Fall 2008

“That Brave Filipino General:”
A Life of Vicente P. Lim

By Christopher L. Kolakowski

This article was previously published in “Military Collector & Historians”, 60, no 3 (Fall 2008) and is republished here with permission of the author. Editor

On 4 April 1942 Colonel Carlos Romulo, public relations officer for the U.S. Forces in the Philippines, visited the garrison defending the Bataan Peninsula. Japanese forces had started their last major offensive the day before, and Romulo hoped to bolster morale among the 76,000 Filipino and American troops on Bataan. One of his last stops on that visit was the headquarters of Brigadier General Vicente P. Lim, commanding the Philippine Army’s 41st Division. Romulo had called Lim “the embodiment of the Philippine Army on Bataan,” and was shocked by his friend’s haggard and ill appearance. Lim described the poor and starving condition of his troops, and concluded by saying “we have done our best.” This comment shook Romulo, who would later write, “Up until that moment I had not lost hope [in eventual victory].”

General Lim continues to rank as one of the Philippines’ greatest soldiers. He was the first Filipino to graduate from West Point, and before the Second World War served as Deputy Chief of Staff for the Philippine Army. His division played a key role in the Bataan battles, and he later was a major figure in Filipino resistance to the Japanese. Throughout his life Vicente Lim was driven by a strong sense of duty, and sought to do honor to his nation and the Philippine Army.

Vicente Podico Lim was born 24 February 1888 near Batangas in southern Luzon. He was the third of four children to a mixed Chinese-Filipino couple who were socially connected with Dr. Jose

A Message from Our President on the 24th Reunion

The reunion was a great success due to the efforts of many people. First and foremost, Cion and her team, on behalf of the Golden Gate Bay Area Chapter, did a magnificent job. Cion, President of the Chapter, had problems to contend with at the last minute with the hotel, a leaking ceiling and more. It all went really well, thanks to Cion and her group.

There are so many people to thank and acknowledge. I want to thank General Hilman, General Peters and Kinue Tokudome for their contributions during our presentations and panels. The presentations and panels were reunion highlights.

Colonel Nicoll Galbraith, Jr., MD, kicked off the reunion with a presentation entitled “Reminiscences”. He told marvelous stories regarding his youth in the Philippines and the harrowing tale of his father’s travels in northern Luzon after the fall of Corregidor. General Wainwright asked Galbraith to find the remaining units and have them lay down their arms so that the Japanese would not slaughter their Filipino and Ameri-
Editor's Comments

In 2001 I was privileged to take over the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society newsletter’s editorial chair from Col. Nicoll F. Galbraith, Jr. Largely because of this, over the last eight years I have come to know many of you in person through our annual reunions or at a distance through letters and email. The newsletter has almost doubled in size and a popular website and message board spun off from it. In the fall of 2005, The General’s Corner was added, dedicated to the memory of our Founding President, Brigadier General Royal Reynolds, Jr. This ongoing section specializes in historical and often first person accounts of Scout heroism during WWII in the prison camps, on the Hell Ships and on the General’s corner. This ongoing section specializes in historical and often first person accounts of Scout heroism during WWII in the prison camps, on the Hell Ships and on the

Publishing the newsletter has never been a one person operation. I received invaluable assistance with the graphics and formatting, first from David Rosen and then from my daughter, Christa. Christa also designed the website in 2002 and the message board in 2004, maintaining both ever since. Since then these have been the “go to” sites for anyone wanting information on the Philippine Scouts. I have also been aided immensely by the many former Scouts, Scout family members, military historians and others who have gladly shared their experiences and research by allowing me to publish their writings in these pages. Their stories have entertained and often deeply touched us. But even good things must eventually end and it is with some sadness and after considerable soul searching that I have decided that the spring 2009 issue will be the last I will edit. I feel that I’ve taken the newsletter about as far as I can and it now is time for someone else with fresh ideas to take over. President Patterson will be leading a search committee with the goal of selecting an appropriate candidate or candidates by our next reunion in May 2009. Certainly he will welcome suggestions from the rest of you to assist the committee in this search. I am pleased to say that, following the new editor so deserves, Christa is willing to continue as both webmaster and newsletter design and layout editor. It has been a wonderful ride and I am grateful for the support I’ve had from you, the readers. It has been a great honor to be allowed into your homes through the newsletter pages and I thank you for allowing me that privilege. God bless and God speed!

Mike Houlahan, Editor

Mike Houlahan has been a strong supporter of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society for many years beyond his taking on editing the newsletter. He has authored many articles for several publications that have dealt with various aspects of the Philippines. He is married to Dr. Edwina Carreon, a Philippine academic at Ohio State University. So the Philippines is a large part of Mike’s life.

Mike is very gracious in noting the contributions to the Society’s newsletter of others including his daughter, Christa, who has designed and maintained a marvelous website that has received numerous accolades. Because of their efforts, the newsletter and the website have become major outreach vehicles for telling the story of the Philippine Scouts. We are fortunate that Christa has agreed to stay on for the time being.

