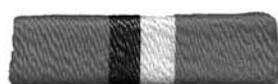


Philippine Scouts Heritage Society



Preserving the history, heritage, and legacy of the Philippine Scouts for present and future generations



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]."¹

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

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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 dur-

ing 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-

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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, not only in the early months before the surrender, but also afterward in the prison camps, on the Hell Ships and in the guerrilla resistance.

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, assuming the new editor so desires, 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

Newsletter and Library

Non-member newsletter subscription: 2-years: \$10.00 domestic & \$14 overseas; 3-years: \$14 domestic & \$18 overseas. Email subscriptions are \$4 & \$6 for 2 & 3 years. Members receive the newsletter at no charge.

Donations are tax deductible as the PSHS now has 501(c)(3) status. Newsletter donation and subscription checks should be made out to the "PSHS" (with "newsletter donation" or "subscription" listed on the memo line) and mailed to:

J. M. Houlahan
Editor, PSHS Newsletter
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Worthington, OH 43085

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Philippine Scouts Heritage Society Newsletter

J. Michael Houlahan, Editor & Publisher

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A Letter of Thanks

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 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 of the newsletter. In the meantime, if there are any suggestions, please call



John A. Patterson, President
Photo: David Rosen

me in Rhode Island (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'oeuvre. 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



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

members of GBBAC who hosted the 24th reunion .

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

PSHS 24th Reunion

The following appears on the website of US-Japan Dialogue on POWs, Inc. at <http://www.us-japandialogueonpows.org>. Ms. Kinue Tokudome is the organization's Executive Director and a PSHS member.



Veterans of the Philippine Scouts and members of PSHS

5/26/08

On May 23 – 24, 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 outset 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.



Brigadier General Oscar B. Hilman
(US Army, Ret.)

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24th Reunion From Page 1

can captives. 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 Chapter came forward and committed to follow-up on such activities as scholarships, data base development and more.

One thing that was very noticeable this year was the coverage we received

from the media. At one point, there were three TV stations in attendance interviewing Scouts and their families. Our thanks to Chris Schaefer for his outstanding work as the Society's Public Relations Officer. Part of our outreach remarked upon were the outstanding efforts related to our website managed by Mike and Christa Houlahan. Mike's editing of the Newsletter was the subject of favorable comment several times during the reunion.

New this year was the attendance of the Philippine Scout reenactors who were present for entire two days. They participated in several ceremonies. Their uniforms are superb and their activities form another wonderful outreach mechanism for the Society. The reenactors have reactivated the Lt. 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.

The business side of the two day get together saw the election of Goody Calugas as Treasurer and yours truly as President, each for three year terms. The finances of the Society are solid. This was confirmed by the Audit Committee Chaired very ably by Cindy Warren with Aniceto Bagley as a member. I want to thank other officers who were active during the year especially Joe Calugas, First Vice President of the Society and President of the Captain Jose Calugas, Jr. Chapter, Nora Warren, the Society's Secretary, our Assistant Historian Bob Capistrano whose displays of uniforms and medals are always a big hit.

Our reunion concluded with a dinner attended by 200 individuals all there to honor the Scouts. Society Achievement Awards were given to Menandro Parazo, the Society's 2nd Vice President and President of the John J. Pershing Chapter in El Paso and John Olson, the Society's

Historian. We honored them for their outstanding contributions to the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society.

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!"

Sen. 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. Ninger 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 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 "Exchanges" page lists research projects

and requests. The "Resources" page has linkages 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

By Chris Schaefer

Members of the Alexander Ninger 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 Mislant, Rudy Cabigas and Ray Ortega revived the Alexander Ninger 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 Ninger 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 func-



tions 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 they set up an authentic Bataan campsite which won "Best Encampment" in the competition.

Accompanying the Ninger 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 Oteyza, and Louis Cogut. An operational World War II era scout vehicle, 37mm field artillery piece and water-cooled .30 cal. machine gun were all provided for the event by Luther Ritter.

"Marching Through History" is an annual educational and commemorative exposition, the largest such event in the United States. More than 700 re-enactors participated this year, attracting 9,000 visitors, making the Ninger 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 Ninger re-enactors for commemorating Filipino-American history and the Philippine Scouts.

Chapter News

Capt. Jose Calugas, Sr. Chapter: **Arturo Garcia** and his group were invited to participate in the Armed Forces Day at Ft. Lewis, Washington last May. The group wore Philippine Scout uniforms circa 1901 and set up a tent displaying Philippine Scout memorabilia. Their camp had a large sign saying "Ft. William McKinley, home of the Philippine Scouts".

Many people visited the camp and asked questions about the Philippine Scouts. The distance record was set by Chapter member **Hatier Carmoreau** and his wife who came from Skamokawa, Washington about 150 miles from Tacoma.

Goody and **Joe Calugas** were invited by Clover High School in Lakewood, Washington, to speak about the Philippine Scouts and Joe's father, Medal of Honor recipient **Sgt. (later Capt.) Jose Calugas, Sr.** They discovered that most of the students didn't even know where the Philippines is, let alone anything about the Scouts. This is another illustration of why it is so important for our members to speak about the Scouts and how valuable reenactors are in educating others about Philippine Scout history. The **Calugas's** were particularly pleased when **Janda Volkmer**, Director of the Lakewood Historical Museum, asked the Chapter for help as she prepares a section of the museum on Filipino History, including a Philippine Scouts display.

About 25 members from the Tacoma Chapter attended the 24th Annual National Reunion in Burlingame. They

especially enjoyed the gathering's camaraderie and the panel discussions, which were well-planned and educational. **General Oscar Hilman**, a member of the Tacoma Chapter, was the reunion Guest Speaker. He was accompanied by his wife **Patty**.

The Tacoma Chapter volunteered as a pilot for a PSHS scholarship program suggested during the Reunion. A Scholarship committee has been formed and the competition will require an essay about the Philippine Scouts and a good grade point average. The Chapter is planning a Scholarship fundraising in October, 2009.

As of June 21, the Tacoma Chapter has 71 members, four annual and 67 lifetime.

