 1st Regular Division, PA, were also inducted to the USAFFE on the 17th and 19th of December, respectively. From thereon the Philippine Army was on a war footing.

The War Years

Although it had acquired a semblance of a military organization, the Philippine Army of 1941 was ill-prepared, especially to be pitted against a ruthless and powerful enemy who had long geared himself to wage a war of conquest. Most of its troops and officers were young reservists who desperately lacked combat training. On top of that they were forced to take the field with inadequate supplies and obsolete arms.

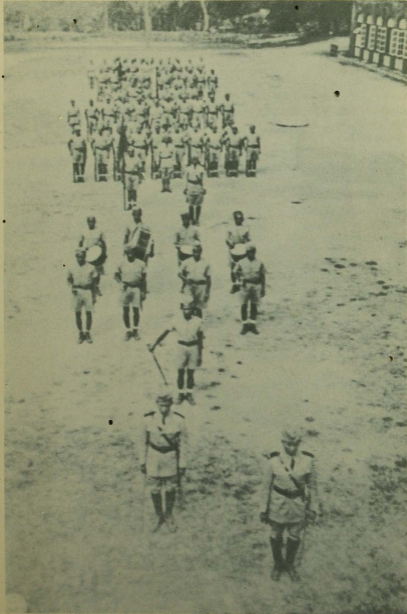
In spite of its awful shortcom-

ings and dreadful handicaps, the Philippine Army admirably acquitted itself in the field of battle. In the malarious jungles of Bataan and on rocky Corregidor, it gave notice to the world of its tremendous capabilities to resist a cunning and powerful enemy. The delaying actions it fought on the mainland of Luzon prior to Bataan, have since then become a classic in military tactics.

It was a heroic Philippine Army on Bataan which later on earned the lavish praise of Prime Minister Winston Churchill of England. Asked in the House of Commons why Singapore fell in spite of its armaments and troops, while Bataan stood, Churchill replied in effect that as a soldier the Filipino had no equal!

It was also the gallant Philippine Army on Bataan and Corregidor which evoked from General Douglas MacArthur, this undying testimonial in 1945:

"Bataan and Corregidor the citadel of its integral defense made possible all that has happened since. History, I am sure, will record it as one of the decisive battles of the world. Its long protracted struggle enabled the United Nations to gather strength to resist in the Pacific. Had it not held out, Australia would have fallen with incalculably disastrous results. Our triumphs of today belong equally to that dead army. Its heroism and sacrifices have been duly acclaimed, but the great



Smart-looking troops in photo above are Igorots who have undergone five-and-one-half-month training.

strategic results of the mighty defense are only now becoming fully apparent. The Bataan garrison was destroyed due to its dreadful handicaps, but no army in history more thoroughly accomplished its mission. Let no man henceforth speak of it other than as a magnificent victory."

Physically the Philippine Army of 1941-42 was defeated but its spirit was never conquered. During the Japanese occupation, the large majority of its ranks and files went underground, striking at the enemy whenever and wherever they could best strike. Stout-hearted USAFFE men were among the countless heroes of the Philippine Resistance Movement. Their distinguished acts of gallantry, put together, have become one distinct chapter in the

story of the Philippine Army's participation that brought about the American success in the last war.

Philippine Army Reactivated

Because its spirit was kept alive, it was a simple expedient to reactivate the Philippine Army as soon as the American Forces of Liberation stepped on Philippine soil. On 23 October 1944, Headquarters Philippine Army was officially reconstituted at Tacloban, Leyte, initially as the Philippine Army Section of USAFFE Headquarters. General Basilio J. Valdes, who had held the portfolio of National Defense in the exiled Commonwealth Government in Washington, D.C. resumed his old post as Chief of Staff. In the herculean task of rehabilitating the Army, Gen.

(Photo below is an airplane view of Camp Keithley, Lanao, in 1920.





The Q-III Luzon, one of the Q-boats of the Off-Shore Patrol, with its patrol crew loading a 1,200-pound torpedo.

