

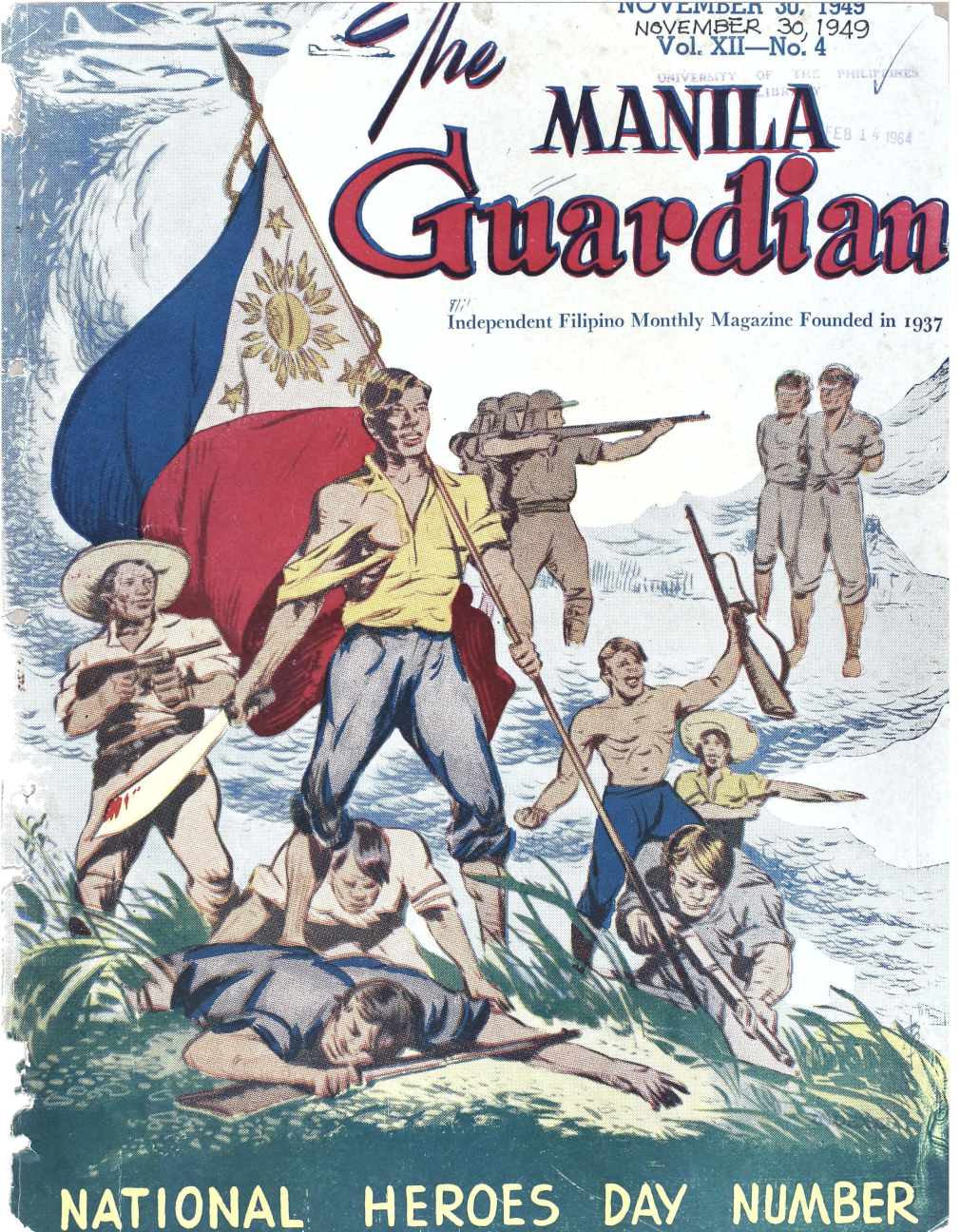
NOVEMBER 30, 1949
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UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES

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Independent Filipino Monthly Magazine Founded in 1937



NATIONAL HEROES DAY NUMBER

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EDITORIAL**OUR NATIONAL HEROES**

This issue of the MANILA GUARDIAN is humbly dedicated to our national heroes particularly those who gave their lives to the cause of the underground movement during the Japanese occupation.

Most of these brave men and women were Filipinos. Many however were foreigners but who cherished the Philippines as their own country which, like theirs, was fighting to preserve democracy and freedom against the onslaught of a common enemy.

Many of the heroes and martyrs of the resistance movement were given choices to make by the conquerors. One choice, tempting in itself, called for their cooperation in preaching the gospel of the so-called co-prosperity sphere, with the promise of immunity from harm and possibly easy life at a time when the fundamental struggle for existence was at its height. The other was torture or death.

It was not hard for them to pick the second choice and they faced torture and death with calmness, fortitude and determination to resist the enemy. There were thousands upon thousands all over the Philippines who made this choice but whose memory today is only remembered by their kin and close friends. No cross or stone even marks their graves.

The Philippine Ex-Political Prisoners' Association whose members are the survivors of those who made the alternative choice has fittingly chosen this day to pay tribute to their comrades in the resistance. Setting for the observance which has become traditional since the liberation is Fort Santiago which to them has become the symbol of political oppression.

The rites at the Fort Santiago program will mean very little by way of assuaging the sense of loss among the widows and orphans of the resistance heroes. But they will express the hope that must have been in the minds of these heroes themselves before they died, the hope that their nation will forever be free from foreign aggressors and that it shall forever be the bulwark of freedom and democracy in this part of the world.

The MANILA GUARDIAN joins in cherishing this hope.

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THEY SLEEP AN UNEASY SLEEP

By TEODORO F. VALENCIA

In the national cemetery at Capas, Tarlac, lie the row upon row of crosses, symbols of sacrifice and unselfish devotion to flag and country. But for the formalism of modern day hero worship, the dead are forgotten. Speeches and messages on the occasion of National Heroes' Day fall on empty ears in a post-war world embittered and confused. These are the dead, victims of the greed and the ambitions of the living. Our heroes rest uneasy and unremembered. We might as well resign ourselves to this.

Joy greeted the returning heroes of the liberation, the U. S. Armed Forces and the guerrilla units that helped rescue whole communities from the brutal army of occupation. But even before the surrender of Japan, bitterness began to set in as the cliques of absentee patriots started sowing the seeds of hate in the hearts of the Filipinos.

Returning heroes fresh from Washington were soon making sure they alone would merit the love and admiration of the people, perhaps to win all elections thereafter. General Carlos P. Romulo, Tomas Cabili, Tomas Confesor and wartime cabinetmen in Washington's government-in-exile were out to wrest the political hold by painting everybody as a collaborator. There were talks of bitter recriminations against the "traitors" who were those who had been within ten feet of a Japanese sentry.

The stay-at-home Filipinos who suffered the agony of three long years of starvation and brutality knew who were the "traitors." They, too, thought they would help in rounding out the real collaborators and bring about justice. These well-meaning people found themselves collaborators as well. They too, would be tried and made to account for their acts.

Many a collaborator who enriched himself during the Japanese time and actually helped the Japanese find it expedient to join the conquerors, to seek recognition with some guerrilla unit or to establish connections as members of the underground. The picture became confused. The well-intentioned patriots found themselves on the defensive. The new conquerors were out for blood. They soon found their victims, mostly innocent public servants, public spirited men who served their people honestly and well.

The bitterness was soon crystalized in the elections of 1946. People started calling each other names. There

were denunciations and cat-calls and bitterness was in the air. Roxas had to fight off charges of collaboration. The "super-patriots" were mostly on the side of Osmeña. Reaction was violent and bitter. Roxas won in a closely contested election and became President. But even his election was not to end the name-calling. He found out he had to chant the song of his enemies if he were to retain the goodwill of America which was by then steeped in the propaganda of the early 1946 patriots.

In the ensuing confusion, the dead at Capas became insignificant. But for the empty speeches on National Heroes' Day, the nation practically shelved the dead. Even today, these heroic sons of the Philippines cry for their due. Most of the widows and orphans of the dead at Capas are still unable to find a sympathetic ear because their names were crowded out by the numberless fake guerrillas and the collaborators who sought refuge in make-believe patriotic records.

In the People's Court guerrilla leaders freely gave testimonies to save their friends, certified to their "underground" records and included the indictees in the rosters of units. Everyone claimed some record of service with the underground.

For sometime, in early 1946 public servants, even clerks who served in the occupation government, were threatened with non-readmission. Later, this policy had to be revised. Today, the public employees who served during the Japanese time are even given three years' backpay. But not before every public employee had managed to be guerrillas.

The claims of guerrillas are admittedly fantastic. Even genuine guerrillas admit this. This could not have happened if we had adopted a rational approach towards the problem of collaboration. The Leyte speech of President Sergio Osmeña outlining a sane and humane approach to the problem was easily put aside in the rush for power and popularity. The result was obviously other than the one intended. Soon, the patriots were funny. Soon the genuine guerrillas were hard to separate from the fake.

In the United States, the battle for public opinion continued. Filipinos flew to America to make statements which confused the American public and embittered those at home. Those on the defensive did their share in con-

IF YOU MUST, LOOK FOR ME MANYWHERE

By FRED RUIZ CASTRO

Here where I fell you will not find me...

You will not find me whole again.

The winds have cleansed me of the slow decay
of final stillness,

Soil and sun have released me from time and its sting.

And now I can know only the deathless peace
that is the bosom of mother earth.

If you must look for me manywheres...

In the din of silences left by the smoke of battle,

In the afterwinds sweeping from field to field,

In the raindrops holding the sunset on blades of grass,

In the long and unavailing vigil where comfort is
similitude,

In the muted sounds over jungle sepulchres
and the soul is not there.

Look for me in these of remembering:

The smell of recent rain,

The sun meeting the young evening sky,

The many-mannered awarenesses of life you defined
to me,

Each twist and toss of me that gave you pain
coursing through the hours.

And when you feel like breaking away, look for me...

In each sharp yearning, every devious tenderness,

In prayer clipping tremulous into prayer,

In inarticulate questions, ever without answer
as to this day,

In yesterday's ecstacy, today's anguish
and the frustrations in your tomorrow.

Each time you flee the memory, you are gathered
nearer unto me.

Look for me, as you must and will...

Not on the lips of men you will find me:

they will never understand

the something of me that forever

shall remain standing,

defiant, clean and proud,

nor know of the bits of me

that straightway winged to God.

fusing the American people. But the American officers in the guerrilla recognition units of the Army were to know the truth. The guerrillas were multiplying. This was the result of hate and the reactions of the hated who had to become haters to hide their infamy.

There is hardly a Filipino today who has no knowledge of some fake guerrilla who got paid. Equally so, another deserving guerrilla or some widow or orphan who never obtained a hearing. This is all the product of confusion worse confounded, of ambition which multiplied into hatred and robbed the real heroes of the gratitude they deserve.

The genuine guerrillas cannot escape blame entirely. They too helped their relatives into rosters to escape what appeared in 1946 to be wholesale jailing of "collaborators." All these make the dead squirm in their graves. Those of the decent elements of the community that never claimed guerrilla status but are nevertheless clean from the collaboration angle must now confess to days of fear when even they thought they too would have to stand trial.

It is not yet too late for us to honor the dead by making a clean record of what actually happened here, of the misdeeds of a few and of the sacrifices of many who are even today branded as traitors because of the political convenience in such an unholy preoccupation. It is not yet

too late for the people to help in formulating a sane attitude towards a dark chapter of our history.

Unfortunately, the issue is clouded by the fear on the part of many that any attitude towards collaboration other than what America wants us to adopt would be disastrous for our rehabilitation needs. As long as we treat the issue of collaboration by American desires and the trends of public opinion in the United States, we can never have peace with ourselves. We can never truly honor the dead before we have appraised the living.

Ambassador J. M. Elizalde, we are told, is doing his bit in America to acquaint the American Congress with the true status of Philippine guerrillas. There are still thousands upon thousands who, for want of connections and the know-how, are unable to obtain recognition. It is equally true that many who have already obtained backup and students' benefits have to be unmasked. Only a vigilant and unselfish public opinion can do this. Unfortunately, this healthy attitude is still long in coming.

Meanwhile, the deserving dead lie forgotten. Their deeds are laid aside by the living who even now are locked in debate on the all-important question of who served the country well. All pay lip-service to the dead. Few remember them. In truth, they lie unsung and unhonored. Their sleep is the sleep of the uneasy.

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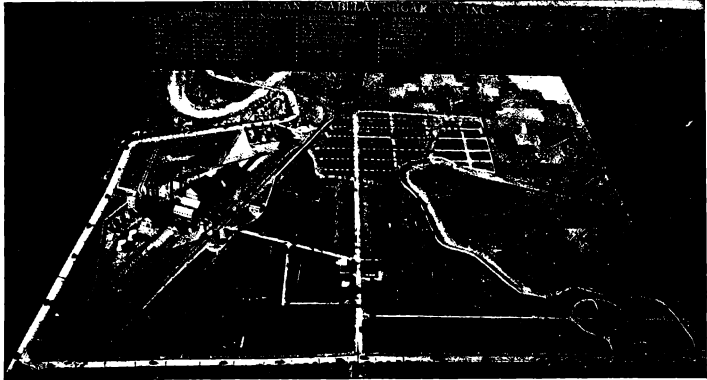
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RETROSPECT ON THE OCCUPATION

The following appeared in an issue of the City Gazette, published during the Japanese occupation, dated January, 1943.

A YEAR OF THE CONQUERORS

January 2, 1942

By LEON G. GUINTO

A year ago, today, the Imperial Japanese Forces entered Manila. It was a most orderly and peaceful entry. There was no untoward resistance whatsoever on the part of the Filipinos. The people as a matter of fact were ready to receive the Army of Occupation.

People remembered that even before the Imperial Japanese Forces came and before Manila had been declared an open city they had scrupulously respected the capital, their attacks having been limited to definitely-known establishments and installations.

The work of the Propaganda Corps of the Imperial Japanese Army had been effective in preparing the mind of the people for the proper reception of the Army of Occupation. The Japanese claimed that they were coming as brothers and friends to liberate and to help, and the population of the city was quick to accept the statement and behave accordingly in a way that created no special difficulties for the military authorities in the first days of establishing a new government for the metropolis on the basis of the old.

Early in the morning of January 2, 1942 the advance guard of the Japanese Forces in the south of Manila had arrived peacefully and quietly in Parañaque. The commanding officer, through an interpreter, had said: "We do not propose to interfere with civilian activities nor molest individuals unless they commit untoward acts against us. Those creating disorder will be dealt with as individual cases."

Secretary Jorge B. Vargas, as mayor of Greater Manila, had anticipated the orderly occupation of the capital. He said: "Our first concern now is how to preserve peace and order in Manila especially since looting, which arose from free distribution of goods in some establishments,

has become serious." He had accordingly given drastic orders to the Metropolitan police to stop the looters. He had also advised the people to go to their respective occupations and do their normal work.

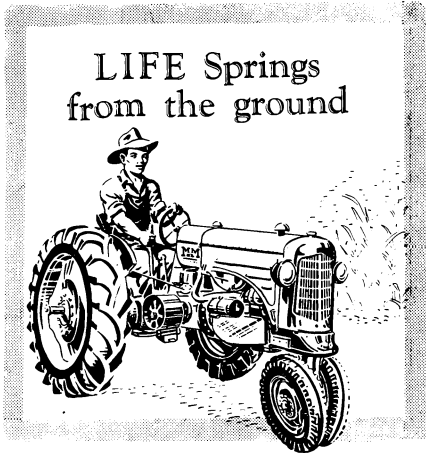
The Japanese Consul-General and some members of his staff had contacted the Japanese advance guard in Parañaque for preliminary negotiations between the occupying forces and the government officials of the administration of the open city.

Following an interview with the local press in the morning at the field headquarters of the advance column of the Japanese Army Occupation Forces in Parañaque, he had given the following assurance: "Life and property shall be protected. Civilian population shall be left unmolested. Normal life and business shall be restored as rapidly as possible. Nobody need fear any insecurity at home or anywhere."

He had further said: "We have nothing but the best wishes for the Filipino people and we trust that they shall understand our true motives and our attitude. The action of individuals and groups shall be considered according to their merits and our attitude will depend entirely upon their behaviour and their attitude toward us."

On the day of the entry of the Imperial Japanese Forces in Manila and following, the people were already out in the streets and were able to pursue their various activities without much restriction. Sentries were stationed at strategic street corners. There were no serious incidents of a character to impede the rapid organization of the life and government of the capital along normal and peaceful channels. Soldiers were everywhere occupied purely with duties designed to insure peace and order.

These were the facts regarding the memorable day of occupation and the days that immediately followed. We may well look back to it now with profound gratitude. No day in our history as a subject people could take on greater increasing luster with time in the memory of the popula-



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tion of our city and of the Filipino people in general. The assurances of friendship and service on the part of the Imperial Japanese Forces have been consistently and increasingly sustained since in the face of all possible skepticism of certain of our population.

When we recalled the occupation of other cities of the world embroiled in the turmoil of war, the wanton destruction of life and property that normally accompany the occupation of a city by victorious troops, we could scarcely believe our eyes and ears but for the positive confrontation of a reality with little or no possible parallel in history. We had been led to expect acts of barbarism and we saw generosity, patience and courtesy shine through the cruel exigencies of a determined struggle for racial and hemispheric survival.

We used to think we alone knew the meaning of fairness and magnanimity because ours was a Christian civilization nourished by cultures that we used to regard as superior to anything else outside. Today, after a year of direct contact with a force whose cultural antecedents we have been taught to regard as alien to us and to ours and therefore inimical and injurious, we must, in justice, admit that we need no longer be ashamed of the circumstances of skin and geography and that we can only repair the unfairness of that attitude and the folly of our outlook by as rapid and assimilation of new information and experience as we can manage within the range of our opportunities.

Now, what have we to show after a year of the occupation that should encourage us and deepen our faith in our future? We have peace and order. We have a new conception of public service, not in theory but in practice. We have a new spirit of neighborliness which urban living under western capitalistic standards had well-nigh smothered but for destiny's fortuitous intervention. We are fast coming to realize the benefits of an outlook governed by self-sacrifice, discipline and work. We are fast acquiring and appreciating a new self-respect rooted in pride of our origins and of our capacity for self-help and new adjustments. We are beginning to develop values based on the reality of inner worthiness not on the deceptive appearances engendered by the organized dishonesties of venal publicity. We are getting to have and to appreciate opportunities of equality and freedom that come to all men who know their own value.