The seven-member family of the late Philippine Scout **SFC Maximo Barbon** is active in the Chapter and **Jane Barbon Domeika** is Chapter Vice-President. The newest life member is **Jay H. Brower**, Retired Sgt. Major, U.S. Army Reserve.

Editor: I believe this makes the Tacoma Chapter our largest in terms of active members.

Lt. Alexander R. Nininger Chapter: This Los Angeles-area chapter includes a Filipino-American re-enactor group. Its thirteen annual and four life members, have an online forum at <http://pinoyhistory.proboards22.com/index.cgi?board=nininger>.

Chapter members conducted the flag ceremonies at our PSHS reunion. A 13-minute slide/video show presentation

promo about the "Nininger" LA Chapter also was shown.

Reunion photos taken by chapter members are available at: <http://pinoy-history.proboards22.com/index.cgi?board=veterans&action=display&thread=591&page=1>

On June 7 in Carson, California, the Chapter took part in a Philippine Independence Day celebration, their first participation in the biggest Filipino event in the LA county or Southern California.

They set up a **USAFFE PS** camp and "probably had all the Filipino newspaper photographers for the county of LA taking photos of us with vets and the organizers." Photos of this event are available on our PSHS message board and on line at: <http://pinoyhistory.proboards22.com/index.cgi?board=upcomingevents&action=display&thread=609&page=1>

Golden Gate-Bay Area Chapter: No activities reported.

LTC Loyd E. Mills Chapter: No activities reported.

Monterey County Chapter: No activities reported.

Gen. John J. Pershing Chapter (El Paso): No activities reported.

Member Activities

An important objective of this newsletter is the encouragement of our members to raise public awareness of the proud patriotic legacy of the Philippine Scouts. Examples of member's efforts to accomplish this over the last six months follow:

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 104 American Soldiers in the Philippines is now available through McFarland Publishing or book sellers such as Amazon and Barnes & Nobel. 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.

Rod Hall and three classmates have written Manila Memories based on their experiences as children living in Manila during WWII. Although Rod was not interned—his mother was Filipino—his father, **Alaistair C. Hall**, was a British Civilian POW in Santo Tomas Internment Camp. The book will be reviewed in our next issue.

Rainer Loeser's documentary *Death March of Bataan* has been accepted into the 23rd Annual Fort Lauderdale Int'l Film Festival. It will be screen on Monday, November 10th as part of their tribute to veterans.

Michael Norman and **Elizabeth Norman (We Band of Angels)** report that they have finished their ten-year book on Bataan, the Death March, prison and work camps, Hell Ships, slave labor and liberation. The book, Tears In The Darkness, is at the publisher's -- Farrar, Straus & Giroux -- and is scheduled for publication in May 2009 for Memorial Day. The Normans report that the Scouts are mentioned several times in the book. More information will follow closer to the publication date. Meanwhile, the Normans want to thank all the members of the PSHS who so generously helped with their research and inquiries.

Col. John E. Olson received considerable coverage on the Military Channel's *Tour of Duty Series "Bataan and Corregidor: 'Going Back'"*.

Peter Parsons, son of the legendary WWII operative **Chick Parsons**, has

produced an interesting and worthwhile DVD entitled *Ships from Hell*, as part of the inauguration of the Hell Ships Monument in Subic Bay. It includes four POW interviews and the names of all the Hell Ships.

In July, **Col. Ed Ramsey** was presented with the Legacy Award by the **Hon. Willy Gaa, Philippine Ambassador to the United States**, during ceremonies commemorating the 67th anniversary of the founding of USAFFE (U.S. Armed Forces Far East), **General Douglas McArthur's** command at the outbreak of WWII.

In Memoriam

Col. Julian V. Sollohub, 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. Sollohub 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. Sollohub 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 GENERAL'S CORNER

The General's Corner is dedicated to the memory of **Brigadier General Royal Reynolds, Jr.** During the early days of World War II, General Reynolds commanded the First Battalion of the 57th Infantry Regiment (PS). He led his unit in the defense of Bataan and then spent the remainder of the war as a guerilla. As the first President of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society, he was one of the Society's founders and a longtime staunch supporter.

The Generals Corner publishes historical accounts of World War II in the Philippines. This issue contains four such articles. The featured article is a long piece by **Christopher L. Kolakowski** telling the story of Brigadier General Vicente P. Lim, a West Point graduate and Filipino hero of WWII. Also included is a short piece by PSHS member and former Philippine Scout **Zosimo Guiang** recounting his experience as a POW. Finally there are the last installments of serialized articles begun in earlier newsletter editions. The first is "America's Sepoys" by **Chris Yeazel**, which takes an in depth view of the Philippine Scouts as a colonial-era military force. The second is "The Story of the Invasion of Japan" by James Martin Davis recounting American plans and how costly the invasion was expected to be if use of the atomic bomb hadn't suddenly ended the conflict.



Brigadier General Royal Reynolds, Jr.

America's Sepoys (Part II)

By Chris Yeazel

The following is the second and final installment of a study on the Philippine Scouts written by George Washington University graduate student Chris Yeazel. It discusses the use of the Scouts during America's colonial period in the Philippines up to World War II. Editor

Against the backdrop of rapidly diminishing troop levels, The Philippine Division was created in 1922. Headquartered at Fort William McKinley outside of Manila, the Division was created in the interests of "economy and efficiency" as a means of incorporating the various Philippine Scout units under one unified command¹. Its backbone was the 45th and 57th Philippine Scout Regiments. The units of the Philippine Division were deployed throughout the Philippines, most notably at Camps John Hay and Stotsenburg, Forts Mills and William McKinley, all located on Luzon; and Petit Barracks, located on Mindanao. A further 23 smaller posts were scattered throughout the Philippine Archipelago². The Philippine Division held its first maneuvers at Camp Stotsenburg in February of 1923.

See *America's Sepoys* Page 13

The Story of the Invasion of Japan (Part III)

By James Martin Davis

The following is the final installment of an article discussing American plans for invading Japan and is published with the permission of the author.

