

PERSONAL FILES

RESCUE

OF

NAVY PERSONNEL

OCTOBER 1944

FEBRUARY 1945



SPECIAL RELEASE



25 Oct 1944

As our forces of liberation roll forward the splendid aid we are receiving from guerilla units throughout the immediate objective area and adjacent Islands causes me at this time to pay public tribute to those great patriots both Filipino and American who have led and supported the resistance movement in the Philippines since the dark days of 1942. These inadequately armed patriots have fought the enemy for more than two years. Most are Filipinos but among these are a number of Americans who never surrendered, who escaped from prison camps, or who were sent in to carry out specific missions.

Following the disaster which, in the face of overwhelming superior enemy power overtook our gallant forces, a deep and impenetrable silence engulfed the Philippines. Through that silence no news concerning the fate of the Filipino people reached the outside world until broken by a weak signal from a radio set on the Island of PANAY which was picked up, in the late fall of that same fateful year, by listening posts of the War Department and flashed to my headquarters. That signal, weak and short as it was, lifted the curtain of silence and uncertainty and disclosed the start of a human drama with few parallels in military history.

In it I recognized the spontaneous movement of the Filipino people to resist the shackles with which the enemy sought to bind them both physically and spiritually. I saw a people in one of the most tragic hours of human history, bereft of all reason for hope and without material support, endeavoring, despite the stern realities confronting them, to hold aloft the flaming torch of liberty. I gave this movement all spiritual and material support that my limited resources would permit.

Through the understanding assistance of our Navy I was able to send in by submarine, in dribbles at first, arms, ammunition and medical supplies. News of the first such shipment spread rapidly throughout the Philippines to electrify the people into full returning consciousness that America had neither abandoned nor forgotten them.

Since then, as resources increased, I was enabled, after formalizing the guerilla forces by their recognition and incorporation as units of our army, to send vitally needed supplies in ever increasing quantities through Philippine coastal contacts by four submarines finally committed exclusively to that purpose.

I would that at this time I might name the gallant heroes of this epic in Philippine-American history, but considerations of security for the individuals, their families and the cause require that I limit myself to a generalization of their work and a statement of their brilliant achievements.

Of the latter I need but point out that for the purposes of this campaign we are materially aided by strong, battle tested forces in nearly every Philippine community, alerted to strike violent blows against the enemy's rear as our lines of battle move forward and that now are providing countless large areas adjacent to military objectives into which our airmen may drop with assurances of immediate rescue and protection. We are aided by the militant loyalty of a whole people -- a people who have rallied as one behind the standards of these stalwart patriots who, reduced to wretched material conditions yet sustained by an unconquerable spirit, have formed an invincible center to a resolute overall resistance.

We are aided by the fact that for many months our plans of campaign have benefited from the hazardous labors of a vast network of agents numbering into the hundreds of thousands providing precise, accurate and detailed information on major



enemy moves and installations throughout the Philippine Archipelago. We are aided by the fact that through a vast network of radio positions extending into every center of enemy activity and concentration throughout the Islands. I have been kept in immediate and constant communication with such widespread sources of information. We are aided by the fact that on every major Island of the Philippines there are one or more completely equipped and staffed weather observatories which flash to my headquarters full weather data morning, afternoon and night of every day and which in turn provides the basis for reliable weather forecasts to facilitate and secure the implementation of our operational plans. Widely disseminated to our forces throughout the Pacific and in China the information from this weather system has materially aided our military operations over a large section of the world's surface.

We are aided by an air warning system affording visual observation of the air over nearly every square foot of Philippine soil established for the purpose of flashing immediate warning of enemy aircraft movement through that same vast network of radio communications. We are aided by provision of all inland waterways and coastal areas of complete observation over enemy naval movement to give immediate target information to our submarines on patrol in or near Philippine waters. This information has contributed to the sinking of enemy shipping of enormous tonnage, and through such same facilities was flashed the warning to our naval forces of the enemy naval concentration off the western Philippines during the Mariannas operation.

