

PROJ: MATTHEW FISHER – THE FILIPINO VETERANS RECOGNITION AND EDUCATION PROJECT

CIRIACO LADINES INTERVIEW BY NOEL IZON (NI)

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00:00:05:00

NI: Uulitin natin uli yung introduction nyo, yung pangalan nyo, kung kailan kayo pinanganak tsaka saan, so teka.

IN ENGLISH

NI: We will repeat your introduction, your name, your birthdate and your birthplace.

00:00:15:00

CL: Ako po si Ciriaco Ladines at Lubi ang apelyido ng aking ina. Hindi ko alam na iyon pala ay siya kong tunay na kuwan, parang ako ay naangkin noong maliit pa, noong ako ay nalaki na ang tawag sa akin ay Junior, pero sabi nung makita ko si Anderson, andun sa Pinuruan at kausap yung si Domingo Reyes, ako po ay nakapaglagari, kami ni Hildo na matanda sa akin ng isang taon, yung tuangan, yung tuangan, sabi ko ay saan kaya gagamitin ito? Yun pala ay gagamitin dahil palalakingin yung kampo. Iyon daw ang gagamitin yung tabla noon, mahaba po, mula po dito tsaka doon, hindi sila magkasundo nung isang naglalagari din ay hindi magkaigi, ang sabi ko ay tila yata ang inyong kiling ay hindi tama, eh sa ganang sa akin ay dapat itama ang pagkikiing.

IN ENGLISH

NI: I am Ciriaco Ladines and my mother's last name is Lubi. I didn't know she was my real mother. It was like when I was a kid I was sort of adopted, and when I was growing up, I was called Junior. But

when I saw Anderson in Pinuruan and he was talking to Domingo Reyes, a friend of mine, Hildo, who is a year older than me, we saw people sawing large planks of wood there, and I was thinking what for are they sawing those long pieces of planks. We found out later that it would be for the enlargement of the camp and the planks will be used for it. The planks are quite lengthy, from here to there maybe. During the sawing of the planks, there were disagreements among the people doing the cutting; I presumed that something was going wrong with the cutting process and my concern is to get it done the right way.

00:02:14:00

NI: Babalikan natin si Anderson, bago tayo pumunta kay Anderson, sabihin mo lang sa akin kung ano ginagawa ng mga magulang mo bago dumating ang mga Hapon, ano trabaho ng mga magulang mo?

IN ENGLISH

NI: Let us go back to Anderson and before that, can you tell me what your parents were doing before the Japanese came, what do your parents do?

00:02:28:00

CL: Ang trabaho ng tunay kong magulang ay mananahi, ito namang nag aalaga sa akin ay nagkukuwan ng mga troso at pinagbibilad sa init, pagkatapos ako naman ay nagpapakain doon sa mga kalabaw na pinakakain ko ng mga sariwang damo at kung maghihila eh di malalakas. At kung maghihila ay napapasunod pati ako ako doon sa ibabaw ng kalabaw namin, mataba at bingot at mabait sa kin noon at tsaka yung kalabaw na puti ay ang bait sa akin pagka ako ay nakikita parang nahalik sa akin, ang nangyayari ay aking iniwas muna. Tapos ay kami ay nagpunta kay Ilyasan at si Morona ay yung Kumander

sa Liwayway, eh di akala ko ay kung saan pupunta. Iyon pala ay doon sa gagawing headquarters kaya sila naglalagari. Eh noong bigla pong kami ay nakakatapos ng ikalawang ili ay may tumakbo ginagawang headquarters at sinabing umalis na rin kayo diyan at paparito ang mga Hapon, dahil may kasamang espiya at ituturo kayo. At iyon pong si Anderson ay talagang, iyon pala ay wanted na ng mga Hapon at nagtatatag nga ng USAFFE.

IN ENGLISH

CL: My real parents are tailors. The one who took care of me worked in logging and sun drying of woods. My job was to feed the water buffalos with fresh grass so by the time they're used to pull, they would be stronger. At times I rode at the back of the buffalos. Actually there were two water buffalos under my care. One had a clef lip and the other was white in skin. The white one was closer to me that every time it sees me, it tends to kiss me and I just ignore it. Then we went to Ilyasan and there a certain Morona was the commander at Liwayway. I have no idea at first where we're really going but I soon found out that we would be going at the headquarters where we saw them sawing the planks of wood. Then someone came in to the headquarters running and told everyone to leave because the Japanese are on their way with spies and would point out everyone, the reason being that Anderson is wanted by the Japanese because of his ties with the USAFFE.

00:04:54:00

NI: Teka muna, balik muna uli tayo noong kadadating lang nga ng Hapon, madaming mga gerilya na doon sa ano, nuon sa bayan nyo na nagrerekrut, pero paano kayo nagpunta kay Anderson?

IN ENGLISH

NI: Wait awhile, let's go back to the time where the Japanese just recently arrived, there were a lot of guerillas recruiting to join them in your town, how did you happened to join with Anderson?

00:05:11:00

CL: Siya kuwan itong aking nagugustuhan dahil ang ugali ni Anderson ay hindi katulad noong mga Hunter na PQOG na organisasyon tsaka yung organisasyon ng 49th na samahan ng mga Intsik. Ng makatapos ng pagmimiting na iyon eh kasama namin sa, si Jose Laborte at ako ay sinasama, nagpunta siya sa bahay at ako naman ay guwardiya lamang, aba eh noong biglang dumating ang balita nga na naroroon na sa Maynila ang mga Hapon at mayroong magtuturo, aba eh talunan na lahat, pati sa bintana yung iba at tulad ni Laborte nagtalon, 'di ako naman ay nagpunta doon sa may hagdanan at tinignan ko kung nadating na, ang hawak ko po ay rebolber na .35 noon at handa naman akong humarap kung nandidiyan na, pero wala naman. Doon sa pagtatalunan na iyon meron namang pati si Neria ng Hunter ay napilayan doon sa pagtatalunan na iyon sa bintana, ang sabi ko ay katakot-takot naman kayo, eh balita lang pala eh nagtatalunan na kayo, tuloy may napilayan. Kami ay tuloy na napunta sa papuntang Liwayway, ang ginawa namin noon ay lumakad na kami doon sa ano, nakita na nga namin yaong pagtatayuan ng hedkuwarters at si Anderson tsaka si Manzano ay umalis na doon kasama si Napoleon Almira, na Napo ang tawag sa kanya tsaka yung kanyang kapatid na magandang kumanta.

