

**October 20, 1969  
20th ANNIVERSARY - LEYTE LANDING**

**25th ANNIVERSARY LEYTE LANDING STAMPS  
(1944 - 1969)**

To be released today, October 20, 1969 by the Bureau of Posts is a set of stamps to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the landing of Gen. Douglas MacArthur in Leyte. It has been printed by Thomas de la Rue and Co. Ltd., of London, using the heliogravure process, in four colors, horizontal format, 30x51 mm perforation to perforation and printed in sheet of 50 stamps. The designers are Nemesio Dimanlig, Jr. and Angel Legaspi.

During the first three weeks of October 1944, the American forces intensified their attacks on the Philippines and Formosa.

On October 17, 1944, the small islands which guard the eastern approaches to the Leyte Gulf were already under American control, and then on October 20 came the great day - the assemblage on the Leyte beaches of the largest fleet of transports and warships ever concentrated in the Pacific. The main landings came at ten in the morning on an 18-mile front with corps abreast, the X corps to the north and the XXIV in the south.

After the first wave of assault troops had made a beachhead, Gen. MacArthur strode ashore on a muddy beach near the town of Palo and told the Filipino people, "I have returned." With him were Colonel Carlos Romulo and Pres. Sergio Osmeña. On October 23, three days after the landing of America's liberation forces in Leyte, the Commonwealth Government was restored in Tacloban which was made the temporary capital of the Philippines, pending liberation of Manila.

The celebration to mark this historical event in Leyte will be chairmanned by Gov. Benjamin Romualdez who has prepared a fitting program for the occasion. Among the many Americans invited to attend the commemoration will be the first American soldier who planted the United States Flag on the beach of Leyte at ten o'clock in the morning of October 20, 1944. It is indeed unfortunate that the Filipino soldier who planted the Philippine Flag alongside the U.S. Flag cannot be present as he died in action during the landing operation, a few days later.

The set of stamps devoted to the 25th Anniversary Leyte Landing has been printed in denominations of 5, 10 and 40 sentimo in quantities of 2,000,000 of each denomination. Depicted on the stamps is the proposed memorial park to be constructed on the exact spot where the American forces, headed by Gen. MacArthur, landed. On the lower portion of the stamps can be seen, in outline form, the forces of Gen. MacArthur as they landed on the shore of Palo, Leyte.

First day of issue: October 20, 1969