Finally we are aided by the close interior vigilance that has secured for our military use countless enemy documents of great value, among which were the secret defensive plans and instructions of the Commander in Chief of the combined Japanese Fleets to counter our offensive action in the several Pacific areas and complete information on the strength and dispositions of enemy fleet and naval air units. That same Commander in Chief of the Combined Japanese Fleets was a prisoner of one of our guerrilla units prior to his death from injuries sustained in an air crash.

All of these vital aids to our military operations, and there are many more still unmentioned, are responsive to the indomitable courage of the military and civil leaders whom I shall in future name and their loyal followers both Filipino and American; to gallant Filipinos, residents of the United States, who have volunteered to infiltrate into the islands in succor of their countrymen and Americans who have infiltrated with them; and finally to the militant loyalty and unconquerable spirit of the masses of the Filipino people.

As COMMANDER IN CHIEF of the forces of liberation I publicly acknowledge and pay tribute to the great spiritual power that has made possible these notable and glorious achievements -- achievements which find few counterparts in military history. These great patriots, Filipino and American, both living and dead, upon whose valiant shoulders has rested the leadership and responsibility for this indomitable movement in the past critical period, shall, when their identities can be made known, find a lasting place on the scroll of heroes of both nations -- heroes who have selflessly and defiantly subordinated all to the cause of human liberty. Their names and their deeds shall ever be enshrined in the hearts of our two peoples in whose darkest hours they have waged relentless war against the forces of evil that sought, through ruthless brutality, the enslavement of the Filipino people.

To those great patriots to whom I now pay public tribute I say stand to your battle stations and relax not your vigilance until our forces shall have swept forward to relieve you.





~~SECRET~~

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY    **XX**

**SECRET    XX**

**FIG/LAT/vlb**

**9 February 1945**

**COMMANDING GENERAL EIGHTH ARMY**

**MARINE PILOT REPORTED TO BE SHOT DOWN OVER NIELSON FILED  
TWO EIGHT JANUARY PD REPORTED SHOT DOWN ONE AND ONE HALF MILE  
SOUTH EAST OF FILED PD ADVISE IF PILOT SAFE**

DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR ON  
20 AUG. 75



81

~~SECRET~~

22 December 1944

"NAVAL MESSAGE"

TO : CINCSOWESPAC - ACTION

FROM : COM 3RD FLEET

NR : 220208/Z

CITE 55159 OF 201358/I. THE THANKS OF THE 3RD FLEET FOR GETTING  
OUR BOYS BACK TO FIGHT AGAIN

NO SIG

TOO: 221108 '

TOR: SC MSG GEN 221452I

TOR: AG R/C SWPA 221633 I

DISTRIBUTION:

INFORMATION COPIES TO:

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

CHIEF OF STAFF

G-3

NOTE: Ref 55159 is C-55159 (G-3) dated  
20 Dec '44 which advised Commander A M  
Williams safe in Central Luzon



G-3 CW/esh

20 December 1944

TO : COM 3RD FLEET

REURAD 72205 COMMANDER A. M. WILLIAMS (C-55159) SAFE IN  
HANDS FRIENDLY FORCES IN CENTRAL LUZON

MacARTHUR

OFFICIAL

S. J. Chamberlin  
Major General, G. S. C.  
Asst Chief of Staff, G-3





G3 CW/esh

19 DECEMBER 1944

(190524)

To : Com 3rd Fleet

Reurad 160232 and 160424, Local Units instructed to take all feasible means to effect rescue (C 55079) Lt. Marshall S. Hopp of Yorktown now under protection of friendly forces enroute to coastal evacuation site

MacARTHUR

OFFICIAL:

S. J. Chamberlin  
Major General, G.S.C.  
Ast Chief of Staff, G-3



19 DECEMBER 44

TO : GENERAL MACARTHUR

FROM : RAMSEY

NR 27 19 DECEMBER

NIGHT COMMANDER A. M. WILLIAMS RESCUED BY OUR MEN NEAR  
MARIKINA. GUIDES WERE SENT TO CONDUCT HIM TO THIS HEADQUARTERS.

\*\*\*\*\*

Note in pencil by C.W.

Third fleet wired on 16th that Air Group Commander was  
down 3 miles east of Marikina Airfield and pilot down at  
Laguna De Bay. Commander reports in this message --  
Pilot reported in yesterday. Third Fleet Advised.

C.W.

DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR OE  
20 AUG. 75





~~SECRET~~

URGENT

19 DECEMBER 1944

TO : GENERAL MACARTHUR

FROM : MILLER

NR 28 18 DECEMBER

LT. MARSHALL S. HOPP OF USS YORKTOWN SHOT DOWN LAGUNA DE BAY,  
WAS RESCUED AND ARRIVED HERE THIS DATE IN GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION.  
WILL PROCEED TO ANDERSON FOR MOVEMENT OUT.

TOR: 190030/Z

TYPED: 190125/Z

RJS

DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR OBI  
20 AUG. 75



~~SECRET~~

16 December 1944

TO : ACTION CINCOSOWESPAC INFO COMTASKFORCE 77COMTASKFORCE 38  
AND COMTASKGROUP 38.1 HAVE INFO BY OTHER MEANS

FROM COM 3RD FLEET

NR : 160232 Z

YORKTOWN AIR GROUP COMMANDER PARACHUTED 3 to 5 MILES EAST  
MARIKINA FIELD ABOUT 0800 DECEMBER 16. REQUEST FRIENDLY FORCED BE  
NOTIFIED AND ALL POSSIBLE EFFORT BE MADE TO EFFECT RESCUE

No Sig.

Info copies to

Cin C  
C/S  
Action to G-3

DECLASSIFIED PER REG. 1.4  
20 AUG 2001





16 DECEMBER 1944

TO : ACTION CINGSPAC INFO COMTASKFORCE 77 AND COMTASKFORCE  
38  
FROM : COM 3RD FLEET  
NR : 160424 Z

YORKTOWN PILOT DOWN AT LAGUNA DE BAY LAT 14-17 NORTH LONG 121-11  
EAST RESCUE BE EFFECTED IF PRACTICA BLE

No Sig

Info copies to CinC  
C/S  
Action copy to G-3

DECLASSIFIED PER AOS 178 OF  
20 AUG 77



22 December 1944

MEMO TO COLONEL WHITNEY:

In an effort to coordinate the movement of men and supplies from G-3, Philippine Sub-Division and Civil Affairs, USAFFE, I have contacted Major Anderson, G-3 Operations, and Lt. Tomberlin, AG, USAFFE.

FINDINGS:

USAFFE is prepared to assume the movement (thru Hq. Comdt. GHQ) of myself, Sgt Ebarle, and 725 lbs supplies and files (Our CS to AG, USAFFE fr Civil Affairs, dated 5 December 44). They cannot, however, recognize the request to include Pfc Hanks because he is GHQ personnel.

Under the provisions of the Staff Memo covering the movement, G-3 was allotted 6 officer and 10 enlisted men. Upon checking with Hq Comdt to see what the allotment for G-3, Philippine Sub-Division for men and supplies may have been, I found that there had been NO allotment to that Sub-Division and that the list of officers and men for G-3 didnot include the request and estimate covered in Check Sheet - Colonel Whitney to General Chambers, 20 December 44, "For the M-1 Operation, Philippine Operations phase, request that arrangements be made for me to take with me the following named enlisted men -- Hanks and Rodriguez" (Col. Whitney is being carried under the allotment for USAFFE by Hq Comdt.)


The interpretation I received from my talk with Major Anderson left me with the opinion that the above request was for these 2 men to accompany Col. Whitney on the NASHVILLE, pending the decision of the C-in-C. (This may be the answer to not having included these men on the original G-3 estimate).

It does not seem advisable to assume that there will be any allotment for files and supplies (G-3 Philippine Sub-Division allotment) to be carried on the NASHVILLE. (As a consolation I can cover this by sending the entire shipment under the Usaffe allotment).

REMARKS:

It would seem proper to make a matter of record, not only with G-3 but also with Hq Comdt, that an allotment for 2 men be made to the G-3, Philippine Sub-Division for this move. This action would protect their inclusion in the planning whether they were to be transported by the NASHVILLE or by Hq Comdt LST. And as a protective measure an allotment of 1 casket (175 lbs) be considered for G-3 Philippine Sub-Division, be requested. This would be an additional request over and above the allotment to G-3 and the estimate previously presented.

The Colonel's wishes in this matter are requested.

