

395.18 7th MIL Dist
Hq 7th MIL DISTRICT

MESSAGES

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Authority ANDERSON

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Authority NND 883074

25 December '43

335-18

Subject: A MESSAGE

To : All Officers and enlisted men of the 72nd Division

One year ago, today, our organization was still in its infancy. We were then but a few "liberty loving" men exiled on these beautiful mountains of our beloved Negros. Struggling against the sugar coated propaganda of the Japanese Imperial Forces, and the doubtful outcome of our struggle, we were able to survive with just bare hands but with the will to live ----free; free from the tyrannical and treacherous rule of the Japanese Administration. Being few in number and scarce in arms and ammunition, our organization was still very weak. Our scattered and disorganized forces were then engaged in unit between unit squabbles and a few minor, but effective encounter with the enemy. These were the days when there was no cooperation and order in the real military sense.

Gradually, as time marches on, we began to understand each other. We began to realize that our freedom as a people could be gained only through a complete understanding among ourselves. "In Unity there is Strength" was the call of the moment then, and that was achieved. We now find ourselves under one solid organization with a single aim ----to carry on the fight to Victory. But this solidarity was not achieved by mere chance. It was the inspirational leadership of our present leaders that enhanced our solidification into one. We have brave courageous militarists like Lieut.-Colonel Abcede and Lieut.-Colonel Mata, and for the administration of the Civil Government, we have the inspiring aid of our Governor Alfredo Montelibano. Thus under able leadership, our organization slowly, but surely gained its righteous place in the hearts of the entire population of the island. With the full cooperation of the entire population we began to function smoothly. Order was maintained and the attention of our entire organization was focused on the enemy. We began effectively to make the Japs feel that there were and are still men and women who have the courage to live in scarcity and privations in order to be free. Undaunted by the coarse lies and nerve breaking propaganda of the Japs, we still are able to maintain a high level of Morale and Efficiency. In spite of the lack of materials and other things necessary for an army --We still carry on.

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The day of our liberation from the hands of the Yellow Menace of the far East is not far off. Material evidence of the fulfillment of the noble intentions of our benefactor, The Father of Democratic Nations, is on our hands now. It is our duty as lovers of freedom to do our part.

This Christmas Day of 1943 still finds us in the mountain fastness of our island, but in a condition entirely opposite from what we started upon. We can be proud to say that we can now celebrate our traditional Christmas Celebration in the real Christian way, not in Japanese way. The birth of our Lord inspires us to withstand more sacrifices if it need be. He who is the Creator of everything has also sacrificed, and why could we not?

But we must not be too over confident. our task is not yet over. We have just only began the struggle and it is our prime duty to finish a noble task we proudly and bravely began.

May I reiterate once more the prevailing spirit that must guide and enjoin each and everyone to feel that the day of the birth of our savior is at hand and so is our day of freedom. Let us have a fervent wish for a Merry Christmas and a Victorious New Year to all Officers and Enlisted Men of the 72nd Division.

335-18
72nd MIL DIST
HQ 72nd MIL DIST

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By Order of Lieut.-Colonel M A T A :

MM
HECTOR G. MOIA
Captain, Infantry
AC of S, G-3

HGM/ag
COPY furnished:
DC., 7th MD
CO., 72nd Div.
Chief of Staff
F i l e

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