In the mountain beyond the beaches were elaborate underground network of caves, bunkers, command posts and hospitals connected by miles of tunnels with dozens of separate entrances and exits. Some of these complexes could hold up to 1,000 enemy troops. A number of these caves were equipped with large steel doors that slid open to allow artillery fire and then would snap shut again.

The paths leading up to these underground fortresses were honeycombed with defensive positions, and all but a few of the trails would be booby-trapped. Along these manned defensive positions would be machine guns nests and aircraft and naval guns converted for anti-invasion fire.

See *Story of the Invasion* Page 14

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A Prisoner of War

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 Battalion (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 10, 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 was enraged at being unable to fight 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-

ger. I did not have my sleeves anymore because I gnawed and ate them during the march. We slept on the ground with no blankets. We were raided by huge flies and red ants during the day, and mosquitoes and rats at night. I suffered from malarial fever, beriberi, dysentery, and malnutrition. Most everybody lay on the ground, many dying.

Day and night I prayed asking the Lord to spare my life, and if I got out of there I would do everything within my power and capabilities to help stop the unnecessary killings and barbarous acts. After six months, my prayers were answered when I became a free man again.

That's the unbearable experience of a prisoner of war. When I finally got home, I weighed only 62 pounds, an ugly looking sack of bones. All the people who saw me cried and shed their tears.

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Its soldiers were quickly recognized for consistently out-performing their American contemporaries³.

The years following the creation of the Philippine Division were beset with resentment by the Scouts due to the inequitable treatment they received from their American officers. In the years between 1901 and 1935, the pay of the Philippine Scouts averaged half that of American infantryman of comparable rank and occupational specialty⁴. These tensions would boil to the surface in a series of events that cast doubt upon the feasibility of the entire enterprise of the Philippine Scouts.

Warning signs of gathering discontent among the Philippine Scouts were increasingly visible in the years prior to the mutiny. As early as 1907, Retired Scout Officer Crowell Stacey called for reenlistment pay, retirement benefits, pension for line of duty disability, and an increased clothing allowance for the

Scouts. In an article published in *Infantry Journal* in September, 1907, Stacey demanded, "and the Scout soldiers, what prospects do they have after hard honorable service? Nothing!⁵"

Fifteen years later, a study of desertion commissioned by the Adjutant General of the Philippines Harrison Hall noted that although the loyalty of the Scouts was not in question in general, this could well change in the years to come to agitation for independence among Filipinos. LTC E.R. Wilson, who prepared the report, noted that "with the increasing agitation for 'Independencia'...there exists a threat of disaffection in the near future⁶."

Some progress was made in securing equitable treatment for members of the Scouts. A memorandum regarding the order in which soldiers were allowed to board boats following originating at Fort Mills in April 1921, Adjutant General E.W. Lockwood notes his be-

lief that "enlisted men, both white and Filipino, should be treated alike, grade for grade⁷." This opinion ran contrary to decades of second-class status that the Scouts had been relegated to.

Antipathy resulting from years of receiving half the pay of American soldiers for doing the same work reached a boiling point in 1924. On July 7 of that year, 380 Scouts under the command of General Douglas MacArthur at Fort William McKinley refused to drill and report for their morning formation. The following day, members of the 12th medical regiment joined them, raising the total number of mutineers to 602. Although 292 Scouts returned to their units without punishment, 209 received prison sentences ranging from five to twenty years⁸. Although the incident would be the only Scout mutiny, it received widespread support from the civilian population, and was a matter of

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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 Philippine, largely as a response to the Scout Mutiny. The scenarios planned for 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.⁹

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 heroic service in defending the Philippines from the Japanese invasion in December of 1941.

Through countless engagements in the months between December 1941 and the final abandonment of the Philippines in the Spring of 1942, the 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 Stars¹⁰. 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 Scouts never returned to the level of primacy 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 reformed¹¹. Although they were briefly deployed to serve in support of the American occupation of the Ryuku islands¹², 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.

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In addition to the use of poison gas and bacteriological warfare (which the Japanese had experimented with), the most frightening of all was the prospect of meeting an entire civilian population that had been mobilized to meet our troops on the beaches.

Had "Olympic" come about, the Japanese population inflamed by a national slogan, "One Hundred Million will die for the Emperor and Nation," was prepared to engage and fight the American invaders to the death.

Twenty-eight million Japanese had become part of the "National Volunteer Combat Force" and had undergone train-

ing in the techniques of beach defense and guerilla warfare. These civilians were with ancient rifles, lunge mines, satchel charges, Molotov cocktails and one-shot black powder mortars. Still others were armed with swords, long bows, axes and bamboo spears.

These special civilian units were to be tactically employed in nighttime attacks, hit and run maneuvers, delaying actions and massive suicide charges at the weaker American positions.

Even without the utilization of Japanese civilians in direct combat, the Japanese and American casualties during the campaign for Kyushu would have been

The lessons provided by the Scouts could serve American planners well, as a textbook example of how the United States can build lasting relationships with indigenous allies.

1 James, Clayton. *The Years of MacArthur*, volume I. Boston, Houghton, Mifflin, 1970. Pg. 301.

2 Olson, John. *The Philippine Scouts*. Daly City: Philippine Scouts Heritage Society, 1996.

3 James, Clayton. *The Years of MacArthur*, volume I. Boston, Houghton, Mifflin, 1970. Pg. 301.

4 Franklin, Charles. *History of the Philippine Scouts, 1899-1934*. Washington, D.C.: Army War College, 1935. Pg. 21. National Archives II, College Park, MD. "USAFHE Historical Accounts and Casualty Reports." Record Group 407, Box 1443.

5 Olson, John. *The Philippine Scouts*. Daly City: The Philippine Scout Heritage Society, 1996. Pg. 11.

6 "Desertersiom." National Archives. Record Group 395, Entry # 6115. Box No. 2.