  
C. L. Stoddard.



*Capt Flakes*



Copies  
Re. rescue and  
return of Navy  
pilots.  
C.S.

18 December 1944

TO VOLCKMANN AND ANDERSON

NR. 10 (SPL)

About 0800 16 December, Yorktown air group Commander parachuted 3 to 5 miles east Marikina Field. Desire that you make every effort to rescue pilot should he be in your vicinity.

18 December

TO CABANGBANG ANDERSON

NR : 8 (SPL)

Navy pilot parachuted three to five miles east Marikina Field about 0800 December 16. Another navy pilot down Laguna de Bay latitude 1417 North Longitude 12111 East. Take any feasible means toward rescue and advise. This communicated to Anerson Cabangbang Ramsey and Miller.

DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR 08  
20 AUG 77



~~SECRET~~

24 DECEMBER 1944

TO : GENERAL MACARTHUR

FROM : ANDERSON

NR 144 24 DECEMBER

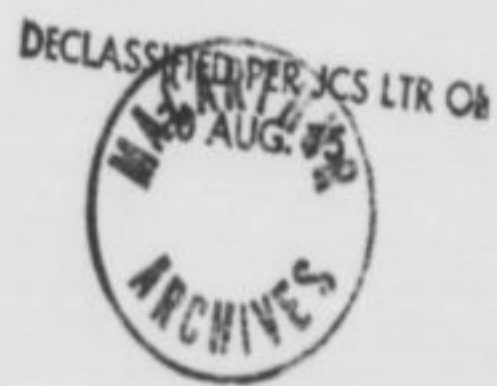
RÉFER MY NUMBER 143

LIEUTENANT MARSHALL S. HOPP, 122045, VF3, YORKTOWN, ARRIVED.  
TOTAL PERSONS ASSEMBLED THIS HEADQUARTERS IS NINE.

TOR: 241045/Z

TYPED: 241130/Z

RJS



~~SECRET~~



~~SECRET~~  
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

URGENT	
OPNL PRIORITY	XX
PRIORITY	
ROUTINE	
DEFERRED	

SIGNAL CORPS MESSAGE

TOP SECRET	
SECRET	XX
CONFIDENTIAL	
RESTRICTED	
IN CLEAR	

CM/TAT/lb  
(Office)

21 December 1944  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Sig. Corps No.)

TO: MILLER

FROM: MACARTHUR

NR: 3

ADVISE WHEN PILOT AS REFERRED TO IN YOUR NR THREE ONE DATED TWENTY  
DECEMBER ARRIVES YOUR AREA PD MAKE EVERY ATTEMPT TO GET LIEUTENANT MARSHALL  
HOPP REFER YOUR NR TWO EIGHT DATED EIGHTEEN DECEMBER TO ANDERSONS AREA WITH  
LEAST POSSIBLE DELAY PD ACKNOWLEDGE

*Personal 211003/2*

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR 08  
20 AUG. 75



This is in reply to No. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Insert Sig Corps No. to which this reply refers.)

~~SECRET~~

19 DECEMBER 44

TO : GENERAL MACARTHUR

FROM : RAMSEY

NR 27 19 DECEMBER

FLIGHT COMMANDER A. M. WILLIAMS RESCUED BY OUR MEN NEAR MARIKINA. GUIDES WERE SENT TO CONDUCT HIM TO THIS HEADQUARTERS.

NIPS NOW TRANSFERRING TRUCKLOADS OF AMMO FROM BAYANBAYANAN AIRFIELDS TO SAN MATEO PRIMARY SCHOOL. NIPS INCREASING STRENGTH OF GARRISONS AT SAN MATEO AND MONTALBAN, DIGGING GUN EMPLACEMENTS ON THE MASS OF HILLS FACING MONTALBAN.