And that is not all. Here in our city we feel a tremendous creative stirring. As fast as we are building up our bodies to have sustained strength for service to ourselves and to others, we are witnessing a new dream coming to bud in reality as we envision and shoulder plans of material reconstruction, notable symbol of which was the change done with street car tracks at Plaza Goiti in record time. We have reorganized our city to make of it one happy neighborhood equitably enjoying all the public services as far as our resources will permit us to effect plans of improvement. We are developing a system of organized and effective employment of our idle man-power for self-help and for the construction of permanent and concrete public improvements. We are out to weed out

inefficiency bad manners and dishonesty in the city government in order to prove our capacity to be happy and prosperous and still remain decent.

Thus it is that January 2 will always have a deep and abiding spiritual value not only to the citizens of Manila but to all the people of the Philippines. It inaugurated a new era of peace, self-respect and reconstruction under the guiding principles of the Co-Prosperity Sphere for all the communities and races of East Asia. It marked the beginning of an epoch of happy, efficient and orderly government for the people; and we have covered since a considerable way towards material and cultural rehabilitation as well as the soldering of a strong bond of comradeship and cooperation between the Philippines and Japan in the common endeavor of organizing and establishing a happy New Order for all colored races.

The Military Administration has taken an exceptional interest in the welfare and development of Manila, doing everything to insure its establishment on a firm foundation to make it a worthy capital of the nation. There is no reason to doubt that this interest, as well as the support and cooperation of its proud and worthy citizens, will continue in increasing measure to make Manila a greater and happier metropolis. We have January 2 of every year to think of this fact. And we may make note of it with every dawn and sunrise.

JANUARY 2, 1942

The following story is pieced together from the reports appearing in the local press of Manila at the time of the entry of the Imperial Japanese Forces in the City and is of special interest by reason of the vividness of the reactions registered of the population as noted by the journalists of the time. As such it is a human document that will carry increasing interest through the years for those who wish to go back to this historic occasion which marked the beginning of a new era for the Filipino people.—EDITORIAL NOTE.

By The Hour

6:40 A.M. The city has long been awake, and through the garbage-littered streets roll carretelas laden with goods given freely to the poor. Men on foot, with bamboo poles across their bent shoulders, hurry from the port area and downtown stores, converging for the most part toward Tondo and San Nicolas.

The manna from heaven? Delicious bologna and special cheeses that Tondo and San Nicolas seldom if ever tasted. Sacks of onions and potatoes. Rolls of cloth, from drill to silk. Sheets of scorched iron. Fresh lumber. A radio for one whose house may have no electrical connection, a modern stove for another without a gas installation in his home.

8:40 A.M. Housewives hurry to markets. The dust is beginning to rise, the garbage to smell. Smoke above and dust below, and the snarling of curs in the refuse. There is evacuation, but not much of it and mostly from one part of the city to the other. Telephones ring every-

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Greetings from Ex-Political

Prisoners

**MANOLO ELIZALDE
PEDRO E. TEODORO
FLORO POLICARPIO**

where, relatives keeping in touch with each other, keeping abreast of the news. That's how rumors are born. Newspapers are grabbed from the small hawkers' hands. Only the newspapers are "steady" in content. Keep quiet; don't resist: the Japanese promise civilian safety.

10:40 A.M. Too many people on the street, but few of them hostile. The main streets are crowded and obvious among the crowds are the prostitutes. Well-known stores like Hamilton Brown are closed. The city has a boarded-up look, especially with the Chinese closing shop. There is a persistence in buying by the Filipino public, but the Chinese retailer is "out of business" and for the first time the Nepa point is driven home—that the middleman controls food distribution and the Chinese has been the middleman.

Most normal offices in the city seem to be the newspaper offices where the staffs report for duty, take assignments, exchange heated words over nothing, laugh, argue about type, hang on the phones for news that would justify an extra.

11:40 A.M. While the Escolta is absolutely quiet, with Heacock's open to the public and the clerking force on duty, Dasmariñas was already a street of madness. Twenty minutes ago, the civilian looters, Filipinos to the last man, broke down the doors of Hong Kua Trading company. Other doors had already been battered through with improvised rams and others were being attacked.

Where iron doors spread across the front of the stores, the looters reach through, smashing windows, getting articles out of the show windows.

In Plaza Sta. Cruz, the Chinese stores are rapidly becoming wreckage, with some civilians watching the piles of loot and others dragging forth more. Most of the looters are people who were given items freely in the port area this morning.

Advance Guard At Parañaque Treat Civilian Well

The advance guard of the Japanese forces in the south arrived peacefully and quietly in Parañaque early this morning. Most of the advance occupation unit stayed on the south side of the Parañaque bridge, with a small part of about a dozen, including an elderly high officer and a lieutenant, taking a position on the north side.

Speaking through an interpreter, the commanding officer declared: "We don't propose to interfere with civilian activities nor molest individuals unless they commit unfoward acts against us. Those creating disorder will be dealt with as individual cases."

The Japanese consul general and a few members of his staff contacted the Japanese advance guard in Parañaque. Their presence was evidently in connection with preliminary negotiations between the occupying forces and government officials on the administration of the open city of Manila



Judge Antonio Quirino, president of the Philippine ex-Political Prisoners' Association. Judge Quirino is also national commander of the Confederation of Filipino Veterans (CONVETS)

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MESSAGE

We pause once more to pay homage to our comrades who paid the supreme sacrifice in our common underground struggles against the Japanese invaders.

To us who were lucky to survive the brutal punishments of the ruthless enemy, the memory of our comrades' unflinching courage, patriotism and devotion to the cause of democracy for which they suffered and gladly gave their lives, remains impressed in our minds.

Lest the rest of free-loving mankind forget their sacrifices, let us the living, continue the bonds which bind us together. Let us strive to help their widows and their orphans. Let us forever enshrine them in our hearts as true national heroes and as martyrs to the cause of freedom.

ANTONIO QUIRINO

President

Philippine Ex-Political Prisoners' Association

Manila, November 15, 1949

Newspapermen, accompanied by photographers, halted a few yards from the Japanese unit patrolling the north side of Parañaque bridge. They were signalled to advance by the officers, as a result of which the newsmen alighted and marched forward. Although they were armed with revolvers and guns, they talked amicably to the newsmen.

Asked whether they could pose for a photograph, a Japanese officer, through an interpreter, suggested that no pictures be taken for the time being.

The soldiers casually searched pedestrians and then allowed them to pass on, towards or from the other side of the bridge. Everyone was absolutely unmolested. Even trucks, cars and rigs kept coming to Manila from the occupied towns beyond. They were loaded with people who passed the forces unmolested.

The main force was not expected to come through

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from the south until some time this afternoon.

Japanese internees in the camps along Taft Avenue on to Pasay crowded in the front yards awaiting the occupation army. They wore Japanese flags on their arm bands.

Mayor of Greater Manila Drastic Against Looting

The Japanese occupation advance units, as per arrangements with the Commonwealth Government through Mayor Jorge B. Vargas of Greater Manila, established their temporary headquarters at the school building and the municipal edifice at Parañaque.

The occupation troops would remain in their headquarters and would not enter Manila until the commanding general of the Japanese army reached Parañaque and decided or determined how and when the occupation troops will enter the city. Mayor Vargas anticipated that the occupation of Manila would be peaceful and orderly.

"Our chief concern now," Mayor Vargas explained, "is how to preserve peace and order in Manila especially since looting, which arose from free distribution of goods made by some establishments, has become serious." Mayor Vargas had to give drastic orders to the metropolitan police to stop the looters.

Vargas also said: "I want to advise every resident of Greater Manila to go to their respective work and do their normal occupations, or stay in their homes so that the troop of occupation can enter peacefully and no harm done to the citizens. Looting will be severely dealt with. Looting will not only harm the looters but other people, as the troops may handle the situation themselves and there is nobody to blame but the looters themselves."

Occupation Units Treat City Very Well

An unofficial statement from an official source indicated at 9:30 o'clock this morning that the Japanese would leave but a small force in Manila, the main body moving northward. Indication was also given that the Japanese would not be stationed in homes in Manila and that the city would be treated "very well."

Secretary Vargas, acting head of the government at present, conferred with Japanese army officials regarding the formal entry into Manila and conditions under which the occupation of the city would be made.

The Japanese forces from the south entered the open city area early this morning. The chief of police of Parañaque reported that a force of Japanese arrived there at around 7:30 a.m. and was apparently resting and awaiting orders.

The Japanese had apparently marched all night as reports late last night were that they had entered Muntinglupa.

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Commissioner Asuncion A. Perez of Public Welfare, Vice-President of the Philippine ex-Political Prisoners' Association. Her husband, the late Cirilo Perez, was among those executed by the Japanese in 1941.

No word on the progress of the Japanese forces in the north was available in Manila this morning. Rumors that their advance troops were in the vicinity of Caloocan were denied by the Caloocan police.

Telephone reports from Muntinglupa received this morning said that the troops that passed there on their way to Manila were courteous to the people they saw on the road and apparently well-behaved.

The Japanese occupation troops heading to Manila from the north were somewhere in the outskirts of Balintawak, Rizal, at 12 o'clock noon today, with the advance patrol unit already at barrio Talipapa of the municipality of Caloocan. At the rate the main occupation force was traveling, it would most likely be in the city before sundown.

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Japan Forces Protect Life and Property

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Nobody need fear any insecurity at home or anywhere.

These assurances were given by Hon. Katsumi Nihiro, Japanese Consul General in Manila, when interviewed this morning at the field headquarters of the advance column of the Japanese Imperial Army occupation forces in Parañaque.

Expressing warm friendship for the Filipino people, the Consul General declared that the Japanese occupation forces are themselves friendly to the population. Pointing out to the behaviour of the forces now in Parañaque, who were not interfering in the least with the life and activities of the people of the community, the Consul-General declared that the people of Manila need fear no trouble under the occupation régime.

The small force in Parañaque was camped in the Plaza beside the church, with the commanding officers taking their breakfast at the band-stand in the center. Other officers had occupied the two houses across the street. Both the north and south approaches of the bridge near the church were guarded by soldiers, checking upon traffic but leaving the people alone. Even on the sidewalks adjoining the church plaza, where the soldiers were either resting or eating, the people were being allowed to stand around to watch.

Mr. Nihiro declared further that any offense against the Japanese Forces of occupation or disturbing peace and order would be dealt with individually and he expressed the hope that the public would respect their authority and cooperate in the promotion of peace and order.

"We have nothing but the best wishes for the Filipino people and we trust that they shall understand our true motives and our attitude. The actions of individuals and groups shall be considered according to their merits and our attitude will depend entirely upon their behaviour and their attitude to us."

He expressed deep interest in peace and order being maintained in the city in the meantime and was in close touch with Secretary Vargas.

Mr. Kanegae, proprietor of Nippon Bazar on the Escolta, was one of two or three local Japanese, who were

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with the officers of the Japanese forces in Parañaque.

Sayre's Office Establishes Contact with Japanese Forces

The following announcement was issued by the High Commissioner's office at 10:15 a.m. today:

"Contact with the occupation forces has been established. While nothing can be guaranteed, it now appears that the occupation forces will be relatively small and that they will not enter the city until this afternoon or early this evening.

"It is probable that entry will be made only after consultations between the High Commissioner's office and the Commonwealth authorities. This indicates that the occupation will be orderly and quiet.

"At this time, it is our best judgment that businesses should open today, and this will be the most reassuring thing for the public. Excessive movement in the streets should be avoided, but the occupation forces should be presented with the fact of a city operating quietly and normally.

"However, the matter of opening will have to be left to the best judgment of the individual concerned."

Vargas Urges People To Carry On Normally

Secretary Vargas, designated as Mayor of Greater Manila, counseled the residents of the metropolitan area to proceed normally with their occupations and daily labors as he expected a disciplined occupation force under officers, operating in accordance with international law, would enter Manila.

Mayor Vargas expressed the belief that no harm would be done to city residents if they would conduct themselves in accordance with international law. An army of occupation, according to international law governing open cities, interferes as little as possible with the normal life of the people after taking over the government buildings for its use and commandeering provisions for its officers and soldiers.

The army of occupation might ask residents to surrender their firearms. It would also take all the steps necessary for the protection of its soldiers. Soldiers would be posted in various places as sentries who would enforce military laws. Respect for them should be exercised by the residents of an open city to prevent a clash between military and civilian authorities.

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Government officials today remained calm and collected in their respective offices ready to receive the occupation army. The mayors in Quezon City and the neighboring municipalities of Calocan, Pasay, San Juan, Parañaque, Muntinlupa, and Makati, who had been designated as assistant mayors, were told by Secretary Vargas to act according to previous instructions.

The statement of Secretary Vargas follows:

"Under international practices, it is the duty of the inhabitants of an occupied territory to carry on their ordinary peaceful pursuits, to behave in an absolutely peaceful manner, to take no part whatsoever in the hostilities carried on, to refrain from injurious acts towards troops of the occupant or with respect to their operations and to render strict obedience to officials of the occupant."

The Manila municipal board this morning unanimously passed a resolution asking the people of Manila not to commit any provocative acts and to behave in a peaceful and orderly manner.

Manuel de la Fuente was reelected president of the board, which simultaneously agreed to unite and abolish all party lines.

Mayor Juan Nolasco reiterated his appeal to the people of Manila to be calm and peaceful and to refrain from committing hostile acts against the occupation forces.

To The Women

Steady, ladies. This is what you should do: cook, wash, sew, clean your homes, burn your garbage if it is not collected, weed your gardens, preserve what food you can, ration by trimming the meals down to the essentials. You've probably been doing this most of your life. What's so hard about doing it now?

Sit tight. Don't parade around. Don't stand in the streets gawking and gossiping. Don't, of all things, get hysterical crossing your bridges before you come to them. Give your children this remembrance for the days when they are grown: that, when the Japanese forces occupied Manila, their mother was going quietly and serenely about her duties.

And this is your New Year philosophy: No fears for the year ahead, only gratitude for all the years behind. What if you had never been born? There wouldn't have been those old school days. There wouldn't have been those days of romance. There wouldn't have been that puckered baby face peeking out of the swaddling blanket. Be glad you had that much.

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A Manila paper editorial:

"The assurance given by the Japanese Consul General and the officers in command of the Japanese army advance units in Parañaque with reference to civilians and civilian activities as Manila prepares for occupation should go a long way towards minimizing the fear and confusion incident to the city's change of status.

"We don't propose," said the Japanese officer in an interview through an interpreter, "to interfere with civilian activities, much less do civilians any harm. Individuals who may be found to be causing disorder will be dealt with as individual cases."

"We are sure that our responsible officials will do everything possible to effect arrangements to the satisfaction of the occupying forces and the relief and safety of the civilian population.

"It is up to us to render full cooperation with the Japanese forces and the local authorities, refraining from any untoward behaviour that can endanger the security of the community and the orderly functioning of public services. Let us observe the rules strictly and not be found lacking in the basic essentials of behaviour required by the circumstances."

Time For Birthday

Miss Amparo S. Cortes, who quietly observed her birthday today, January 2, by attending the Mass, received a number of close friends and relatives who greeted her many happy returns of the day in her parents' home on M. Earnshaw, Sampaloc. Miss Cortes is a member of the faculty of the Pasay Elementary School.

Newsies Carry On

Still on the job are the hundreds of barefooted, tattered newsboys who since the beginning of the war three weeks ago have been "on duty" the clock around. Especially in the last week have these light footed, raucous news messengers been the servants of the public.

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OUR UNKNOWN ENVOY— DIPLOMAT: ELIZALDE

By MOISES T. GUERRERO



Strangely, one of the most popular diplomats in Washington is comparatively unknown in his own country. Respected by other foreign representatives, intimate with top Washington officials including President Truman, and on first-name terms with most Congressional leaders, Philippine Ambassador Joaquin Miguel Elizalde to many Filipinos is just a successful businessman whose polo team, which included his brothers, was rated among the best in the world before the war. They know him to be the moving spirit behind a business empire rich in historic tradition and which has branched out to many ventures, including shipping and paints.

But Elizalde, with the vast interests which he and his equally energetic brothers have built, is undoubtedly a better diplomat than a businessman. This has been proven in his more than 10 years of representing the Philippine government in the American capital, a period which covered the Commonwealth, including the war years, to the Republic. Appointed and reappointed by four successive Presidents, he has set a record in Philippine foreign service which perhaps no other Filipino has done.

To the average Filipino, Ambassador Elizalde's work in Washington is an ordinary task which an ordinary man can very well accomplish. In the minds of his countrymen, America is committed to help the Philippines because of the peculiar relationship existing between the two coun-

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tries. Hence, to their way of thinking, our envoy simply has to remind American leaders of such a relationship and that commitment and presto, aid would come. Nothing is farther from the truth and Ambassador Elizalde, for every little thing we want, has to fight for it with all the strategy, energy and tact at his command.

Typical of the many many fights he has undertaken in Washington was the introduction of the Cavalcante measure which has drawn interest from every Filipino ex-political prisoner. As will be recalled, the Philippine Ex-Political Prisoners' Association early this year sent a mission to Washington to work for benefits similar to those accorded American internees in the Philippines. The mission arrived in the U.S. capital at a time when more pressing problems, both international and domestic, were confronting Congress. It sought the help of Ambassador Elizalde who was then busy with other measures affecting the Philippines. Despite this fact, the Filipino envoy very well used his influence to divert American Congressional attention to this comparatively unimportant bill. Recalling the hardships he encountered in having a Congressman sponsor the bill, he wrote to the head of the mission:

"You are cognizant, I believe, of the difficulties confronting the Embassy in securing favorable legislation from the Congress of the United States. You went through a trying experience before we could convince a member of Congress to introduce a bill designed to amend the War



Mrs. Pilar Hidalgo Lim, in dark terno, wife of one of the outstanding heroes of the resistance, is seen here weeping while attending the National Hero's Day ceremonies at Fort Santiago on November 30, 1947. At her right is Miss Carmen de Luna, president of the Centro Escolar University.

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Claims Act of 1948 so that its beneficial provisions may include the Filipino political prisoners of war. You have seen that without friendship with Congressional leaders, even that would have been hard to get. That we succeeded in introducing a bill is a great achievement for which you can justly be proud. Nevertheless, it also marks the beginning of a far greater struggle to have the measure enacted into law."

To think that this small measure is but a drop in the mass of windfalls which the Philippines has been asking from the United States is to know the heavy burden which our representative in Washington is shouldering.

Getting Congressional interest in the enactment of favorable legislation is just a part of the Ambassador's job.

Most important of all is of course seeing to it that the Philippines continue to be the apple of the American administration's eyes. This is no easy work, taking into account America's commitments to other countries. But Ambassador Elizalde has been doing creditably well along this line. President Truman has nothing but praise and admiration for the Filipino envoy and it is said the latter is one of the most frequent visitors at the White House among Washington diplomatic circles.