7 National Archives. Record Group 395, Entry # 6115.

8 Linn, Brian. *Guardians of Empire*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1997. Pg. 148.

9 Linn, Brian. *Guardians of Empire*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1997. Pg. 158

10 Olson, John. *The Philippine Scouts*. Daly City: The Philippine Scout Heritage Society, 1996. Pg. 479

11 Olson, John. *The Philippine Scouts*. Daly City: The Philippine Scout Heritage Society, 1996. Pg. 440.

12 Olson, John. *The Philippine Scouts*. Daly City: The Philippine Scout Heritage Society, 1996. Pg. 452.

staggering. At the early stage of the invasion, 1,000 Japanese and American soldiers would be dying every hour. The long and difficult task of conquering Kyushu would have made the casualties on both sides enormous and one can only guess at how monumental the casualty figures would have been had the Americans had to repeat their invasion a second time when they landed at heavily fortified and defended Tokyo Plain the following March.

The invasion of Japan never became a reality because on August 6, 1945, the entire nature of war was changed when the first atomic bomb was exploded

over Hiroshima. On August 9, 1945, a second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, and within days the war with Japan was at a close.

Had these bombs not been dropped and had the invasion been launched as scheduled, it is hard not to speculate as to the cost. Thousands of Japanese suicide sailors and airmen would have died in fiery deaths in the defense of their homeland. Thousands of American sailors and airmen defending against these attacks would also have been killed and many more wounded.

On the Japanese home islands, the combat casualties would have been at a minimum in the tens of thousands. Every foot of Japanese soil would have been paid for, twice over, by both Japanese and American lives.

One can only guess at how many civilians would have committed suicide in their homes or in futile mass attacks.

In retrospect, the one million American men who were to be casualties of the invasion, were instead lucky enough to survive the war, safe and unharmed.

Intelligence studies and realistic military estimates made over forty years ago, and not latter day speculation, show quite clearly that the battle for Japan might have well resulted in the biggest bloodbath in the history of modern warfare.

At best, the 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 atomic bombs would be small 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 American Forces locked

in combat in the south of Japan, who or what could have prevented the Red Army from marching into the northern half of the Japanese home islands? If "Downfall" had been an operational necessity the existence of 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 world was spared 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 Soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines in for the duration were now discharged. The aircraft carriers, cruisers, transport ships and LST's scheduled to carry our invasion troops to Japan, now ferried home 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. All over America celebrations were held and families everywhere gathered in thanksgiving to honor these soldiers who had been miraculously spared from further combat and now were safely returning home.

In the fall of 1945, with the war now over, few Americans would ever learn of the elaborate top-secret plans 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 being 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. That invasion had striking similarities to the one being planned by the Americans that summer of 1945.

In the year 1281 A.D., two magnificent 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 the Great Mongol Emperor Kublai Kahn. 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 second 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 were met on the beaches by thousands of Japanese

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defenders who had never had their homeland successfully invaded.

The Mongol invasion force was a modern army, and its arsenal of weapons was far superior to that of the Japanese. Its soldiers were equipped with poisoned arrows, maces, iron swords, metal javelins and even gunpowder. The Japanese were forced to defend themselves with bow and 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 cause of the defense of their homeland, these ancient Japanese warriors pushed the much stronger Mongol invaders off the beaches and back into their ships lying at anchor in the Bay.

This Mongol fleet then set back out to sea, where it rendezvoused with the main body of its army, which was arriving with the second fleet coming from China.

During the summer of 1281, this combined force of foreign invaders maneuvered off shore in preparation for the main assault on the western shores of Kyushu.

All over Japan elaborate Shinto ceremonies were performed at shrines, in the cities, and in the countryside. Hundreds of thousands of Japanese urged on by their Emperor, their warlords, and other officials prayed to their Shinto gods for deliverance from these foreign invaders. A million Japanese voices called upward for divine intervention.

Miraculously, as if in answer to their prayers, from out of the south a savage typhoon sprang up and headed toward Kyushu. Its powerful winds screamed up the coast where they struck the Mongol's invasion fleet with full fury, wreaking havoc on the ships and on the men onboard. The Mongol fleet was devastated. After the typhoon had passed, over 4,000 invasion craft had

been lost and the Mongol casualties exceeded 100,000 men.

All over Japan religious services and huge celebrations were held. Everywhere tumultuous crowds gathered in Thanksgiving to pay homage to the "divine wind" that had saved their homeland from foreign invasion. At no time thereafter has Japan ever been successfully invaded. The Japanese fervently believed that it was this "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 aviators.

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

Crucial to the success of the invasion were nearly 4,000 army, navy and marine aircraft that would be packed into the small island of Okinawa to be used for direct air support of our landing forces at the time of this invasion.

By July of 1945, the Japanese knew the Americans were planning to invade their homeland. Throughout the early summer, the Emperor and his government officials exhorted the military and civilian population to make preparations for the invasion.

Japanese radios throughout that summer cried out to the people to "form a wall of human flesh" and when the invasion began, to push the invaders back into the sea, and back onto their ships.

The Japanese people 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, again would be saved by the "divine wind."

The American invasion never came, however, because the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as if by a miracle, ended the war.

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

During the early part of October, to the southwest of Okinawa just northeast of the Marianas, the seas were growing restless and the winds began to blow. The ocean skies slowly turned black and the large swells that were developing began to turn 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 60 feet high.

Navy Meteorologists eventually became aware of the storm, but they expected it to pass well between Formosa and Okinawa, and to disappear into then East China Sea.

Unexplainably, on the evening of October 8th, the storm changed direction and abruptly veered to the east. When it did do, there was insufficient warning to

allow ships in the harbor to get under way in order to escape the typhoon's terrible violence. By late morning on the 9th, rain was coming down in torrents, the seas were rising and visibility was zero. Winds, now over 80 miles per hour blowing from the east and northeast, caused small crafts in Bruckner Bay to drag their anchors.

By early afternoon, the wind had risen to over 100 miles per hour, the rain coming in horizontally now was more salt than fresh, and even the larger vessels began dragging anchor under the pounding of 50 foot seas.