TOR: 190749/Z.  
TYPED: 19005  
LJH/

*Third Fleet wired on 16th that Air Group Commander was down 3 miles east of Marikina Airfield and pilot down at Laguna De Bay. Commander reports in in this message - pilot reported in yesterday. Third Fleet advised*

~~SECRET~~



DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR OF  
20 AUG. 75



~~SECRET~~

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

URGENT	
OPNL PRIORITY	XX
PRIORITY	
ROUTINE	
DEFERRED	

SIGNAL CORPS MESSAGE

TOP SECRET	
SECRET	XV
CONFIDENTIAL	
RESTRICTED	
IN CLEAR	

CW/rs  
(Office)

18 DECEMBER 1944  
(Date)

No. \_\_\_\_\_

TO : MILLER  
FROM : MACARTHUR  
NR : 2

FOLLOWING MESSAGE COMMUNICATED TO ANDERSON CABANGBANG AND RAMSEY PD  
NAVY PILOT PARACHUTED THREE TO FIVE MILES EAST MARIKINA FIELD ABOUT NIL  
EIGHT HUNDRED DECEMBER SIXTEEN PD ANOTHER NAVY PILOT DOWN LAGUNA DE BAY LATITUDE  
FOURTEEN SEVENTEEN NORTH LONGITUDE HUNDRED TWENTY ONE ELEVEN EAST PD TAKE  
ANY FEASIBLE MEANS TOWARD RESCUE AND ADVISE

TOP: 19004012

DECLASSIFIED PER ACS LTR OF  
20 AUG. 75



This is in reply to No. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Insert Sig. Corps No. to which this refers.)

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

22 DECEMBER 1944

TO : GENERAL MACARTHUR  
FROM : MILLER

NO NR 21 DECEMBER

REFERENCE MY NR 31:

PILOT IS COMMANDER MACPHERSON B. WILLIAMS OF  
YORKTOWN. HE IS SUFFERING FROM FIRST DEGREE BURNS ON  
FACE, LEFT ARM, RIGHT SHOULDER, BUT IS RECUPERATING.  
WILL SEND TO ANDERSON WHEN FULLY RECOVERED.

TOR : 220210/Z  
TIME TYPED: 220500/Z  
JEP

DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR OF  
20 AUG. 75



~~SECRET~~



~~SECRET~~

22 DECEMBER 1944

TO : GENERAL MACARTHUR  
FROM : MILLER  
NR 34 21 DECEMBER

REFERENCE YOUR NR THREE:  
COMMANDER WILLIAMS NOW SAFE IN THIS AREA.  
HIS BURNS REQUIRE TWO WEEKS REST BEFORE MOVING TO  
ANDERSON. LIEUTENANT HOPP SHOULD ARRIVE ANDERSON  
ON OR BEFORE 25 DECEMBER.

TOR : 220100/Z  
TIME TYPED: 220305/Z  
JEP

DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR OF  
20 AUG. 75



~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

18 DECEMBER 1944

TO : GENERAL MACARTHUR

FROM : MILLER

NR 28 18 DECEMBER

LT. MARSHAL S. HOPP OF USS YORKTOWN SHOT DOWN LAGUNA DE BAY, WAS RESCUED AND ARRIVED HERE THIS DATE IN GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION. WILL PROCEED TO ANDERSON FOR MOVEMENT OUT.

*Third Fleet requested us to take all means to rescue this officer reported down at Laguna de Bay. Here he is. Third Fleet advised.*

TOR : 181025/Z

TIME TYPED : 181115/Z

CNB

*ad  
25*

*cm  
Good*

DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR 01  
20 AUG. 75



~~SECRET~~



Released to the Press at 0630/I hours, 16 December 1944:

G.H.Q. SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA  
COMMUNIQUE NO. 983, 16 DECEMBER 1944

*L. A. Diller*  
L. A. DILLER,  
Colonel, GSC,  
Public Relations.

PHILIPPINES

Our ground troops, by an overwater movement from LEYTE of 600 statute miles, have landed in the ISLAND OF MINDORO. In an amphibious operation of all services, we have seized the dominant beaches along the southern coast of this westernmost VISAYAN ISLAND. The landing, which was effected with little loss, was preceded by local naval and air bombardment and an air neutralization of all enemy PHILIPPINE fields which destroyed 250 enemy planes. The landing was a complete surprise and met with only minor opposition. The seizure of this island in the rear of CEBU, NEGROS, PANAY and the other intervening islands of the VISAYAN GROUP, threatens the supply and reinforcement of enemy troops there and renders them vulnerable. This operation has driven a corridor from east to west through the PHILIPPINE ARCHIPELAGO which is now definitely cut in two, and will enable us to dominate sea and air routes which reach to the CHINA COAST. The conquests of JAPAN to the south are rapidly being isolated, destroying the legendary myth of a Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere and imperilling the so-called "Imperial lifeline".