Visiting Filipinos in Washington, be they public officials or mere private citizens, come back with high praise for their representative. When Congressmen Magsaysay and Cinco went to lobby for the enactment of the Rogers Bill extending educational benefits to Filipino veterans, they readily admitted that without the influence of Mr. Elizalde, their mission would have been a failure. Many a stranded Filipino in the United States has obtained help, financial and otherwise, from the Filipino envoy.

As dean and premier among Philippine diplomatic representatives abroad, he has been picked out to represent the country in international conclaves held in other countries. In such mission he has gone to London, Paris, Geneva and other parts of the world, earning credit and honor for his country. His mild and gentlemanly manners, his complete grasp of international affairs, his energy and diligence as well as his willingness to undertake the hardest jobs are his greatest assets in his work.

(Continued on page 78)

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THE LAST DAYS IN BATAAN

By LEON MA. GUERRERO

CORREGIDOR STILL STANDS," cried the Voice of Freedom bravely at the end of its news broadcast every night. But the words had a hollow and ironic ring. That was indeed all that the Rock could do now, stand and take its beating, stripped, scarred, pounded mercilessly from every side, as lonely as a punch-drunk boxer, crouched dumbly in a corner, staying up by pure inertia, going through defensive motions automatically, waiting for the miracle of the bell or the final relief of oblivion.

The fall of Bataan had sealed the fate of the forts at the mouth of Manila bay. The group of fortified islands had been designed to rest on the friendly shores of the bay—Cavite with its small naval base on the left, and on the right the mountainous peninsula of Bataan. But Ca-

vite, its naval installations razed and set ablaze in one disastrous air-raid, had been abandoned during the precipitate retreat land stand. Formidably equipped to repel any attack from the sea, the forts were now caught helplessly between the jaws of Manila bay.

Once definite words had been received from the American high command, refusing the wholesale surrender of all the United States Forces in the Philippines upon the fall of Bataan, the Japanese renewed their attacks on Corregidor with redoubled fury. Powerful batteries were emplaced in Bataan, directed by an observation balloon so high as to be invisible to the naked eye and beyond the reach of anti-aircraft fire. Artillery positions were also established in Cavite to close the deadly circle of fire.

At the same time incessant air-raids placed a ceiling

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of familiar terror over the fortified islands. The anti-aircraft batteries were pounded alternately by shell and bomb. The inescapable dilemma which worked the doom of the Bataan artillery was imposed in turn on Corregidor; to fire and give away position or to cease fire and remain ineffective.

The unequal duel could not last long. One by one the coastal guns and the anti-aircraft batteries fell silent while the huge naval pieces, whose cunningly concealed muzzles covered every inch of sea approach and whose plotted fire could have blasted an enemy armada from below the horizon, were rooted in immovable cement, doomed by a fatal irony to face forever an empty sea.

Under the constant beating, the face of Corregidor grew scarred and ugly. The spacious barracks and clubs and bungalows smashed and burnt down during the first days of the war, were now further triturerated. The post-exchanges had long before been bombed and looted. The air-conditioned movies were shut down tight. The spacious warehouses along the water-front were rubble and ashes. The pleasant lawns and groves were scorched, gaunt and leafless, covered with the chocolate dust of countless explosions, pitted with shell-holes and excavations. The very rocks were raw with repeated blasts.

II

AS THE DAYS passed by in thunder, even the elementary comforts became increasingly difficult. The power lines were repeatedly broken and then an auxiliary engine in the main Malinta tunnel had to make up, sput-

tering and coughing asthmatically, trembling under its heavy load. The lights flickered or else went out entirely, plunging the underground chambers into oppressive darkness. Water was rationed; the faucets went dry at certain periods and always during an air-raid. The quartermaster began to grow miserly even with food. The garrison was allowed only two meals per day although the officers' mess cut down dinner enough to allow a light luncheon. So soon and so easily had the heart-breaking lessons of Bataan been forgotten!

Once again food was to be saved and hoarded and stored and kept under lock and key—in expectation of prolonged resistance. Not until hundreds of enlisted men in Malinta tunnel were poisoned by a rotten meal did headquarters issue orders that used food should not be re-cooked and re-served in the name of thrift. And while the garrison endured these privations, the storage tunnels were crammed with cases of milk, fruits, vegetables, iron rations—as the Japanese would discover to their profit and delight on a not-too-distant day.

Little wonder that the most decisive casualty of the preliminary bombardment was morale. Lieutenant-General Wainwright might sign inspiring proclamations prepared by his press relations officers, urging the men under his command to "think and act and fight as one great team." This excellent advice was lost in the deep fissures that cracked open under the strain of the siege. Hidden conflicts rose to the surface; half-forgotten resentments were revived and intensified.

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III

THE BATTERY crews began to mock and curse the well-groomed officers and men who, through no fault of their own, enjoyed the inestimable privilege of doing their duty inside Malinta tunnel. Subordinates began to entertain unjustified suspicions as to the courage of superiors who, in strict accordance with military ritual, could command their inferiors to expose themselves while they themselves remained under shelter. Citations, medals, decorations, silver stars and purple hearts were scattered generously. But this largess could hardly disguise the inherent aristocracy of the army, which became ever more hateful in the distorted light of the evening of defeat.

Another, more unexpected, division was that which set apart the refugees from Bataan. These men whether Filipinos or Americans, were frankly tired of war. Gaunt, unshaven, dirty, wrapped in a sullen despair, they squatted silently on the tunnel curb by day. By night they stretched out on their scraps of blanket or on the bare cement, across the path of trucks and cars. They cluttered up the neat tunnels with their heterogeneous possessions with the garbage and wreckage of war.

Yet it was impossible to clear them out for they had a certain tired stubbornness that defied command or insult. And it was a sinister and insidious disease that daily infected and drew closer to them the garrison of Corregidor.

There were frantic efforts to discipline them or absorb them into existing organizations; they were commanded to register, apply, report; they obeyed slowly, with

infinite reluctance, and in the end it seemed that nothing could be done, that nothing had changed. The ghostly rabble would drift back into the tunnels at night, to haunt the patriotic allocutions of the high command with the dread reality of their defeat.

IV

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL Wainwright might indeed boast to the world that Corregidor "can and shall be held." But the growing demoralization ate away the substance of the words. Only the hope of victory can make enduring the horrible sufferings of war, and in Corregidor there was no hope of victory. There was no future paradise to soften the rigors of the present; for Corregidor there was no future but defeat, no reality but the uncertain present.

Reality was a brief cigarette in the dark, a frenzied kiss and embrace beyond the end of the road, a plateful of beans and a slice of canned pineapple, a throw of the dice, the turn of a card.

Above all, reality was a bloody carcass carried on a swaying khaki stretcher along the cavernous gloom of Malinta tunnel, past the staring crowds suddenly grown hushed, past the varnished tables of the officers' mess where the colonels and the pretty nurses kept their eyes uneasily and gustily on the cards on their hands, and then into the hospital lateral, past the barber-shop and the chaplain's library, finally to be laid on the white surgical tables to squirm and groan and scream and mutter half-remembered prayers and half-forgotten names, amid tinkle

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of instruments and the rush of water, and then perchance to sink heavily into drugged and exhausted sleep on the double-decked beds that filled every foot of the tunnel, or else to be carried once more, the empty face covered mercifully with a blanket, back to the entrance of the lateral, to wait behind a screen for the covered truck to come and take it away in the morning.

Every day it seemed that the line of stretchers grew longer. The tunnel was filled with the whine and the clatter, the eerie bluishwhite light of blow-torches welding steel-beds into double-deckers; the narrow hospital corridors were crammed with the wounded, the sick, and the dying; the convalescent were hurried out to make room for fresh casualties as the doctors made their rounds with an increasingly artificial joviality.

Nurses snapped at one another, at the male attendants, at the patients, as the intolerable strain continued. An official order commanded all the civilian women refugees on the island to lend a hand; and the gossips, the flirts, the Navy wives and the Army daughters, pleasant novels, their compacts, and their cigarette cases, to carry soup-trays or administer baths and rubdowns with their manicured hands. And every day when the red light in front of the Harbor Defense Headquarters went out and the air-raid was over, the grimy unwashed bodies would come in on their stained stretchers, carried on a wave of silence and spreading fear.

V

UNDER the deeping shadow of death, life in Corregi-

dor took on a faster, more intense tempo. The smallest and most simple pleasures became sought after and treasured as they became increasingly more rare and dangerous—an interrupted cigarette, a cold shower, a stolen biscuit, a good night's sleep in the open air.

There was a heightened feeling that life was to be lived from day to day, without illusions of an ultimate victory or heroic enshrinement. Many sought forgetfulness in gambling. There was no other way to spend the accumulated pay that bulged in their pockets and they rattled the dice or played endless bridge, rummy, and poker.

Jam session attracted great crowds which gathered in the dark and hummed softly or tapped feet to the nostalgic swing of a wheening organ, a haunting guitar, or a low-moaning trombone. Sometimes a nurse and her boy-friend of the evening would melt into a dance under the disapproving eyes of the onlookers which would grow soft and thoughtful, while other couples would steal out into the perilous night, to lie on the harsh dry grass that was softened by the dew.

Out there a man might indeed forget, gulping down sweetened hospital alcohol, listening to the thin and delicate melody of a Filipino kundiman, or a muffled laugh—surrendering Mind with all its fears and premonitions to the warm embrace of Flesh.

Still others sought the consolations of religion and the symbols of another world, a better world of sweet and eternal peace. The Catholics gathered at dawn in the officers' mess of Malinta tunnel, where one of the tables was

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converted into a simple altar, and, kneeling on the bare cement, under the high white-washed vault, they listened devoutly and a little desperately to the same hushed sacramental phrases that had been whispered in the catacombs. But when at the Gospel the priest reminded the faithful that no Catholic to die (for was not death the gateway to eternal life, and did not man save his life only by losing it), the ancient formulas seemed suddenly to have a ring of rhetoric.

The gaunt and haunted men, and the women with averted eyes, who listened to the brave assurances of faith, fought with a wild untamable instinct within their breasts, which drowned the misty beauty of the godly promise with the primitive human will to live a few more weeks, a few more days, as long as possible, no matter how cruel or sinful in passing this vale of tears, this battered rock, this crumbling fortress, this lonely target of all the fury of earth and sky. Sweet indeed might be the vision and the promise of eternal life, but sweeter still was the life of this earth to those who were about to leave it; sweeter than all the ghostly joys of paradise, the near familiar pleasures of the senses—air in the lungs, color in the eyes, softness and warmth to the touch, sound in the ears, though it might be only the awful wailing of the hells sounding the last days of Corregidor.

VI

THUS in the thickening dusk of defeat Faith was si-
(Continued on page 78)

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LETTER TO A WAR WIDOW

By YAY AGUSTIN

I think of you, Lyd. None knows better than I what you have lost, nor do I say there are many like you, for it is not so. Other women have lost their homes, but it was not 412 M. H. del Pilar where, in a golden haze of literature and with you and your husband brought to haven many a struggling—and straggling—writer. Other women have lost their husbands, but it was not Manuel, who cherished you for your flaws as well as your perfections and likened his wife to “a morning when papayas are in bloom.” Other women have lost their friends, but none were A. E. Liatiaco who could scratch back in a friendly literary feud that never lost its spice.

It was too near perfect, Lyd. However many or heavy

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the blessings you lay upon the scales, you have lost something you may substitute but never regain. Now you are just a mortal again, and the world you had was an illusion or a delusion or a touch of heaven this side of hell, and this the gods gave you so that you could know what lies beyond the world's rim, what awaits in the stars, where the eternities are—not what they are, but where they are! and by this shall we know how passing even is eternity.

You are left behind in a world only too real. It is the world of millions, Lyd—all they've ever had, all they will ever have. Consider the tragedy! What you lost they will not even have some day! See them grubbing without making an art of their striving; see them defeated by their own limitations; see them hardly animate, while life passes by. Some will live a hundred years, and not their hundred years can equal the ten you had with Manuel. Pity them for what they are not and for what they can never have. Your suffering will change, as it is changing. You will suffer not for yourself, nor for Manuel. You will suffer for mankind because it is not in your power to give

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them what God gave only you.

Manuel, your husband, needs nobody's tears. Whoever cried weakly because Jose Rizal faced the firing squad?

You followed his trail to the edge of the pit where he bent his neck only once in his long, proud fight. He bent it to the executioner's sword. For nothing less than that did he ever bend his head. Truly he did you proud.

What did he tell the enemy at his farce courtmartial? Standing tall, speaking slowly, he told them the meaning of democracy in such beautiful words that he touched their rawest spot and they knew what he said was true. And they knew that he must die, that it was their Co-Prosperity duty to kill him. Manuel had a choice, Lyd. He could have lived, had he loved not honor more. They asked him to define democracy. When he finished defining it, the enemy knew then what Manuel knew before he opened his mouth—that he must die.

In the prime of young manhood, in the full ripe promise of his literary career, the best short-story writer in the Philippines died. Yet the spirit of him stays with you and with us he has left behind.

No tears for Rizal. No tears for Manuel.

And no pity for you, Lyd.

Yet, when I came upon this, I thought of you. What do you make of it? It runs: "Members of a unit must have devoted their entire efforts, while in the unit, to military activity in the field, to the exclusion of normal civilian pursuits and family obligations. Persons who lived at home, supporting their families by means of farming or other civilian pursuits and who assisted guerrilla units on

a part-time basis are not considered as guerrillas entitled to recognition and pay."

Lyd, I don't get it.

Yours was the reasonable word, the judicious head, the gentle hand among us. More, you are a war widow and thus qualified by grief, pride, destitution and spiritual compensation to tell me where I am wrong or if I am right. Most of all, you are a very great person; great enough to seek the truth and speak it, especially to me, so often the beneficiary of your frankness.

That paragraph quoted above is Point 5 of an untitled set of rules to guide AFWESPAC personnel in their investigation of guerrilla organizations in process of recognition. The first four points deal with activity, organization, discipline and continuity of activity. They are all fine points. No guerrilla outfit need fret because of them, unless they were "paper armies" with more colonels than corporals who spent much of their time doing exactly what an army has no business doing.

It's that Point 5, Lyd. Short of the Japanese occupation itself, I can't see anything more unjust than that. Unjust and petty.

Read it again. I'll wait.

Now, just why is it that recognition and pay go hand in hand? Recognition is one thing. Pay is another. I have muddled around in my head and fished in the files to trace the history of this messy backpay business. We were still in the hills when a radio broadcast from Leyte said something about double compensation for USAFFE men who had joined the guerrillas. There was something

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about a hundred pesos a month for enlisted men.

You looked at me and I looked at you. It meant nothing to us because, for one thing, we were too damn busy to be bothered. But with an eye apiece we did check over the men in sight to see what it meant. Some were restive, taut, poised for the Liberation and their vengeful share in it. Others, worn out by the unending fight of three long years, were too sick and tired to care except enviously to wish they might recover in time to fight. Oh, they were pleased enough! Compensation is a good word. It has possibilities of all manner of compensations. But if you ask me, it meant little more to them than the awaited word from the highest authorities that the guerrillas had been right all along. America would come back. America was back.

That seems to be how backpay started. Somebody arrived on a tidal wave of victory and, without asking questions, made a raft of promises. Nobody that I recall asked America for backpay. A lot of people needed help, and the multitude for loans; but there was nothing from within the Philippines pressing the Common—country still unliberated, was occupied with fighting or hiding from the enemy.

Came the Liberation. People were then occupied with picking up the pieces—relatives, friends, themselves—surprised it could be done. The backpay talk was beginning, but it wasn't a roar.

The guerrillas swept along with the army of occupation. A lot who weren't guerrillas fastened themselves

to the same army. The U.S. Army said something about recognition, and astute guerrilla leaders, told that it meant the same care and compensation due a GI and knowing their fighters were both deserving and terribly in need, accepted recognition, well knowing it implied immediate shipment to Japan on the first invasion out.

What more could America ask, Lyd? For three years of anguish, the Filipinos did what even America in all her power and glory could not do: They kept the Stars and Stripes flying behind fairly provided for, they were lining up for the invasion of the Japanese mainland. You'd think our people had done enough, having done for America what America could not do.

Japan collapsed. There was no longer need for patriotic fervor. The authorities settled down to business.

And *rad!* What a headache somebody had given somebody! In the first place, it was discovered that a whole country had been loyal and at least a million, of the 18 million, active indeed. In the second place, many a hero had given his life before the Liberation.

Now, as I understand it, there is a rough estimate that in Luzon alone there may be as many as 500,000 guerrillas to be recognized. Certain American wits want to know why that many could not have won the war. Well, if the Japanese had been such a push-over, how come it took the Allies, including the wits, three years to make a comeback? Half of the guerrilla endeavor was not merely a life for a life but also keep the Philippines crammed with occupation troops to hold them back from Australia.

Praiseworthy is to remember past heroes by religious and civic ceremonies, but; let us be heroes now, before others remember us cursing our name for too much day dreaming and idle talk.

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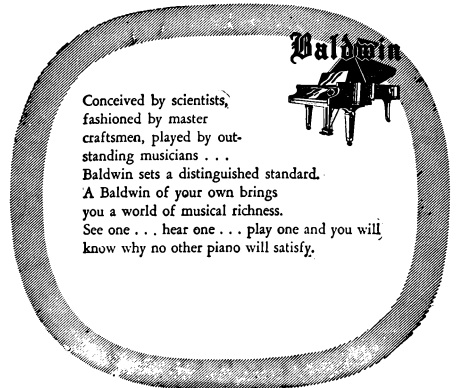
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The Japanese themselves admitted that nowhere in their Co-Prosperity Sphere were they having the vexation the Filipinos gave them. You yourself, Lyd, who for the first two years ran the gamut of risk in Manila said that where in the beginning the Japanese hated the Americans and made friendly overtures to the Filipinos at the prison camps, within a year they hated the Filipinos far more than the Americans. And we found that out in the last year. Our little country had been more effective than the Japanese could bear. Long before the U.S. Army came along to "recognize" the guerrillas, the Japanese had recognized them. Too many Japanese were being kept occupied in their own occupied territory. Many a Filipino died of torture, in an agony far more exquisite than a bullet between the eyes in the middle of a thought.

As I understand it again, the authorities have no intention of compensating the widows of such heroes. A guerrilla who died in a zoning, his thighs and calves ripped out by the enemy's dogs, hung head down over coals and his brains baked, strung up in the butterfly-swing and beaten to death, ruptured by the water cure and broken by blows from rifle butts, burned to death with cotton tufts soaked in gasoline and scattered over his body and ignited one by one, starved in dungeons, cut to pieces in sabre practice—a guerrilla who died like this, flying the American and Philippine flags in his heart, hero after hero taking his underground secrets with him to the grave... widows of these need expect nothing, for their husbands are considered by AFWESPAC unworthy of recognition.

Lyd, you are one of the war widows excluded by Point 5.