As the winds continued to increase and the storm unleashed its fury, the entire Bay became a scene of devastation. Ships dragging their anchors collided with one another; hundreds of vessels were blown ashore. Vessels in groups of two's and three's were washed ashore into masses of wreckage that began to accumulate on the beaches.

Numerous ships had to be abandoned, while their crews were precariously transferred between ships.

By midafternoon, the typhoon had reached its raging peak with winds, now coming from the north and northeast, blowing up to 150 miles per hour. Ships initially grounded by the storm were now blown off the reefs and back across the bay to the south shore, dragging their anchors the entire way. More collisions occurred between the wind-blown ships and shattered hulks.

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.

Almost the entire food supply on the island was blown away. Americans on the island had nowhere to go, but into caves, trenches and ditches of the island in order to survive. All over the island were tents, boards and sections of galvanized iron being hurled through the air at over 100 miles per hour.

The storm raged over the island for hours, and then slowly headed out to sea; then it doubled back, and two days later howled in from the ocean to hit the island again. On the following day, when the typhoon had finally passed, dazed men crawled out of holes and caves to count the losses.

Countless aircraft had been destroyed, all power was gone, communications and supplies were nonexistent. B-29's were requisitioned to rush in tons of supplies from the Marianas. General Joseph Stillwell, the 10th Army Commander, asked for immediate plans to evacuate all hospital cases from the island. The harbor facilities were useless.

After the typhoon roared out into the Sea of Japan and started to die its slow death, the bodies began to wash ashore. 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. Out of 90 ships which needed major repair, the Navy decided only 10 were even worthy of complete salvage, and so the remaining 80 were scrapped.

According to Samuel Eliot Morrison, the famous Naval historian, "Typhoon Louise" was the most furious and lethal storm ever encountered by the United States Navy in its entire History. Hundreds of Americans were killed, injured and missing, ships were sunk and the island of Okinawa was in havoc.

News accounts at the time disclose that the press and the public back home paid little attention to this storm that struck the Pacific with such force. The very existence of this storm is still a little-known fact.

Surprisingly, few people then, or even now, have made the connection that an American invasion fleet of thousands of ships, planes and landing craft, and a half million men might well have been in that exact place at that exact time, poised to strike Japan, when this typhoon enveloped Okinawa and its surrounding seas.

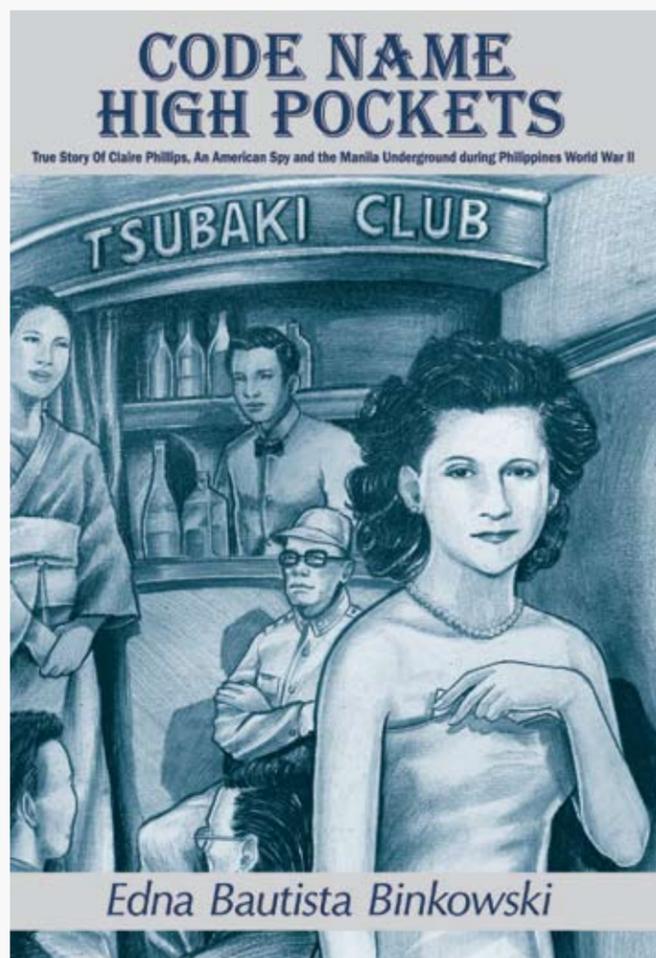
In the aftermath of this storm, with the war now history, few people concerned themselves with the obsolete invasion plans for Japan.

However, had there been no bomb dropped or had it been simply delayed for only a matter of months, history might have well repeated itself. In the fall of 1945, in the aftermath of this typhoon, had things been different, all over Japan religious services and huge celebrations would have been held. A million Japanese voices would have been raised upward in thanksgiving. Everywhere tumultuous crowds would have gathered in delirious gratitude to pay homage to a "divine wind" which might once again protected their country from foreign invaders, a "divine wind" they had named, centuries before, the "Kamikaze."

Notes by Jim Meeks

1. Most people don't realize what could have happened if we had delayed dropping the bomb. That could have allowed the Russians to come in and things would be a lot different today.
2. The typhoon could have changed everything.
3. The dropping of the bomb did not end the air strikes against Japan.
4. Had the bomb not been dropped many of those living today would not be here as their ancestors would have been killed in the invasion.
5. It has been reported that the Japs had some 7,000 kamikaze planes hidden in caves to be used against the American troop ships.

A NON FICTION BOOK ABOUT ESPIONAGE AND RESISTANCE DURING WWII IN THE PHILIPPINES



Claire Phillips was High Pockets, A code name she adapted for having the habit of stashing notes and bills inside her brassiere. She established an exclusive club in Manila called Tsubaki Club that became the hotbed of espionage against the Japanese forces.

With the money she made out of the Japanese, she sent aid and supplies to the Bataan guerillas, 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."

Robert W. Prince (Ret. Major, A U S)
6th Ranger Battalion Liberating Forces

"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 guerillas hid, waiting for their moment to strike. You meet the spies in Manila who risked everything to smuggle food and medicine into those prison camps, and then descend to the smelly dungeons of Fort Santiago to hear their screams as they are tortured. You witness them being murdered, by decapitation. Then....Liberation!"