Valdes was ably assisted by American and Filipino officers who had come with the American Forces of Liberation, headed by Major General Charles P. Stivers, MacArthur's G-1 since the formation of the USAFFE command in 1941.

Five days later, President Sergio Osmeña issued Executive Order No. 21, reactivating the Philippine Army. This Executive Order had further authorized that *"all persons of any nationality or citizenship who are actively serving in recognized military forces of the Philippines are considered to be in the active service of the Philippine Army."*

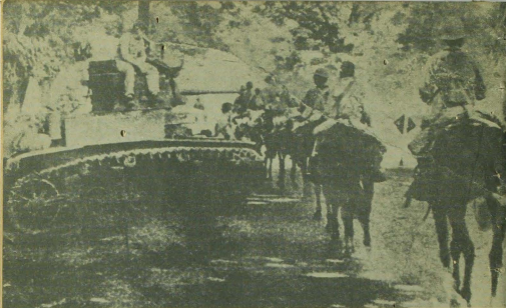
Pioneer Post-War Units

Availing itself of an abundant logistical support given by the United States Army, the 92nd Infantry Division, PA, was activated on 1 November 1944, utilizing as its nucleus Colonel Ruperto Kangleon's guerrilla outfit — the Leyte Area Command. This division was immediately placed under the operational control of General Walter Krueger's Sixth United States Army, and had played a vital role in the liberation of the whole island of Leyte.

On 12 November 1944 the 1st Replacement Battalion was also activated at Tacloban, Leyte. This battalion was charged with the recovery and processing of surviving Philippine Army personnel of the USAFFE, and to supply the personnel requirements of units being activated. Still later, on 15 November, the 1st Leyte Company, Philippine Constabulary, was activated and given the mission of maintaining peace and order in the liberated areas. This was followed on 4 December 1944 with the activation of the 2nd Leyte Company, Philippine Constabulary.

HPA Transferred to Luzon

The bulk of the American Liberation Forces were shifted to Luzon, making the landing on the beaches of Lingayen Gulf on 9 January 1945. Fifteen days later the 2nd Replacement Battalion was activated at Dagupan, Pangasinan, and was given simi-



Fil-American troops counterattack superior Japanese forces on Bataan. Hunger, fatigue and lack of supplies finally put an end to their long and hectic struggle.

lar mission as its counterpart in Leyte. In February 1945 Manila was recaptured and along with USAFFE headquarters, Headquarters Philippine Army was established in the city.

As the volume of work increased tremendously, Headquarters Philippine Army was allocated bigger working space. On 29 March 1945, the Headquarters was established at the National University, but twelve days later it was transferred to the Legarda Elementary School Building where it was located up to 23 November of that year. The next day Headquarters was moved to the Ang Tibay Building at Grace Park, Manila, where it stayed up to 5 August 1946, when it moved to its present site in Camp Mur-

phy.

Army Rehabilitated

The Philippine Army gained extensive combat experience during the liberation campaign, although most of its operations were undertaken in conjunction with the United States Army, under which it operated. On that score the only exception was the United States Army Forces in the Philippines, North Luzon (USAFIP, NL), a guerrilla unit in Northern Luzon. Assigned a definite sector of operation, this outfit accomplished its mission independently. Given the logistical support, but without any supervision from the American Army of Liberation, the USAFIP, NL, liberated the western half of Northern Luzon, and a large

portion of the Mountain Province and the Cagayan Valley.

After the establishment of USAFFE headquarters in Manila the rehabilitation of the Philippine Army was undertaken in earnest. One of the first step taken to attain this end was the issuance by USAFFE Headquarters of an order requiring all Philippine Army personnel of the USAFFE to report to military control. Subsequently, the establishment of more replacement battalions for officers and men of the USAFFE not in the active lists of guerrilla units, was ordered. The 3rd and 4th Replacement Battalions were activated in Camp Murphy, while the 5th and 6th Replacement

Battalions were activated in Lanao and Iloilo, respectively. As the survivors of the USAFFE of 1941-42 flocked to the replacement battalions and recognition or incorporation into the Philippine Army of all active and deserving guerrilla units started, the establishment of camp complements in Camp Olivas, Camp Murphy, Camp Ord, Iloilo, and at Calasiao, Pangasinan was also ordered.