I know you don't care. Whatever you gave and whatever you lost in those perilous three years had no strings attached to them. You gave freely, from a full heart, from a holy heart. No pension could ever repay you your losses or pay in full all you deserve. You yourself, as a living guerrilla, would forego your own backpay. I do not know the details. All I know is that what you eat and what you wear now are your own sweat from day to day. And still it is not pension or backpay alone from which you are excluded, but recognition of Manuel, your husband, as one of the most proudly tragic figures of this war.

Once again, you would probably forego anything resembling remuneration. For all of you, the whole United States Treasury could turn to water and flow seawards. Is the army mentality only capable of evaluating worth in terms of dollars and cents? A man costs so many dollars, his widow so many cents?

I think what I'm driving at, Lyd, is that somewhere among the authorities is some mental bungling. They confuse recognition with pay. A long time ago, promises unsolicited and unexpected were mad. A stripped people began to dream little dreams—this man would buy a farm, that woman would set up a store, a boy or girl would go to school. And so when the U.S. Army specified that all who could prove loyalty and resistance to the enemy could expect their rightful desires, lo and behold! the U.S. Army did not know how many, how many, had not only suffered

(Continued on page 78)

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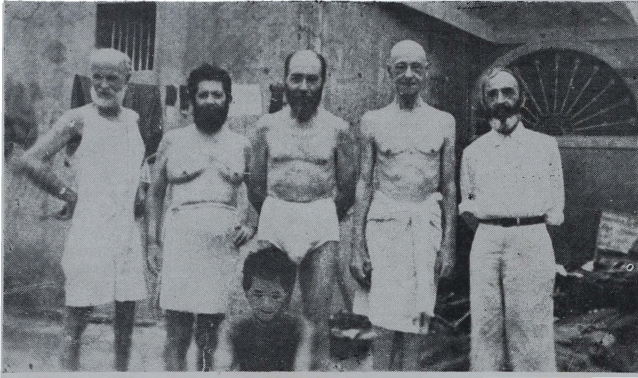
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Prominent among those who were interned at Fort Santiago during the Japanese occupation are, left to right: Roy C. Bennett, pre-war editor of the MANILA DAILY BULLETIN; George Bonnet, official of the French legation in Manila; Augusto Vabre of the Ceramics Industries; R. McCullough-Dick, editor and publisher of the PHILIPPINES FREE PRESS; and Benito Pabon. This picture was taken sometime in 1943 by a Japanese Kempei-Tai and smuggled out of Fort Santiago by Mr. Bonnet.

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By NARCISO RAMOS
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Dr. Hawthorne Darby was one of the countless victims of Japanese brutality in the Philippines. She was a martyr to the cause of freedom and democracy. In the torture chambers of Fort Santiago, the enemy could not break her spirit. She was executed because she remained faithful to her Christian principles, loyal to her American ideals and true to her Filipino friends.

This Indiana-born American woman came to the Philippines in the 30's as a missionary doctor. Her purpose was not personal aggrandizement or material profit but unselfish service to a far-away people struggling for nationhood under America's benevolent guidance.

She helped lay the foundation of the Cosmopolitan Church of Manila. As superintendent of the Mary J. Johnston Hospital, she continued the wonderful work of her predecessor, Dr. Rebecca Parish, among the poor women and children of Tondo. Later in the Emmanuel Hospital and in her own private clinic in this city, she was a source of comfort and relief to many who were either spiritually or physically sick, or both. Quietly and earnestly she worked to win people to God. Patiently and skillfully she labored to cure their physical ills. She won the love and confidence of a great number of Filipinos because she consecrated her life to their wellbeing. This good and virtuous woman took a sincere interest in many a Filipino family, rejoicing with them in their success and joining

them as well in their sorrows and afflictions. She had always a helping hand for everyone. Her life was characterized by absolute surrender to the will of God. She believed in, and practiced absolute unselfishness, absolute purity, absolute honesty and absolute love.

Her arrest by the Japanese Military Police in the early part of 1944 was a shock to her host of friends. But with Christian faith and fortitude, she bore bravely the cruel and inhuman treatment which was the common lot of suspects in Japanese hands. In prison, she was unselfish and uncomplaining. She comforted her cell-mates by saying: "We are here to take the places of those who have done more and would suffer more if they were brought here."

In those frightful days when almost any hour one might be taken by the Japanese Military Police, the example of Dr. Darby merely stiffened our determination to resist the enemy. The Japanese had the Filipinos completely under their power but they could not subdue their souls because their spirit, as unyielding as Dr. Darby's, cried for freedom. The bonds of love and friendship which had bound Americans and Filipinos together have been strengthened because of our common sacrifices and hardships in our joint struggle for redemption. Our loyal and affectionate regard for America will remain unchanged for ages because of the Darbys, the Staggs, the Wilks and a host of other God-inspired Americans who not only enriched our lives by teaching us the beauty of fellowship with Christ but also stood with us and by us during our darkest hour. We Filipinos should enshrine them forever in our hearts.

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THREE LIVES TRIUMPHANT

By YANG SEPENG

I HAVE missed my favorite pastor at the Cosmopolitan Student Church of Manila—Mrs. Mary Boyd Stagg—who, through her life more than her Sunday sermons, had brought unbelievers by the thousands to the feet of the Master. So have other church-goers by the hundreds. They certainly would not hear or see her again, not until the day "When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder."

Mrs. Stagg, or "Mother Stagg" as every one used to call her, Dr. Hawthorne Darby and Miss Helen Wilk, the last two being former director and manager, respectively, of the Emmanuel Cooperative Hospital, have paid a great price with their lives for their unswerving and unselfish devotion to the Filipino people during the enemy occupation. Yet their supreme sacrifice is hardly known outside of the members of the Cosmopolitan Student Church. For that matter, there is no one today who is working for the official recognition and reward of their services in the resistance movement. Knowing Mother Stagg, Dr. Dar-

by and Miss Wilk as I do, I am absolutely sure, however, that if they were alive today, they would not even like their work mentioned much less demand compensation for their services.

They Choose to Stay

WAR was already a certainty as the year 1941 drew to a close and many Americans, afraid to be caught in the Philippines which was sure to be a battleground, hurried home in any available means of transportation. There were, however, many who considered their business and personal interests in this country too valuable to be abandoned so that they decided to remain come what may. Not a few held the belief that American might would be able to repel any attack on U.S. defenses in the Philippines, hence they disregarded the warnings of the times, only to find themselves at the mercy of the Japanese conquerors barely three weeks after the treachery on Pearl Harbor.

But the three women, whose work among the Fili-

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lipinos was a life mission, were not alarmed at the approach of war and stoically, if not gladly, faced the inevitable. For completely ignoring the war the brutalities of which were daily enacted in China and Europe and continuously reported in the Manila press, these three heroes and martyrs of the resistance movement did not regard their stay from the mere love for adventure and excitement. It was rather a chance in a lifetime for them to prove to themselves that as missionaries the mere approach of danger would not shake their will.

When rumors of war persisted, friends urged Mother Stagg to go home to the States. But realizing her Christian stewardship, she refused to leave, saying that her place was here in the Philippines and that the Filipinos needed her.

* * *

Mrs. Stagg Becomes Pastor of Cosmopolitan

The war overtook Mother Stagg here; so it did Sam Boyd, one of her two sons. Lionel Stagg, the other son, was in America then. So were Mary Stagg and Margaret Ann Stagg, the latter of whom Mother Stagg was able to send home shortly before the outbreak of the hostilities.

I met Mother Stagg in 1939 and shortly after I was converted to Protestantism. The spontaneous friendly fraternity, the harmonious and affectionate church at-

mosphere that immediately impressed me worked toward my speedy conversion. The sincerity and honesty seen by outsiders were only long-range, though unmistakable, insight into her personal charm. She possessed a power in her soul which was not hard to the touch, and seemed to give way before other physical substances, but slowly permeated and calmly consumed "with the patience of the years," the hardest granites.

For six months Mrs. Yang, my wife, stayed with her and she was so charmed that when she left, her respect and affection for Mother Stagg grew beyond bounds instead of diminishing which usually happens after a long association.

Words are inadequate to describe the tenderness and affection which characterized the life of Mother Stagg as a missionary and social worker. She was so unselfish that the interest she took upon people, whether in trouble or not, was indeed a warm love which one experiences only with his or her own mother. She was so prepossessing that her life was like a magnet that drew iron filings towards her. Such qualities accounted for the large number of converts to the Christian faith for the twelve years of the Staggs' ministry in the Philippines prior to the war, not including the period under the Japanese when her work and those of Dr. Darby and Miss Wilk assumed a different nature.

(Continued on page 35)

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WAR CLAIMS COMMISSION HITTING ITS STRIDE

After battling nearly two months with the problems of organization that generally accompany the formation of a new Government agency, the War Claims Commission has finally reached a point where it is beginning to see light and the scope of the job it has undertaken.

Establishment of the Commission was authorized July 3, 1948 when the War Claims Act of 1948 (Public Law 896, 80th Congress) was signed by the President. The Act provided that three persons be appointed by the President to head up the War Claims Commission. On July 28, 1949, President Truman nominated Daniel F. Cleary, Mrs. Georgia L. Lusk and David N. Lewis. The three were confirmed by the Senate September 13, 1949 and were sworn in as War Claims Commissioners the following day. Commissioners Cleary and Lewis are lawyers and Air Force veterans. Mrs. Lusk is a former Congresswoman from New Mexico.

The Commission's job of administering the War Claims Act falls into two categories:

- I. The Act provides for cash payments to three classes of claimants and it is up to the Commission to adjudicate their claims and see that they are paid. The three classes are:
 1. American citizens who were caught in the Philippines, Wake, Guam, Midway, Alaska or the Aleutians by Japanese forces and became interests of the enemy; 2. Persons regularly enrolled in the armed forces of the United States who were captured by the enemy in any theater of operation and fed improperly during their confinement; 3. Religious organizations in the Philippines that aided American citizens by providing them with food, money, medicine and other supplies.
- II. Inquiry will be made into all other types of claims which have arisen out of World War II and not provided for in the War Claims Act. A report concerning findings and recommendations will be submitted to the Pres-

Rep. Anthony Cavalcante (D-Penn.), who authored the Cavalcante Bill giving benefits to Filipinos imprisoned during the war for political activities.



ident for presentation to Congress as a guide for future legislation concerning these claims. Chief among the types of claims to be considered by the Commission are the following broad categories:

1. Additional benefits for persons already compensated by the Act; 2. Benefits to American citizens who were captured by the enemy and do not come under the Act; 3. Personal property losses of American citizens arising out of the war; 4. Real Property of American citizens.

The War Claims Act of 1948 limits the payment of benefits to those American citizens who were captured in the Philippines and other Pacific possessions by the Japanese. The people were not warned to come back home because State Department officials feared it might demoralize the Filipinos and other natives who were

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Three Lives Triumphant

(Continued from page 33)

He That Loseth His Life . . . Shall Find It

The philosophy of complete self-abnegation and the unshakable faith in Christ's promise of finding life after losing it for His sake, proved to be of tremendous influence in the social service and underground work of the three women. As if careless of death, they were absolutely unafraid, and almost immediately following the entry of the enemy troops in Manila, Mother Stagg, Dr. Darby and Miss Wilk were upon tasks that did not appertain to women of their training.

Unlike all other Americans, they were never concentrated at all, except after their arrest in 1941. Fortunately or unfortunately, their connection with the Cosmopolitan Student Church and the Emmanuel Cooperative Hospital which the Japanese believed correctly as indigenous, accorded them freedom. So their religious and social service work suffered no interruption. Their immunity affected Sam Boyd Stagg and Clara Ruth Darby, a sister of Dr. Darby who had been a U. P. professor. While others were panic-stricken, moving uneasily from one place to another, they remained at their posts.

During the first three months of the occupation, their underground activities were very meager, consisting merely of keeping up morale among the population through assurances of ultimate victory for the Allied forces, transmitting news broadcasts which they heard over their clandestine radios, relaying morale-building information and the like. Their church work was taking in more of political propagandizing than "spreading the words of God." In fact, they realized their responsibilities as the only representatives of America in the midst of a people that was in need of strengthening.

From Social Service to Resistance Work

As the Bataan-Corregidor campaign closed and guerrilla resistance gathered momentum, their activities extended to charitable work. They gave away clothing, medicines, foodstuffs and money from out of their own savings, and however hidden these ministrations were done to returned soldiers from Bataan or guerrilla operatives and soldiers themselves, there were some who detected their anxious cooperation. A Miss Consolacion Abaya, deaconess who resided with the Darbys and Wilks at the Emmanuel Cooperative Hospital, testifies to the underground work of the missionaries. She says that wounded and otherwise sick "boys" as Dr. Darby and Miss Wilk used

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to call the guerrillas, had been treated, hospitalized, fed and the like at the hospital. Even the men employees of the institution that kept changing often were guerrillas themselves.

Mother Stagg who lived at the parsonage had contacts with the Straughn guerrillas and the two others and Miss Abaya with Marking's Fil-American guerrillas. They soon solicited contribution from other people and gathered arms hidden in the City and smuggled same to the guerrilla bands.

A story is told by Miss Abaya of a time when the late Cushing went to the hospital one bright afternoon. He brought away with him a radio set. In 1943 the coming in and going out of underground operatives at the hospital was a daily occurrence. The location of the hospital, being much out of the way, however, was an advantage.

At the Cosmopolitan Mother Stagg was as much in the risky underground as her two colleagues, if not more. She kept arms in the premises. It is said that in view of the daring activities of the three women, the flickering light of democracy was burning only at the Emmanuel Hospital and in the church.

* * *

Intensifying Guerrilla Activities: Confessor Letter

Such a fervent spirit was contagious and the three women kept it spreading like particles of yeast. They won people to the resistance movement and had them contribute to the cause in varying amounts in cash or in kind. There was one Co Ban Ho, an alien who through the appeals of Mother Stagg gave to the guerrillas P85,000 in cash. For the act Co paid for his life as did the rest.

Days, weeks and months did not go fleeting by but dragged on in tedious slackened pace. And suffering under the heels of Japanese tyranny, the Filipinos grew restive. The cruel occupation troops, on the other hand, understood the meaning and moved to check the upsurge of patriotism which was as evident in Manila as it was in the provinces although less violent. Daily raids brought brutalities, and arrests filled Fort Santiago and other prison compounds.

Several times in 1943 the Emmanuel Hospital was raided and searched, resulting in the arrest of some boys and punishment of the women. But no amount of punishments and threats discouraged the women who were already as much a part of the movement as the guerrillas and leaders ambushing the enemy on the highways or sniping at them in their garrisons and posts. Their defiance was a constant display of valor. They played with fire, no less. And their intensifying activities were manifested in the mounting contributions they collected and passed on to the forces of different guerrilla bands. They soon had contacts with the Ilocos, Visayas and probably Mindanao. Even copies of the famous and classic Confessor letter had been reproduced by them and circulated.

* * *

The Arrest and Imprisonment

In one raid in which the Japanese Kempei-tai searched the hospital premises, list of guerrillas that included their names were captured. So was propaganda literature.

Suddenly on January 28, 1944, at breakfast time

Mother Stagg, Sam Boyd and Agustin Ortega, a dormitory boy, were arrested at the parsonage at 450 Taft Avenue. On that same day a mass arrest of suspects was made in which Juan Elizalde, Enrico Pirovano and Jose Ozamiz were among the prominent ones. Some 120 suspects were herded into Fort Santiago that day.

The following February 4 another mass arrest was made. This time Dr. Darby, Miss Wilk, Miss Abaya, Tito Dans and many other Cosmopolitan Student Church members were included. They were taken forcibly before dawn. The charges against each and everyone were: supporting guerrillas, spreading pro-American and anti-Japanese propaganda, membership in a huge espionage ring allegedly headed by a colonel who, according to the *Tribune* of July 11, 1944, was head of the U. S. Army military intelligence service before the outbreak of the war but was able to leave for the United States shortly before Pearl Harbor. This officer referred to was probably Lieut.-Col. Evans, and the Japanese claimed that he was sent back to the Philippines in 1943 in a submarine.

Of Mother Stagg it was also charged that she sheltered two Chinese wanted by the Jap Kempei—Mr. Go Puan Seng and myself—and our families. Mother Stagg saw to it that those wanted were moved from one family to another among members of the Cosmopolitan church.

Needless to describe, the brutal tortures the missionaries received at Fort Santiago did not make them reveal names of guerrillas or others who supported the movement in whatever manner. Unbroken in spirit, they were never seen to grieve or repent. They were almost continuously in prayer and, although conversations were prohibited, the women missionaries comforted their cellmates and preached to them the gospel of Christ.

In their common sufferings resulting from cell congestion, meager food, insanitary conditions, beatings, and many other causes, Mother Stagg, Dr. Darby and Miss Wilk ministered unto the rest. Mother Stagg, herself quite sickly, forgot her own ailments and did whatever she could, such as massaging the aching limbs, back and bodies of her suffering fellow women prisoners. It was as though only her will kept her from breaking down.

* * *

At Peace With God

Of souls saved they certainly had many during their confinement at Fort Santiago and at the Old Bilibid prison. Miss Carmen Chang, a Chinese teacher and of Buddhist religion, was very close to Miss Wilk, and she soon was repeating from memory Psalm 23 and praying as she learned from the missionaries who became angels, no less.

Mother Stagg used to express her sincere wish that she could own the guilt of men and women guerrillas who had been continually brought to Fort Santiago.

"It is better for me to be here in prison than for others as I have already undergone the severe punishments," she used to comment. She was so brave, so Christlike in her readiness to suffer and die for others.

"If I see these boys being tortured," Miss Wilk, too, had said, "I feel like sinking down, and I am glad I have



HOMAGE TO FT. SANTIAGO HEROES.—This is a scene inside Fort Santiago on National Heroes' Day last year during the celebration sponsored by the Philippine Ex-Political Prisoners Association. Thousands upon thousands attended the ceremonies where prominent national figures, including Gil Puyat, Minister Thomas H. Lockett, Judge Antonio Quirino and others, delivered stirring speeches in memory of the heroes who suffered death and torture at the hands of the Japanese during the enemy occupation.

shared the sufferings they have gone through. If they (the Japanese) kill me because I have helped the Americans and Filipino boys, I am going to heaven."

Dr. Darby had spoken in the same vein. "I am unrepentant," Miss Abaya quoted her as saying: "I am content in whatever situation I am in. I have peace with God."

As Miss Abaya well remembers, on May 13, 1944, the first group of the bunch arrested the previous January

and early February, possibly belonging to the guerrilla group, was removed to the City Jail at Bilibid. In this group Miss Abaya remembers Miss Wilk, Mrs. Blanche Jurika, a former patient at the Emmanuel Hospital, and among those arrested, Cirilo Perez, Ozamiz, Elizalde and others. They were about 30 in number.