Mike Houlahan, Editor

A Letter of Thanks

Mike and I met in Manila in the early 1990s when Mike was the U.S. Embassy’s Cultural Affairs Officer and I was the Associate Director of the U.S. Agency for International Development. We’ve been friends ever since. Mike has served as the Society’s Secretary and he has been a valued voice in the affairs of the Society. While it’s sad that Mike is stepping down having done such a wonderful job, it couldn’t last forever. On the other hand, I will continue to look to Mike for advice and counsel, so he’s not going away. My heartfelt thanks go to Mike who has meant so much to the Society. I will be communicating with Mike, the Board and others concerning the best way to go about securing an editor for the newsletter. In the meantime, if there are any suggestions, please call Mike Houlahan at (401)-885-7776 or email me at pattj@cox.net.

Sen. John Alexander Patterson President Philippine Scouts Heritage Society

First Vice-President’s Letter

The 24th National Annual Reunion at Burlingame / San Francisco last May 23 and 24th was a stunning success. The Embassy suites caters to their guests with a perfect breakfast, snacks and evening hors d’oeuvres. The guests don their tennis shoes, walk and run the track by the beach.

The business agenda featured the Audit committee chaired by Cindy Warren with Aniceto Bagley as member. Goody Calugas the National Treasurer presented the financial report of the Society and glad that she accepted another term as National treasurer.

The panels and featured speakers were outstanding in their presentations. They included Col. Nicoll Galbraith, Jr. MD, Dr. Anthony Maravillas Ph.D, Mr. Malcom Decker, and Mr. Donald Plata. Finally the panel of Mr. Paul Ruiz and Mr. David Rosen offered a challenge to all the members about executing the mission of the Society.

The re-enactors did a splendid job again this year and I’m glad that they will host the 25th reunion in Los Angeles in 2009. The group really well represents the Philippine Scouts with their polished boots, pressed uniforms and U.S. Army bearing.

The Tacoma Chapter volunteered to do a pilot program for scholarships and other activities to spread the goodness and trustworthiness of the Philippine Scouts.

Our guest speaker General Oscar Hilman a member of the Tacoma chapter talked about the history of the Philippine Scouts and their role during the WWII in the Philippines. He was accompanied by his beautiful wife Patty.

The future of the society is in good hands with active participation of our young members. Thank you Chapter President Cion, officers and members of GBBAC who hosted the 24th reunion.

Jose "Joe" Calugas, Jr., 1st Vice President

Jose Calugas, Jr. National First Vice President of Tacoma Chapter

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On May 23-24, the 24th annual reunion of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society was held in Burlingame, CA. 

Philippine Scouts were General MacArthur’s soldiers—the guys who fought America’s first battle of World War II. The Philippine Division. Probably the best trained and possibly the best prepared U.S. Army division at the outbreak of the war. They were mostly Filipinos serving as enlisted soldiers in United States Army units commanded by American officers. 

Brigadier General Oscar B. Hilman (US Army, Ret.), one of the only three Filipino Americans who have attained the rank of general, was the Keynote Speaker. His grandfather, father and two uncles walked the Bataan Death March. The grandfather and one uncle were killed on the March.

Colonel Galbraith was ably supported by his daughter, Susan, who put together a first rate electronic presentation.

Dr. Anthony Maravillas discussed his survey findings as part of his presentation “Perspectives of the Children of Scouts.” The survey yielded highly useful information regarding how the children felt about their fathers who endured so much but spoke so little about their experiences. Dr. Maravillas plans on doing a paper regarding his findings and their implication for the Society’s future.

Donald Plata is working on a documentary concerning the Scouts. He showed a trailer of “Forgotten Soldiers” which was very well done and is a harbinger of things to come. Complementing this presentation was a video done by the reenactors of the Nininger Chapter which showed their activities and was interwoven with actual film footage of the Scouts.

Malcolm Decker made a very interesting presentation concerning his new book, From Bataan to Safety, which told the story of two brothers who cared for many survivors of the Death March who escaped and made their way into the mountains of western Luzon.

The final event was a panel conducted by Paul Ruiz and David Rosen that was suitably titled “Executing the Mission of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society.” Their presentation elicited spirited conversations and recommendations for future action. Paul and David and the entire audience resolved not to have the recommendations shelved. After the session, individuals and the Calugas reactivated the Lt. Al-exander R. Nininger, Jr. Chapter in Los Angeles. We welcomed them into the Society. They are a very positive asset to the Society as we continue to tell the story of the Philippine Scouts.

The business side of the two day get together saw the election of Goody Alexander R. Nininger, Jr. Chapter in Los Angeles. We welcomed them into the Society. They are a very positive asset to the Society as we continue to tell the story of the Philippine Scouts. 

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General Oscar Bautista Hilman gave an inspirational keynote speech that honored the Scouts, their history and their legacy. We were fortunate that General Hilman spoke to us. General Antonio Taguba will try to be our keynote speaker next year.

