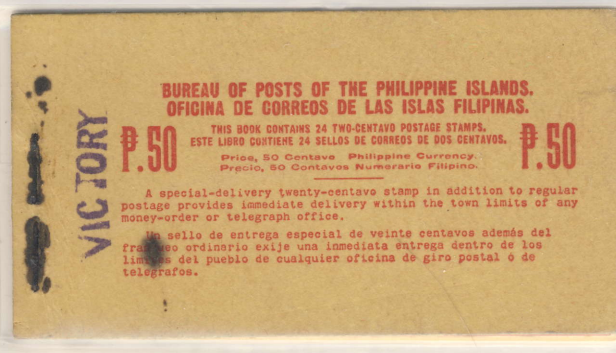


With victory in the Pacific Theater considered imminent, the BEP scheduled production of pre-war stamps to be overprinted, "Victory-Commonwealth" for use in the Philippines by mid-January, 1945. In September 1944, the U.S. Navy Carrier Group Task Force raided the Western Pacific, including the Philippines. General MacArthur reported the central Philippines, including Leyte, as "wide open." MacArthur canceled the scheduled landing on Mindanao and advanced the Leyte landing to October 20, 1944. On that date, MacArthur broadcast from Red Beach - the 24th Infantry Division's beachhead near Tacloban, "... I have returned ... rally on me." The first provincial capital liberated was Tacloban, Leyte. The U.S. believed one method to project the re-establishment of the Commonwealth Government was to operate a postal service. The BEP did not have "a need to know" the landing date was advanced, and was unable to supply the planned "victory" stamps in time. Major Lambert of MacArthur's G-5 Staff Section (Civil Affairs-Military Government) was aware of the BEP's plans. Lambert authorized creation and use of a handstamp bearing the single word, "VICTORY." The reopened post office had no stamps. Locals provided what varied, and very limited stock, they could.



72 Examples Recorded

All Large Commonwealth "Victory" Stamps come from Booklet Panes and have at least one straight edge.



Unexploded "Victory" Pane in Original Handstamped Booklet (PF Cert.)

Only Example Recorded of Unexploded Pane



(Photocopy of Pane from Booklet)



Large Commonwealth "Victory" on Cover, Abuyog, Leyte to Tacloban, Leyte, Oct. 16, 1945
4c Internal First Class Rate, 21-40g (on 2c carmine postal stationery issued June 19, 1935)

Two Examples Recorded on Cover