The second group left May 15 and included another 30 of whom were Dr. Darby, two Catholic Sisters, Mrs.

(Continued on page 77)

WAR CLAIMS COMMISSION

(Continued from page 34)

expected to carry the brunt of defense in case of an attack. Many American citizens were captured and interned by the enemy in other parts of the world after they had been warned repeatedly to come home, but who elected to stay in the trouble zones for various reasons. The claims of the latter class will be studied by the Commission.

Claims of another type of beneficiary coming under the War Claims Act will be administered by the Federal Security Agency. These claims come from American citizens, who were working for contractors with the United States on Pacific Bases, who were caught by the enemy and imprisoned. They have already been compensated for part of their wages under an older law, but many will receive more under the War Claims Act.

The Federal Security Agency will also pay disability and death benefits to certain American citizens internees. Maximum payment for either death or disability is \$108.33 a month, with limit of \$7,500 in any one case.

The War Claims Commission will handle all "detention benefits" for internees. Under the Act, American citizens will receive \$60 a month for each month of their internment. (\$25 if under 18 years old during internment). The act further provides that all military personnel who were prisoners and did not receive food of the standard set by the 1929 Geneva Convention are entitled to \$1.00 for each day on which the food provided was inadequate as to quantity or quality.

Estimates furnished to the Commission show that close to 130,000 persons in the Prisoner of War class will come under the Act. Estimates also show that the number of internees who will benefit it around 6,000.

Budget Bureau estimates show that an average of \$413 will be paid to ex-prisoners with the maximum payment around \$1,300. Maximum payments to internees for detention will be around \$2,700. Religious organizations, it is estimated, will receive in the neighborhood of from one and one-half to two million dollars for food

furnished and help given internees and POWs.

The money used to pay the claims and to administer the Commission will not come out of the taxpayer's pocket. The War Claims Fund is made up of money confiscated by the U. S. Government from enemy aliens after Pearl Harbor. It is interesting to note that enemy nations and their citizens are paying from their own funds for their wartime violations of international law.

Mr. CAVALCANTE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce: To extend certain benefits under the War Claims Act of 1948 to specified civilian Philippine citizens.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Philippine Internees Act of 1949".

SEC. 2. The benefits granted to civilian American citizens by and in section 5 of Public Law 896, Eightieth Congress, chapter 826, second session, subject to the exceptions provided in subsection (a) thereof, are hereby extended to civilian Filipino citizens who for any period of time subsequent to December 6, 1941, were held by the Japanese Government as prisoners, internees, hostages, or in any other capacity for activities against the Japanese Government and in aid to the American Government and its armed forces.

SEC. 3. That the War Claims Commission provided for in section 2 of Public Law 896, Eightieth Congress, chapter 826, second session, shall continue to function for the purpose of receiving, adjudicating, and settling claims under this Act, for a period of not more than three years from after the date when it begins to receive such claims, and may, with the consent of the head of any other department or agency of the Government, utilize the facilities and services of such department or agency in carrying out its functions under this Act.

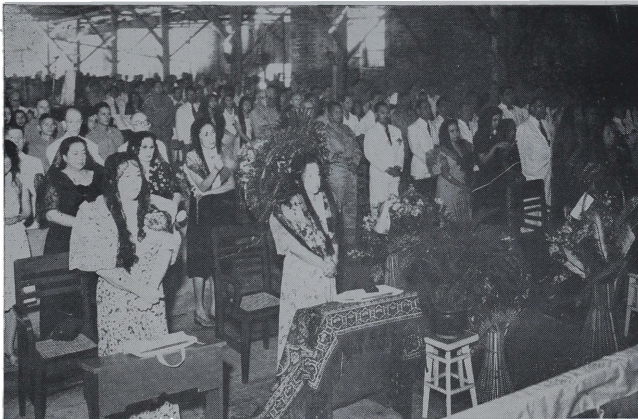
SEC. 4. There is hereby appropriated from the general funds of the United States Government the sum of P... to carry out the provisions of this Act.

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Part of the National Heroes' Day crowds at Fort Santiago on November 30, 1946. The then Vice President Elpidio Quirino was the principal speaker at a special program honoring those Filipinos who were interned by the Japanese inside the fort.



This is a scene during mass held at the Plaza Santa Cruz church in Manila in the morning of November 30, 1946, with the then Vice-President Elpidio Quirino and Mrs. Aurora A. Quizon as the guests of honor.

T/5 OLSON: G. I.

By MANUEL E. BUENAFE

WHILE fighting in the Cagayan Valley, we were subjected to all sorts of discrimination by the American outfit we were attached to. It ranged all the way from food to doing dangerous patrol work.

In the beginning, the discrimination was not so marked or was at least camouflaged with some apparent attempt to be fair. But then there was still so much fighting and dying to do. As gradually the Japs were being pushed deeper into the unexplored Sierra Madre mountain range and there was not very much bloody fighting to be done any more you could perceptibly notice the change in American attitude towards the Filipino soldiers.

Our unit was in a way luckier than many other Filipino units. While attached to the American outfit, we enjoyed some measure of autonomy. We were given a sector all to ourselves to operate in, definite objectives to attain, and we ran our unit as pleased us. So even if we had to sleep in pup tents, we did not experience the humiliation of seeing Americans sleep in well-built tents, with cots, mosquito bars, and flooring beneath them. Or eat C rations while the aroma of hot coffee and toasted bread emanated from the kitchen just a few yards away. We experienced humiliations only when we were together with American troops, so I vigorously fought for a separate bivouac area and autonomy in the administration of our outfit.

But even then one could not escape the white man's superiority and the corollary of discrimination by the American outfit we were attached to. For instance, in the matter of transportation, we managed to get it only in very necessary cases. Being too proud to frequently beg, we had to be content with two captured Jap trucks and one jitney which were by no means in good running order. So, when I conducted my frequent inspections over a forty-mile front, it was a usual occurrence for us to develop some trouble on the way and sleep on the lonesome road. Yes, indeed, at infrequent intervals, trucks or jeeps would careen by, out one had to sacrifice pride in order to be able to hitchhike. It would seem that American drivers had an aversion for Filipinos sporting officers' insignias. The standard procedure would be for them to slow down and, as our hapless officer would try to get on the truck, step on the gas and give the embarrassed Filipino the Bronx cheer.

After much importuning, I managed to get a good weapons carrier from Regimental. But the S-1 wouldn't trust it to us completely. It had a driver to go along. So, for so many months, I had the satisfaction of feeling that throughout the Cagayan Valley, I was the only Filipino

no commander who had an American driver.

To be sure, I was in a mood to "give it back to him." But he was a shy respectful guy, T/5 Myrle Olson was. I was beginning to suspect that he was picked precisely for his humbleness, but even yet I was not going to be denied my pleasure. I watched for the merest disobedience, but...

It got so that I began to like him instead. Even the rest of the boys got to liking him too. After a week I made him move into my cottage.

And there was an American! If all Americans were like Myrle, there would not be so much bitterness in the hearts of Filipino soldiers, I thought.

I did not notice him break the rules, even for once. He punctuated his statements in the approved manner, with the "sir" so properly spaced and modulated that it warmed the cockles of your heart to hear him say the word. He was on a 24-hour duty with me. If the situation demanded, we would move in the middle of the night. He would put in more than 14 hours of work every day, transporting and hauling supplies, and doing errands for me. And not a word of complaint.

To all the officers and EMs of my command he became a great favorite. When I did not use him, the rest of the boys did. There was no request to be driven around which he refused, unless it were against my wish.

His loyalty was beyond cavil. Upon arriving in camp and he noticed that I was not in yet, he would search for me, even if it took him the whole night. Once he was recalled by his unit, but he asked me to intercede and he stayed. On another occasion I was facing court-martial for having left camp for Manila without prior permission from the American commander. I never felt more proud than when he stood his full height and defended me. He was willing to face court-martial himself, he said.

There were several times when I wished I knew enough of driving in order to be able to replace him at the wheel. I felt I worked him beyond his meed. But it was something I couldn't help. His was the only vehicle in the unit I could use without fear of a breakdown on the way. And his devotion to duty and affection for his truck was such that he wouldn't allow anybody else to drive it. After a long trip, I'd order his relief, but no, he would have to go along, he'd protest. Not that he didn't trust his substitute, he'd explain, but it was his duty to go.

In one particularly long trip, from Tuguegarao to Manila, I felt sorry for him. It was a rush trip. We had to travel day and night, over a rugged and lonely highway just wrested from the Japs and who were still very active

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Scene at the Fort Santiago, ceremonies on November 30, 1946, National Heroes' Day, after the laying of wreaths at the graves of the heroes who died inside the fort during the Japanese occupation. In the picture are the then Vice-President Elpidio Quirino, Mrs. Trinidad Roxas, and Mrs. Aurora A. Quezon.

Part of the crowds that attended the National Heroes' Day ceremonies at Fort Santiago on November 30, 1947, sponsored by the Philippine Ex-Political prisoners' Association, with the then Secretary of the Interior Jose C. Zulueta as guest speaker.



7/5 OLSON: G.I. (Continued from page 40)

in the outlying hills. We would try to catch a man only when we could not help it. After three days, I could see that he had thinned and aged considerably. But he didn't lose his even disposition. Myrle never cussed, and I thought that if he did cuss now, I wouldn't be surprised. But he never did.

The last lap of the journey, going back the Valley, was a straight 14-hour ride. We had a snack at Tarlac and at sundown began climbing the tortuous Baleta Pass zigzags. It was always misty and raining out there, and the road was now particularly dangerous. In parts the mud was up to the hub of the wheel. The slightest error, and the yawning abyss felt awesome in contemplation. Visibility was bad because of the mist that gathered like thick clouds in spots. As we thus wound through the uninhabited pass that was still full of marks of furious battle that had taken place over its 200-kilometer stretch, I felt very lonely. We could have been ambushed at the next bend or fallen into the deep gorge at the next incline and nobody would have known the difference. It was a very lonely way of dying, I thought, and perhaps Myrle have had the same thought. The hoot of an owl or the droop of an overhanging banyan tree contributed to the eeriness of the atmosphere.

After an hour of meditating unwholesome ways of dying, I felt sleepy. I tried to fight off the drowsiness. I was going to bear Myrle company through. But somehow I couldn't stand it any longer. I apologized to Myrle and climbed into the truck. Hardly was I settled on the floor of the truck when it began to storm. The wind howled and the rain poured as we raced through. Myrle hunched on his wheel for better visibility. We were getting wet, and the wind was biting on the flesh. Sleep, however, overpowered physical discomfort and soon I was asleep. Come to think of it, I wondered what thoughts raced through the kid's mind as he drove through a regular storm in a tropical jungle that was yet none-too-safe from Jap snipers.

We arrived a little after two at dawn. Now I thought we could rest as long as we wanted. I would order Myrle confined in quarters for a week as his reward. Sleep was the highest prize he could ever have. But it was not to be. The O.D., his eyes still heavy with sleep, offered an order. I was due in Regimental 70 kilometers away before six in the morning; I couldn't say anything when I passed the paper on to Myrle.

Once, during a respite, we were invited to a dance at the public square of Ilagan town. I chose not to wear any insignia for Myrle's sake. He, on the other hand, put on his two stripes with T under it for the first time. Hair properly parted and combed, in his well-pressed suntan, he looked very handsome indeed.

After having been seated a while, we were approached by two MPs. "I am sorry, guy," one of the MPs said to me, "but this is a ball for Americans. Only Filipino officers allowed." I rose to go. Myrle stood up himself and said, "He is a major. He didn't wear his oak leaf for my sake. We have been invited to this affair." "That

may be true," said the second MP, and added vaguely, "But order is order." "Couldn't you take my word for it?" Myrle countered. "Sorry," said the MPs definitely. Now I could see blood rise in Myrle's face. I was very much embarrassed, but I managed to say, "Okay, Myrle, let's go." Myrle obeyed, but I could see involuntarily. He was silent all the way home, and his lips were pursed and his breathing came in snorts.

Myrle was about 20, of Norwegian ancestry. As we would prepare for bed every night, he would pull out his wallet and take a long look at a picture of his Dad and Mom. He never admitted he was lonely, but one could not help noticing how much a boy he still was.

Myrle couldn't stay with us forever. The 37th Division was moving out, and so was he.

He got his order one afternoon to report back to his unit at 6 in the afternoon. He intimated that perhaps I could do something about the matter. He preferred staying with us rather than going back to his own outfit, which was not going home yet anyway. But I said there wasn't much I could do.

But he didn't go at 6. He said that it might be the last time he would be driving for me, so he said I could have him the whole night. We compromised on 10 o'clock and I asked him to drive me to Ilagan where I was going to bid goodbye to some friends myself since our days in the Cagayan Valley were numbered. I left him with some mutual friends and told him where to pick me up at 10 sharp. His friends immediately arranged a party for him, but it was so slow getting started that at 10 sharp, it had not yet begun.

(Continued on page 75)

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F. Ben Brillantes, secretary general of the Philippine ex-Political Prisoners association and chairman of the PEPPA mission sent to Washington, to obtain amendments to the War Claims Act of 1948, speaking before the annual convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the District (Washington) last June.

THE PEPPA IN RETROSPECT

By *Milagros A. Romulo*

Sometime towards the end of 1946 a group of former underground men and women, most of whom were tortured by the Japs in Fort Santiago, got together to exchange reminiscences of their experiences as political prisoners. In the course of the conversations an idea came into their minds to form a permanent organization among themselves, an organization which would forever band them together. Thus was born the Philippine Ex-Political Prisoners' Association.

In the organizational meeting that followed, Col. Salvador Rillo, one of the moving spirits behind the plan, was elected first president of the PEPPA. F. Ben Brillantes was elected permanent executive secretary. In November of the same year, the organization was launched with Mr. Brillantes doing most of the organizational job.

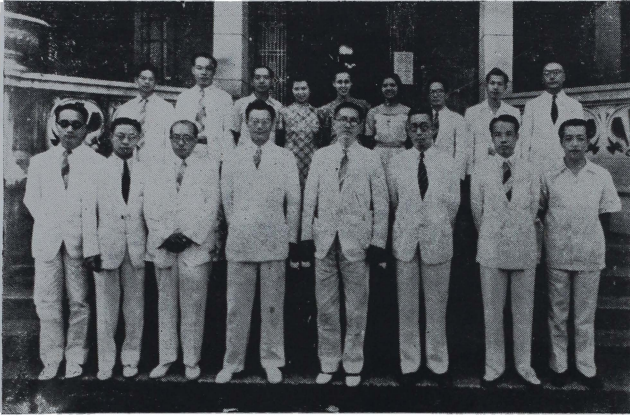
Three years after its formation, the PEPPA has enrolled a total of around 30,000 members living in all parts of the country and coming from different national stocks but all former victims of Japanese persecution and oppression for the cause of democracy. Chapters of the organization are found in every province and chartered city.

These local chapters render reports to the secretariat about their individual members and the central organization, whenever possible, has rendered assistance to every local unit and its individual members.

Perhaps most noteworthy accomplishment of the PEPPA for its 30,000 members was the introduction of the Cavalcante Bill before the House of Representatives of the U.S. This measure, sponsored by Rep. Anthony Cavalcante, (D-Pennsylvania) during the early part of the last session, would extend the same benefits to former political prisoners in the Philippines as those granted to American internees.

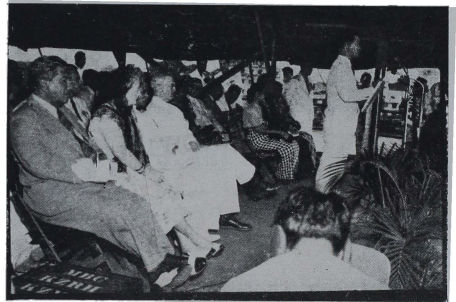
It was a signal triumph for the association which sent a mission headed by Mr. Brillantes to Washington for the purpose. He was assisted by Mr. Jose Labrador, of Honolulu and Fr. Jaime S. Neri, of New York, both of whom were tortured in Fort Santiago and Muntinlupa. Unfortunately, because of pressing domestic and foreign problems confronting the U.S. Congress at the time, consideration of the Cavalcante measure was postponed for the coming

(Continued on page 55)



These were the officials of the Chinese consulate in Manila at the outbreak of the war who were executed by the Japanese. Fourth from the left, front row, is Consul General Clarence Kwangson Young, and third from right, is Vice Consul K. Y. Mok.

In last year's celebration of National Heroes' Day at Fort Santiago, Gil J. Puyat, former president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and a member of the association, is seen giving the opening address. It was attended by the biggest group ever to assemble at the Fort. In the photo at the right, may be seen Mr. Puyat, and among those in the platform, are Mayor de la Fuente of Manila, Judge Antonio Quirino, president of the PEPPA, Minister Lockett, Charge de Affaires of the American Embassy, who was principal speaker, Mrs. Asuncion A. Perez, Mrs. Eugenio Perez, NBI Chief Joaquin Pardo de Tavera and many diplomatic representatives.



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CHINA'S NOBLE HEROES IN THE PHILIPPINES


By ILDEFONSO T. RUNES

AT the Manila North Cemetery there stands obelisk-like a monument dedicated to the sacred memory of Chinese heroes and martyrs who died in the Philippines during the occupation from the hands of the cruel Japanese invaders. For 10,000 Chinese, more or less, paid with their lives for the courage they had shown in defense of their mother country which, before the treacherous attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese, was already at war against Japan for four years. In fact, the undeclared war of aggression waged by Japan on China started in earnest in 1931 with the seizure of Manchuria.

Resisting aggression, the Chinese fought a long war of attrition, enlisting the sympathy of other peoples who saw in Japan's acts a deliberate, though fantastic, attempt to dominate the world. The Filipinos readily and wholeheartedly supported the Chinese people and with those in the Philippines they cooperated in the economic boycott of Japan and showed their sympathies through the organization of the Friends of China, the League for the Defense of Democracy, the Chinese Industrial Cooperatives (Philippine chapter) and similar localized groups of mixed

membership. The leaders of the anti-Japanese groups of Chinese were before Pearl Harbor very open; during the Japanese occupation of the Philippines they went underground but not with less fervor.