Thanks to Olive Rosen for sharing her photos of prior reunions and for her kind remarks about what the Philippine Scouts and the Society meant to her husband, the late Colonel Melvin Rosen.

When we honored the Scouts Saturday afternoon during the wreath ceremony, I believe we all felt a sense of loss that so many of the Scouts are not with us. I hope there was also a sense of peace that had been assured for us by their sacrifices.

The future of the Society and our ability to continue to honor the Philippine Scouts, so ably dealt with by Paul Ruiz and David Rosen, as noted above, are dependent on the next generations carrying forward the history and legacy of these extraordinary US Army soldiers. I was very pleased that so many Scout descendants not only attended the Reunion, but played major roles throughout the intense two days that we met.

Speaking of the next generation, I am pleased that the newly reactivated Nininger Chapter has agreed to host the May 2009 Reunion in the Los Angeles area. I look forward to seeing you all there.

As General Royal Reynolds, our first Society President used to say “Mabuhay ang Philippine Scouts!”

Senator John Alexander Patterson
President
Philippine Scouts Heritage Society.
Photos from the PSHS 24th Annual Reunion
by David Rosen
**Silver Anniversary PSHS Reunion in Long Beach**

Our 2009 reunion and business meeting, hosted by the Lt. Alexander R. Nininger Chapter, will be held on Friday and Saturday, May 8-9, 2009. This silver anniversary celebration of the founding of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society will take place in the Holiday Inn at the Long Beach, California airport.

Alternatively, the Los Angeles International Airport is a twenty minute drive north from the hotel and John Wayne Airport in Orange County is forty minutes south. Rooms at the Holiday Inn have been reserved at $99 per night. Other accommodations are available at the Marriott Guest House across the street and the Marriott two miles away.

Additional information on this 25th anniversary event will be provided by email in a few weeks. Final details will be included in our spring newsletter.

**Website News**

A redesign of our Philippine Scouts Heritage Society website has made it more reader friendly, comprehensive and easily navigated. It has received over 38,300 visits, since being established in July, 2002.

Our message board now contains over 400 topics and almost 1,400 comment postings. In August, a growing problem with spamming necessitated switching to a more secure message board. This posting was accomplished without losing any of our past postings.

You are invited to visit the PSHS website (www.philippine-scouts.org) and the message board (note the link in the margin of our homepage) to share your own thoughts or questions and to supply answers to queries submitted by others.

We also will consider appropriate and original short articles or vignettes for posting on our website or including in our newsletter.

The website is useful for research purposes. Our site is the first entry that appears when someone researches the Philippine Scouts using either the Google or Yahoo search engines. Our site links to thirty-two other websites, and requests. The “Resources” page has links to thirty-two other websites, three bibliographies and numerous articles. We also link to U.S. government sources of information on former Scouts and on benefits available to them.

Thank you for your support!

Christa Houlahan
Webmaster

The PSHS website is available at http://www.philippine-scouts.org

**Newsletter Donations**

During this year $418 has been received in donations to the newsletter.

Donors include Sen. John Patterson, Mrs. Betty Little, Ms. Gloria Planté (for the General’s Corner), and Israel Cariaga.

Thank you all for your support!

Editor

**Patches (2”) are $10 each and hats $22, which includes postage.**

Order through:

Capt. Jose Calugas, Sr. Chapter
2907 Narrows Place
Tacoma, WA 98407

Check or money order should be made out to “PSHS Tacoma Chapter”.

**Philippine Scout Re-Enactors Take 1st Place**

Members of the Alexander Nininger Chapter of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society took first place in the “Marching Through History” competition last week in Chino, California. The men appear at commemorative events across the country, honoring the bravery and sacrifice of the last-ditch stand made by the U.S. Army’s Philippine Scouts on Bataan and Corregidor during World War II.

In 1942 the Philippine Scout soldiers were primarily Filipinos, the officers primarily Americans, and the Scouts were the backbone of General Douglas MacArthur’s United States Army Forces in the Far East (USAFFE). They fought our first ground battles of World War II, and held out against the Japanese on Bataan Peninsula and nearby Corregidor Island in the Philippines for five months while the rest of the Pacific and Southeast Asia succumbed to the Japanese onslaught. But the Japanese Navy surrounded and blockaded Bataan and Corregidor, and ultimately all 10,000 American and Filipino Scouts became Prisoners of War. More than half of them died as prisoners of the Japanese.

In October 2007, Mr. Philip Garcia of Los Angeles, and five friends: Frank Lopez, Victor Verano, Gilbert Mislang, Rudy Cabigas and Ray Ortega revived the Alexander Nininger Chapter of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society, named after a Scout officer who received one of the first three Congressional Medals of Honor awarded to U.S. Army soldiers during World War II, all to Philippine Scouts. The Nininger Chapter had become inactive as its elderly members, all veterans of Bataan and Corregidor, passed away, until it was revived last year by Mr. Garcia. Since then, the chapter has memorialized the Philippine Scouts at a number of functions and achieved several “firsts” at the “Marching Through History” event in Chino.