In the meanwhile our Guerrilla forces in the WESTERN VISAYAS and MINDANAO have sustained an aggressive offensive against enemy garrisons on the several major islands and have succeeded in capturing large areas, including strongly held coastal points and airfields. Constant guerrilla pressure has succeeded in seriously disrupting the enemy's lines of communication and impeding the free movement of his reserves. In these operations heavy casualties have been inflicted upon the enemy. Specifically:

On MINDANAO, under the command of COLONEL WENDELL W. FERTIG, Engineer Corps, they have invested numerous important coastal points and enemy-held airfields and have liberated the entire provinces of LANAO and MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL.

On PANAY, under command of COLONEL MACARIO PERALTA, JR., Infantry, they have captured the towns of ZARRAGA, PALNONGON, SAN MIQUEL and ENSTANCIA, seized several vital enemy airfields and are now maintaining heavy pressure on remaining scattered enemy positions on the Island.

On NEGROS, under command of LT. COLONEL SALVADOR ABCEDE, Infantry, in a general offensive movement against enemy-occupied areas they have cleared the southern half of the island with the exception of the DOMACUETE area where the enemy has been driven into a pocket and is now under close siege. On the east coast, SIBULAN, SAN CARLOS, BAIS, ISABELLA and LUZRIGA, together with several airfields have been captured.

On CEBU, under command of LT. COLONEL CHARLES CUSHING, Engineer Corps, in a series of direct attacks and violent harassing movement, they have cleared the enemy from the major part of southern CEBU, leaving him confined for the most part to central CEBU where his lines of communication are under constant pressure.

In the SULU ARCHIPELAGO, under command of LT. COLONEL ALEJANDRO SUAREZ, Infantry, they have pinned down the enemy's forces into small restricted areas.

On BOHOL, under command of MAJOR ISMAEL INGINIERO, Infantry, they have freed the entire island except in the TAGBILARAN area where the enemy's forces are now concentrated.





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In the meanwhile our Guerrilla forces in the WESTERN VISAYAS and MINDANAO have sustained an aggressive offensive against enemy garrisons on the several major islands and have succeeded in capturing large areas, including strongly held coastal points and airfields. Constant guerrilla pressure has succeeded in seriously disrupting the enemy's lines of communication and impeding the free movement of his reserves. In these operations heavy casualties have been inflicted upon the enemy. Specifically:

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Released to the Press at 0630/I hours, 16 December 1944:

G.H.Q. SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA  
COMMUNIQUE NO. 983, 16 DECEMBER 1944

*L. A. Diller*  
L. A. DILLER,  
Colonel, GSC,  
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SPECIAL RELEASE



25 Oct 1944

As our forces of liberation roll forward the splendid aid we are receiving from guerilla units throughout the immediate objective area and adjacent Islands causes me at this time to pay public tribute to those great patriots both Filipino and American who have led and supported the resistance movement in the Philippines since the dark days of 1942. These inadequately armed patriots have fought the enemy for more than two years. Most are Filipinos but among these are a number of Americans who never surrendered, who escaped from prison camps, or who were sent in to carry out specific missions.

Following the disaster which, in the face of overwhelming superior enemy power overtook our gallant forces, a deep and impenetrable silence engulfed the Philippines. Through that silence no news concerning the fate of the Filipino people reached the outside world until broken by a weak signal from a radio set on the Island of PANAY which was picked up, in the late fall of that same fateful year, by listening posts of the War Department and flashed to my headquarters. That signal, weak and short as it was, lifted the curtain of silence and uncertainty and disclosed the start of a human drama with few parallels in military history.

In it I recognized the spontaneous movement of the Filipino people to resist the shackles with which the enemy sought to bind them both physically and spiritually. I saw a people in one of the most tragic hours of human history, bereft of all reason for hope and without material support, endeavoring, despite the stern realities confronting them, to hold aloft the flaming torch of liberty. I gave this movement all spiritual and material support that my limited resources would permit.

