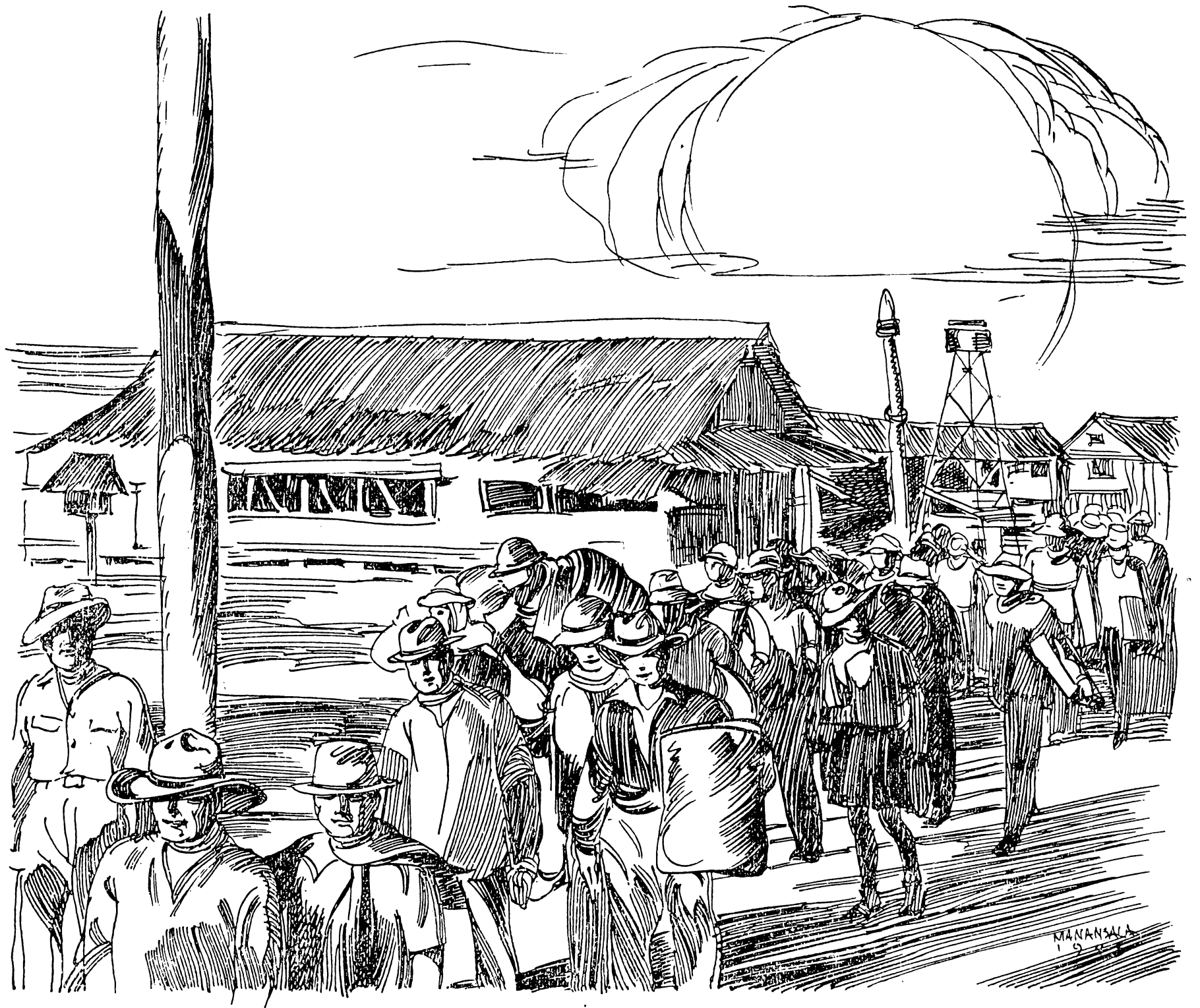


City Sketch Book

5. Out of the Wilderness



BAATAAN, Corregidor, Capas in time will have seemed a fleeting fantastic nightmare. But it will remain an enduring memory of a flaming experience in shell fire, death and resurrection; of sacrifice, disillusion and redemption. The pick of our youth went out into the wilderness, as it were, and wrestled with the problem of death and destiny. Today the surviving comrades are returned in our midst by a generous conqueror as irrefutable argument and proof of our people's right to live and move forward in accordance with the inescapable mandates of blood, geography and soul. We needed a catharsis, a cleansing of the accumulated dross and adulterations of generations of exploitative and false patronage. Bataan gave us that purgative opportunity. To those who have never been active participants in the painful process of this purging, let it be a lasting reminder of their shame in their failure to understand and take its message of sacrifice and rebirth.