“It was our first anniversary,” says Mr. Garcia, “it was the first time we entered a competition, and we took first place among re-enactors of 20th Century events!” The men provide their own uniforms and equipment and set up an authentic Bataan campsite which won “Best Encampment” in the competition.

Accompanying the Nininger Chapter personnel were Theodor Villasor, a Philippine Scout survivor of the Bataan Death March and the Japanese prison camps, and Donald Plata of Washington D.C., Mark Lawrence, Ramil Oteya, and Louis Cogut. An operational World War II era scout vehicle, 37mm field artillery piece and water-cooled .50 cal. machine gun were all provided for the event by Luther Ritter.

“Marching Through History” is an annual educational and commemorative exhibition, the largest such event in the United States. More than 700 re-enactors participated this year, attracting 9,000 visitors, making the Nininger chapter’s success even more significant. Event Director Jeff Sharp said, “We are proud to have the Bataan re-enactors, and especially pleased that they were able to have Mr. Villasor, a veteran of the Bataan Death March, on hand to meet the public and answer questions.” Congratulations to the Nininger re-enactors for commemorating Filipino-American history and the Philippine Scouts.
Chapter News

An important objective of this newsletter is the encouragement of our members to raise public awareness of the founder’s patriotic legacy of the Philippine Scouts.

Edna Bautista Binkowski has published Code Name High Pockets: True Story of Claire Phillips, an American Mata Hari and the WWII Resistance Movement in the Philippines. The book is an interesting read and offers considerable new information on this young American who became a legend in the resistance movement against the Japanese in wartime Manila. The book will be reviewed in more detail in the next newsletter.

Goody Calugas, wife of Tacoma Chapter President Joe Calugas, has been selected as “Outstanding Volunteer of the Year” by the Washington Credit Union Foundation at that organization’s recent statewide conference. Goody has been a volunteer at American Lake Credit Union for twenty-three years. Among other responsibilities, she served as Chair and Vice-Chair during her tenure.

Bob Capistrano’s collection of Philippine Scout insignias and Philippine Army patches and memorabilia, much of it originally owned by his father, was on display at the PSHS conference in May.

Malcolm Decker’s new book From Bataan to Safety: The Rescue of IDI American Soldiers in the Philippines is now available through McFarland Publishing or book sellers such as Amazon and Barnes & Noble. It details the heroics of the American sugar cane farmers Bill and Martin Fassoth who sheltered more than 100 American servicemen who escaped the Japanese during WWII in the Philippines. A review will be published in the next newsletter and a website developed by Malcolm’s son may be found at www.malcolmdecker.net.

Golden Gate-Bay Area Chapter: No activities reported.

LTC Lloyd E. Mills Chapter: No activities reported.

Monterey County Chapter: No activities reported.


In Memoriam

Col. Julian V. Sollubub, 91, died Saturday, May 19, 2007. Originally from New York, he graduated from The United States Military Academy at West Point in 1937 as a second lieutenant of the Army Engineers. His career included a 1938-40 tour as Company Commander of the 14th Engineers BN (PS) in the Philippines and duty in the Pacific during World War II. After the war, Col. Sollubub was involved in reconstruction efforts in Japan, France and across Europe. He also played a role in the creation of Cape Canaveral District which was the base for America’s Space Program. His 30 years of military service included Battalion Command in the Pacific, development of military construction capabilities during the Cold War, and working with NASA. Upon retirement from military, Julian moved to Tallahassee and worked for the State of Florida as a research engineer. Throughout both careers, Julian received many awards including the Silver Star award by the Army for heroism. He was a lifetime member of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society. Col. Sollubub is survived by Catherine, his wife of 69 years, two sons, two daughters, two brothers, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

In Memoriam donation:

Betty Little, $100 in memory of Col. Mel Rosen. Donations to the PSHS in memory of Mel now total $1,550.
The Generals Corner

By Zosimo V. Guiang

Zosimo V. Guiang is a Life Member of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society.

Editor

Prisoner of War” in front of a soldier’s name is an ugly set of words, and a bitter agony of defeat to swallow. It defames the character of a warrior who came from the battlefield.

My name is Zosimo V. Guiang, a member of the 86th Field Artillery Bat-talion (PS), US Army which gallantly manned 155 mm guns in the defense of Bataan, Philippines during WW II. I was taken prisoner when Bataan fell on April 9, 1942.

At the beginning of the Bataan Death March on April 11, 1942 I had nothing but my clothes, as the Japanese soldiers confiscated all my valuables. It was very hot those days, and we had nothing to eat or drink. We were very hungry, thirsty, exhausted, and very weak. On the third day of the march, my section chief was bayoneted and shot to death. This was the most gruesome experience I had ever witnessed. I trembled with intense fear and terror being unable to light back to defend my chief.