With the occupation of the Philippines, the Japanese made arrests by the thousands, the largest numbers of which were Filipinos, Americans and Chinese. All the prominent Chinese were thrown into Fort Santiago and other concentration camps and jails. Their properties were confiscated, and only a few escaped severe punishment. Those who went underground either cooperating with Filipinos and Americans, or operating independently by themselves, started the guerrilla resistance almost simultaneously with the Filipinos. Among the most prominent groups were the Chinese Oversea Wartime Hsuehkan Militia (COWHM), Philippine Chinese Youth Wartime Special Service Corps, Philippine Chinese Volunteers, Philippine Chinese Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Force (WAH-Chi), Philippine Chinese Anti-Japanese and Anti-Collaborators League, Philippine Chinese Pek-kek Guerrilla Force (Pek-kek), Philippine Chinese Anti-Japanese Volunteers and



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others. The Committee of Boycott Movement Against Japan, which was a prewar organization, also went underground, although many of the leaders, most of whom were prominent Chinese, were immediately placed under arrest upon the entry of the Japs in Manila. Nobody was spared, including Don Alfonso Z. Sycip, president of the Philippine Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, who was then sick. Yu Khe Thai, the head of the Yutivo interests, was almost executed by the Japanese Kempei-tai.

The entire Consulate-General staff was in prison, except one of the ranking officials who was able to hide. This group, arrested immediately upon the entry of the Japs in Manila, was headed by the late Dr. Kwangson C. Young. Most of them were very popular in political and social circles in Manila, having been here for years. For stoutly refusing to collaborate with the enemy they were executed on April 17, 1942, quite too early for the atrocities.

Those who were executed were: Dr. Kwangson C. Young, 42, consul general, a Ph.D. man from Princeton. He held important posts under his government before assignment in the Philippines and was a writer and editor of note. He had been a member of the Chinese delegation to the League of Nations and also the Chinese delegation to the Washington Naval Conference in 1933. His wife and three children were, however, saved.

Ranking second was Consul K. Y. Mok, 52, who had a very wide circle of friends, especially among the Filipinos. He resided for ten years in the Philippines before his death. Surviving are his widow and two children who are all in the United States.

Third in the list of Chinese patriots in the order of their ranks was Consul P. K. Chu who was killed for declaring firmly against the Japanese occupying the Philippines then. Aged 65 years at the time of his death, he resided for three years in the Philippines. Surviving him are his wife and five children whose last address was Nanking, China.

The fourth was M. T. Siao, deputy consul at Manila, a young man of 35 years of age. Also executed on April 17, 1942, he saw service in the Islands for four years.

The other victims of the Japanese among the consulate staff were T. S. Yao, deputy consul; C. S. Yeung, deputy consul; Y. S. Loo, chancellor and K. W. Wang, student consul. All these patriots refused to turn their backs on their flag and were killed mercilessly.

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On April 15, 1942, or two days before the murder of the Consulate-General staff, many prominent Manila Chinese paid the supreme penalty—death—for their patriotism. Their execution, the first mass killing of Chinese made by the cruel Kempei-tai, was intended to intimidate the Chinese into collaborating with the Japanese. They refused. Among those were: Chua Pay Kiong, Lee Lian Tiao, Sy Kao Kee, Tan Bok Teng, Go Kiu Lu and Uy Liam Pah, all of the Committee of Boycott Movement Against Japanese Goods before the war.

Yu Yec Tong, publisher and general manager of the *Chinese Commercial News*, a Chinese language daily in Manila, and Gan Bon Cho, principal of the Anglo-Chinese School in the City, were also in the mass execution. Chua Kip See of the Standing Committee of the Organization for the Support of the Chinese Resistance War, Batangas Branch, was also killed the following year by the Japanese after he had been tortured and kept long in prison.

Many provincial Chinese who were active in the anti-Japanese movement in the Philippines before the outbreak of the Pacific War were also executed, but their number is so big they cannot be accommodated in this article. Sufficient to say their patriotism was nonetheless praiseworthy than the rest because it was likely that they had greater freedom in their anti-Japanese propaganda and other activities than those in Manila.

While thousands upon thousands of Chinese contributed to the support of the underground movement, either in money or in kind, to Chinese or Filipino resistance groups,

there were those who gave heavily to the cause. Some of those who gave were arrested and tortured and not a few were killed. Out of the large number of heavy contributors was a certain Co Ban Ho, who, in response to the appeals of the late Mrs. Mary Boyd Stagg, minister of the Cosmopolitan Student Church, gave P85,000 in genuine cash to the guerrillas. Co was himself executed.

* * *

The mass executions of prominent Chinese residents in the Philippines did not frighten the Chinese, although it must be admitted that there were many among them who, in order to easily amass fortunes, collaborated with the enemy. Many also served as spies for the Japanese, pointing to those who were engaged in guerrilla activities among their countrymen or who contributed to the support of underground forces. Yet, as was mentioned above, there were also underground groups among the Chinese who went after the collaborators and did not hesitate to "liquidate" them when the opportunity presented itself. They did this in Manila, in Iloilo, Cebu and Mindanao because, as it was among the Filipinos, there were also many Chinese who took advantage of the war and the misery of the people to make plenty of money with the consent, if not aid, of the Japanese.

On the other hand, with the advance of the period of the occupation coupled by the ferocity of the Japanese garrison who were getting jittery upon receiving reports of the continuous reverses of their troops elsewhere from the hands of the liberation forces of General Douglas MacArthur, several Chinese guerrilla units proved their de-

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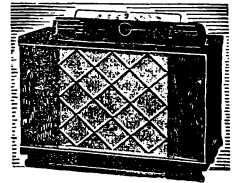
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votion to the cause of democracy and their determination to crush Japanese militarism and imperialism through their unusual courage and bravery upon the arrival of the Americans in Luzon. And when the bloody, if not crucial battle for Manila, particularly the liberation of Intramuros, came, they even preceded the regular troops of General MacArthur, an act which cost them heavy casualties. Cited for their bravery and recognized for their services, the WAH-Chi guerrillas, in particular, were known to have brought honor to the Chinese nationals in the Philippines who had fought side by side with the Filipinos not only during the battle for liberation but also in the darkest days of the occupation when the Japanese troops grew oppressive and cruel.

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HISTORY OF FORT SANTIAGO

For more than 400 years and under the flags of five nations, Fort Santiago has occupied a prominent place in the history of Manila. It is still one of the most interesting spots in the city. In world history it has been to Manila what the Bastille was to oldtime France, the Tower to London, and Morro Castle to Havana, and like all such famous fortresses it has been the subject of many weird and often terrifying tales of brutality and hatred.

In May 1945, the fort was occupied by the United States Army Transportation Corps and was designated T.C. General Depot. This organization has cleared away the debris from the fort and has laid to rest with military honors hundreds of bodies of Filipinos which were found after their brutal massacre by the Japanese. The walls are being repaired and shrubs and trees are being planted with the approval and cooperation of the Philippine Republic in an effort to rehabilitate the area and hide the scars of the war.

The cell where Jose Rizal spent his last night before his execution by the Spanish has been restored and a bronze tablet in his honor erected on the walls of the cell.

The American forces withdrew from the fort in March 1949 when the lease from the Philippine Republic expired.

The history of this spot began in 1480, when a strongly palisaded earthwork was built by the grandfather of Rajah Soliman, who appreciated the strategic value of the position at the mouth of the Pasig River, capable of controlling the shipping traffic of Manila Bay.

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This crude fort with its 12 bronze cannons enabled Soliman to rule and consolidate the fierce tribes until 1570, when an expedition from the Spanish settlement on the southern island of Cebu under the command of Martin de Goiti and Juan de Salcedo, captured the fort and sacked the city. Then on May 19, 1571, Miguel Lopez de Legaspi, first governor-general of the Philippines, founded the city of Manila and work was begun to strengthen the walls of the fort.

Santiago de Vera, the sixth governor-general, arrived in 1581 and realizing the need of far more stable protection, cleared the ground of all the original palisades and laid the first stones of the fort that bears his name. These stones are still in the walls.

In 1762, sixteen British warships with a force of nearly 7,000 men sailed into Manila Bay and laid siege to Fort Santiago. The Archbishop of Manila, as acting governor, after a token defense surrendered the city to the British admiral in October of 1762. The British forces pillaged the city and partially dismantled the fort during their year and one-half of occupation. The natives had

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been so cruelly treated during this time that they had scattered to the interior and it was not until 1778 that sufficient laborers were induced to return and reconstruction began.

On May 1, 1898, Admiral Dewey destroyed the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay and on August 13 of the same year, the city of Manila and the fort were peacefully surrendered to the American forces under General Wesley Merritt.

During the Americans the moat, which had completely encircled the walls, was filled and transformed into a sunken garden, and trees and shrubs were planted and neatly trimmed. Many of the old cannons, roundshot and other historical equipment were carefully preserved for their ornamental value.

The Japanese flag was raised over Fort Santiago on January 3, 1942, and the military police along with the dreaded Kempei-tai, or secret police, quickly packed the dungeons and cells solid with prisoners.

The number of people murdered by the brutality of the Japanese within the walls of Fort Santiago cannot be calculated. Hundreds of bodies, decomposed beyond recognition, were burned when the American forces rec-

aptured the fort. Survivors of the treatment for political prisoners at the fort by the Japanese are in the minority, as their fate was sealed before entering.

Months after the war had ceased, bodies were still being removed from the rubble and debris of the once beautiful grounds. On November 30, 1946, National Heroes' Day, a national monument was erected inside the fort, above the burial ground of some 700 unidentified bodies of Filipinos who died as a result of Japanese treatment in the fort.

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This message is specially dedicated to our living Com-

rades-in-Arms and in the Resistance.

You have done so much for the Cause and in the realization of our cherished Freedom and yet so far you have received so little or practically nothing in return. It breaks our peace to see you neglected so. But it makes us still sadder when you bewail your misfortune. Of course, in a practical sense, you have every right to ask for the reward that you justly deserve. It will help keep your body and soul together during these difficult times. Even we, the Dead, expect a little token of appreciation from those that ought to remember.

You know full well that we fought in the last war not for any material considerations. We would have resisted the Japanese invaders even without the Americans just as our fathers fought the Americans despite their avowed good intentions.

Why then the dissolutionments? Remember that there is such a thing as Conscience. You have done your duty well. That is enough to make you happy and proud.

If you were able to survive the devastating barrages and bursting shells that blasted hundreds of us into oblivion; if you were able to escape the vindictive brutality of the Bushidos whose slashing swords fell on countless

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heads among us—there is really no reason why you cannot fight through and win against the spectre of despair that constantly haunt you—the disappointment over unfulfilled promises and the indifference of your fellowmen. Be thankful that you are alive with the chances of making good in the future while we rot and remain in our graves—unknown and forgotten.

You need not walk dejectedly along your lonely way with your head hanging low, like a beaten, miserable creature—always looking for something that cannot be found by wishful thinking.

Brace up, man. You can afford to lose a war for there is always a chance of fighting anew but you must not take the risk of losing your self-respect and dignity. Think of yourself as a man first and last and as a soldier always—fighting an uphill battle in your life and never saying die!

It is unfortunate that many of you lost your arms, your legs, your sights which make it difficult for you to shift for yourselves—so it is with our families who relied upon us as their sole support and protection. Now that we are gone, they are left out in the cold—helplessly struggling for their very existence.

Yet, we, the Dead, brook no reproach to those who let us down—knowing that what man cannot give, God will provide and God's Justice will triumph in the end.

Keep up the good old spirit. Do not fail us in our trust and faith in you. Good Luck and Farewell...! The last time we were together, we did not have the chance to say good-bye—Death was too quick for that.

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Biographical Sketches of the War Claims Commissioners

MRS. GEORGIA LUSK

The War Claims Commission's only woman member is Mrs. Georgia Lusk, former U. S. Representative to Congress from New Mexico.

Born in Carlsbad, not far from the famous caverns, she was one of four children of George W. and Mary Gilreath Witt. Her father, an architect, contractor and rancher, had moved to New Mexico from Missouri prior to Georgia's birth.

The youngster grew up on her father's ranch; learned to ride almost as soon as she could walk. She attended the local public schools, the State Teachers College, Silver City, and the Colorado State Teachers College, Greeley, taking a post-graduate course at the latter.

Her first teaching job—at 19—was in one of the rural schools near Carlsbad. She not only taught the lower grades but the junior and senior high school subjects as well. Her marriage to Dolph Lusk, New Mexican cattleman and banker, temporarily ended her teaching career.

The Lusks had three sons, Virgil, Dolph, Jr. and Eugene. Mr. Lusk died at the age of 37 leaving his young widow to bring up their three boys. It was only after she had been driving them daily from their ranch to school that Mrs. Lusk decided she might as well teach again. In 1924, she became County Superintendent of Public Schools, serving four years only due to a statute limitation. In 1931, she was elected State Superintendent of Public Instruction—to again serve four years.

In the meantime, Mrs. Lusk had been taking an active part in civic affairs. She was a member of the Parent-Teachers Association and served on the Governor's Economic Committee, a body

designed to develop additional revenue for the public schools, in 1941-1942.

When the United States declared war on Germany, the three Lusk boys enlisted in the Air Force. All were commissioned. Captain Virgil Lusk was killed in 1943 in the North African Campaign. His brothers returned safely and today Dolph, Jr. is a banker and rancher, while Eugene is an attorney in Carlsbad.

It was during the war-time absence of her sons that Mrs. Lusk again turned to her first love—the public schools. She again served four years as State Superintendent. At the same time, she managed her own cattle ranch near Carlsbad and other ranch properties.

In 1946, Mrs. Lusk ran for, and was elected, to Congress from the State-at-Large (they have no Congressional Districts in New Mexico) and for the next two years served in the House of Representatives. During this time, she was a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, a post which awakened her interest in legislation for special needs of veterans. She also introduced legislation to provide for a 100 percent disability for all prisoners of war of the Japanese over a ten-year period with special provisions for periodical medical examinations. Not only has she been particularly interested in veterans' claims as set up under the War Claims Commission Act—Public Law 896—but the Act itself can almost be said to be her baby. One reason for her interest is that the New Mexico National Guard, which was sent to the Philippines before the war, suffered greatly as prisoners at the hands of the Japanese.

(Continued on page 63)

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Peppa in Retrospect

(Continued from page 43)

session. But in the words of the author and the Philippines' able and influential Ambassador Elizalde, the introduction of the bill was a signal achievement in itself.

It might also be mentioned that the organization has sponsored patriotic movements in line with its policy to keep the fires of democracy forever burning. One such movement was the campaign last year to boycott Japanese goods coming to the Philippines, this in spite of some government officials' insistence to allow the entry of cheap goods manufactured by the same hands that tortured and sent to death countless Filipinos. The move was the first of its kind launched after the war. In a circular to its members, the PEPPA urged complete boycott of Jap goods, asserting that every centavo sent to Japan through the purchase of her goods would contribute to the reconstruction of a more powerful nation that might again subject the Philippines and other peace-loving countries to ruthless domination.

However the first signal accomplishment of the association came shortly after its organization in 1946. Early in November of that year, its executive secretary requested Major General George F. Moore, then command-

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ing general of AFWESPAC, to declare an open house at Fort Santiago to enable the members, the families and friends of those who were tortured and killed there as well as the general public a chance to visit this historic area. The request was granted despite the fact that the fort was at that time still a restricted military area.

The open house was held to coincide with National Heroes Day, November 30. On that day the PEPPA members honored their dead comrades with a special mass offering at the Sta. Cruz church. The late Mrs. Aurora Aragon Quezon, widow of the beloved Philippine President, was guest of honor, and the then Vice-President Elpidio Quirino as principal speaker. Among those whose memories were honored during the occasion were the late Justice Jose Abad Santos, Wenceslao Q. Vinzons, Generals Lim, Segundo and de Jesus, Colonels Nakar, Baja and Ramirez, Juan Elizalde, Ramon de Santos, the Escoda couple, Antonio Bautista, Consul General Clarence Kwangson Young, Jose Araneta, Liling Roces, General Guy O. Fort, Col. Charles Thorpe, Col. Hugh Straughm, Capt. Joseph Barker, and many others.

At the special program which was a feature of the Fort Santiago open house, Mrs. Trinidad de Leon-Roxas, wife of the then President Roxas, delivered a touching tribute to the war dead. Said she in part:

"Most of the greatness that Fort Santiago has witnessed now lies buried in its dust. The heroic defiance

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against oppression, the steadfast devotion to the cause of liberty, the brave submission to brutality, most of it is yet unwritten.

"Our liberation had been complete. With the death of a city has come the death of the oppression for which Fort Santiago stood. With the resurrection of our country must be linked the memory of patriotism that is linked with Fort Santiago. With the coming back to life of freedom must come to life the heroism that caused such cruel death, so a country may live."

With that first National Heroes Day program under the auspices of the PEPPA, a yearly pilgrimage to Fort Santiago by the members was inaugurated. In the 1947 ceremonies the organization had as guest of honor the then Secretary of the Interior Jose C. Zulueta. Among those who took part in the program were Col. Rillo, Rev. Fr. William Masterson, Atty. Leonardo G. Marquez, Col. Alejandro T. Santos, PEPPA Vice President Asuncion A. Perez, Minister Chen Chih-ping, Mrs. Raymunda Guidote-Avila, Mrs. Pilar Hidalgo Lim, Secretary F. B. Brillantes and students of the Centro Escolar University.

Secretary Zulueta in his address paid tribute to the Filipinos who lost their lives in the hands of the Japanese. "Every man and woman who perished or suffered here at the hands of the ruthless invaders was a guarantee that in every crisis that shall befall us as a people, there will always be scores who will gladly die, if need be, to

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preserve the ideals for which Rizal, Lopez Jaena, Bonifacio, Mabini, Quezon and others died," the Secretary said.

Last year's program on the same occasion was featured by a memorial address by Minister Thomas H. Lockett, former charge D'affaires of the U.S. embassy in the Philippines. Other speakers were Judge Antonio Quirino, PEPPA president and Mr. Gil Puyat, a ranking member of the organization who acted as master of ceremonies. The invocation during the ceremonies was pronounced by Bishop Rufino Santos while floral offerings were made by war widows with Mesdames Lockett, Consuelo Salazar-Perez, Asuncion Perez and Paz Ramirez assisting.

President Elpidio Quirino, in his special message on the occasion said in part:

"We do well to remember our heroic dead and ponder their contribution to the freedom and well-being of our country to the end that we may make ourselves worthy of the heritage they have left us.

"Enriched by this tradition, we can have the faith and the courage to meet the problems of our time and are confident that the generations to succeed us will have the power to use properly the opportunities of their own day to protect and enhance the welfare of our country."

It is also noteworthy to mention that in 1947 the PEPPA designated Mr. Gil Puyat, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce, as its special envoy to Washington to work for the amendment of the bill presented by Rep. Emory Price of Florida, granting an indemnity

of ten dollars a day for each day of imprisonment to all citizens of the United States incarcerated by the Japanese in the Philippines. Mr. Puyat's contacts in Washington did much to pave the way for the introduction later of the Cavalcante measure.

The organization has been recognized as an important entity by General Douglas MacArthur himself. Last year he sent the following message to the members:

"The record of Fort Santiago under enemy control as with other notorious concentration camps of both Europe and Asia, depicts in stark detail the depravity of which mankind is capable in modern war, where civilization's carefully devised controls upon human conduct are swept away before the mad thirst for dominion and conquest and power...

