

This article has been retyped for legibility. The original is below.

5730 Broomall Avenue  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
May 25, 1945

The Rev. George H. MacNish  
Cleveland, New York

My dear Mr. MacNish:

You don't know me, nor do I know you, but I know that you will be glad to hear that I have very ancient news of one of your boys.

Before I was interned by the Japanese, while I was still living in Bontoc, Mountain Province, the Philippines, a detachment of military prisoners of war were brought into Bontoc by the Japs. They were men who had been captured in Bataan and were now working on repair squads on the roads and bridges. We had little opportunity to see them and no chance to talk to them, for the Japs were keeping them closely guarded and we ourselves were confined to our homes. However, my assistant priest, A Filipino, was able from time to time to wave to them as they filed past the Church and to smuggle food and clothing into their possession. One day one of the prisoners risked a great deal to sneak over and talk to Fr. Masferre, my assistant. He said his name was Beebe (if my memory serves me correctly...my memos and records have been stolen by the Japs, so I must rely on memory) and that he was one of your communicants. He wanted very much to make his communion, but we were unable to get permission from the Japs for him to do so.

It is entirely likely that you have had later word from him. This occurred in June, 1942. I have no idea what happened to him after that date. I do know that some of the boys in his labor attachment escaped from the Japs and holed up in the mountains, being well taken care of by our Igor(illegible letter)t Christians and serving with guerrilla units until the Americans came in. Some are still behind the Jap lines in the Mountain Province. Others of the boys were returned to Military Prison Camp #1 (Cabanatuan) and these were subsequently shipped to Japanese or Formosan Prison Camps, or to Bilibid, Manila, and all who were sent to either of these two Philippine Camps have of course been released.

I should be interested in hearing any news that you have had of Beebe since that date when I was in contact with him.

Very truly yours.

*Clifford E. Barry Nobes*

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