

- The war fought by the Filipinos against the U.S.A. would have resulted in American defeat if the Filipinos had received guns and better weapons, as now shown in the difficulties Americans now encounter in Vietnam.

THE FALL OF MALOLOS

One of the first acts of General Wesley Merritt after the capitulation of Manila on August 13, 1898, was to order General Anderson to rid the city of armed Filipino revolutionists. General Aguinaldo received a telegram from the American general to forbid any of his troops to enter the city.

General Aguinaldo instead sent a commission to discuss the matter with General Anderson but the American officer instructed the Filipino commissioners to deal with General Merritt. The commissioners told Merritt that the withdrawal of Filipino troops from the city should be done provided that the American authorities agreed to put in writing certain conditions, namely, joint occupation of Manila, protection of the Filipino shipping by Admiral Dewey and "the restitution to the revolutionists of the areas to be evacuated in the event that

the United States recognized by the treaty Spain's dominion in the Philippines."

Merritt stuck to his demand for the immediate withdrawal of the Filipino troops without conditions. A week after General Elwell S. Otis assumed command of the American forces succeeding General Merritt he was ordered by the U.S. War Department to use force if necessary in effecting the removal of the Filipino forces from the confines of the city. General Otis sent a letter to General Aguinaldo not only to reiterate the stand taken by General Wesley Merritt but even to threaten General Aguinaldo "with the use of force if the American demand is not complied with within one week."

The revolutionary leaders who were with General Aguinaldo, particularly Generals Artemio Ricarte, Pio del Pilar and Mariano Noriel, became angry upon receipt

of Otis' letter. They realized that the Americans were here but not for humanitarian reasons after all. General Aguinaldo realizing the gravity of the threat and the state of his forces' unpreparedness managed to advise prudence and moderation to his subordinates. He managed however to convince Otis to change the tone of his demand from an ultimatum to that of a request which the latter did.

On September 14, the Filipino forces moved and evacuated "some of the suburbs" beyond the area specified by the Americans. Meanwhile the seat of the Revolutionary Government was transferred to the town of Malolos. But General Otis at this stage was not satisfied by the evacuation of the Filipino troops. He demanded that Paco, Pandacan and other areas be freed from Filipino forces. General Aguinaldo, however, insisted on the right of his troops to stay put in Pandacan, although he ordered his men under pain of being court-martialed "not to interfere with the affairs in the city of Manila and its suburbs."

Filipino-American relations up to the outbreak of armed conflict was not altogether smooth. Numerous clashes between them occurred inside and outside the city. Filipino troops getting inside the city were insulted to the extent of being disarmed. The Americans, on the other hand, complained of the annoyance they suffered from the Filipinos when they left the city.

In February 1899 the Filipino-American relations grew from bad to worse. The Filipino forces were deployed around the city "in a semi-circle with a radius of about three miles having the mouth of the Pasig river as center. About this time the strength of the Filipino forces was estimated to be as follows: 3,000 men in Caloocan; 400 in Pasig; 1,200 in Malate; around 500 each in Sta. Ana, Paco, Pasay, and Pandacan. Opposite the Filipino lines the American troops were also deployed in same semi-circle pattern. North of Pasig River was a division under Major-General Arthur MacArthur. Major General Thomas Anderson was in-

charge of another division south of the Pasig River.

On February 4, 1899 at 8:30 in the evening the tension which characterized the Filipino-American relations exploded. Private William N. Grayson who was reconnoitering the surrounding areas of their outpost in San Juan fired at a group of four Filipino soldiers who failed to stop when challenged to halt.

The Filipinos were caught by surprise. It was Saturday night and most of the troops were on week-end pass to visit their relatives and families. At the critical moment only General Pantaleon Garcia was at his post at Maypajo, while Generals Paciano Rizal, Noriel, and Ricarte and Colonels Cailles, San Miguel and several others were absent.

The following morning the Americans started their offensive against the Filipinos. The brigade of General Otis under General MacArthur's division made a blitzkrieg attack against the Filipino defenses in La Loma. General Hale's brigade did the same to the Filipino defenses in San Juan del Monte. Heavy

fighting took place near the waterworks. Finding difficulty, General Hale secured the support of the gunboat "Laguna de Bay" which shelled the Filipino positions by the Pasig River. With the destruction of Filipino defense lines the capture of waterworks and reservoir was made easy. At this stage Col. Stotsenberg with his brigade also cut across Mandaluyong, and occupied Cainta and Taytay four days after the outbreak of hostilities.