Fred Baldassarre
Battling Bastards of Bataan
Researcher/Archivist

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Women were very much involved in the secret war against the Japanese during WWII in the Philippines. Dressed in wide variety of uniform (those of nuns, Red Cross workers, nurses, Girl Scouts etc.) they were mostly women of high social distinction in Manila. Nevertheless they were cloak and dagger partners of, and great complement to the men's war efforts. Fascinating."
Peter Parsons, Historian

"I have read many books about WWII in the Philippines but this is the first to capture my attention so completely. Edna has made a major contribution to history with this book. The intensive research and information she had so skillfully assembled produced a remarkable, gripping, and well written story that I wish every young person could read."

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Rizal, a prominent citizen and later national hero of the Philippines. During the War with Spain in 1898 and subsequent Philippine Insurrection, young Vicente served as a courier for Filipino forces in southwestern Luzon, aiding their efforts against the Spaniards and later the Americans. After the Insurrection ended in 1902, Lim went back to school and later earned a teaching certificate. After teaching for a year, Lim applied for admission to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He passed all the exams and physicals, and in 1910 became the first Filipino to enter the Academy.²

Lim's career at West Point was a rocky one. This was his first time out of the Philippines, and at age 22 he was older than most of his fellow cadets. A biographer noted that "Lim became known as 'Cannibal' because of his dark complexion, imperfect command of English, his origins as a colonial and the general ignorance of his classmates about the Philippines." Cadet Lim did well in his studies, especially in Spanish, his native tongue, and excelled in shooting and fencing. His discipline, however, left something to be desired: as he wrote later to his son, "I was very high up [in the class rankings] my Senior year, but I dropped down by playing too much bridge." Lim's record suffered from more serious problems than cards, however. Acutely conscious that he represented his entire people, Lim retaliated against any perceived insults to his heritage and country. Manuel Quezon, a friend and future President of the Philippine Commonwealth, wrote to Lim about this tendency about the time of the latter's graduation:

"My advice to you, given in earnest, is . . . don't let yourself get in bad with anybody. It is a mistaken idea to believe that if expressions of insult about our people are made and you don't try to come out in defense of them that you will be a traitor to your people. Persons who would indulge in such expressions are unworthy of any attention and the most absolute indifference toward them is the only proper attitude to take."

This desire to stand for his people and his beliefs would characterize Lim for the rest of his life.³

On 12 June 1914 Vicente Lim graduated from West Point, ranking 77th of 107 in his class. He was immediately commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Infantry in the Philippine Scouts, a branch of the U.S. Army made up of Filipino soldiers under Filipino and American officers. Lim traveled home via Europe, where he visited several European armies on the eve of the First World War. Upon his return Lim was assigned to the faculty of the Philippine Constabulary School in Baguio in northern Luzon. That area was a popular summer vacation destination for prominent families, and while stationed there Lim became acquainted with Pilar Hidalgo, a professor at the University of the Philippines and one of the leading female academics in the islands. The two were instantly attracted to one another, and were married in Manila on 12 August 1917. The Lims had six children together: Luis (born 1918); Roberto, or "Bobby" (1920); Vicente Jr., or "Vicenting" (1923); Patricio, or "Pat" (1931); Eulalia, or "Laling" (1933); and Maria (1938).⁴

When the United States entered the First World War on 6 April 1917, a Filipino National Guard was recruited for service overseas. The cadre for this force came from the Scouts, and Lim volunteered to go and fight. Promoted to First Lieutenant, Lim helped recruit and train this force, but the war ended before the National Guard left the country.⁵

After the war Lim received a promotion to Captain, which at the time was the highest rank any Filipino officer could attain. Captain Lim bristled at this and other restrictions, and began campaigning for equal treatment and opportunities for Philippine Scouts officers. He organized like-minded comrades and successfully campaigned for equal pensions and disability benefits for the Scouts, won the right for American enlisted men to salute Filipino officers, and in 1923 became the

first Filipino promoted to Major in the U.S. Army.⁶

In 1926 Major Lim set another precedent when he became the first Filipino to attend the Infantry Advanced Course at Fort Benning, Georgia, and a year later the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. His military studies also took him in 1929 to the Army War College, where he produced a thesis called "The Philippine Islands – A Military Asset." This paper cogently discussed various issues related to the islands and their defense. After analyzing the Philippines' people and geography, Lim baldly stated that "Japan's aim is the hegemony of the Far East . . . to eliminate the Western nations' control in Asia and to establish an Asiatic League of Nations in which Japan will be the leader." Lim saw this as a grim prospect, as under the Americans "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 Philippines." A Philippine Army needed to be recruited and maintained at a strength of at least 100,000 men, according to his arguments. 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 officers and men, plus compulsory military service in the islands.⁷

This 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. The paper showed Lim to be a thoughtful soldier, one who understood the value of taking all possible factors (political, economic, and military) into account.

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Vicente P. Lim From Page 19

The Army War College commandant, Major General William Connor, thought so much of this essay that he forwarded it to the War Plans Division, where it was received with great interest.⁸

Major Lim next returned home to the Philippines and spent six years as commandant of the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Academy on Luzon. He was the most educated Filipino officer 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

In 1934 the U.S. Congress passed the Tydings-McDuffie Act, which created the Commonwealth of the Philippines and promised Philippine independence by 1946. The Act further created a Philippine army and air force, and made those forces subject to service at the call of the U.S. President. Provisions were made for a U.S. Military Advisor to the Commonwealth, and that post went to General Douglas MacArthur, outgoing U.S. Army Chief of Staff. The Philippine National Assembly met in 1935, adopted a constitution, and elected Lim's friend and benefactor Manuel Quezon the first President of the Commonwealth.¹⁰

