

**NAME:** Celestina

**RANK:** Civilian

**ORGANIZATION:** Not Applicable

**OVERSEAS WARTIME LOCATION:** The Philippines

- The following excerpt is directly from an original wartime letter written by Celestina. This is the only letter from Celestina in the site curator's possession.
- The following excerpt is presented under fair use provisions for educational purposes.
- No controversial material has been omitted from the following excerpt aside from an edited racial slur for the protection of younger readers. No grammatical or spelling errors have been corrected.

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**Celestina writes the mother of a U.S. soldier she met in the Philippines:**

“Cebu City  
Philippines  
Aug. 27, 1945

...Introducing myself to you, I'm a Filipino girl. My home province is Cebu, the capital of its the second largest city of the Philippines, is the Cebu province itself. I'm XX years old now and a sophomore student in one of the city high schools of our province, which had not been opened for almost four years. The education of both boys and girls in our country had been delayed due to the horrible war we were once in.

We then Filipinos young and old, owe a great lot to the kind-hearted Americans. We are indeed very grateful to all of you people here, for the most honorable work you have given us. Had it not been for the Americans, I guess almost all Filipinos had to be suffering under the rule of the tyrant J \_ ps. It's through the Allies that we have secured "liberty."

But it is also within those tragic days that I met several American friends. I'm proud to tell you that I met your loving son, Russell. We are very close friends. He is a man of good character, I should say, and you need not worry about him. He never grow wrong like some other soldiers now are...Russell can tell you our living conditions just within war time. Our personal properties are gone, houses burned too. But at present we are still housed in a little cottage. Thanks to God we're still in good health and are able to enjoy more happy lives.

And now it will not be long that you'll have Russell with you in the house. They are leaving for Japan by this week. He had given me his and your address. He asked me to send you a letter and to give you an information as to where he was...

...With best wishes to you and the rest of the family.

Sincerely yours,

Celestina”

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- Celestina made it through the Second World War but when she passed away is unknown.
  - **For visual context, this link connects to original wartime footage in the public domain that covers the above time period and Cebu, the Philippines (viewer discretion advised):**  
<https://archive.org/details/ADC-5165>
  - **For additional detail, this link connects to the Wikipedia article that covers the Battle for Cebu City, Celestina's home (reader discretion advised):**  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_for\\_Cebu\\_City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_for_Cebu_City)