General Antonio Luna on being aware of the tense situation, issued an order on February 7, 1899, designed to arouse the sentiments of his countrymen with an instruction "to liquidate the enemy" saying:

"To the field officers of the territorial militia:

"By virtue of the barbarous attack made upon our army on the 4th day of February without this being preceded by any strain of relations whatsoever between the two armies, it is necessary for the Filipinos to show that they know how to avenge themselves of treachery and deceit of those who, working

upon their friendship, now seek to enslave us.

"In order to carry out the complete destruction of that accursed army of drunkards and thieves, it is indispensable that we all work in unison, and that orders issued from this war office be faithfully carried out.

On February 10, the Filipino defenses at Caloocan were softened by naval guns and General MacArthur's artillery. General Antonio Luna with his 4,000 poorly armed men had to retreat toward Polo to avoid being murdered.

By the fall of March the American force had 950 officers and 23,000 men. General MacArthur was in command of the 2nd Division consisting of the 1st Brigade, composed of the Kansas and Montana Volunteers and two batteries of the 3rd Artillery under General Harrison; the 2nd Brigade composed of the Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota, and six companies of Pennsylvania Volunteers under General Hale; and the 3rd Brigade composed of the 7th U.S. Inf., 17th U.S. Infantry, the Minnesota and

Wyoming volunteers and the Utah Artillery under General Hall.

General Antonio Luna at this stage, was the military operations' Commander-in-Chief. The Filipino Army now had a total of 30,000 men but only 16,000 were actually armed. Its artillery consisted of obsolete cannons.

General Otis knew then that General Aguinaldo had established his headquarters at Malolos which was the capital of the Revolutionary Government. To terminate the war, Aguinaldo and Malolos must be captured at the earliest time possible. He knew too that the bulk of the Filipino forces was in the north.

On March 25, the Americans began their northward offensive against the Filipinos. Hale's Brigade made a lightning attack at the Filipino defenses north of the city but was repulsed by the Filipino troops who engaged them in hand-to-hand combat at San Francisco del Monte. The superiority of their arms forced the native troops to be routed, however, the brigade encountered heavy losses at Cabataan, Tali-

napa, and Tuliahan river along the Novaliches road. General MacArthur's artillery saved them from suffering more losses.

Meanwhile the Otis brigade managed to push northward via the railroad tracks. Contact with the Filipino troops was made at Marilao on March 27. Fierce fighting took place in the afternoon when the Filipinos after retreating in the morning made a surprise counter attack on the same day, killing fifteen and wounding seventy Americans. On the 29th, at about 10:00 a.m. Bocaue was taken. The Filipino defenders at Bigaa were routed at noon of the same day.

At Malinta and Polo the Americans suffered heavy casualties. After a spirited fight General Luna directed his troops to retreat to Meycauyan. Gen. Irving Hall, in an attempt to out-smart the defenders, got himself wounded.

On the 30th of March the American Army cautiously moved to Malolos expecting a fierce encounter "to take place owing to the political significance of the capital."

General Mac Arthur stopped his forces within two miles of the town. His scheme was to unleash a thirty minute artillery barrage to the town proper before encircling it the following day.

Colonel Frederick Funston of the Kansas Volunteers description of the American entry into Malolos reads:

We were now less than a mile from the nipa houses in the suburbs of Malolos. I was in the railroad track with the division commander (MacArthur), when he asked me if I would like to take a few men and feel my way into the town. I said I would be glad to, and took Lieutenant Ball and about a dozen men from Company E, leaving the regiment in command of Lieutenant-Colonel Little for the time being. Moving rapidly over to the left of the regiment, our detachment found a narrow road leading into the capital, and we went up it on the jump, now and then halting for a few seconds, to peer around the corners. The road soon became a street and here we were

joined by the ubiquitous Mr. Creelman, quite out of breath from his exertions in overtaking us, he having "smelled a rat" when he saw us leave. We were fired upon by about a dozen men behind a street barricade of stones, gave them a couple of volleys, and then rushed them. A minute later we were in the plaza or public square, and exchanged shots with a few men who were running through the streets

starting fires. The buildings occupied by Aguinaldo as a residence and as offices and the Hall of Congress were burning. We gave such cheers as a few men could and I sent back word to General MacArthur that the town was ours. In a few moments troops from all the regiments of the brigade, as well as the brigade commander himself, joined us. — *By Pedro Gagelonia in Variety of March, 1966.*

LEARNING'S PILLARS

Seeing much, suffering much, and studying much, are the three pillars of learning. — *Disraeli.*