IN ENGLISH

CL: I liked Anderson's attitude better than that of the Hunter's PQOG organization or that of the 49th Chinese organization. After that meeting, we were with Jose Laborte and he brought me to the house I

was guarding then. While we were there sudden information came that the Japanese forces were already in Manila and there would be informers on the way. Everyone jumped out of the house, some out of the windows. Even Laborte jumped out. I calmly walked to the stairwell to see if there were Japanese coming while holding a caliber .35 revolver and I was really prepared to face them if indeed they were there, but there was no one. That jumping out left a lot of them limping and strained, even Neria of Hunter was limping. Laughing sarcastically, I asked why they were all afraid. That it was all news, why are they nervous and afraid and so now they're all lame and limping. So we continued and walked our way to Liwayway and arrived at the place where they will build the headquarters. Anderson and Manzano together with Napoleon Almira had already left the place. Napo is with his sibling who sings beautifully

00:08:01:00

NI: Pero matagal kayong naglakad para mahanap ninyo si Anderson at sabi ninyo sa akin mga beinte singkong kilometro kayo naglakad, kuwento nyo nga sa akin yun, noong hinahanap ninyo si Anderson?

IN ENGLISH

NI: But it took you a long time to find Anderson and you told me you had walked about 25 kilometers when you were looking for Anderson, can you tell about the story when you were looking for Anderson?

00:08:01:00

CL: Kami po ay napapunta na ng Liwayway at kami ay kumain lang ng pritong manok at aking kasama ay iyong mabilis kumain, at ang sabi ko ay; ako ay hindi na uuwi sa amin sapagkat ang gusto ko ay sumama

kay Anderson, 'di ako ay sasama na rin, sabi sa akin, oh, sige, sabi sa akin, pagdating ng simbahang bato, nakita naming yung pinatay na si Kuya Noe, kasama si Alipio Manzano. At yung maririnig mo yung mga Hapon na si Alipio Manzano eh binata pa, ang ginawa daw ay, nung mga nakakakita, ay pinugutan ng ulo tapos ay binabaon at yung si Dalangin na espiya ng hapon ay kinain yung utak at iyon daw ay pangpalinaw ng isip niya, ayun, eh di kami, ako ay nagpunta lang dun sa pingkian na aming linang at kinuha ko yung iniwan na tubo ng tatay ng nagpalaki sa akin na marunong mag hilom ng tubo at natulo sa ilalim at pagkakuwan ay, akoy nag-kumuha ng puro, nilalagyan ko ng kamote at ako naman ay doon na nag-akyat sa bundok at pag-punta namin doon, abay, naroroon yung mga mga tao at doon nagsisitago at sabi saakin eh, Aco, eh saan ka galing? Aba ay nagpunta ako sa pingkian, aba eh bakit dito ka nagdaan? Eh malapit dito kahit saan. Eh pagbilhan nga niyang saging mo at nilagang kamote. Eh huwag mo na akong bayaran, binigyan ko ng nilagang kamote na merong kutsara. Pagkatapos nuon, eh nagkita kami ni Cezar Morona doon at sabi ko, ako kako ay hihiwalay muna sa inyo at hindi ako dadaan sa amin at ako ay makikita ng Tatay ko at para sa akin ayoko mapagdudahan yung mga kalabaw, marami pong kalabaw yun eh, pati yung mallit ay siyam.

IN ENGLISH

CL: We found our way to Liwayway and had a meal there of fried chicken. My companion and I took our meal as fast as we could. I told him that I am not going back to my family and that I really want to join Anderson, and he told me he would do the same. So we went on and when we reached the adobe stone church, as instructed, we saw the dead bodies of Brother Noe along with Alipio Manzano. Both of

them are dead, and we can hear the Japanese soldiers talking quietly out of pity because Alipio Manzano was just a young man. And those people who witnessed the killing said that they were both beheaded and buried. And there was a certain Dalangin, a spy for the Japanese, who they said ate the brain of the young Alipio Manzano. They said he ate his brain to have an unclouded mind, that's what happened. Afterwards, we decided to go to the dirty kitchen hut in our field and I took the blow pipe that was left by the father of the man who adopted and raised me and used it as blowpipe to start a fire so I could cook. I took an iron pot and boiled some bananas and sweet potatoes. After that, I walked up to the mountain with the cooked bananas and sweet potatoes. Upon reaching a part of the mountain, we saw some of the people who witnessed the killing of Brother Noe and Alipio Manzano hiding there, and they were so anxious and frightened. One of them asked me, "Aco, where did you come from, why did you pass this way?" I answered, "This is the shortest route to take." He then asked, "Can I buy some of your boiled bananas and sweet potatoes?" I told him okay, but you need not pay for it, so I just gave him some sweet potatoes along with a spoon so he can eat it. After that, I met Cezar Morona there and I told him I would be separating from them for a while as I do not want my Father to see me and I do not want him to have any doubts about me. My Father has many water buffalos, including about nine small ones.

00:12:03:001

NI: Tigil muna tayo sandali kay Anderson, ang balita ko, nung nakita kayo ni Anderson, sabi eh hindi kayo pwedeng maging gerilya batang-bata kayo, yun ba sinabi niya, ikuwento mo sa akin ho iyon.

IN ENGLISH

NI: Let's stop for a while on Anderson, what I gathered was when you saw Anderson you were told you cannot be a guerilla, you are too young, is that what you were told, can you tell me about that story?

00:12:15:00

LC: Ayun nga, noong magkita kami doon sa Akasiya, siya ay andun, sabi niya, eh hindi kayo makakasama sa amin, batang bata kayo, sabi ko eh, kung saan ka magpunta ako ay kasama mo. Sige, bibigyan ko kayo ng coat para kayo ay maging miyembro. Pumunta kayo sa Mainit at meron daw mga babae na naroroon na naghihintay galing ng Maynila, at ang sabi siya ay si, nakalimutan ko na ang kanyang pangalan, andun aniya yung dalawang babae na lalapit sa inyo at itatanong kung kilala ako. Sabi ko ay opo, at ito aniya ay ibibigay mo sa kanya.

IN ENGLISH

CL: Well then, when we met in Akasiya, he was there and he said you can't be with us, you are too young, I told him wherever you go, I am with you. All right he said, I'll give coats for you to become members. Then we were instructed to go to Mainit. There are women there waiting, they're from Manila, they will approach you and ask you if you know me. I was to say yes, and hand this over to them.

00:13:24:00

NI: Ano ang ibinigay sa inyo, para dalhin dun sa babae?

IN ENGLISH

NI: What did he give you to hand over to those women?

00:13:28:00

LC: Mga sulat po, galing Manila, mga balita ng kung ano na nangyayari sa Maynila. Eh biro mo, ang sabi sa akin eh, bilisan mo ang pagpunta roon, di kami ay nag short-cut naman dun sa pa-Liwayway, yung baryo ng

Lidaywayway at tuloy kami sa San Rafael, pagkatapos ay tuloy sa Baw. Eh, itong aking kasama, tayo na muna kayang kumain at ako ay gutom na gutom na. At naglabas siya ng isang manok na malaki, at mabilis kaming kumain, at pagkakain namin, eh malaki ang kinain naming manok, eh ako'y busog na busog, sabi ko'y, hindi na ako pupunta ng bahay at kapag ako ay nakita ng Tatay na Pindo ay hindi na ako paaalisin. Basta't hahanapin ko si Anderson. Eh di nagkasundo po kami na hahanapin naming si Anderson. Pumunta kami sa Rosario, nakaraan na doon, sabi ng mga naroroon na gerilya rin, anila ay papuntang Santa Lucia, eh may pagdadaanang bundok na mataas at doon ang short-cut papuntang Santa Lucia, ang sabi noong iba ay, iyong taas ng bundok ang inyong lalakadin, aba ay anong taas, sabi ko ay sige basta kami ay makapunta diyan.