On 1 April 1945, the Central General Staff was reorganized and Headquarters Philippine Army ceased to be a mere section of USAFFE headquarters. It attained a status similar to that of 1941, when the Philippine Army was inducted to the USAFFE.



On Bataan, the radio was the last remaining link with the outside world. Before Manila fell, its local stations broadcast a "Voice of Freedom" propaganda.



Photo above shows personnel of the Philippine Army Air Corps.

Thereafter, Headquarters Philippine Army assumed the responsibility of activating its own units and assigning its own personnel, with the concurrence of USAFFE headquarters. Units were activated as fast as officers and men were recovered and processed in the replacement battalions and camp complements. This step was taken to insure a steady supply of manpower needed as replacements in the combat areas and in the projected invasion of Japan.

By July 1945 a total of 98,255 officers and men were organized into Philippine Army units or were undergoing processing in the casual camps, or attached for combat duty with the United States Army. About 18,000 of

this number, composed for the most part by personnel of the USAFIP, NL, was slated to form a division to accompany the American Army earmarked for the invasion of the Japanese mainland.

In the meanwhile, civil government was reestablished and in the absence of a national police force, the central government had to rely on the army to restore and preserve peace and order in the liberated areas. This brought about the issuance of Executive Order No. 51, dated 7 June 1945, authorizing the establishment of a Military Police Command.

Two weeks after, General Orders No. 86 of HPA activated the Military Police Command, which was placed under the joint



prototype of present PAF, in salute at pre-war Zablau Field.

supervision of the United States Army and the Philippine Army. It was charged with the maintenance of law and order, the enforcement of military orders and regulations, and in assisting the civil government in enforcing the civil laws except in the active combat areas and at exempted reservations. In addition the Military Police Command assisted in the reorganization and supervision of the activities of the civil police forces that were being formed.

Demobilization

The sudden cessation of hostilities in August 1945 found the Philippine Army with an overall strength of approximately 250 thousand officers and men. Since there was no more need for this

number, the United States Army immediately inaugurated a program of demobilization which was carried out in three phases.

Phase one called for the inactivation of all units ordered activated but not actually organized. This included the reversion to inactive status of all officers and men in the casual camps, and the demobilization of all authorized guerrilla units that were attached unassigned to the United States Army. Phase two included the demobilization of activated units, while phase three called for the demobilization of so many of the officers and men so that by 30 June 1946, the date of turn over, the Philippine Army would have a strength of approximately 37,000 officers and men.

Turn Over

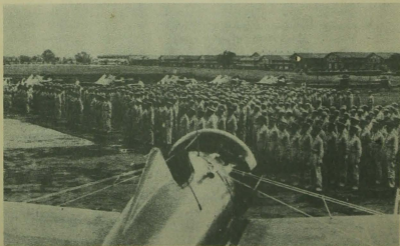
By 31 January 1946, the Philippine Army still had a strength of 140 thousand. Demobilization was therefore stepped up and by the time the Philippine Army, now called the Army of the Philippines, passed on from the control of the United States Army to the Commonwealth Government, it had a total strength of 35,743 officers and men. Of this number approximately 20 thousand were in the Military Police Command.

The 35,743 troops, which were contained in a "Turn Over Troop List," represented a compromise between what the Army of the Philippines wanted and what the United States Army authorities were willing to turn over. In that list were included many units which the Army of the Phil-

ippines was forced to accept.

Military supplies and equipment were also turned over to the Commonwealth government, pursuant to the provisions of the United States Military Assistance Pact. Although most of these supplies and equipment were under the category either of Class "C" or Class "D" and were of poor condition, they represented a huge financial saving for the impoverished Philippine Government, these supplies and equipment having a requisition value of several hundred millions of dollars. Also there were turned over or earmarked to be turned over certain United States Army and Naval reservations, such as Camp Wallace in La Union, Camp Henry T. Allen in Baguio, Ft. McKinley and Nichols Field in Rizal, and the Island of Corregidor.

