

April 9, 1967
25th ANNIVERSARY - BATTLE OF BATAAN

**25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF BATAAN
 (1942 - 1967)**

To mark the 25th anniversary of the Fall of Bataan, the Bureau of Posts issues today a set of three postage stamps of 5s, 20s and P2.00 denominations printed thru heliogravure-delacryl process in sheets of 50 by the Thomas de la Rue, Co.,Ltd., of London, England.

The motif of the stamps is a beautiful oil painting by Fernando C. Amorsolo entitled "Supreme Sacrifice - Bataan," and was prepared by the Bureau's Philatelic Artist Nemesio Dimanlig, Jr.

The design shows a Filipino woman symbolizing Mother Philippines, whose eyes are raised upward as if in heavenly supplication for the sacrifice of the Filipino soldier. The slain soldier lying in front of the woman symbolizes the fate of those who gave their lives that democracy may be kept alive and subsist in this part of the globe.

The original Amorsolo masterpiece is in the possession of Judge Guillermo Guevarra, through whose courtesy the Bureau of Posts was able to feature it on the 29x48.2 mm stamps to fittingly commemorate the battle in which Filipino and American blood was spilled in the name of freedom and liberty.

The Battle of Bataan was gallantly fought by both Filipino and American soldiers, who despite numerical odds, hunger and lack of medical supplies were able to withstand for sometime the onslaught of the superior number of the Imperial Japanese Army, thereby delaying the capitulation of the Philippines and thus destroying the early spread of Japanese might in other areas of the Southwest Pacific. That was twenty-five years ago.

It is in remembering that we can keep the spirit and feel the devotion of our fallen soldiers. May this stamps which have captured the significance and dignity of the pledge to defend life, liberty and man's right to pursue happiness be a toast to them.