IN ENGLISH

CL: It was letters, letters from Manila, containing news about what is happening in Manila. Imagine my orders were to rush and see those women immediately. So we went and took the shortest route to Barrio Liwayway, then on to San Rafael, then to Bao. But then, the person who was with me asked me if we can stop rushing for a while as he was too famished to continue. So he pulled out from his bag, one big cooked chicken and we ate it as fast as we can so we can proceed again. We felt stuffed after eating, because the chicken was so big. I told him I would not go home, and take a chance that my Father Pindo would see me; he would not allow me to go back. I would rather just continue to find Anderson, so we both agreed to find him. We both agreed to go and look for Anderson. We went to Rosario and upon reaching Rosario we were told by the people and guerillas there that Anderson and his

guerilla fighters had already passed by Rosario and on their way to Santa Lucia. But the short passage to Santa Lucia would be through a higher mountain peak. People asked us if would be able to hike up a mountain that high. I said yes as long as we would be able to reach it.

00:15:44:00

NI: So iyong unang asaynment nyo ay parang naging koriyer kayo, idineliber nyo yung message doon sa babae.

IN ENGLISH

NI: So about your first assignment, you were a courier, you delivered the messages to those women?

00:15:53:00

CL: Nanggaling doon sa babae.

IN ENGLISH

CL: There were letters from the women.

00:15:55:00

NI: So noong nagawa nyo na iyon naging kasama na kayo ni Anderson?

IN ENGLISH

NI: So when you did that, you officially joined Anderson?

00:15:59:00

CL: Hindi pa, noong magkita po kami ng inabot namin siya ay ibinigay ko iyong sulat, muntik pa nga akong malunod doon sa Maasin ng kami ay tumawid ay nakakapit lang ako sa agoho, matibay naman, abot ka rito at hindi ko maitaas ang at baka mabasa pati, naayos naman at naakyat na nga namin yung bundok na anong taas na sabi ng iba ay anong taas. Dininig yata ng panginoon mahal na birhen at bumaba kami sa medyo malayo pa rin, ayun at yung amo ni Napo eh naroroon, 'do po ba nandine sila Manzano ay nagdaan dito? Aba'y nakalampas na aniya, at kagabi aniya ay sumakay sa malaking bangka na nagbibiyaha ng baboy galing sa Palanan, eh di naka yaon na doon at doon sumakay. Eh hindi naman kami makadaan sa

ikit na iyon, ang sabi ay bibigyan ko kayo ng bangka, marunong ba kayo magsagwan, abay ay ako naman ay bihasa din, at binigyan kami ng sagwan at tsaka ng maliit na bangka at sagwan na ginagamit sa pangangisda ng dalawa. At noong kami ay malapit na doon ay inabot kami ng bagyo, at sabi ko pumondo muna kami at bumaba kaya pinondo muna namin doon sa tabi, at noong maramdaman ko na bahura na, aba eh mababaw na pala at kami ay bumaba at idinahit namin iyong bangkang maliit tapos eh kinuwan namin sa Kapitan del Barrio na ito pong bangkang ginamit namin ay pahiram lamang sa amin. Ang sabi ng Kapitan del Barrio, bayaan nyo at ako ang bahala diyan. Paano po kaya iyan at nakalampas na pala si Anderson dito, ay oo, kung kayo ay mabilis ay maabutan pa ninyo, kaya naglakad takbo kami, at noong makita namin ang sabi ay “What happened to you”, anong nangyari sa inyo doon sa inyong lakad? Narito po at dala ko yung message noong babae, ang pangalan noong bata pa eh.

IN ENGLISH

CL: No, not yet. When I went back and saw him I gave him the letters. I almost drowned crossing in Maasin on our way back. I was just able to hold on to a hanging rope. Luckily it was strong and being short I had difficulty reaching for it. I had to reach it to protect the letters from getting wet. We were able to climb the mountain which they said was too high for us to climb. I was thinking our prayers to the Holy Virgin Mary had been heard, so we went down, but it was still a long way. Upon our descent, Manzano’s patron was there and he told us they had already left the area the night before and rode on huge boats used for transporting hogs from Palanan. To go around would be too far to reach them, so he said he will provide us with small boats and asked if

we know how to use paddles. He was convinced so he gave us a small boat and two paddles, so we proceeded. When we were near the place, we encountered a rain storm, so I said we had to reach the shore and dock there for some time. When I sensed that we're already in shallow waters, we anchored the boat. We went ashore and spoke to the Village Chief and told him that we do not own the boat, that it belonged to someone else who was good enough to lend it to us. The village chief said that he would take care of it. We asked if Anderson had already passed this way; he said yes but if we were fast enough we could still hook up with him. So we walked fast and ran. Upon reaching him, he asked, "What happened to you, did you accomplish the task?" I said. "Yes Sir. Here is the message from those women.

00:20:18:00

NI: Oh hindi bale na iyon, yung noong una kayong nagtrabaho para kay Anderson, ang unang trabaho nyo ay parang nagpa-patrol lang kayo, ikuwento nyo sa akin yung ginagawa nyo para sa kanila. Nagpa-patrol ba kayo sa bayan?

IN ENGLISH

NI: When you first work for Anderson, what was your first assignment? Are you only on patrol, tell me about it. Were you on patrol assignment in the town?

00:20:34:00

CL: Ang nangyari po sa akin eh naging kuriyer at pagkakuwan sa amin eh, makakauwi na kayo at kayo ay magbaba sa inyong magulang magsabi kayo kung kayo ay pahihintulutan, ang sabi ko ay ako po ay hindi na makakababa sa min kay Pedro Ladines at hindi na po ako papaalisin noon, ayoko po basta saan man kayo magpunta ako ay sasama sa inyo. Eh di nagkakatinginan yung dalawa ni Manzano at si

Anderson naman ay pilay na dahil yung kanyang unang paa ay sugat-sugat na, ang ginawa noong si Hildo na kasama ko ay kumuha ng talupak ng abakang tuyo, pagkatapos ay kinuha yung sapatos at binalutan noong abaka at tsaka isinuot kay Anderson at tinalian niya, tapos yung isa ay ganoon din. Noong tumindig ay naramdaman ni Anderson, aba maginhawa aniya, pagkatapos ay ewan ko kung siya ay nagdadasal dahil ang naririnig ko ay amen, aba eh sige, marunong pala at kami ay nangagtaas ang kamay e di kami ay naging miyembro na.