This is a picture of the ceremonies inducting the P.A. air corps into the USAFFE. Note the number of planes the Army had at the time. It was very inadequate.



Rehabilitation Program

Following the inauguration of the Republic of the Philippines on 4 July 1946, Headquarters Army of the Philippines started a training program for its personnel. This step was deemed imperative in order to bring back the old prestige of the Army which had suffered tremendous set-back. In line with this program, the "Military Training Command" was activated on 2 January 1947, pursuant to General Orders No 12 of HAP. This Command was charged with the supervision of trainee instructions, the R.O.T.C., and the training in the service schools..

Prior to this date, on 3 June 1946, the Reserve Officer's Service School, which later on became variously designated as the "Army Ground Forces School," the "Philippine Ground Force School," the "Armed Forces of the Philippines Service School", and the "Philippine Army Service School" was reactivated. It did not open its door, however, until 6 February 1947. Also on 6 July 1946, Headquarters of the R.O.T.C. was reactivated, but it was on 7 September 1947 when R.O.T.C. instructions resumed, initially in seventeen colleges and universities throughout the country.

The Philippine Military Academy, which had been converted into an institution of collegiate level under a provision of the National Defense Act, effective in 1936, was reestablished on 28 June 1946. Its first post-war

class began on 7 April 1947. As in the pre-war years the PMA is charged with preparing the officers for the Regular Force.

Army Reorganized

In line with the "Government Reorganization Plan" contained in Executive Order No 94 of President Roxas, dated 4 October 1947, the Army was drastically revamped. New nomenclatures were adopted and major commands were formed as integral parts of the Army.

Implementing this Executive Order, General Orders No. 228 was issued on 24 October, changing the designation *Army of the Philippines* to *Armed Forces of the Philippines*. *Headquarters Army of the Philippines* was changed to *Headquarters National Defense Forces*, while the *Military Training Command* and the "Off-Shore Patrol" became the *Philippine Ground Force* and the *Philippine Naval Patrol*, respectively. The Air Corps which previously had been renamed *Philippine Army Air Force* and later redesignated as *Philippine Air Force* on 3 July 1947, remained under the later nomenclature.

The designation and functions of the members of the Central General Staff and the Special Staff remained as in the previous years. The staffs are now called *National Defense General Staff* and *National Defense Special Staff*, respectively. The composition of the Special Staff was hiked with the addition of a His-

torical Division, a Research and Development Division, an Educational and Recreation Division, and the Public and Legislative Relations Division.

Taking a lesson from historical precedent, it was thought best that the Armed Forces should cease to discharge police functions which it had been performing through its Military Police Command since June 1945. This resulted in the reconstitution of the Philippine Constabulary into a separate agency, and just as in the pre-war years, it was placed under the Department of the Interior.

The Philippine Constabulary was to be reconstituted out of the Military Police Command, and since the latter was engaged in the peace and order campaign, the immediate transfer of the MPC units to the PC was deferred. The inactivation of the MPC, simultaneous with the activation of the PC was effected only on 31 December 1947 with the issuance by HNDP of General Orders No. 269. The PC, since that date assumed the status it enjoyed during the Commonwealth regime.

A total of 12,000 officers and men were transferred from the Armed Forces to the Philippine Constabulary on 1 January 1948. In addition around 8,200 officers and men of the AFP were attached to the PC to enable the latter to carry out its prime mission of restoring peace and order, especially in the dissident-

infested regions.

Also instituted was the inactivation of the ten Military Districts. In their places four Military Areas were activated by General Orders No. 164, HNDP, dated 5 May 1948. The Military Areas have since then taken over the functions devolved in the military districts.

Latest Changes

Although the formation of the major commands proved a successful experiment, the maximum efficiency was not attained. On 30 March 1950, therefore, upon the recommendation of the National Defense General Staff, President Quirino issued Executive Order No. 308, merging the Philippine Constabulary with the Armed Forces, making it one more major command. In addition the *Philippine Service Command*, to take charge of the logistical needs of the Armed Forces, was activated and became the fifth major command of the AFP.

