

RESTRICTED

20 October 1944

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PRIORITY

FROM: WAR

TO : COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

NUMBER 91. PERSONAL FROM THE PRESIDENT FOR GENERAL MACARTHUR.

THE WHOLE AMERICAN NATION TODAY EXULTS AT THE NEWS THAT THE GALLANT MEN UNDER YOUR COMMAND HAVE LANDED ON PHILIPPINE SOIL. I KNOW WELL WHAT THIS MEANS TO YOU. I KNOW THAT IT COST YOU TO OBEY MY ORDER THAT YOU LEAVE CORREGIDOR IN FEBRUARY 1942 AND PROCEED TO AUSTRALIA. SINCE THEN YOU HAVE PLANNED AND WORKED AND FOUGHT WITH WHOLE-SOULED DEVOTION FOR THE DAY WHEN YOU WOULD RETURN WITH POWERFUL FORCES TO THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS. THAT DAY HAS COME. YOU HAVE THE NATIONS GRATITUDE AND THE NATIONS PRAYERS FOR SUCCESS AS YOU AND YOUR MEN FIGHT YOUR WAY BACK TO BATAAN.

ROOSEVELT

Released from the White House Map Room
at 0100, EWT, 20 October 1944.

Henry W. Putnam

HENRY W. PUTNAM
Captain, A.C.



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