A few days later we arrived at the San Fernando train stations where we were loaded in boxcars en route to Capas, Tarlac to Camp O’Donnell (the POW concentration camp). Three more days we did not have anything to eat or drink. With a solid rock I hit the trunk of a tree in the middle of our compound to loosen the bark and reached for the leaves to check if they’re edible. It was tasty, so I got more for the other fellows.

In the camp, food and especially water were inadequate, and no medications were available. I hunted for grasshoppers, crickets, toads, and tadpoles, and even snakes to eat just to satisfy my hun-

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tremendous concern to the commanders of the Philippine Division.

Under strict secrecy, the War Department ordered a series of contingency plans to prepare for massive public unrest in the Philippines, largely in response to the Scout Mutiny. These plans were to service a variety of contingencies, ranging from small civil disturbances, to large scale rebellion. In nearly all of the scenarios, however, Philippine Scout and other indigenous allies were unreliable in restoring rule of law. This lack of trust could be traced largely back to the mutiny at Fort William McKinley.

Despite fallout from mutiny, and misgivings about the Scouts held by American officers, the Scouts continued to serve the United States as the storm clouds that presaged the Second World War gathered throughout the Pacific. The loyalty of the Scouts would be borne out by their heroism in defending the Philippines from the Japanese invasion in December of 1941.

Throughout countless engagements in the months of 1941, the Philippine Scouts distinguished themselves with acts of bravery. To illustrate these acts of heroism, soldiers serving in Scout units received 3 Medals of Honor, 21 Distinguished Service Crosses, 68 Silver Stars and 5 Bronze Stars. At numerous engagements across the Philippines, the Scouts demonstrated their fierce loyalty to their officers and the nation whose flag they served under.

Despite this service, the Philippine Scouts never returned to the level of priority that they enjoyed in America’s foreign policy prior to the war. Following the Japanese surrender in August of 1945, the 43rd, 44th, and 45th Philippine Scout Infantry Regiments were reformed. Although they were briefly deployed to serve in support of the American occupation of the Ryuku islands, the end of America’s rule in the Philippines also meant the inevitable end for the Scouts. In 1949 the Philippine Scouts were officially disbanded. This concluded one of the most resoundingly successful experiments in the history of the U.S. Army.

Many lessons can be learned from the history of the Philippine Scouts. The most obvious is the huge advantage presented by friendly relations with the inhabitants of a nation that a parent state seeks to pacify. Similarly, the history of the Scouts also reveals the importance of treating these allies with respect and dignity if they are to be retained as allies for any significant period of time.

Among the many American forces that served in the Pacific during World War II, the Philippine Scouts are a well known and respected soldier. This is due to their fierce loyalty to their officers and flag, and their continued aerial devastation. If the invasion had come in the fall of 1945, in the aftermath of the two thermocatalytic explosions on Okinawa, with demobilization and other postwar reality. Japan today could be divided in two. A large island capable of being used as a separate North and South Japan might be a modern day reality. Japan today could be divided down its middle much like Korea and Germany. The United States would accept the cost of “Downfall,” however, because on September 2, 1945 Japan formally surrendered to the United Nations and World War II was finally over.

Almost immediately, American Soldier’s sailors, airmen and marines in this duration were now discharged. The aircraft carriers, cruisers, transport ships and LST’s scheduled to carry our invasion troops to Japan, now ferried American troops in a gigantic troop lift called “Magic Carpet.” The soldiers and marines who had been committed to invade Japan were now returned home where they were welcomed back to American shores.

Intelligence studies and realistic military estimates made over forty years ago, and not later day speculations, clearly that the battle for Japan might have well resulted in the biggest blood bath in the history of modern warfare.

As to the cost. The Japanese invasion of Japan would have resulted in a long and bloody siege. At worst, it could have been a battle of extermination between two different civilizations.

Far worse would be what might have happened to Japan as a nation and as a culture. When the invasion came, it would have been after several additional months of the continued firebombings on all of the remaining Japanese cities and population centers. The cost in human life that resulted from the two thermocatalytic explosions on Okinawa in comparison to the total number of Japanese lives that would have been lost by this continued aerial devastation.

If the invasion had come in the fall of 1945, with the war now over, Americans would have learned of the elaborate top-secret “Operation Downfall” that had been prepared in detail for the invasion of Japan. Those few military leaders who had known the details of “Operation Downfall” were now preoccupied with demobilization and other postwar matters, and were no longer concerned with this invasion that never came.

In the fall of 1945, in the aftermath of the two thermonuclear explosions that triggered the Japanese surrender, and with the war a fading memory, few people concerned themselves with the invasion plans for Japan that had been rendered obsolete by the atomic age. Following the surrender, the classified documents, maps, diagrams and appendices for “Operation Downfall” were packed in boxes where they began their long circuitous route to the National Archives where they still remain.