IN ENGLISH

CL: What happened to me was I became a courier at first. After that first delivery to Anderson, we were told to go back to our families. But I asked for permission if we could join them. I told them I could not go back to Pedro Ladines, my adoptive father. He would never allow me to join you, but I do not want to do that. Anywhere you go I would go. Manzano and Anderson looked at each other. Anderson was limping because his feet were swollen and wounded. Hildo, who was with me, took a husk from dried abaca hemp. He took Anderson's boots and wrapped them with the husk. Anderson stood up after that to feel it and said it's more convenient. After that I heard him whispering. I don't know if he's praying or what, but I heard him say "Amen," so we joined him in his prayer with raised hands and that was it. We became members of his group.

00:22:43:00

NI: Ah ayun, pagkatapos noong una ay hindi kayo pwedeng, ang sabi ni Mang Ato ay hindi kayo pwedeng makipag-bakbakan eh, magserbisyo lang at tsaka intelligence noong unang-una, tapos naging guwardiya ka ng mga narses, ikuwento mo sa akin iyon.

IN ENGLISH

NI: Oh there, at first Mang Ato said that you cannot join in the fighting, so you just did services and intelligence work at first, then you became a watchman and guarding the nurses, tell me that story?

(JON'S NOTE: THIS PART IS TRULY HILARIOUS, BUT I HAVE TO CLEAN UP THE GRAPHIC DESCRIPTION OF THE NURSES TAKING TURNS TO MAKE A DUMP.)

00:23:02:00

CL: Lyon po ay ano ay, ako ay nandoon at ako ay guwardiya eh ngayon eh naubos yung pagkain doon at sabi ko ay teka at ang sabi ko doon sa batang nars, sabi ko ay ikuha doon sa supply doon sa tabing dagat ng niyog at kung ano ang naroon na maaring kainin, eh wala daw iba kung hindi niyog, eh 'di aking binaak at inalis ko yung balat na naka kuwan doon sa niyog para maging puti tsaka aking tinadtad at naisipan ko ay may langis naman kaunti eh iprito, eh di ng aking tinikman ay malutong, sabi ko ay malutong pala ito, eh di nilabas ko dun sa mga narses, at ang sabi nila ay ito pala ay masarap, parang mani at kinain nila ako naman ay luto ng luto at noong medyo masagana na ay sumobra at nakulo day ang kanila tiyan, aba eh sabi ko ay, aba ay bakit, yun pala ay yung parang langis niya, at sila ay napunta sa latrine, yun namang latrine ay hinukay ko doon at nilagyan ko ng baak na kahoy na siya kong nilagay doon eh di maaari kang sumilat sa kuwan, aba eh ng makita ko ay halinhinan sila sa pagpunta doon at yung batang nars ay nagpapahawak sa akin at ang sabi ko ay 'di ako ay tatalikod, maski aniya ay ikaw ay humarap at ng makita mo na ang sa akin, ang sabi ko ay nakakahiya naman, ako ay tatalikod, pinipilit akong humarap at para hawak ko siya at siya daw ay talagang nahihilo, 'di ako ay humarap at sabi ko naman ay takpan mo

naman yang kuwan mo at talagang ako ay nahihiyang rine, huwag ko ng takpan basta akoy makatae dito, eh 'di kako sige at ako naman ay nakatingalang ganyan at ng makaalis siya doon ay sunod-sunod na pagkakuwan at halinhinan silang tumatae doon sa latrine, kakoy naku, napasama yata ang pagkakatulo ko noong niyog na tinadtad at nagsipagtae.

IN ENGLISH

CL: That was it. I was ordered to look after the nurses. We ran out of food one time and a young nurse was looking for something to eat. I told her to wait and I will go near the seashore and get whatever food I can find. But there were only coconuts, so I split some of them, took the white meat out of the shell and chopped them. I thought of frying the chopped coconut meat since there was cooking oil available. It was crunchy, so I took it out and served it to the nurses. They tasted it and said that, indeed, it was crunchy. It tasted good like peanuts and they feasted on it. After eating a lot, they felt their stomachs growling. The oil must have caused the indigestion. They started lining up at the latrine, which I just recently dug up. And one by one they relieved themselves. Now there was a young nurse who asked me to go with her to the latrine. She held on to my arm as I guided her to the out house. When she was about to squat, I told her to hold on, as I turned my back because I felt awkward. She said she didn't care if I faced her holding on to me because she felt very dizzy. So I turned to face her and told her to cover herself as I really felt awkward. But she said she was not concerned about covering herself or me looking at her as she had to relieve herself badly. So, one by one, they all took turns and got it all done. I asked myself afterwards,

**did I do something wrong in cooking the coconuts?
They all suffered diarrhea.**

00:26:51:00

NI: So merong isang nars doon na naging kaibigan nyo na mahal na mahal kayo na parang anak kayo o kapatid, si Lourdes Bibis, ikuwento nyo nga sa akin yung tungkol sa kanya?

IN ENGLISH

NI: So there was a nurse there that befriended you, she really likes you and treated you like her brother or her son, she's Lourdes Bibis, and can you tell more about her?

00:27:02:00

CL: Lyon po ay si Lourdes Bibis ay hindi kumain yun at hindi siya nadamay noong pagtatae.

IN ENGLISH

CL: She is Lourdes Bibis. By the way she did not eat the fried coconut, so she ended up not having diarrhea.

00:27:16:00

NI: Noong naging kaibigan mo siya, ikuwento mo sa aking yung istorya noon.

IN ENGLISH

NI: When she became your friend, tell me that story.

00:27:22:00

CL: Ang sabi sa akin ay Tutoy, pagkatapos ng giyera ay huwag kang hihiwalay sa akin, kami ni Tony ay pupunta sa state ikaw ay papapagaralin ko at baka magustuhan mong mag-aral ng medisina para maging doktor, at saka po sa akin, ayaw lang ng Tatay ko at magastos, sabi ng Tatay Pindo ko ay ayaw niya ay magastos, Ang sabi ko naman sa tatay ko noon, ayaw mo ba akong pag-aralin ng medisina samantalang ang kuwarta mo ay nangangasunog. Noong masunog ang bahay nilalagay sa may paloko, ang pinaglalagyan yung kuwan ng transportar ay doon sinusuksok, aba eh nasunog, eh dalawa, eh di ilang libong kuwan noon, yung puno noon. Siya ay matipid pero pagkakuwan ay nagbago ng isip, nakaisip mag asawa

ang nakuha ko ay parang binili doon sa Barahap ang katanan ay ihahanap ng magiging asawa at batang bata aniya at batang bata nga naman. Yun aniya ay naging maganda kanya ng makita ko, aba eh maganda raw eh maitim naman at tsaka umuwi na, ay ganun din. Ang nangyari ay nagkasundo na magpapakasal humingi lang ng dote na isang parcela sa Hugo na niyugan. Eh di inilabas ko yung isang parcela ng papel at papakasal nga doon sa Sampaloc, at pagkasabi ay ito po aniya, hindi po ba ay nakakahiya noon, pagkatapos na ng kasal namin ay ibibigay mo iyan, sabi. E h di nagpunta sa Sampaloc ang nag utos ay si Caliwara, abugado yun doon.

