

Philippine Editor

BEFORE BATAAN AND AFTER. By Frederic S. Marquardt. 315 pp. Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, \$2.50.

By COLONEL CARLOS P. ROMULO

FREDERIC MARQUARDT was in the United States, on leave of absence from his post of associate editor of The Philippine Free Press, when the Rising Sun sent its bloodthirsty planes over Manila. He missed the fall of the Philippines; he also missed the horrors of the Santo Tomas concentration camp where three thousand of his fellow Americans are now held captive.

But before tragedy struck Manila there was little that Fred Marquardt missed in the pre-war life of the Philippines. It is his country, and no American is better qualified to tell the story of the Philippines and the people whose lives are in that story. He writes with the love of two countries in his heart and with a warm understanding and appreciation for two peoples.

Marquardt tells his story through overlapping personalities, which is the most interesting way to write history. This does not keep his book from presenting a sound economic analysis. He outlines with care the inside story of the Filipino fight for independence and its involved wheels of interests working within interests.

"But the American 'interests' which stood to lose their markets when the Philippines were given independence never received the same attention from Congress and the public as the 'interests' that stood to gain. * * * There was enough good, solid accomplishment in Philippine-American relations to bear a factual telling of the complete story."

Detailed and accurate is his account of Philippine politics, first American controlled, then merged with Filipino, and even-

tually the successful working plan that led to the promise of complete independence. Marquardt presents in review the American Governor Generals and their reception by the Filipinos. It is interesting to recall in present light the once "comic opera" insistence of Paul V. McNutt, in his days as High Commissioner, that Roosevelt and Quezon should be toasted in precedence to Hitler and Hirohito at formal dinners! "American columnists had a lot of fun over the incident, but McNutt unquestionably smacked down a very definite attempt to destroy American prestige by what were later to become partner nations in the Axis."

In one detail alone I must differ from Frederic Marquardt—when he writes of Frank Murphy, the last Governor General and first High Commissioner, who turned over the reins of government to Manuel Luis Quezon. After Murphy left the Philippines, according to Marquardt, "every one seemed to be lambasting him, 'Americans and Filipinos alike.'" To my personal knowledge Murphy was the American Governor best liked by the Filipinos, with the possible exceptions of Henry L. Stimson and Francis Burton Harrison. He was a Catholic and a sincere liberal. In fact, he was so missed by the Filipinos that petitions and resolutions were sent to Washington asking his return.

But Manuel Quezon is presented, and I believe for the first time by an American writer, not as a flamboyant politician but as a patriot and beloved leader. In a chapter, "The Strangest Dictator," Marquardt writes, "half the people in Manila would walk out to the end of Pier 7 and jump in the bay if Quezon told them to." That is why Quezon was, and continues to be, of such vital importance to the United States and to the United Nations. Not

only does he keep the spirit of opposition to Japan alive in the Philippines, but his voice carries weight among all the enslaved peoples of Asia.

"Before the war started, he said, 'We owe loyalty to America and we are bound to her by bonds of everlasting gratitude. Should the United States enter the war the Philippines would follow her, placing at her disposal all our manpower and material resources to help her in achieving victory, for the cause for which America fights is our cause.'"

The final echo of these words are in the stirring chapter, "Balance Sheet on Bataan." Was Bataan worth while? "What did MacArthur and his 'Gallant Handful' accomplish on that now historic bit of Philippine soil, smaller than an average American township? From the strictly military standpoint their achievements more than justified their losses. They held an army estimated at 200,000 men for more than three months, when the Japs needed their troops for the campaigns to the south and to the west. They tied up a large number of Japanese supply ships, when those ships could have been carrying tanks and troops and munitions to other vital war fronts. Most important of all, they forced the Japs to use up a very substantial amount of their hoard of war material. * * * There was one other great gain for this nation in the suffering on Bataan, less tangible perhaps than the heavy blows struck the enemy and less important to the United States than the positive and convincing proof that American soldiers were still able to hold their own in any part of the world. That was the heroic example of the Filipino troops, who not only established the right of the Philippines to a place in the concert of free nations but who also vindicated once and for all the basic soundness of the policy of the United States toward the Philippines."