

professors got him a small job at Cambridge, explaining to him that it would be easier for him to advance his studies in the Harvard environment, and so he left Vermont for Cambridge.

He graduated from Harvard's College of Sciences and Letters and the Harvard Law School. It was in Harvard that two powerful influences in his life developed: His conversion to Catholicism (He had left Ponce very much impressed by the current theosophical ideas at that time in that city) and Irish nationalism. A Catholic priest, Father Ryan, appears to have been his guide to communion, while a Catalonian sage, an astronomer that was for many years was to be the director of the Ebro Observatory, Father Luis Rodes, apparently gave him the peculiar clue to combine faith and science, mysticism and common sense. (The Irish rebellion during this period further raised the prestige of Catholicism; since in Ireland, at least, it was an oppressed church and appeared to favor the national revolution.)

At the outbreak of the First World War, he joined the Harvard Cadet Corps, organized and trained as a source of officers by the French Military Mission under Colonel Paul Azan. (As a general, and under Marshall Petain, this same Azan was to become the butcher-pacifier of French Morocco.) As a commissioned officer, Albizu asked to serve with Puerto Rican troops and was transferred to the 375th Infantry Regiment in San Juan, as a Staff Second Lieutenant. So as he came back to Puerto Rico after the war and after graduation at Harvard, all the elements combining the personality he was to project into Puerto Rican history were present: the blend of catholicism and patriotism, mysticism and self-sacrifice typical of Irish nationalism; the necessary degree of practical materialism for an objective approach to politics; juridicism and a military as well as a providentialist conception of history.

Of all the vulgarities thrown against him by his enemies and foes of Puerto Rico's independence I will only demur briefly on one, because that tends to belittle his patriotism at the same time that it sneers at his racial origin--that is to say, that his political career has been the consequence of his mistreatment as a Black Man, both in Harvard and in the Army.

I have the personal testimony of persons who knew him in Ponce before he left for the United States as an adolescent, testimonies to his radical independentist attitude while a high school student in his native town. Such testimonies include a distinguished American who lived in P.R. from early youth to his death a few years ago, who as principal of schools in Ponce was one of the persons who obtained