IN ENGLISH

CI: She told me, “Totoy, after the war is over do not leave us because Tony and I are going to the states. I will send you to school. You might want to study medicine and be a doctor.” As it happened, my adoptive father, Tatay Pindo, had no plans of sending me to college, because it’s too expensive. I asked him “Wouldn’t you rather spend your money for my medical schooling instead of getting it burned?” You see, our house caught fire one time and his money got burned. He kept hiding his money in any part of the house, and several thousand pesos got burned. He was very frugal. But he soon changed his thinking when he thought of getting married. He was looking for a young woman for a wife. He found one in Barahap. To me, it seemed like he purchased the young woman. He told me she was beautiful, but when I saw her, she was dark skinned, but well, beautiful nonetheless. So what happened, there was an agreement by both parties for them to get married. The young girl’s family asked for a dowry. So a title for a parcel of land in Hugo was shown them as the marriage will be in Sampaloc. I told my

Tatay it would be a shame to hand over this title of land to them before the wedding consummates. He agreed that he should only hand over the title of the parcel of land after the wedding. So we went to Sampaloc. We were told to meet Caliwara, a lawyer in that town.

00:30:26:00

NI: So balik ulit tayo kay Delio at tsaka kay Lourdes, mag-asawa na ba sila noon, si Delio at tsaka si Lourdes?

IN ENGLISH

NI: Let's go back to Delio and Lourdes, are they married that time, Delio and Lourdes?

00:30:39:00

CL: Ang narinig ko ay yung kay Tony, Antonio.

IN ENGLISH

CI: What I heard was Tony, Antonio.

00:30:52:00

NI: Ah Bello, mag-asawa na sila ni Lourdes?

IN ENGLISH

NI: Oh yes Bello, are they married that time?

00:30:54:00

CL: Hindi pa.

IN ENGLISH

CL: No, not yet.

00:30:56:00

NI: Hindi pa? Pero ang plano nila ay pupunta sila sa Amerika at dadalhin kayo para mag-aral, pero may nangyari kay Lourdes, ano ang nangyari kay Lourdes, ano ang nangyari kay Lourdes?

IN ENGLISH

NI: Not yet? But they have a plan to go to America at will bring you along to pursue studies, but something happened to Lourdes, what happened to Lourdes?

00:31:08:00

CL: Noong kami ay pina retreat kami, kami ay umalis, kaming mga magpipiit at sabi ay ang mga Hapon ay lulusob at sila Walter Kruger naman ay papuntang south, di kami ay maiipit kami ay pina ano, pina retreat doon sa island ng Polilio, at nagpunta kami sa

padaungan at kami ay naunang bumaba dun sa padaungan ay nakita ko si Bello, Antonio Bello, eh iyak ng iyak, ang sabi ko eh bakit po? Sabi niya ay Lourdes is dead, sabi sa akin siya aniya ay natangay ng pating sapagkat siya ay nagtatampisaw doon at habang tumatakbo ang bangka ay nagtatampisaw yung kanyang kamay sa paa eh biglang sinakmal ng malaking pating, ay dala agad at isang hiyaw lang, ahh!, eh wala na, eh nung dumating nga ay iyak ng iyak si Antonio Bello, sabi ko ay bakit naiyak nga, eh ganun nga aniya, nakain ng pating si Lourdes, nagtatampisaw eh ayun sinakmal ng malaking pating.

IN ENGLISH

CL: When we were instructed to retreat because the Japanese were about to attack, Walter Kruger decided to head south. We will be wedged in, so we were told to retreat to Polilio Island. Upon our arrival at Polilio port, I saw Bello, Antonio Bello. He was crying hard. I asked why, what happened? He told me Lourdes is dead. She was grabbed from the boat by a big shark. She was paddling with hand and feet while the boat was running and out of nowhere the shark appeared and grabbed her down. A tiny shout was all we heard. That's how I found Antonio Bello when I reached Polilio. He was crying hard telling me what happened to Lourdes.

00:32:47:00

NI: Eh di umiyak kayo?

IN ENGLISH

NI: Did you cry too?

00:32:49:00

CL: Eh di ako ay napaiyak din at mahal na mahal ako ni Bello at mahal din ako ni Lourdes, at ang sabi ko ay, ah hindi na ako makakapag-aral sa Amerika, hindi, hindi ang sabi sa akin naman, hindi na bale sabi ko, basta ako magsisilbi sa bayan sa Pilipinas. Eh ngayon ang sabi ni Manzano sa akin ay ikaw ay makakadalaw

na sa iyong magulang pagkat ikaw ay dalawang taon ng hindi mo nakikita ang magulang mo, eh ang sabi ko ay, akala ko ay hindi na ako pupunta dun. Hindi ikaw aniya ay pinahihintulutan ko na ikaw ay magkaroon ng pases doon sa Mauban, huwag kang dadaan sa dagat, sa tabing dagat sapagkat maraming hapon doon. Eh di ako ay sumakay dun sa papuntang namang Arayat at sa Perez at ang order sa kay Jimenez, yung nag artista, si Rafael Jimenez, eh igihin nyo ang airport doon, ay mga tapyas, sira-sira na ng bomba, pero kami ay nagdaan muna ng Combaleta bago kami nagpunta ng Perez. Noong kami ay dumating ng Perez ay sira-sira nga ang ilalim ng lupa na binagsakan ng bomba. Eh di pagkatapos noon eh nireport kay MacArthur na mahina yung airport doon. At ng dumating po ay may kargang dalawang jeep, eh di ng dumating doon, eh ako po ay Sarhento na, eh kami na ho nung Bisaya ang naging magkaibigan at ako ay nakakapagdrive na rin ng trak, eh noon ay peacetime pa ang sabi ko ay magpunta roon at mamasyal, ang sabi ay hindi ka naman aniya marunong magmaneho eh, kaya nga aniya ako nagpupursige na matuto ko eh. Eh di noong kamo po ay nakasakay na, sabi ko ay, oh huwag mong diinan ang silinyador dahil baka tayo ay magtalon sa sidewalk, ayun nga, lalo namang dumiin di lalong bumilis eh di tumalon nga yung jeep at agad na nasira, sabi ko ay ayan, sabi ko ay tandaan mo nga para mamaneho mo ng maigi, ayan papaano yan, eh noong aking pinaandar ay ayaw na, nasira na, sabi ko eh yung isa naman ang aking gagamitin, hindi ko na kinuwan kay ano, ang sabi ko ay mag-aral muna dito sila sa kampo eh di pagka marunong na tsaka ka mag prisinta sa Arayat hangang Quezon.