Realizing the importance of a strong national defense, the National Assembly also created a force to defend the islands. The National Defense Act of 21 December 1935 reflected MacArthur's thinking of a force structure "patterned after the citizen-soldier system of conscription effectively established in Switzerland," as the general later wrote. The plan provided for 20,000 recruits trained each year by a 10,000-strong regular army, made up of former Philippine Scouts and the paramilitary Philippine Constabulary. Equipment would come from the United States. MacArthur planned to have a 400,000-strong army by 1946, ready to defend the islands on its own.¹¹

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

June 1936 he retired from the U.S. Army as a Lieutenant Colonel and became Chief of War Plans with the rank of Brigadier General. This posting placed him squarely in the middle of the nascent army's development, and Lim found that much of his ideas from the 1929 paper were 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 force 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; these men rapidly became senior officers in the Philippine Army. The great problem was to train junior officers to command the training camps and reserve units once these were formed." A lack of junior leadership and corruption among some of the senior leadership soon had the army floundering.¹³

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 engineering this move, and ordered MacArthur 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 plans to resign in a few months. The President asked the general to reconsider, and after some maneuvering (and passage of a law separating the Constabulary from

the Army), appointed Major General Basilio Valdes Chief of Staff of the Philippine Army in 1 January 1939. Lim became Deputy Chief of Staff on the same date; he summed up the situation to his son Luis by saying his job was "to run the army while he [Valdes] attends the social functions."¹⁴

Over the next three years, Lim set about reforming the army according to his ideas, despite resistance from MacArthur and within the army itself. He had the backing of Quezon, which cut through much opposition. The reforms had some success, but political influences and budget concerns prevented Lim from achieving all he set out to do.¹⁵

An unintended consequence of Lim's appointment was the beginning of a movement by Quezon to oust MacArthur as Military Advisor. Several times Lim rushed to defend MacArthur, citing "that he is the only man who can solve . . . all of our problems in military equipment, armaments, and ammunition." This intervention saved MacArthur from dismissal on at least one occasion, and prevented Quezon from making other attempts.¹⁶

Lim's period as Deputy Chief of Staff was also busy for him personally. In 1938 Bobby went to 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 Vicenting sailed for San Francisco and West Point, becoming the second Vicente Lim to attend the U.S. Military Academy. General Lim maintained an enthusiastic correspondence with his boys, using the letters both as "a diary of my career," but also as a way to keep up with their activities and impart his philosophy of life and citizenship to them. In the summer of 1941, feeling war in the Pacific was inevitable, Lim sent the rest of his family to the United States. He would never see any of them again.¹⁷

By that summer, a palpable sense that war was coming had settled over the islands. The Philippine Army was

called into U.S. service on 26 July 1941, and placed under MacArthur's command in the new U.S. Army Forces in the Far East (USAFFE). American reinforcements, chiefly armor and air units, began to appear in the islands. Lim resigned from the General Staff and took command of the Philippine Army's 41st Division, based in southwest Luzon near Batangas. The fall of 1941 was consumed by training the flood of new recruits into a fighting force. By 1 December 1941 Lim was able to write, "My command [7000 men] is already organized according to the best principles of command [sic]." One week later the 41st's trial would begin.¹⁸

The Second World War started for the 41st Division with a radio report early on 8 December 1941: the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor in Hawaii and seriously damaged the U.S. Pacific Fleet. Lim's division was assigned to hold beach defenses around Batangas, which was considered a likely Japanese invasion site. Instead of testing the Batangas beaches, on 22 December the Japanese landed in northwest Luzon at Lingayen Gulf, and two days later a force came ashore on the Bicol Peninsula in far southeastern Luzon. Faced with a pincer movement aimed for Manila and the central part of Luzon, MacArthur ordered the USAFFE to retire to the Bataan Peninsula and Corregidor Island (on the western end of Manila Bay) to make a stand.¹⁹

On Christmas Eve the unblooded 41st Division loaded on trucks and moved to Bataan, becoming one of the first formations to arrive. The men set about preparing fixed defenses for the rest of the USAFFE. After a skilful withdrawal from all points, on 7 January 1942 MacArthur's forces stood ready on Bataan to repel any further Japanese advances. However, in the hasty withdrawal not enough food made it to the peninsula in time; the Bataan garrison immediately went on half rations.²⁰

MacArthur's line stretched across the peninsula's base from Abucay to Mauban, with a break around rugged

Mount Natib. Lim's division was part of Major General George Parker's II Corps, assigned to the right side of the line at the most likely axis of Japanese advance. The 57th Infantry Regiment (Philippine Scouts) stood on Lim's right, while the 51st Division (Philippine Army) was to the left. The first Japanese attacks came on 10 January as the 65th "Summer" Brigade struck Lim's positions. The 41st held firm, continuing to repel offensives on 13 and 14 January. Later attacks made lodgments in the 41st's line, but those were quickly wiped out by counterattacks. Despite repeated air attacks and ground assaults, Lim's division stood firm in their first battle.²¹

After failing to crack Parker's line, the Japanese sent an infantry regiment to flank the II Corps position at Abucay. The 51st and 41st fought a desperate action for several days, but were pushed back. On 22 January MacArthur ordered a retreat to a new position halfway down the peninsula, running from Orion to Bagac. By 26 January MacArthur's forces were in position and reorganizing for their last stand on Bataan.²²

The pursuing Japanese moved south and immediately attacked this new line. Heavy blows fell on the 41st Division's sector. General Lim described the action in his last letter home:

"Life is surely cheap in war . . . When we got to our present position . . . we had 4 days of fighting and I drove the Japs out with many dead. I told [two of my regimental commanders] that if they can't drive the Japs out I would lead the fight. They felt ashamed so they headed the soldiers with fixed bayonets and the Japs ran away. The history of this small engagement may be the turning point of the attack of the Japs in our right sector . . . Every time they tried to cross on my front I attacked them . . . With all this talk I sincerely give all the credit to my officers and enlisted men. They are the ones who did it all. Mine is only to inspire and to lead them. When the history is written I will give them all the credit. Their satisfaction is mine to share."

