

## "GENERAL GOYO" AND THE KATIPUNAN

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As told to Isaac C. Cruz, Jr.  
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LITTLE is known of General Gregorio del Pilar save for his valiant stand with a small force in Tirad Pass against an American platoon of the 33rd Infantry under the command of Major P.C. March. No history of the Revolution would be complete without mention of "General Goyo's supreme sacrifice that prevented the early capture of the first president of the Republic.

The young Del Pilar played an important role in the Katipunan. He was initiated into the society by the revolutionary top brass of Bulacan: Anacleto Enriquez, Doroteo Caragdag, Vicente Enriquez, Manuel Garcia and Ricardo Martin. The initiation ceremony was performed in sitio Kababan of barrio San Nicolas, Bulacan, Bulacan.

At the outbreak of hostilities on August 26, 1896, Andres Bonifacio ordered all units, in the provinces to take to the field. Balangay Uliran of Bulacan, Bulacan, and Balangay Uliran Apoy of Malolos, gathered in Masakol, Malolos. Gen. Isidoro Torres was designated commanding officer of the fused balangays. Three thousand men armed with bamboo lances and with pistols and rifles prepared to face the enemy. The Katipunan engaged the enemy. The Katipunan engaged the enemy at Masakol, then at barrio Bagbag, Calumpit. In the blood-bath of San Rafael, many Katipuneros perished.

The survivors of the battle of San Rafael were divided into two groups. One proceeded to Baling-Kupang Mountain and the rest joined the Katipunan army of Gen. Eusebio Roque which was then based in Kakarong a barrio of Bigaa town.

We were in the fishponds of Don Luis del Pilar when we received word that the cura of Malolos was on his way to Bulacan via the Mambog road. We decided to capture the priest, the capitan municipal and the six cazadores who served as escorts. We lay in wait for the party in Mambog. Before the sun went down we saw dust clouds in the distance. Del Pilar stationed himself in the Mambog chapel. Julian, a brother of Goyo, stood watch with me at the foot of the bridge.

As the carriage passed the chapel, Goyo fired and one cazadores fell wounded from his horse. Pandemonium broke loose as the friar and the capitan municipal jumped from the carriage and sought cover behind the houses. We were not able to capture the priest nor the capitan municipal for night soon set in and they made good their escape. We learned later that they crossed the Mambog River and joined a squad of cazadores from Malolos. We ransacked the carriage and found four sacks filled with silver. The then Lt. Del Pilar decided that all bachelors in the outfit be given ₱25 each and all married ones ₱50 apiece.

After a few day's rest we started on our way to Biyak-na-bato.

The battle that first catapulted Goyo to fame was the twenty-minute raid on the church of Paombong one Sunday morning in September, 1897. The Spaniards were using the church as an armory.

Under Goyo's leadership we left Biyak-na-Bato and proceeded to Real in Bulacan, Bulacan, where we remained for a few days.

Lt. Del Pilar briefed us on the raid. It was agreed that he would occupy the small nipa shack facing the church. I was assigned to a house opposite the convent. We were 30 men in all; We would occupy strategic positions around the church.

We were up that Sunday morning before the church bells rang for early Mass. That was the signal for Vicente Enriquez and nine of his bolomen to enter the convent. Goyo shot down the lone cazadores guarding the entrance of the church. The cazadores stationed near the armory fled at the sight of the men armed