IN ENGLISH

CI: Yes, I cried too. Bello and Lourdes loved me and treated me well. So I told Bello I would not be able to study in America now that Lourdes is gone. Bello said, "No, no!" I said never mind, I will just serve my country well, the Philippines. Manzano said I could now go visit my family since I've been in the service for two years and I haven't seen my parents. I replied that I would not go back there. No, he said, I would issue you a pass to Mauban, but do not cross the sea line, there's too many Japanese there, it's dangerous. So I took my orders to reach Arabat and Perez. I was with Jimenez, remember Rafael Jimenez the actor? The orders were to check out the airport. We saw the airport extremely damaged by bombing, so we decided to pass by Combalete. The airport was really damaged and it's runway uneven. When we arrived at Perez with this finding, the airport condition was immediately reported to MacArthur, that he cannot use the airport to land. At the camp two military jeeps were brought in already. I was a Sergeant that time and befriended a Visayan. We became friends and I was able to learn to drive. It's peacetime and we decided to travel out to town. My friend wanted to drive but others are saying he doesn't know how to drive yet. I told him I would drive instead. He told me "How could I learn to drive if you would not allow me to?" So he did and off we went. As expected, he was pressing hard on the gas pedal. I told him not to press too hard as the jeep might run off the road, but he kept on pressing the gas pedal hard. So the inevitable happened. We crashed. We were now over the sidewalk. I scolded him for not driving properly. I took over and tried to drive the jeep back on the road but it wouldn't start. So I just forgot about it and opted to use the other

jeep. I told him to learn his driving inside the camp before we could drive down from Arayat all the way to Quezon.

00:37:34:00

NI: Balik muna tayo dun sa noong natatalo na yung Hapon, di ineebakwet na noon dahil baka mapunta kayo sa crossfire na ganyan, pero yung isang kuwentong sinabi nyo sa akin na biglang nawala yung platoon lider nyo, and you have to cross, hindi ba eh tapos ang daming mga bala, pero wala kayong lider, so ayun, kuwento mo sa akin yun.

IN ENGLISH

NI: Let's go back to the time when the Japanese were about to be defeated. There was evacuation going on and you were trying to avoid being caught in the crossfire. But there was a story you told me that your platoon leader suddenly disappeared, and you have to crossover. There were lots of bullets, but you have no platoon leader to guide you. Can you tell me about that story?

00:38:06:00

CL: Noong ako ay nasa ilalim ng batang at ako ay nangangain ng kamoteng ganito kalaki ay aking pinatong muna at tinignan ko kung saan nanggagaling ang putok, nakita ko doon sa may drum ay may puntiryahan yung nguso ng machine gun, tumigil, sabi ko ay yari marahil yun at hindi na pumutok uli, eh tinamaan yung aking kamoteng kaganyang kalaki, kamoteng gapang pinatong ko sa, tinamaan eh di halos eh durog, eh aking sinimot yung pira-piraso at aking kinain din, bumusina ako eh wala na yung aming Sarhento, nasaan na kako si Sarhento, nalimutan ko ang pangalan.

IN ENGLISH

CL: I was under a roof eating a sweet potato the size of my fist. I placed it over a drum to check which direction the gunfire was coming from. I saw on the

other side the flashings from a machinegun as it keeps on firing, then the firing abruptly stopped and never fired again, so I thought the gunner must be dead by now. Suddenly, I saw my sweet potato got hit and crushed, so I picked up the pieces of my sweet potato, and ate it again. Then I blew the horn several times, but the Sergeant was gone. I wondered where could he be? I forgot his name.

00:39:20:00

NI: Di bale, anyway yung platoon lider nyo wala, kayo-kayo na lang wala kayong lider?

IN ENGLISH

NI: Okay, so anyway, your platoon leader is nowhere to be found, you're all by yourselves then?

00:39:30:00

CL: Wala na.

IN ENGLISH

CL: He's gone.

00:39:32:00

NI: Pero noong nahanap nyo yung platoon lider mo daig ka dahil nandoon nagkakape?

IN ENGLISH

NI: But when you found your platoon leader you were surpassed, he was just there having coffee?

00:39:42:00

CL: Eh noong makalapit kami sa simbahang ng Manaog sabi ko ay tayo ay tatabi dito at tayo ay dalawa-dalawa at pa-sigsag ang aking takbo, pagkatapos ay, dapa at titignan natin kung saan naputok, titignan ko at iyong ating titirahin, eh pagkakuwan namin ay iyong namumutok na iyon ay masinggan eh napapatigil. Ang gamit po naman namin noon ay mga Garand, at tsaka may masinggan, mayroon kaming BMPR at tsaka ang hawak ko naman ay carbine, at pagkakita ko ay doon ang aking puntirya sa nagkikislap at pag napapatigil ay di tinitignan namin kung puputok pa, eh hindi na, eh malamang na patay na yung nagkukuwan na iyon, oh siya, dala-dalawa, sigsag tapos ay dapa, sigsag tapos

ay dapa. Titignan ko sa largabista hanggang sa kami ay makaabot sa kabila at pagdating sa kabila eh wala ng naputok, eh di kami ay, ako ay nagtindig na. Nasaan ang aking Sarhento, Sarhentong duwag at mapalitan ko, sabi sa akin ni Manzano ay, keep cool Junior, he is here, just keep cool.

IN ENGLISH

CL: When we got near the church in Manaog, I said we are going to start here and we will be running in twos. We ran fast in a zigzag then got down to the ground at the sound of gunfire. We looked around to see which direction the gunfire was coming from so we could fire back at them. It was coming from machine guns, but the firing was intermittent. We were armed with several weapons like the Garand, machine guns, and BMPR's. I got a Carbine myself. I fired each time at the direction of the flashes and when they stopped firing, we assumed they're dead. We continued running in zigzags, got down on the ground and looked around till we reached the other side. By the time we got there, the firing subsided. We all stood up. I then asked where the Sergeant is, my coward Sergeant. "Let me replace him now," I declared. But Manzano whispered: "Keep cool Junior, he is here, just keep cool."

00:42:06:00

NI: So noong, afterwards, ng mga sumusuko na po yung mga Hapon, mayroon na kayong nahuling isang Hapon di ba, kuwento nyo sa akin yun sa akin dahil maganda yun eh.

IN ENGLISH

NI: So when, afterwards, the Japanese are starting to surrender, you already caught a Japanese soldier right; tell me about that beautiful story?