"Let us reflect upon those gallant men and women who survived this ordeal of terror and those who died. Let us reflect upon this lesson that modern and future war involves not repeat alone the destruction of populations and cities and great temples of human progress, but the obliteration as well of the moral and spiritual fiber upon which the progress of civilization through the centuries has rested... From such reflection it is for us, the living, who viewed these things, humbly to petition God to grant that his curse against humanity called war, with its involvement of peoples and races and nations and continents, may never again be visited upon the earth."

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By LUIS M. ENRIQUEZ

WE had "won" the war before the end of 1942! The Philippines had been regained after a few months of furious American counter-offensive, that is, by the grace of that rumor purveyor, that source of information which deluded civilians and sent them scurrying away to the hills for safety when they should have been better at home, or breathed a sense of security into them in the midst of extreme danger—"Radio Puwak," variously called "Radio Cochero," which everyone who went through the hellish four years of Japanese occupation knows.

Early in January, 1942, news was spread all over this region that seventy American cruisers had arrived in Philippine waters, convoying several aircraft carriers with thousands of fighting planes and hundreds of flying fortresses. Who could doubt the authenticity of the news? A prominent optometrist of the locality had heard it from a well-known lawyer, who in turn had gotten it directly from the captain of the ship that had reached Capiz port after eluding the cordon of enemy submarines between Manila and the Visayas. Yes, the aid for which people had prayed, had come.

The joy of the people knew no bounds. They told one another, "Where will the Japs go now? In a few

months they will bend their knees before American might." Meanwhile, we relaxed in our nightly vigils over home and fireside and in keeping up with the regimen of economy in food. I guess many a man, particularly if he was a volunteer guard, who had heard the news of the arrival of American aid, woke up his family that night to tell them of the glad tidings. "Come on," he must have said, "cook as much rice as you want—and no *lugaw* for me—and

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take out all the salted pork. War will soon be over just as I told you."

During the first few days of war it was hard for people to learn the lessons taught by false alarm, for at noon on December 18 of that fateful year an echelon of fifty-four planes flew over Panay skies, first northward and then southward a few minutes later. People left their dining tables to look up and cheer, "Here they come—American planes!" We remember that the second time the squadron passed over, one plane separated from the rest, flew low, and dropped two "eggs," barely missing the long concrete bridge which is the pride of the region. We learned later that the squadron had bombed Iloilo city, set fire to fuel installations, and machinegunned scores of civilians.

Our people clung tenaciously to hope and who could

blame them? It was painful to accept the fact of war. It was hard to believe that American might had taken a licking and that Japan was that strong. Even after the fall of Bataan—it dazed us to hear the bitter truth—we still hoped Corregidor to hold on much longer until America could send the much-talked-of reinforcements which would completely overwhelm the enemy and liberate the Philippines in a glorious spurt of unprecedented might.

After the fall of Corregidor we found citizens discussing the situation. The realists—we refrain from calling them defeatists—believed that all the USAFFE could do was to organize a guerrilla, the last resort of a defeated army. The war would then drag on for years—maybe, ten years or more. Ten years of war when ten weeks of it was too much for us to bear! Incorrigible optimists, on the other hand, analyzed the situation thus: Those were winter months. The flying fortresses could not fly over Japan. Wait until June and we would know of American bombers swarming over enemy cities like innumerable bats.

The famous Doolittle raid on the island empire came later. I heard the news from a guerrilla captain who said that the number of planes shot down was enormous. I had read somewhere that a casualty of more than ten per cent of planes shot down in a raid is considered big.

People intently watched the skies and shores for any hope of American aid. Any strange or unfamiliar sight gave rise to conjectures. A few weeks after the outbreak of war, an American officer from a nearby cadre came to a shore town to verify the rumor that a submarine periscope had been seen in the vicinity. He trained his spy-

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glass on the horizon and waited with bated breath when he saw an object protruding from the water. He did not know that fishermen were laughing behind his back, for what he saw was the point of a stake for a fish corral.

At another time shortly after, a long line of fighting ships was reported sighted off Point Pucio on the north-western tip of Panay. We were assured that they were

Widowed, orphaned and otherwise bereft by the Japanese, a large group of people congregated in front of the mass grave at Fort Santiago on November 30, 1917, to reverse the memory of their beloved dead.

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American ships because of their size and color. A request for confirmation was sent to an airplane landing near the point where the ships were seen. Responsible officials waited in vain for a reply, but meanwhile the news gained wide circulation and gave rise to an orgy of hopefulness.

After this incident and others of like nature, local wags coined a word which stood for frustrated hope: *batel-ship*, a *batel* being a native sailboat that plied between shore towns. Two men came to blows when one seriously insisted that he had seen many *batelships* and could prove it.

Many things were also *sighted*. American planes were *sighted* now and then. *Sighted*, too, was the additional advance pay for government employees and teachers. We *sighted* just around the corner days of normal living with three square meals a day and the full enjoyment of Roosevelt's "four freedoms."

To us in the provinces during the early days of the war every American we saw was a symbol of eventual liberation of the Philippines, more so if he was an army man. One day two bedraggled Americans came by *batel*. One was a native of New Jersey and the other of California as we learned from them. We pelted them with questions about early American aid and they assured us that as far as they knew it would be coming in a few months. The daily mimeographed newsheet which we were then publishing had made a little money, so we played host to the Americans at breakfast. We served them coffee with cream, fruit, bread, rice, and steak—surely a fare fit for a king that time. Their last words to us when they left us for Iloilo that morning were, "See you in Manila in a couple of months. Don't forget to drop in at headquarters."

At another time, after the sinking of the "Legaspi" off Mindoro early in the war, seven American survivors came to town. They still had their Enfield rifles with them. Tall fellows. I attached myself to one and pumped him dry of war news. Yes, the Americans would stage a counter-offensive in a few months and the war would not last beyond 1942.

It is of common knowledge that newsheets, mimeographed or printed, were published in many places over the islands during the occupation. The island of Panay had quite a number. Their chief function was to bolster the morale of the inhabitants and counteract false propaganda

from many quarters. It is true that the newsheets played up favorable news for all it was worth, and played down or suppressed discouraging items. But they did so under the time-honored practice in journalism that it is up to anybody to treat news in his own way as will serve the best interests of his readers.

What dire sense of defeatism would have been engendered in the hearts of the people had they exactly known: America's extreme vulnerability and state of unreadiness? What calamity of morale the people would have suffered had they understood the truth that Bataan was hanging by a flimsy thread even as Radio Philippines blared forth the exploits of Jose Calugas and repeated the cry "Remember Erlinda!"? The little newsheets, many of which were published under very trying conditions, did their part in the war effort.

Our mimeographed daily newsheet, *Kalibo War Bulletin*, was started a few days after December 8, 1941, with ten-centavo contributions from friends. Later on, we were swamped with donations including mimeograph inks, stencils, paper, and petroleum for lights; a mimeograph machine and all radio sets that still worked were placed at our disposal.

The office of publication stayed up until late at night and it became the meeting-place of those who cared for news and wanted to discuss it. The news that Quezon had left the Philippines for Australia divided the staff into two camps, one condemning his flight and the other justifying it. The question almost snuffed out the life of the publica-

(Continued on page 74)

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Biographical Sketches . . .

(Continued from page 54)

COMMISSIONER DANIEL FRANCIS CLEARY

Daniel Francis Cleary, one of the two attorney members of the War Claims Commission, was preparing himself for the job long before he knew there was going to be such a Government agency.

As a senior attorney in the Office of Legislation of the Veterans' Administration. It was Cleary's job to analyze and report on legislative proposals affecting veterans. One of these proposals on which he worked became the War Claims act of 1943, Public Law 896, 80th Congress. As the Chairman of the Commission created by that Act, it will be up to Cleary and his fellow commissioners to determine who is and who is not eligible for the benefits by Public Law 896. The months he spent analyzing the law as it passed through the various stages of the legislative process will prove to be beneficial to him in carrying out his duties.

Cleary was born in Chicago, Illinois, June 4, 1910 and still regards the 7th Ward in the Windy City as home. He attended parochial schools and Loyola Academy, received his Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctor degrees from Loyola University and in 1937 was admitted to the Bar of the State of Illinois. He subsequently was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States and the District of Columbia Courts, including the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. Upon admission to the Illinois Bar in 1937, he became a member of the firm of Garvey, Cleary and Doyle. He remained in the private practice of law until June of 1942 when he entered the Army Air Forces as a first lieutenant.

The thirty-seven months he spent in uniform saw Commissioner Cleary serving in a variety of military assignments. He started his Air Force career as an instructor in Orlando, Florida at the AAF School of Applied Tactics. The courses he taught had to do with airborne control, interception tactics, radio-telephone code and procedure and other subjects quite unrelated to lawyering. The fact that he had worked his way through college and law school

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by putting in 48 hours weekly as night electrician and radio control tower operator at the Chicago Municipal Airport had a lot to do with his being able to instruct in those strictly non-legal subjects. Just as his legislative experience in the Veterans' Administration tied in with his present responsibilities, so did his ten years of airport experience fit in with this first Air Force assignment. He has been a member of Local No. 134, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AF of L, since 1928 and still carries a paid-up card in that union.

He had his turn at being a commanding officer. In Cleary's case, the outfit was a headquarters squadron of nearly 900 officers and enlisted men in Orlando. From this assignment he went to Fort Meade, Md., where he was officer in charge of the Air Force Reception Station unit. From there he went to Mitchel Field, Long Island, New York where, as vocational and educational guidance officer, he established the first separation center in an Air Force hospital. His work at Mitchel Field was primarily with officers and enlisted personnel being separated on account of physical dis-

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ability. Then followed two assignments at the AAF Personnel Distribution Command at Atlantic City, New Jersey. The first of these was as Assistant Chief of the Plans Office, the second as Chief of the Redeployment Branch. Both of these jobs had to do with planning and carrying out the program of transferring Air Forces units from the European Theater to the Pacific.

Commissioner Cleary is a member of the American Legion, National Cathedral Post No. 10, Washington, D. C., Disabled American Veterans, Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter No. 10, American Veterans Committee, Washington Chapter No. 1.

(Continued on page 69)

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WHAT P. I. CHINESE DID FOR DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM

By VICENTE L. DEL FIERRO
Editor, "The Star Reporter"

Written Exclusively for the MANILA GUARDIAN

There is perhaps no foreign group in the Philippines, that has helped more immensely the Allied cause in the Philippines in the last war than the Chinese who, long before the Japanese dastardly attacked Pearl Harbor precipitating the Pacific War, had carried on an unrelenting psychological warfare through their newspapers in Manila, against the sinister designs of Japanese dream of world hegemony.

If a true and comprehensive story of the resistance to totalitarian aggression in the Philippines is ever written in the future, that narrative can not be complete without a chapter or two devoted to the heroic role of the Chinese in the Philippines who not only gave their lives, but also their fortunes, to democracy, the Allied cause, and to human dignity and freedom.

It is a part that is spontaneous and without doubt something that does credit both to the great nation that they represent, and the sublime ideal of democracy and the brotherhood that united the Filipino and the Chinese in this country under the iron heel of the Japanese invaders.

The Chinese in the Philippines had warned of the peril to the rest of Asia of the Japanese dream of World hegemony spearheaded by the now historic China Incident which galvanized the people of old Cathay and solidified them in a determined effort to drive away the puny barbarians of Nippon.

The Chinese, through their civic associations and their newspapers in the Islands, expressed their indignation against the invasion of their motherland by the Japanese, by boycotting Japanese goods in the Philippines and

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Their campaign against Japanese goods was so effective that at the outbreak of the war, there was hardly a Chinese tienda in the Philippines handling Nipponese products. It told heavily on the Japanese economic ascendancy in the Philippines.

The plight of the Chinese in their homeland, meanwhile, under the heel of the Co-prosperity conspirators, was brought home to the Chinese residents in the Philippines by their newspapers, and to the cosmopolitan community as a whole through the English edition of the Fookien Times, and later, the World Telegraph, a daily published by the combined efforts of leading Chinese commercial houses through the Chinese Consulate General, with the late Consul General C. Kuangson Young as the publisher and Consul K. Y. Mok, as the editor.

We had first hand knowledge of all these facts because of our connection with the Fookien Times, which

has survived through the prewar years, wartime, and the Liberation.

In fact, we were part and parcel of the English edition before the war, then of the World Telegraph with Mok and Lim Sian Tek. And even up to this day.

The anti-Japanese feeling among the Chinese, in fact, was much stronger in the hearts of the Chinese than in the hearts of the Filipinos prior to the outbreak of the Pacific War. And this feeling was deeply entrenched because of the psychological warfare under the leadership of Consul General C. Kuangson Young and Consul K. Y. Mok.

In fact, long before the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, both the Chinese Consulate General and the Japanese Consulate General in the Philippines were already carrying on an underground as well as open economic warfare, to the uneasy neutrality of Mr. Quezon's Commonwealth government, which had to put up an official front of complete aloofness on the deadly situation, going even to the extent of warning both sides that the Philippines is a friendly country to both.

Thus, when suddenly, the Chinese and the Filipino people found themselves Allies following the attack on Pearl Harbor, a link was forged between the two peoples that was to flower into a loyal comradeship in arms and in misery throughout those dark, tragic days.

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The local Japanese never never forgave, and never forgot.

As soon as Imperial Japanese Army had occupied Manila, they lost no time in rounding up all the leaders of the Chinese community with Consul General Young at the top of the list of scores of Chinese wanted men who were destined for internment and later martyrdom.

Hundreds of Chinese, business and social leaders, specially those in the Philippine Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, like Don Alfonso Z. Sycip, George Dee Sekiat, Guillermo Dy Buncio, Dy Huanchay, Yu Khe Thai, and several other well known figures of the prewar Chinese community in the Philippines were clamped into concentration camps and dungeons, and subjected to the most abominable forms of torture.

Only a handful of these survived to tell the story of their tragedy.

Consul Young and Consul Mok have become martyrs to the cause of democracy and freedom. With them were hundreds of their countrymen.

The other leaders, notably Go Puan Seng, Ko Sent Liat, and Yang Sepeng, then as now executive secretary of the Philippine Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, left Manila even before the Japanese Army entered Manila, and remained in hiding until the forces of Liberation came in 1945. Yang and Go stayed in the Ipo hills, living among the guerrillas and the mountain folk of Bulacan.

Hundreds of Chinese youth, belonging to the boy scout organizations and other patriotic groups, left with their

families for the provinces and either laid low giving indirect aid to the guerrillas, or else actively joining the underground.

The records of the US Sixth army showed the valiant deeds of these hundreds of Chinese who joined the guerrillas, and fought side by side with the Filipinos and the Americans, in the final assault to regain the Philippines.

These guerrillas fought and died. Many of them survived. They are with us today. In their usual peaceful tasks, they are doing their part in the economic rehabilitation and upbuilding of the land that has given them hospitality and home, and treasuring, in their bosoms, a life-long memory of their role in fighting for democracy and human brotherhood.

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Biographical Sketches . . .

(Continued from page 65)

DAVID N. LEWIS

An attorney who stepped into the national spotlight when he assisted in breaking up the German-American Bund's Nazi camp in Suffolk County, New York—thus leading to the eventual prosecution and conviction of Fritz Kuhn, erstwhile German-American fuhrer—today is one of the three members of the War Claims Commission.

He is David N. Lewis, native New Yorker, recently returned from Europe where he spent two years in charge of the Litigation Branch of the Office of Alien Property in Europe, assisting in the collection of evidence to sustain seizure of German assets in the United States. The proceeds of such property are now being applied to the fund from which American ex-prisoners of war will be paid.

Mr. Lewis, who seems to have a knack of getting into things exciting, started out in life casually enough as one of two children born to Charles and Josephine Noah Lewis. His father is an attorney in New York City.

David was educated in the local public schools, Cascadilla Prep and Columbia University, and studied law at the Brooklyn Law School, graduating in 1929 shortly before the stock market crash. He went into private practice with his father; the firm of Lewis & Lewis specializing in real estate and corporation law.

In 1932 the firm opened an office in Bay Shore, Long Island, N.Y. Like many attorneys in small communities, Lewis combined his private practice with county cases. He was attorney for the Board of Education, West Islip, and served as special assistant to the State's Attorney General in investigating and prosecuting election frauds. He represented the buyers in the prosecution of unscrupulous real estate dealers selling "chicken farms" to the unwary who hoped to escape the depression the easy way. Unfor-

tunately the "farms" were nothing but wastelands. The racket caused such a scandal that the State's Attorney's office investigated. The prosecutions in which Lewis assisted and the resulting convictions did much to discourage other Get-Rich-Quick Wallingfords.

Mr. Lewis' experience in prosecuting the German-American Bund—and the investigations which led to the trial and conviction of six leading members—convinced him that war was in the offing so, in 1939, he applied for a commission in the Army. In July of that year, he became a second lieutenant in the Reserves and went to Mitchell Field, N.Y. Later he was transferred to the First Fighter Command and was with this outfit when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor.

In June of '42 Lewis was promoted to first lieutenant. Shortly after, he requested—and was assigned—to glider pilot school. After his graduation six months later as a glider pilot, he was sent to the Army Intelligence School. Eventually he was assigned to the Glider Division as an Intelligence officer.

In 1944 Lewis, then a captain, was given command of a glider wing in North Africa. He saw action at Anzio; was in the breakthrough at Rome, and led a glider wing in the invasion of Southern France landing his gliders behind the lines on D Day. He was also in the breakthrough in the Po Valley. Lewis, promoted to major in 1945, also did rescue work among prisoners of war and internees. He was one of the crew in the plane that brought out the Peace Mission from Bolzano, Italy, on VE Day. The first he heard of Germany's surrender was while he was flying German

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military "brass" back to Allied Headquarters in Italy. Afterwards he evacuated some of the German war criminals to Allied control in Florence, Italy.

In February 1946, Major Lewis was separated from the service. He returned to private practice but in September 1947 accepted a post in the Alien Property Custodian's Office, Department of Justice. Shortly thereafter he was sent overseas to take charge of the Litigation Branch for the APC overseas branch, maintaining headquarters in Berlin and Munich. Eventually his work took him all over Europe. In June of this year, he returned to the States and not long afterwards was appointed to the War Claims Commission.

Mr. Lewis holds the Aid Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters; the Presidential Unit Citation; the Purple Heart and the Bronze Arrowhead (the latter given to those who participated in the first

wave behind the lines in the invasion of Southern France. He also has six campaign stars.

Mr. Lewis is married to the former Anna Lichtblau of Brooklyn, and has a son, Peter, 14, a cadet at Staunton Military Academy.