Post Script

With the capture of Okinawa during the summer of 1945 the Americans in the Pacific had finally obtained what the Allies in Europe had enjoyed all along, a large island capable of being used as a launching platform for invasion. Following the cessation of hostilities with Germany, millions of American soldiers, sailors, and airmen were redeployed to the Pacific for the anticipated invasion of Japan. The center of this immense military buildup and the primary staging area for the invasion was the island of Okinawa.

American military planners knew that the invasion of Japan would be a difficult undertaking. Japan had never been successfully invaded in its history.

Six and one-half centuries before, an invasion similar to the planned American invasion had been attempted and failed. In the year 1281 A.D., two magnifici- cent Chinese fleets set sail for the Empire of Japan. Their purpose was to launch a massive invasion on the Japanese home islands and to conquer Japan in the name of Kublai Khan. Sailing from China was the main armada, consisting of 3,500 ships and over 100,000 heavily armed troops. Sailing from ports in Korea was a secondary impressive fleet of 900 ships, containing 41,000 Mongol warriors.

In the summer of that year, the invasion force sailing from Korea arrived off the western shores of the southern most Japanese island of Kyushu. The Mongols maneuvered their ships into position and methodically launched their assault on the Japanese coast. Like human surf, wave after wave of these oriental soldiers swept ashore at Hagata Bay, where they met on the beaches by thousands of Japanese
The Mongol invasion force was a modern army, and its arsenal of weapons was far superior to that of the Japanese. It included crossbows, longbows, maces, iron swords, metal javelins, and even gunpowder. The Japanese were forced to defend themselves with bows, arrows, swords, spears made from bamboo and shields made only of wood.

The battle was fierce, with many soldiers killed or wounded on both sides. It dragged on for days, but aided by fortifications along their beaches of which the Mongols had no advance knowledge; and, inspired by the sacred mystic faith that their country could never be invaded successfully and that they all seemed to share a mystical faith that their country could

Alarmed by news that their island homelands had been lost and the Mongol casualties exceeded 100,000 men. The Japanese people fervently believed that the Mongol invaders would be repelled by the divine assistance and mystical faith that their country could never be invaded successfully and that they would again be saved by the “divine wind” that would forever protect them.

During the summer of 1945 another powerful armada was being assembled to assault the same western coastline on the island of Kyushu, where six and one half centuries earlier the Mongols had been repelled.

The American invasion plans for Kyushu, scheduled for November 1, 1945 called for a floating invasion force of 14 army and marine divisions to be transported by ship to hit the western, eastern, and southern shoreline of Kyushu. This shipboard invasion force would consist of 550,000 combat soldiers, tens of thousands of sailors and hundreds of naval aircraft.

The assault force would consist of thousands of ships of every shape, size and description, ranging from the mammoth battleships and aircraft carriers of the small amphibious craft, and they would be sailing from Okinawa, the Philippines and the Marianas.

During the early part of October, to the shouts of “Hajime!” or “Let’s go!” the assault waves of the Marianas, the seas were growing restless and the winds began to blow. The ocean skies slowly turned black and the largest ships that were developing began to turn to the Pacific Ocean white with froth. In a matter of only a few days, a gigantic typhoon had somehow out of season, sprung to life and began sweeping past Saipan and into the Philippine Sea. As the storm grew more violent, it raced northward and kicked up waves of 50 foot seas.

The ocean skies slowly turned black and the giant typhoon had somehow out of season, sprung to life and began sweeping past Saipan and into the Philippine Sea. As the storm grew more violent, it raced northward and kicked up waves of 50 foot seas.

The storm raged over the island for two days, until it turned itself, 150,000 soldiers lived under the American flag. The Japanese fervently believed that the American invaders would be repelled. They all seemed to share a mystical faith that their country could never be invaded successfully and that they would again be saved by the “divine wind” that would forever protect them.

After the typhoon had passed, over 4,000 invasion craft had

The Japanese people fervently believed that the Mongol invaders would be repelled by the divine assistance and mystical faith that their country could never be invaded successfully and that they would again be saved by the “divine wind” that would forever protect them.

Almost immediately American soldiers, sailors and airmen, in for the duration, were being discharged and sent home. By the fall of 1945, there were approximately 200,000 soldiers, sailors and airmen still on Okinawa, which would have been the major launching platform for the invasion of Japan, now was peaceful.

In October, Bruckner Bay, on the east coasts of the island, was still jammed with vessels of all kinds, from Victory ships to landing craft. On the island itself, 150,000 soldiers lived under miles of canvas, in what were referred to as “Tent Cities.” All over the island, hundreds of tons of food, equipment and supplies stacked in immense piles lay out in the open.

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The toll on ships was staggering. Almost 270 ships were sunk, grounded or damaged beyond repair. Fifty-three ships in too bad a state to be restored were decommissioned, stripped and abandoned. Twenty-four were repaired, major repair, the Navy decided only 10 were even worthy of complete salvage, and so the remaining 80 were scrapped.