00:42:41:00

CL: Nakita namin na kumakain ng lukban na hila, sabi ko ay aba, may Hapon dito ah, walang armas, ay sige

nga gapang sabi ko kay Alfredo, sabi eh wala tayong armas? Sige at huhulihin natin ng buhay, eh naramdaman na kami ay kuwan, biglang nagtindig eh yun pala ay may jungle bolo, sabi ko ay you surrender, sabi sa akin ng Hapon, no, no, no, no surrender, you surrender, no.no, no sabi niya, nilalansi ko at susunggaban ko, noong nilalansi, kinuha ni Alfredo, eh ang lagayan niya ay yung palapa ng niyog, eh di nagtalbog yung jungle bolo, eh di sinunggaban ko agad at yung isang kuwan ay sungab din ni Hildo, at aming inusong ay anong gaan, eh kaya magaan eh parang buto at balat na, wala ng laman, bata pa yun, at dinala na namin siya sa aming kitchen at aming pinaupo doon, eh nag-aasta pa, sabi ko eh sit down, sabi ko dun kay Mang Kure, sa matanda na nangangasiwa noong aming kitchen, bigyan mo kako ng pagkain, bago sabi sa akin ay, ha! bibigyan mo pa ng pagkain yang walanghiyang iyan, barilin mo na lang? Hindi po, basta bigyan mo ng pagkain, eh di binigyan sa isang meat can lang, bigyan mo rin po ng ulam, eh nagpadabog na po yung matanda, oh ayan! Wari ko ba eh anaki ay nagdadabog ka pa, eh inutos ko sa iyo na bigyan mo ng pagkain ito at nagugutom siya at siya naman ay bihag na eh huwag na nating palakihin ang kanyang paghihirap at nakakaawa naman bagay naman na hindi naman makakalaban basta bigyan mo ng pagkain, eh di binigyan, eh ayaw pang kumain, maaring inaalala nito na siya ay lalasunin, ang ginawa ko ay kinuha ko yung malaki kong kutsara sa Army, kumuha ako ng kapisaso tapos eh sinubo ko, tapos eh yung ulam, nilagyan ko din at sinubo ko this food its possible, eh ngayon nakatingin siya doon sa pagkain, ako at kumuha uli at sinubukan ko subuan, sa kanyang bibig, aba eh sa kagutuman eh kumuha na naman, mamaya ay sunod-sunod na ang

subo sapagkat gutom. At noong matapos makakain, mga 25 minutes ay pinakakanta namin. Eh ewan ko po kung mapapakanta mamaya, eh hawak yung tiyan, sumakit ang kanyang tiyan, sabi ko ay bakit ito ganito hawak ang tiyan, ang sabi sa akin ay kasalanan mo, and sabi ko ay bakit mo naman sa akin, anaki ay pinakain ko, ay Oo dapat ay sabaw lang muna hindi iyon solid agad, ang sabi ko bakit hindi mo anaki sinabi, aba ay hindi ka aniya nagtatanong ay, sabi sa akin, pilosopo tong matandang to ah.

IN ENGLISH

CL: We saw this Japanese soldier picking and eating grapefruits. I was astonished. There's a Japanese soldier here, but he's unarmed. So I told Alfredo that we crawl our way quietly and capture him. But we were unarmed, too. Still, we were determined to catch him. When he became aware of our presence, he stood up. To our surprise, he's armed with a jungle bolo. So the confrontation started, I yelled at him to surrender! He said, "No, no, no, no surrender!" I yelled back, "No, you surrender!" But he continued to refuse. I told Alfredo to play tricks on him and I will jump on him. His jungle bolo was place over a coconut palm. Alfredo stepped on the palm and the bolo bounced out and we jumped on him, and carried him by the shoulder to our kitchen. We felt he was very light. He was young but skin and bones skinny. We brought him to the kitchen and told him to sit down. He strongly refused and gestured to fight back, so I yelled at him again, "Sit down!" I told Mang Kure, the old man in-charge of the kitchen, to give him some food to eat. "What!" shouted Mang Kure, why would you feed that scamp, just shoot him! I said no Mang Kure, just give him food. So he was given food, one meat can. I said give him a dish too. The old man got furious,

stomped his feet and yelled: “There!” I then told Mang Kure that he didn’t seem to like what I was doing. “I just asked you to give him food. He’s already a captive, let us not prolong his sufferings, take pity on the man, do you think he would be able to fight back, just give him food,” I explained. So he was served, but at first he refused to eat. I thought he may be thinking we would poison him. So I took a big Army spoon, scooped the meat can and ate it. I did the same with the dish. I scooped again and offered a spoonful to him, assuring him it was fine. He was looking at the meat can, and he started to scoop for himself, again and again. He was so hungry as if he had never eaten in his life. After about 25 minutes, he finished eating. We tried to interrogate him, but we were not sure he will spill out information. Suddenly, he started to feel his stomach. He’s having stomach pains. I wondered aloud why he was holding on to his stomach. The old man shouted at me. “It’s your fault!” he started blaming me. “You should have given him soup first and not feed him with solid food,” he said. “So, why didn’t you tell me?” I demanded. He gave me a sarcastic retort: “You didn’t ask me.”

00:48:15:00

NI: Anyway punta tayo ngayon sa kahuli-hulihang assignment nyo noong pinadala kayo dahil madami ng mga Hapon na mga sumusuko na, akala nyo mga two or three hundred lang pero ang laki ng truck, ikuwento ninyo sa akin yung pagsuko ng mga Hapon.

IN ENGLISH

NI: Anyway, let us go now to your last assignment when you were sent out because a lot of Japanese are surrendering, you thought there were only about two to three hundred surrendering, the truck is big, tell me the story of that Japanese surrender.

00:48:32:00

CL: Eh noon pong umaga, eh meron pong nagkuwan ng puting bandera doon sa kabilang parang eh ano ay mamaya ay banderang Hapon sabi ni Captain Iglesia eh huwag kayong puputok at titignan natin kung ano ang kailangan nila at ng matahimik ay sabi ay sige Junior tumawid ka at yung squad mo at sabihin mo kung ano ang kailangan, eh di sinabi ko kung ano kailangan, eh marunong naman ng ingles yung isa, gusto daw nilang makipagusap kay Anderson sila nagbabalak na sumuko na, nagkataon naman na biglang namang naglaglag ng mga polyeto ang eroplano at nakalagay doon eh sumurender na kayo at sila naman ay hindi parurusahan at pabalik sa Japan at kayo ay ituturing pa naming mga hero din, iyon pala ay may hawak na polyeto ang sabi ngayon eh, oh sige kayo ay pinatatawid na doon. Pagka kuwan ay nakausap sa kabilang banda ay si Manzano at itinanong ko kung siya ay pupunta roon at para kung ano naman ang kailangan nila at silang gustong sumurender at sila daw ay three thousand, aba ako ay nagulat samantalang itong pinupuntahan natin at marami pang nagtatago doon, eh kung tayo pala ay nakita at tinira noon eh tayo ay lipol na lahat sabi ko at pagka kuwan ay dumating nga si Manzano at tinanong ako kung ano nga ang kailangan at ng dumating si Manzano ay may dalang pagpipisanan na isang sako ng bigas na yun pala ay mga gamot, may sulfathiazole, sulfadiazine, sulfasuxidine at sari-saring gamot, may mga tableta rin.

IN ENGLISH

CI: That morning, a white flag was waved on the other side of the field, followed by a Japanese flag. Captain Iglesia told us not to fire our weapons and see first what they want. There was silence. Then he said, "Junior, take your squad with you to the other side and ask them what they want from us." Upon

reaching them, I asked the Japanese what they wanted. One of them spoke English. He said they want to talk to Anderson because they're planning to surrender. Incidentally, leaflets were being dropped from planes, urging the Japanese to surrender, that they will not be punished, that they would be sent back to Japan and come home as heroes. Several Japanese were holding and reading the leaflets, so I told them they can cross the field. I went back and spoke to Manzano and asked him if he would go to the Japanese side so he could decide the terms of surrender. We were informed there were about three thousand Japanese soldiers about to surrender. I was surprised. Talking to them a while ago I thought there were only a few hundred. We could have been massacred, I thought. So Manzano, after learning what the Japanese needed, went over to their side bringing a sack with him. It looked like a sack of rice. But it turned out to be a sack full of medicines containing sulfathiazole, sulfadiazine, sulfasuxidine and other medicines. There were pills and tablets too.

