

# PHILIPPINE PLEDGES TO ALLIED VICTORY



**T**HESE two Filipino officers, standing against a background of the symbolic poster, "The Fighting Filipinos" were among the 1943 graduates at West Point. On the right is Lt. Eduardo T. Suatengco, and on the left is Lt. Rafael M. Iletó.

Suatengco ranked 72nd in a class of 514 (largest in West Point history), and Iletó 76th. They will attend a three-month course at the Infantry School in Fort Benning, Georgia, before proceeding to the First Filipino Infantry in California.

Both attended the college of engineering of the University of the Philippines before entering the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio. They were appointed cadets in the United States Military Academy in 1940.

Suatengco and Iletó were popular at West Point. Tall and slender, they were good athletes. Iletó, the taller of the two, was on the varsity lacrosse team. Suatengco was an academic coach, helping his classmates in mathematics, a subject in which both officers excelled. They are also rifle

experts. Iletó was a cadet lieutenant, and Suatengco, a cadet sergeant.

The "Howitzer," West Point yearbook, says of Suatengco: "Full of ingenuity, resourcefulness and mechanical aptitude, Ed's neatness and punctuality made him a good friend of the Tactical Department. A potential starman, academics never bothered him, although he found heart problems hard to solve. Having come to West Point from the Philippine Military Academy, Ed is bound for the Hall of Fame."

Of Iletó, the "Howitzer" says: "Ralph came to West Point after a hard plebe year at the Philippine Military Academy. Starting as a 'recognized plebe' he showed his soldierly qualities by wearing chevrons throughout his upper-class years. A natural hive, he ranked high in spite of his troubles with the English Department. Although his ambition is to raise a big family, he first intends to do his share by rearing a big army."

Suatengco is a native of Bulacan. Iletó hails from Nueva Ecija. Both are anxious to carry on in the spirit of the defenders of Bataan and Corregidor.