Through the understanding assistance of our Navy I was able to send in by submarine, in dribbles at first, arms, ammunition and medical supplies. News of the first such shipment spread rapidly throughout the Philippines to electrify the people into full returning consciousness that America had neither abandoned nor forgotten them.

Since then, as resources increased, I was enabled, after formalizing the guerilla forces by their recognition and incorporation as units of our army, to send vitally needed supplies in ever increasing quantities through Philippine coastal contacts by four submarines finally committed exclusively to that purpose.

I would that at this time I might name the gallant heroes of this epic in Philippine-American history, but considerations of security for the individuals, their families and the cause require that I limit myself to a generalization of their work and a statement of their brilliant achievements.

Of the latter I need but point out that for the purposes of this campaign we are materially aided by strong, battle tested forces in nearly every Philippine community, alerted to strike violent blows against the enemy's rear as our lines of battle move forward and that now are providing countless large areas adjacent to military objectives into which our airmen may drop with assurances of immediate rescue and protection. We are aided by the militant loyalty of a whole people -- a people who have rallied as one behind the standards of those stalwart patriots who, reduced to wretched material conditions yet sustained by an unconquerable spirit, have formed an invincible center to a resolute overall resistance.

We are aided by the fact that for many months our plans of campaign have benefited from the hazardous labors of a vast network of agents numbering into the hundreds of thousands providing precise, accurate and detailed information on major



enemy moves and installations throughout the Philippine Archipelago. We are aided by the fact that through a vast network of radio positions extending into every center of enemy activity and concentration throughout the Islands. I have been kept in immediate and constant communication with such widespread sources of information. We are aided by the fact that on every major Island of the Philippines there are one or more completely equipped and staffed weather observatories which flash to my headquarters full weather data morning, afternoon and night of every day and which in turn provides the basis for reliable weather forecasts to facilitate and secure the implementation of our operational plans. Widely disseminated to our forces throughout the Pacific and in China the information from this weather system has materially aided our military operations over a large section of the world's surface.

We are aided by an air warning system affording visual observation of the air over nearly every square foot of Philippine soil established for the purpose of flashing immediate warning of enemy aircraft movement through that same vast network of radio communications. We are aided by provision of all inland waterways and coastal areas of complete observation over enemy naval movement to give immediate target information to our submarines on patrol in or near Philippine waters. This information has contributed to the sinking of enemy shipping of enormous tonnage, and through such same facilities was flashed the warning to our naval forces of the enemy naval concentration off the western Philippines during the Mariannas operation.

Finally we are aided by the close interior vigilance that has secured for our military use countless enemy documents of great value, among which were the secret defensive plans and instructions of the Commander in Chief of the combined Japanese Fleets to counter our offensive action in the several Pacific areas and complete information on the strength and dispositions of enemy fleet and naval air units. That same Commander in Chief of the Combined Japanese Fleets was a prisoner of one of our gerilla units prior to his death from injuries sustained in an air crash.

All of these vital aids to our military operations, and there are many more still unmentioned, are responsive to the indomitable courage of the military and civil leaders whom I shall in future name and their loyal followers both Filipino and American; to gallant Filipinos, residents of the United States, who have volunteered to infiltrate into the islands in succor of their countrymen and Americans who have infiltrated with them; and finally to the militant loyalty and unconquerable spirit of the masses of the Filipino people.

As COMMANDER IN CHIEF of the forces of liberation I publicly acknowledge and pay tribute to the great spiritual power that has made possible these notable and glorious achievements -- achievements which find few counterparts in military history. Those great patriots, Filipino and American, both living and dead, upon whose valiant shoulders has rested the leadership and responsibility for this indomitable movement in the past critical period, shall, when their identities can be made known, find a lasting place on the scroll of heroes of both nations -- heroes who have selflessly and defiantly subordinated all to the cause of human liberty. Their names and their deeds shall ever be enshrined in the hearts of our two peoples in whose darkest hours they have waged relentless war against the forces of evil that sought, through ruthless brutality, the enslavement of the Filipino people.

To those great patriots to whom I now pay public tribute I say stand to your battle stations and relax not your vigilance until our forces shall have swept forward to relieve you.





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