00:52:27:00

NI: So payat na payat din yung mga sundalo?

IN ENGLISH

NI: So, were the soldiers too skinny too?

00:52:29:00

CL: Ay hindi po, ang tataba, eh nung nakita nga yung aming nabihag kung bakit naroroon, ang sabi ko na capture namin dahil hindi makalaban eh ayaw sumurender kaya aming pinagtulungan ni Alfredo at ito po ang tawag ay iyong lansihin diyan at aking susungaban para ating mahuli eh pagdating doon sa ano ay dinala namin doon sa kitchen at iyon nga ang nangyari at ayaw pa at pilit kong paupoin, sit down. Eh di napilitan siyang umupo tapos eh Mang Kure, bigyan mo ng pagkain ito, tapos sabi sa akin ni Mang

Kure, bibigyan mo pa ng pagkain yang mga lintik na yan, eh tayo aniya ay pineperwisyo ng mga iyan, mga hayup, sabi ko ay hindi naman ganoon, pag bihag na ay di ay huwag na nating aanuhin at surrender na.

IN ENGLISH

CL: Oh no, they were fat. And they saw our prisoner and they asked why he was with us. I told them we captured him easily, he could not fight back anymore, but he refused to surrender at first. I explained that Alfredo and I tricked him and brought him to the Kitchen to be fed, but he refused at first, so we forced him to sit down and eat. I also explained that Mang Kure was furious that we were feeding a scamp who had pestered and created havoc to our country like animals. I said I prevailed on Mang Kure not to be so hard on him as he surrendered already.

00:54:06:00

NI: Saan mo nakuha yung ganoon na ugali, biro mo, batang-bata ka pa lang, disesais, disesiyete, ganoon tapos ganoon na ang pag awa mo sa mga dati mong kalaban ano, malupit na kalaban mo, saan mo nahanap yung ganoon na pakiramdamin na ganoong na dapat ang gagawin mo.

IN ENGLISH

NI: Where did you get that attitude, come to think of it, you were just a kid, sixteen, seventeen of age and you give pity to a cruel enemy, your enemy. Where did you draw those emotions from which tell you those are the right thing to do?

00:54:28:00

CL: Ako po ay nagbabasa ng Bibliya at ang sabi doon ay mahalín mo ang iyong kalaban pagka suko na.

IN ENGLISH

CL: I read the Bible and it says that you should love your enemy when they have given up.

00:54:44:00

NI: Oh ngayon, one last question, iyong hawak nyo po na medalya, yung Congressional Gold Medal ano po ang symbol niyan para sa inyo, pag nakikita nyo yan, what do you feel, ano ang nararamdaman nyo po?

IN ENGLISH

NI: Now, one last question, that medal you're holding, the Congressional Gold Medal, what does that symbolize for you, every time you see that, what do you feel, what do you really feel?

(JON'S NOTE: I EDITED THIS SECTION FOR CLARITY AS I WAS THERE AT THE CEREMONY TO WITNESS THIS EVENT. NANCY PELOSI WAS NOT THE SPEAKER YET, IT WAS PAUL RYAN.)

00:55:01:00

CL: Ang nararamdaman ko ay kinikilala ng state na ako pala ay dapat bigyan nito, naroroon po si, sino ba ito, yung speaker ngayon, ay naroroon din at nakahanay sila at noong ako naman ay lumapit sa, are you Ciriaco Ladines, yeah, you are supposed to be at the middle at ako ay pinalipat at noong nakita ako noong nasa ganyan ko binigyan ako ng sumbalilong ganito, sabi sa akin ay I don't need that anymore, sabi noong, pagka kuwan ay lumapit uli sa akin at sabi ay you're supposed to be at the front, sabing ganoon, you're supposed to be there because I am late, sabi niya ay you're supposed to be there, pina ano po ako doon sa dulong-dulo noong mga nakapila, eh naroron po si, yung speaker ngayon, si Nancy, si Nancy ay naroroon at yung pati iba, naroron at nagtalumpati pa at noong matapos magtalumpati bagamat nagtindigan na pagka kuwan ay sabi nung kuwan ay pag natawag ang inyong pangalan ay kayo ay titindig eh sa madaling salita eh labingsiyam po, labingsiyam na sari-saring branch at pagdating sa akin eh, Ciriaco

Ladines, eh ako ay napatindig at ang sabi ko ay here! Malakas na sinabi ko eh nagtawanan yung mga nakaharap sa akin, pagka kuwan ay naglapitan at ang sabi sa akin eh, thank you for your service, di ako ay napakuha, ito naman po ay hindi na nakakuha ng litrato at natatakpan na at nagsisiwas sa akin ay yung mga babae ng ako ay kinukuhanan ng litrato, kakoy napasigaw lang ako eh naglapitan na, hindi ako makalapit, palibhasa ay mababa tinitignan ko kung nasaan, ayun pagka kuwan ay ibinigay sa akin ito, na appreciate pala ng State yung aking paglilingkod, eh di natuwa ako, at pagkatapos ay nilapitan ako at tuwang tuwa aniya yung mga kalapit mo, ay siyanga.

IN ENGLISH

CL: I am grateful that the United States recognized me, that I deserve to be given this medal. When it was presented to all the veterans that morning, the House Speaker was there. We were all waiting in line to be seated when someone approached me and asked if I was Ciriaco Ladines. I said "Yes." I was told that I was supposed to be sitting in the middle, so I was transferred in the middle. Seated on my left was a man who gave me this veterans ball cap. He said, "I don't need it anymore." After that, someone approached me again and told me, "You're supposed to be in the front," so I was transferred to the front on the far end. Nancy, the speaker now, was there. They gave speeches and after the speeches were over, we were all recognized and applauded. There were nineteen of us, nineteen veterans from different branches, who were honored. When my name was called, "Ciriaco Ladines!" I raised my hand and yelled as loud as I can, "Here!" It was so loud everyone around me was laughing with appreciation. I heard them say, "Thank you for your service, Sir." I told myself, I

happened to yell loudly and got everyone's attention. A lot of pictures were taken. I was not in all of them because I was in a wheelchair and I looked short. I appreciate that the United States has recognized my services in the war. I was so happy that day. Everyone there was happy too.

00:59:06:00

NI: Oh sige po at maraming salamat ho sa paglilingkod ninyo, maraming-maraming salamat at dahil sa inyo ay buhay kami.

IN ENGLISH

NI: Oh well then and thank you so much for your service, thank you so much that because you we are alive today.

– Time **End at 00:59:14:00**