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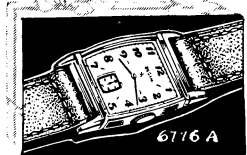
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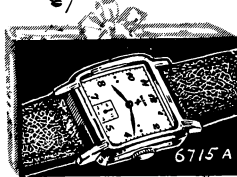


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CAPAS MEMOIRS

By FERDINAND E. MARCOS

WHEN I REMEMBER the Death March I don't recollect so much the sufferings of the prisoners on their way, for they were soldiers meant for death and pain; but I remember an old woman who was at the window of the nipa hut, waving at the long stream of unkempt, bedraggled and emaciated hulks of men, scorched, flagged, and driven along the hot summer road. She was peering into the faces passing by her as if she were looking for some one. I could see tears profusely falling from her eyes and I could tell why her pose seemed to say: "As your fathers were before you, my sons, you too are marching in defeat."

It happened that the Japanese guard halted the column just when I was in front of her. As the column stopped, this silver haired old grandmother started to throw at us small packages wrapped in banana leaves. She was crying in a quivering voice, "Take these my sons; take them all and be strong again." She must have been keeping them for a grandson whom she could not locate. And we were her grandson's comrades.

We knew what would happen to her, for we had seen many of the civilians abused and bayoneted for attempting to give us succor. So we cried to her to stop throwing us food and to run, run from the yellow demon who was hastening towards her house. "Run, Lola," we cried in Tagalog, "This is enough you have given us. Run for your life. The conqueror will come and kill you."

But she kept on throwing the parcels of food, smiling sorrowfully at us, crying, "Take them all. You are young, I am an old woman." The Japanese guard ran up the house and we could see his uniformed figure from behind. We saw him lunge at her and we could feel the sharp bayonet thru her breast as she crumpled and disappeared below the window sill.

We cursed ourselves then for having given up our arms and with them our manhood. There were some hardy souls who wished to kill the guards, but the older men prevailed upon them with the caution: "Just remember this, just remember this: there will be a time when they will pay for all this."

So I entered Capas, feeling the welcome my country was extending to me and feeling that I was not worthy of it.

I entered Capas rather late because of my several attempts to escape. Attempts because I was later apprehended and ultimately brought to the Concentration Camp. Just before I reached the gates of the Concentration Camp we passed through a group of civilians who were trying to distribute food to the prisoners of war. Among them

was a good friend-classmate of mine. He did not recognize me. It was then that I took stock of my appearance. I was unshaved. My hair covered my ears. I was black like camagun. I was clothed in a torn and dirty polo-shirt which I had picked on the way. And I was thin as a rail. I had weighed 130 pounds before Bataan, I must have weighed 105 pounds after Bataan.

I entered Capas in the company of Lieutenant Alberto Ouaioit, who had been platoon commander in the 1st Regular Division. His platoon had mopped up the enemy in what was known as the Tu-ul Pocket of the Pilar-Bagac line. He had gathered some souvenirs. Pictures of some Japanese officers whom he had killed in personal combat were still sewn between the linings of his combat field bag. In the last inspection of our personal belongings inside Capas, the waning day. He stood slim and straight and haughty then, even while he was pulled out of our ranks. That was the last I saw of him alive. His head, preserved in alcohol, was solicitously given to his family by one of the civilians living close to the Concentration Camp.

We were marched to our quarters at one end of the Camp. My mouth and throat were so dry I felt I could not swallow anything. I also had extreme difficulty in breathing. Even the old expedient of sucking my forefinger did not moisten my mouth at all.

I woke up the following morning, the wet grass cold upon my face, with somebody sharply kicking at my ribs with his booted toes. It was the guard on duty and he roughly ordered me back to quarters. I was heart-broken and indifferent to everybody. I looked up at the guard and recognized him as an enlisted man. But strangely I felt no offenses at his insubordinate and uncomradely attitude.

This was to mark my attitude and feeling throughout my entire stay in the Concentration Camp—heart-broken and indifferent towards life and pain, cynically amused by the behaviour of both my comrades and captors; and, then at times, philosophically resigned about matters I could not understand.

But this marked the beginning of a long, long struggle against loneliness. I felt alone even in that incarcerated mass of humanity. There was not a single person that I knew in the group to which I first belonged, well-enough on whom to impose for help; so I just lay on in the dirty floor with all the rest of the sick and wounded while the minutes slowly rolled by. Because there was no one who recognized me, there was no friend to help. When mess call was sounded, I would painfully crawl from my portion of the floor to the kitchen and receive my share

of the soft-boiled rice. There were times when I did not have the strength to go to the kitchen to receive my food. Hunger was an old acquaintance and it was not hard to renew friendship with him. Since it didn't matter much to me whether I lived or not, I watched the still forms of my brothers-in-arms, one by one, being taken out of our quarters as they passed away.

This scene of all the outraged faith and the sufferings around me was indelibly set in my mind. There was a little kid of 17 or even less (kid because I was 25) who was beside me. Like me, he had no blanket or towel and no extra set of clothing. Like me, he, too, had no friends. He was so weak that he could not sit up from his bed like most of us. He was ill with malaria, dysentery, and beriberi. He slept, ate and defecated on the two-foot wide portion of the floor allocated to him. The flies were continually covering his entire body, including his open mouth, especially after he had relieved himself of the greater portion of the contents of his bowels. Sometimes, when he was unconscious, his slime and dirt would fall on me. And I would also be too weak to bother about cleaning up.

I did not know when my senses began to rebel against all these, but it was then that I began to get interested in the small incidents that made up my life in camp. Filipinas had welcomed us in spite of the disgrace of our defeat in Bataan. But it seemed that although she had smiled at us through her tears, she would not bind up our wounds.

Why did she permit all her sons to die like this, I kept asking myself. Why didn't she come to aid her sons with medicines and doctors? Why did she leave them to starve and waste away in pain? Perhaps after all, this defeated Army was not worthy to be saved. And at night I would wake up sobbing to myself.

For I did not know that there were doctors and medicines a-plenty. We were never told that foodstuffs were ready for all of us, but that the magnanimous victors denied their entry to camp. It seemed as if the gallant samurai had decided that this was the righteous vengeance against those who had fought valiantly. We were told the medicines were received, but they were distributed among the Japanese soldiers instead of among the prisoners of war. We never dreamed that our people were accepting the disgrace of begging from the Japanese, begging that we, their sons, might live. At the risk of pride they begged; but their pleas remained unheard. In our bitterness towards our own people, we never dreamed that there were many countrymen who were ready to take our place in gaol that we may be left in liberty to resuscitate and recover.

And so from the indifference of my resignation and frustration I grew into an awareness of bitterness. The things that made up camp life came crowding into my consciousness.

In the uncertain light of the false dawn, I would rouse myself from always fitful slumbers to the clutter of the tin cans of the water detail. I would lie there staring at the

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ceiling, listening to the hollow and strident din of the "tin can brigade." The clash of cans came from all sections of the camp, those from the farther sections ringing in muffled tones. "Church bells," I would laugh to myself. And I would remember my boyhood in my hometown where the church bells used to wake me up in the morning before the sun was up. I would remember how I would go down to the backyard to catch beetles still sleeping in the tamarind tree. And how the dew was so crystal-pure on the soft green of the tamarind leaves. And my thoughts would jump to Baguio where the chapel bells used to come in equally muffled tune through the fog of the dawn. And how I used to walk through the swirling denseness of the fog, my shoes wet from the grass and the whole world smelling of pureness and freshness.

In the urge of my thoughts, I would try to rise, strongly and with vigour, but the attempt would exhaust me and I would slump back with a grimace. So I went to peeping through a crack in the wooden wall, at the world outside.

The first time I gazed at the column of moving men. I was gripped by a feeling of unreality. The figures shuffling in the eerie light looked like be-robed priests clashing cymbals in ironic celebration of death. Death, yes, because after the cans came the long, long column of still and silent forms of our comrades that were borne on bamboo stretchers each upon the shoulders of four men. Every morning, hundreds upon hundreds of these forms stiffened into twisted grotesque shapes, moved unendingly to the widening and lengthening graveyard...

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When we "Won"

(Continued from page 62)

tion for one group threatened to desert should the other insist in reflecting its belief in the editorial of that day's issue. At last the staff agreed to give Quezon the benefit of the doubt.

The newsheet splashed the "suicide" of the Japanese general Homma when the radio announced that he committed *harakiri* for failure to get Bataan, in the same room at the Manila Hotel which General MacArthur used for his headquarters before the war.

It was funny the way common readers interpreted news and, in straightening it, the newsheets did their bit. Readers had a distorted verb sense when they heard news in the radio. Let us lay it on their hurry to "win" the war early. A news item, for instance, would read: "American production of planes would be 5,000 a month by 1945." Overjoyed readers ignored the sense of futurity and spread news that American that time produced 5,000 planes a month, adding even that all these would be sent to the Philippines.

One time in 1943, in our enemy-garrisoned town, the Japanese military physician saw a big world map on the wall of the municipal building. He walked up to it, called the Filipino officials present, and described for them the war situation. Fighting was in Midway, he told them without wincing at the truth, the Japanese had been driven

back, and in New Guinea the Americans had been able to make a foothold. The doctor made a motion with his hand that the Japanese were retreating in those sectors but that they would soon advance again. The enlightened way he explained the war situation for those who were in the news blackout differed from that of another Japanese who had married a native of the place and lived here for more than twenty years. He always described how the Japanese had invaded the American mainland and assured his audience that in two years Hirohito would be in the White House.

It was not *radio puwak* when news reached the people of Panay that an American submarine had surfaced at Culasi, Antique, early in 1943. I, for one, would not believe it at first. But a guerrilla officer, whose Chinese father was a neighbor of ours in the mountain hideout, had sent me a Camel cigarette and ten pieces of cigarette wrapper to prove it. I could have invited the entire barrio to smell the aroma of that single Camel. We knew that American aid was within smelling distance!

Then in 1943 the first war-time copy of the *Reader's Digest* reached this area by submarine. In it we learned that America lost two admirals in one of the battles of Guadalcanal. The magazine passed from hand to hand in that barrio.

Yes, American aid had not merely been sighted. It had come. Not a mere *batelship* had brought goods to the

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guerrillas. In May, 1944, the guerrillas wanted to convince the inhabitants who were inside the enemy garrison at Kalibo that the day of liberation was not far off. In a raid that lasted all night they fired all the new weapons the submarine brought them—carbines, Thompsons, Garands, Brownings, etc. Those of us in the garrison who managed to get out on excuses that convinced the Japanese sentries saw our first copy of the *Free Philippines*.

T/5 OLSON: G.I.

(Continued from page 42)

It was raining as we drove to camp. I helped him "pack up," if you pack up a cot and duffel bag anyway.

I told him that he was welcome to my place anytime, that I wanted to hear from him again. All the nice words I could say. I also volunteered to write his CO and his folks. He was silent most of the time. When finally he spoke, he didn't say much, but it cut deep. All the bitterness, all the rancor in my heart for his countrymen were dissipated. "Thank you, sir, for all the kindness. To serve in your command has been a real pleasure. I wish I could go on serving under you. Goodbye, sir."

He snapped into a salute that appeared to me as the smartest I have ever known.

It was raining hard by now. And the wind was cold. The impending storm accentuated the loneliness around.

* * *

I was to see Myrle months later. This time I had been transferred to general headquarters in the city. It was my habit to drive down after office hours to the USO near Santo Domingo church, buy ice cream and then race home. Sometimes I reached home with the ice cream still quite solid, but sometimes it was all liquid. All the same it was fun racing through the traffic against the dissolving qualities of Manila summer. Moreover, the kids enjoyed the ice cream, race or no race.

One late afternoon, as I was just getting off to a flying start, a neighboring driver hallooted to me. It was Myrle all right. He had some girls with him.

It developed that the 37th Division was sent home, but he lacked the necessary points and so had to cool his heels off as in charge of second echelon parts of a motor unit. While doing so he gathered an additional stripe and, what was more important, a wife. "With the benefit of clergy," he hastened to assure me. As a matter-of-fact, he was already building a house in Parañaque. He was going to stay for good in the country, he said.

I knew that Myrle was the kind of a guy who could get along well with all kinds of people, but I never thought he was that good at it.

Courtesy of

B. DE ERQUIAGA

Legaspi City
Philippines

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Three Lives Triumphant

(Continued from page 37)

Sylvia Carnero, Capt. Vicente Gepte, Dr. Amando Ordoñez, Capt. Jose Moran, Mr. Tito Dans, Miss Abaya herself and others. Being sick, Mother Stagg was left with another group that was removed later. With her were Miss Ester Belarmino, Mrs. Pauline Costigan-Myer and Thomas Myer. She rejoined her group at the City Jail.

* * *

The Mock Mass Trial

A mock mass trial took place at Bilibid on August 28 and the sentences were read in Japanese. Nobody knew the verdict.

On August 30, Miss Abaya saw her friends for the last time as they were taken away by the Japanese. With them were Mr. and Mrs. Franco, Mrs. Carrer, Messrs. Elizalde, Pirovano, Ozamiz and Serafin Aquino. She never saw them again alive.

Two days later, that was on September 1, 1944, Miss Abaya, Pauline Costigan-Myer, and the two Sisters were transferred to the Correctional Institution at Mandaluyong and Mr. Dans and others to the New Bilibid Prison at Muntinglupa.

Before we forget, Sam Boyd and Miss Clara Ruth Darby were brought to the concentration camp at the San- to Tomas University where they were liberated by American troops on February 3, 1945.

* * *

The intervening months saw more terrorism throughout the Philippines. The American forces of General MacArthur were about to land and he had already warned the enemy not to commit atrocities in the Islands. But the warning fell on deaf ears and the brutalities multiplied. The landing on Leyte on October 20, 1944, did not minimize the arrests and executions. It rather served as a cue to intensify the crimes.

* * *

Nothing was heard of Mother Stagg, Dr. Darby and Miss Wilk. Then all of a sudden, through the testimony of some Japanese witnesses at a trial of a war criminal in Manila after liberation, it was learned that they had been executed at the Manila North Cemetery where they were beheaded and buried in one dugout. In another were interred the remains of Elizalde, Pirovano, Ozamiz and others.

Through well-known marks, portions of dresses, hair, dental make-up their remains were finally identified.

Mother Stagg hailed from California.

Dr. Derby, who was nearly 50 years old at the time of her death, was from the state of Indiana.

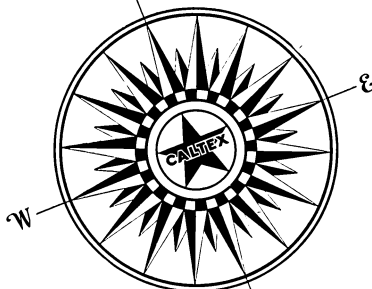
Miss Wilk, who was a little over 43 years of age on her death, was born in La Porte, Indiana.

* * *

Among Us

In the concept of men, Mother Stagg, Dr. Darby and Miss Wilk are dead—forever. To us whose faith is as deathless as theirs, they are merely transfigured and, although separated from the lives of living men, they linger in our memory to guide and inspire us to greater heights

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of devotion to country and of love to God. For that matter, they abide by us in waiting, silent as love, eternal as hope.

Needless to say, they were happy in their martyrdom for the people they helped to free with their labors. And in dying in the manner the cruel enemy had chosen, they enriched the struggle with their blood and lives. Of each of them we can also say, "Greater Love hath no man than He laid down His life for their sake."

As Christians and as Filipinos, we owe to them much, if not all, of what we are today, tomorrow and forever!

Our Unknown Envoy . . .

(Continued from page 20)

That with all the work and accomplishments he has done for his country he is comparatively unknown to his countrymen is, ironically, the reward of silent labor and financial sacrifice. His annual salary of P24,000 can only cover a small fraction of the expenses which a diplomatic representative of his rank must meet in the world's most expensive capital. Hence, he has to dig deep into his private resources, using his private residence in Washington as the official seat of the Embassy. For this, he does not charge the Philippine government a single centavo.

For, all that he is doing to enhance Philippine prestige abroad, Mr. Elizalde seeks nothing in return but merely the cooperation of every Filipino. This he intimated to a missionary in Washington who asked the Ambassador if he had any message to send. The Filipino diplomat laconically remarked:

"I hope you will have the opportunity to share your observations with our people and our Government leaders, impressing upon them the importance of avoiding to antagonize or alienate the friendship of the American people either by deeds, speeches or in the press."

Letter to a War Widow . . .

(Continued from page 29)

but served. Where they expected 50,000 there came 500,000 which could easily be a million—with proof that they had served.

It seems to me that slovenly Army work misrepresents the whole of America. With July 4th so near, it is a sad farewell, indeed—the Army trying to say it for America with money they're reluctant to pay to a people who need something much more than out and dried compensation. Or insults.

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The Last Days . . .

(Continued from page 25)

lenced by Instinct, Mind surrendered to the embrace of Flesh, and Hope was blinded and became Chance. To the very end, to the last extremity, Hope had not deserted the men of Bataan who, even while Japanese tanks crunched steadily along the zigzags of Little Baguio, talked wildly and obstinately of great fleets of American bombers expected at Mariveles. But even this forlorn fantastic comfort was taken from the men of Corregidor. The convoy was no longer expected; it was no longer believed. And with the hope of victory, vanished the will to fight. Why indeed should a man lose his life when nothing was to be gained?

Patriotism became cautious, skeptical, reasonable, and becoming reasonable ceased to be Patriotism. The Voice of Freedom gave desultory news. Propaganda was scrutinized soberly by censors who now hesitated to antagonize the inevitable conqueror. The general staff was now concerned with preserving the morale of its own men than with undermining the morale of the enemy. Already there were whispers of mutiny and surrender in the dark corners where enlisted men sucked hungrily and apprehensively at their cigarettes and, in the impenetrable blackout, the vigilant ear could not distinguish the blameless experiment of the agent provocateur from the sinister blandishments of the defeatist. But whether one or the other no one cried out in shocked denunciation. Corregidor was silent and listened and thought curiously. Corregidor knew that it was beaten, and knowing it, was already beaten.

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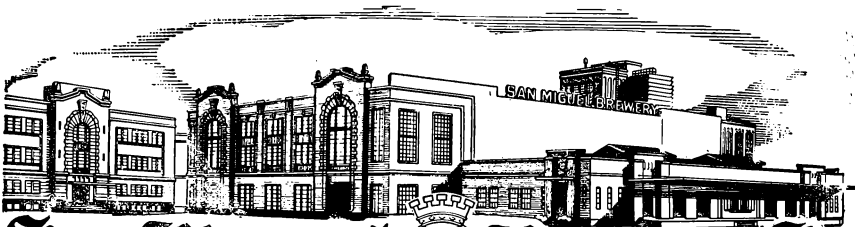
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