The reorganization which followed as a consequence of the promulgation of Executive Order No. 308, pruned the Special Staff of its Historical Division and its Public and Legislative Relations Division. The former was first placed under the Philippine Service Command, where it was certainly out of place, then transferred as a section of G-1. Still later, the Historical Division was returned to G-2 under which it

was originally organized as a branch prior to October 1947. The PLRD, on the other hand, was inactivated and its functions were taken over by the Public Information Office and the Civil Affairs Office, both of the Department of National Defense. The E & R became the Special Services.

The latest of the special staff sections in GHQ is the Troop Information and Education Division which was created in September 1952, with the Historical Branch, of the Office of the A/C of S, G-2, as nucleus. In March 1953, the Civil Affairs Office and the Public Information Office were released from Department to GHQ control. The Civil Affairs Office was deactivated. Its main function as a psychological warfare agency of the Armed Forces was delegated to the Troop Information and Education Division, which for a while was redesignated as Office of Information, Education and Psy-War. The Public Information Office was placed under the Office of the Chief of Staff. In March 1954, the Public Affairs Office, with identical functions as the former Civil Affairs Office, was reactivated by GHQ, relieving the Office Information, Education and Psy-War of its psy-war activities. The latter reverted to its original organizational set-up as Troop Information and Education Division.

The present set-up of the Armed Forces stems from Executive



First day of registration of all 20-year-old Filipino males for military training was on 1 April 1936. War broke out after less than five years.

Order No. 389 of President Quirino, issued on 23 December 1950. Headquarters Armed Forces of the Philippines, became known as *General Headquarters, Armed Forces of the Philippines*, while *General Headquarters, Philippine Constabulary* became known as *Headquarters, Philippine Constabulary*, which was the same nomenclature it had in the pre-war years. Also, the major commands were abolished and in their places were activated four major services, namely: the *Philippine Army*; the *Philippine Constabulary*; the *Philippine Navy*, which is the new designation of the Philippine Naval Patrol; and the *Philippine Air Force*.

The Philippine Ground Force and the Philippine Service Command were entirely abolished. The functions of the PGF inso-

far as supervision over the trainee instruction, the ROTC and the service schools is concerned, have been taken over by the Philippine Army Training Command. The Battalion Combat Teams, the combatant arm of the Philippine Army, which previously were under the Philippine Ground Force, are now controlled by the Chief of Staff, AFP through the Area Commanders. The functions of the Philippine Service Command have been absorbed by General Headquarters, Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Defense Structure Strengthened

In spite of the multifarious difficulties being encountered, considerable headways in the AFP rehabilitation has been achieved. True enough there has been a dearth of facilities due to budgetary limitations, but the more important cogs in the national defense structure have been set in motion. The ROTC and the universal military training, the two most essential elements in the buildup of the *Citizen Army*, have been reestablished.

Gigantic progress has also been made in the reconstitution of organized reserve units and in the organization of new ones. Mobilization plans in case of emergency have been readied, and was successfully put to test during the recent mobilization of thousands of reservists, for duty during the national elections in 1951, 1953 and this year. Sure-

ly, manpower for the *Citizen Army* will never be a problem since even with the lukewarm attitude of some of the Filipino youth toward military training, there remain a manpower reservoir consisting of the big number of military registrants who since 1948, could not be accommodated in the training camps for lack of accommodations and upkeep money.

And finally it is mentioned that more than ever before there is need for a definite and strong program of national defense. Particularly so because the country is now inevitably linked with the world's most ticklish affairs. The Armed Forces has expanded within the country's financial capabilities, but there still remains so much room for improvement.

Out of the Philippine Army, which was a product of a great successful experiment, was born the present Armed Forces of the Philippines. This organization is comparatively young — just 20 years of age — and is still in the process of building, but has carried out its various commitments with magnificent results. It had fought in two major campaigns and has broken the backbone of the communist organization in the country. It has an ambitious program for national defense and to be able to work this out successfully, it needs a sympathetic administration and the people's full support and understanding.