Gigantic waves swamped small vessels and engulfed larger ones. Liberty ships lost their propellers, while men in transports, destroyers and Victory ships were swept off the decks by 60 foot waves that reached the tops of the masts of their vessels.

On shore, the typhoon was devastating the island. Twenty hours of torrential rain washed out roads and ruined the islands stores of rations and supplies. Aircraft were picked up and catapulted off the airfields; huge Quonset huts went sailing into the air, metal hangers were ripped to shreds, and the “Tent Cities,” housing 150,000 troops on the island, ceased to exist.
A NON FICTION BOOK ABOUT ESPIONAGE AND RESISTANCE DURING WWII IN THE PHILIPPINES

Claire Phillips was High Pockets, A code name she adapted for hav- ing the habit of ‘snatching notes and hills inside her brassiere. She estab- lished an exclusive club in Manila, Tsubaki Club that became the hotbed of espionage against the forces.

With the money she made out of the Japanese, she sent aid and supplies to the Bataan guerrillas, and to the POWs in Cabanatuan.

The author, Edna Binkowski, a native of Bataan Province, spent many years researching the history of World War II on Bataan. An advocate of the Bataan history, she has been involved in the rehabilitation of the war memorials.

“Claire Phillips was a legendary heroine whose story was under reported. Edna described the story in full details. Stunning.”

—Researcher/Archivist Fred Baldassarre

“Edna takes the readers into an exclusive night club in Manila for Japanese officers and affluent Japanese businessmen during WWII. You travel into the horrific prison camps. You go to the foothills and mountains of Bataan, where the guerrillas hid, waiting for their mo- ments of vengeance. You descend to the stinky dungeons of Fort Santi- ago to hear their screams as they are tortured. You witness them being murdered, by decapitation, shooting and fencing. His discipline, however, left something to be desired: as he wrote later to his son, “I was very high in the Senior class. I was 107 in my class. I was immediately assigned to the faculty of the Philippine Commonwealth, wrote to his heritage and country. Manuel Lim, a recent graduate, was a recent memory, Lim contended that taking all possible factors (political, economic, and military) into account. The latter’s graduation:

“...the Filipinos found the fulfillment of all the reforms and changes for which they had fought Spain, with the added advantage of a relationship with a more vigorous and a more democratic people.” He argued for a strong U.S. and Filipino military presence in the islands to deter Japanese aggression, and predicted that in the event of a war “the first blood will be shed in the Philip- pines.” A Philippine Army needed to be recruited and maintained at a strength of at least 100,000 men, according to his argument. Realizing the Insurrection was a recent memory, Lim contended that “the Filipinos will not revolt against the United States as long as the latter handles critical situations with firmness and justice.” The paper concluded by calling for more training of Filipino of- ficers and men, plus compulsory military service in the islands.

This essay marked a major moment in Lim’s life and career, and was the culmination of all his military experi- ence and education up to that time. The essay marked a major moment in Lim’s life and career, and was the culmination of all his military experience and education up to that time.
President of the Commonwealth.10

a constitution, and elected Lim’s friend U.S. Army Chief of Staff. The Philippine General Douglas MacArthur, outgoing Commonwealth, and that post went to made for a U.S. Military Advisor to the Philippines army, making a U.S. President. Provisions were

The Tydings-McDuffie Act, which created the Commonwealth of the Philippines by 1946, ready to defend the islands on

army, made up of former Philippine each year by a 10,000-strong regular

provided for 20,000 recruits trained as the general later wrote. The plan effectively established in Switzerland," the Philippines army and air force, and made

of a force structure “patterned after the U.S. Army at their previous ranks.

Quezon, and announced plans to resign his concerns about the army directly to West Point, becoming the second

Lim kept agitating for change, but

June 1936 he retired from the U.S. Army as a Lieutenant Colonel and became Chief of the Philippine Constabulary General. This posting placed him squarely in the middle of the nascent army’s
development, and Lim found that much of the reforms from the 1929 Tydings-McDuffie Act reflected in the Philippine Army. He did see one serious mistake, that of using the 6,000-strong Constabulary as a basis for the army. This cadre imposed its strengths and weaknesses on the army, and impacted its traditions. Lim believed that the army should have been based upon “no nucleus at all . . . [instead] enlist immediately a small cadre and train them under a handful of the best officers that we might pick from the Constabulary and the Scouts.” These objections were overridden.12 As the army coalesced over the next two and a half years, serious problems began to develop, especially among the officer corps. Historian Louis Morton summed up the problem this way: Constabulary officers’ “interests lay in law enforcement rather than military training. Some of the best officers came from the Philippine Scouts, but these men rapidly became senior officers in the Philippine Army. The great problem was to train junior officers to command the small camps and train them under a handful of these were formed.” A lack of junior leadership and corruption among some of the senior leadership soon had the army floundering.13

lim resigned from the General Staff and reinforced, chiefly armor and air reinforcements, chiefly armor and air

in the Far East (USAFFE). American command in the new U.S. Army Forces

Commander-in-Chief. One week later the 41st’s trial would begin.18

The 41st held firm, continuing to repel

The 41st Division, based in southwest Luzon, was consumed by training the flood of

of the 1940s, Lim won a seat in the United States to attend the U.S. Naval Academy; Luis followed a year later to study engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1940, Lim

