

RETURN TO THE PHILIPPINES

What Follows The Japanese Exit?

Asks A.M.R. in this article for "The Listener"

EVERYBODY to-day can find the Philippines on a map. But nobody, not even the Filipinos themselves, can place them.

Geographically, of course, the 7081 Philippine Islands are an out-rigger of Asia. Racially they are nearer the Japanese than any other nation is. Economically they are the usual rice-consuming, food-and-fibre-exporting tropical country. But historically the archipelago is more tied to Europe than to Asia; culturally it resembles South America more closely than anywhere else; and politically—well, nobody knows that yet.

General Douglas MacArthur, heir of his father as Commander-in-Chief of the Philippine Army, promised when ordered from Bataan three years ago that he would be back in his penthouse flat on top of the Manila Hotel by this Christmas. Bold as the promise seemed at the time, it now looks like being fulfilled. But what then? Elsewhere in the East, Japanese occupation has torn holes in the White Man's prestige and brought nearer the day of local independence. In the Philippines, already scheduled for independence in 1946, it has emphasised the tie, over four centuries old, between the Islands and America. Incidentally, dating the return by Christmas means more to the Filipino than erasing that last December week when the Japanese poured overland into Manila. For Christmas, which means nothing outside the minority of Christian homes in all the other countries of Asia, is the year's greatest day in the Philippines. They were Christians, remember, before ever the first Briton settled in what is now the United States.

Christmas in Manila

I first saw the Philippines on that Day of Days. In the morning Manila's 69 churches had been crowded to the window-sills. In the evening, as the flat steamy city awoke from siesta, the streets began to flow with slim young athletes parading in coloured singlets hanging outside white duck trousers, and with *senoras* and *senoritas* in gauzy dresses with high bunched shoulders packed inside the boxes-on-wheels called *colesas* and *carretelas* that trail behind tiny ponies and carry each a square of canvas overhead as a private cloud. But only at night did Manila really wake. The matchbox houses-on-stilts in their scented gardens blazed out electricity and laughter, the wooden cock-fighting pits bellowed delirium, and the down-town amusement parks and Japanese *buzzars* (department stores) scintillated neon and swing.

Geyzers of energy at intermittent worship and play, the 16 million Filipinos are not so hot at continuous work—a feature noted by the Romans of our

own ancestors in a corresponding stage of development. But then why should they be? Their tough little *carabaos* (water buffaloes) "plough" the rice-fields with their hoofs and when off duty forage for themselves. Bananas, papayas (pawpaws), and coconuts come ripe the year round. Nipa palms grow specially

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PLAN YOUR FUTURE

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THOSE TIRED FATHERS

They need a bit of help too, so watch their diet mother...



Poor old Dad doesn't always get the consideration he needs. He's apt to become part of the background of home so to speak! Many old Dads are doing a great job these days...off each morning to sign on the dotted line in place of that younger man who's had to go. And Dad hasn't the energy he used to have. Sometimes he's too tired to eat much. And that's where mother exercises a little diplomatic sympathy. "Dad, I've made hot cocoa this morning for breakfast... it's a cold morning", "Dad, don't forget your thermos... it's full of hot cocoa for smoko". And at night after a bit of national work that has kept Dad out too late for his tired feelings... "Ah! here you are Dad... here's a cup of hot cocoa just made..."

and what about some toast by the fire...it's still red".



CADBURY'S

BOURNVILLE COCOA

HERE'S THE RECIPE:

Boiled Chocolate Pudding

Boil together for 1 minute: $\frac{1}{2}$ cup golden syrup, $1\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoons butter or dripping, 1 cup milk. Mix together: 2 cups white flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup wholemeal, 3 dessertspoons Bournville Cocoa, $2\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons baking power, 1 cup mixed chopped fruit (sultanas and apples are a good mixture). Make a hole in centre, add hot milk, butter, syrup, put into well-greased pudding basin. Steam for 1 hour or longer. Serve with a chocolate sauce.

for that extra energy
use plenty of

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