Furthering his career, Lim was appointed Chief of Staff of the Philippine Army, and then

and prevented Quezon from making the Philippines Army in 1939. Lim

Limb Thirty-fifth war against the Japs in our right sector...we got to our present position . . . we were in position and reorganizing for the battle. On the 21st, we were in position and ready to receive reinforcements, chiefly armor and air

American forces were in position and reorganizing for the battle. On the 21st, we were in position and ready to receive

was consumed by training the flood of

and West Point, becoming the second

command in the new U.S. Army Forces

41st Division, based in southwest Lu-

scouts) stood on Lim’s right, while the

Major Lim next returned home to the Philippines, and spent six years as com-

mandant of the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Academy on Luzon. He was a key player in the formation of the scouts, and it appeared he had exhausted all the career opportunities

in the Scouts, and it appeared he had exhausted all the career opportunities

available to him. However, events in Washington soon created new prospects and catapulted Lim to high stature.9

Washington soon created new prospects

for Lim. His ideas, despite resistance from MacArthur, continued to influence the Philippine Army. He did

Lim kept agitating for change, but to little avail. Matters came to a head in October 1938, when a large bloc of Scouts officers resigned from the Philippine Army and returned to the U.S. Army at their previous ranks. An angry Quezon accused Lim of treason for allowing this move, and MacArthur was called to investigate. Lim went to see the President, and protested “man to man.” He took the opportunity to air his concerns about the army directly to Quezon and announced that he would never see any of them again.14

Lim took advantage of an opportunity to join the Philippine Army with a rank commensurate to his experience, and on 30

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Philipine Scouts Heritage Society

Vincente P. Lim From Page 21

“haggard, and his eyes were sunken, and his hair, once so black, had turned grey. He was smoking a cigar made of guava leaves rolled and tied together with a piece of string. When we shook hands I noticed he was unusually warm [with malarial fever].” Meanwhile MacArthur departed for Australia on 11 March 1942, turning over his command (renamed U.S. Forces in the Philippines, or USEFP) to Lieutenant General Jonathan M. Wainwright. Major General Edward P. King assumed command of the Bataan garrison, renamed Luzon Force.2

The final Japanese blow fell on Good Friday 3 April 1942, and it fell squarely on Lim’s 41st Division. His men gave ground, and reinforcements tried to stabilize the situation. Despite these efforts, the Japanese continued to slash their way southward. By the evening of 6 April the Luzon Force’s line was irreparably broken; Japanese units raced down the east coast of Bataan. Their objective was Mariveles, a harbor at Bataan’s southern tip where the Luzon Force’s headquarters, hospital units, and supplies were located. Troops gathered around Mariveles for a last stand, including Lim and the remnants of his division. To save his men from massacre, General King surrendered the 76,000 Americans and Filipinos in the Luzon Force on 9 April, in the largest capitulation in U.S. history.2

While some men took to the hills, Lim decided to face his fate as a captive. He survived the Bataan Death March, and was imprisoned at Camp O’Donnell with the Luzon Force captives. In the late summer of 1942 all Filipino prisoners of war were released as part of a general amnesty by the Japanese. Lim returned home and became a leader in resistance efforts against the Japanese occupiers. Hearing of a possible capture attempt, he tried to flee the islands in June 1944 but was detained and taken to Manila, where he was last seen alive the first week of December 1944. Sometime in December 1944 or January 1945, Vicente Lim was executed by the Japanese secret police. His body was never found, and today he is

1 Carlos Romulo, Last Man Off Bataan (London: Constable 1966), p. 210-211. This book was originally published in 1943 under the title I Saw the Fall of the Philippines, and later was printed in Great Britain under the title given here.


3 Lim Letters, p. 15, 166. The Quizon letter, which is undated but was received by Lim on 21 August 1914, is reproduced on pages 30-31 and transcribed on page 211. The quotation in the text is transcribed from the original letter.

4 “Lim Letters,” p. 16.

5 Ibid., p. 16-17.

6 The paper is quoted in full in Lim Letters, p. 220-237. Quotations come from pages 227, 229, 231, 232, and 233. In a section devoted to Japanese strategy, Lim also predicted almost exactly the method by which the Japanese would conquer Luzon in 1941-42: secure air bases in northern Luzon, shelter U.S. naval and air units in the islands, land a Longyear Gulf and other points along the southern and eastern coasts, capture Manila, then reduce the fortress of Corregidor in Manila Bay. One of Lim’s War College classmates was Richard Sutherland, who later served as MacArthur’s chief of staff on Bataan.

8 Lim Letters, p. 220-221.

9 Ibid., p. 18.

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