Again the 41st Division had stood

firm against massed enemy attacks. The Japanese shifted their efforts westward where they were repulsed after several weeks of intense fighting. Lim's sector grew quiet for the first time in nearly a month, and the exhausted enemy pulled back to regroup.²³

His division's performance in these battles earned Lim much praise. General Parker on 18 February commended the general and his division for "outstanding performance of duty while on the Abucay position." Carlos Romulo wrote to Lim in mid-February from Corregidor that "you are THE one Filipino general who has caught the imagination of everyone. The General [MacArthur] speaks highly of you all the time . . . you are showing your mettle, Vicente, and more power to you." Perhaps the best compliment came from President Quezon: "I have always said that fellow Lim is the only General we have in our army with cojones, and he is showing it now."²⁴

For the next six weeks, a period of relative calm settled over Bataan as both sides regrouped and prepared for the next major battle. Lim kept active, and visited his lines often. Training continued, using the lessons of previous battles to teach new leaders. Lim developed a pragmatic command style that was best illustrated in his nightly staff conferences outside his headquarters tent. A staff officer noted that these were informal affairs, with much discussion and banter lubricated by generous amounts of cigars and cigarettes from the general's supply. Reports and debates would happen freely, and Lim participated almost as an equal. In this way he earned the respect of his staff and made them a collegial and cohesive team.²⁵

Despite his best efforts, nothing in General Lim's power could stop the slow decay that lack of supplies inflicted on the 41st and the rest of the Bataan garrison. As the weeks wore on everyone's physical condition worsened, regardless of rank. A visitor to Lim's headquarters described the general in early April as

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“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 unnaturally warm [with malarial fever].” Meanwhile MacArthur departed for Australia on 11 March 1942, turning over his command (re-named U.S. Forces in the Philippines, or USFIP) to Lieutenant General Jonathan M. Wainwright. Major General Edward P. King assumed command of the Bataan garrison, renamed Luzon Force.²⁶

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, hospi-

tals, 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.²⁷

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 attempted 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

listed on the Tablets of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery.²⁸

General Lim died as he had lived: in service to his beloved Philippine nation. An accomplished soldier and family man, Lim worked hard for opportunities for Filipinos and to develop a strong Filipino army before the Second World War. A blunt personality, he was not afraid to fight for his beliefs and create waves when necessary. That his ideas had merit was borne out by the excellent record his 41st Division, trained and organized according to his views, won for itself on Bataan. Men he trained and led would later reconstitute the Philippine Army after the war, and his ideas would be used to build an army once again. Lim became a national hero, and the Philippine Army’s major training base was named Camp Vicente Lim. But perhaps the best tribute to General Lim was paid by his good friend Carlos Romulo, who summed up his career: “When the world is topsy-turvy . . . the true worth of a man comes out. The diamond shines best in the dark; ability and courage shine best on the battlefield.”²⁹

1 Carlos Romulo, *Last Man Off Bataan* (London: Consul Books 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.

2 Vicente Lim, *To Inspire and To Lead: The Letters of General Vicente Lim, 1938-1942* introduction by Edilberto C. de Jesus, (Manila: Guaranty Press 1980), p. 13-15 (hereafter cited as “Lim Letters”). Podico was his mother’s maiden name.

3 Lim Letters, p. 15, 166. The Quezon 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 Ibid, p. 17-18.

7 The paper is quoted in full in Lim Letters, p. 220-237; quotes 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, shatter U.S. naval and air units in the islands, land at Lingayen 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.

10 Ibid, p. 19-20; see also Louis Morton, *The Fall of the Philippines* (Washington DC: Center for Military History 1953), p. 4, 8-9.

11 Morton, p. 9-11; the MacArthur quote comes from Douglas MacArthur, *Reminiscences* (New York: Fawcett 1965), p. 114.

12 Lim Letters, p. 20-21, 79. The quote comes from a letter from Lim to Bobby dated 28 November 1939 in which the general cites a conversation the two had in 1934 about the best way to develop an army from scratch.

13 Morton, p. 12-13.

14 Lim Letters, p. 35-43 (letters of 20 and 31 October 1938).

15 Morton, p. 12-15; Lim Letters, p. 44-189, 215-216. On 16 April 1940 Lim wrote Valdes, “I have for some time been concerned about the way cases which come before us for review have been disposed of in a way that may not be conducive to building up a sound military organization,” and cited certain of Valdes’ decisions based on a desire “not to displease certain people of influence.” Later that year (12 October 1940) Lim railed against officers “given more advantage over his brother officer because of his political or personal pull.”

16 Lim Letters, p. 99-193; the quote comes from page 115, from a letter dated 16 July 1940.

17 Lim Letters, passim; the quote comes from a letter of 16 July 1940 on p. 115. Some of Lim’s philosophies include: “Necessity is the mother of invention, but danger is the father of preparation,” “Humor is the counterweight for your misfortunes,” “Dignity is of prime importance in successful living,” and “most important of all is to leave a name that my posterity may be proud of.”

18 Morton, p. 14-50; Lim Letters, p. 201. The 41st Division (not be confused with its American counterpart) consisted of three infantry regiments (41st, 42d, 43d), a medical battalion, engineer battalion, and an artillery

regiment, plus staff and transportation. A roster and table of organization of the 41st may be found in General Rigoberto Atienza, *A Time For War: 105 Days in Bataan*, (Manila: Hermanos 1985), p. 220-228. Atienza, then a captain, was the division’s chief engineer when the war started, and Lim later appointed him to a line command in the 42d Infantry Regiment.

19 Atienza, p. 11-26; see also Morton, p. 77-243. The Philippines are on the other side of the International Date Line from Hawaii; when Pearl Harbor was bombed on 7 December 1941 it was already the early morning hours of 8 December in Manila.

20 Ibid.

21 Morton, p. 245-264; Atienza, p. 42-45. The 65th Brigade was commanded by General Nara Akira, who was a classmate of Lim’s at the U.S. Army War College.

22 Morton, p. 265-295.

23 Lim Letters, p. 205-206 (letter of 20 February 1942). See also Morton, p. 296-352.

24 All three quotes are in Lim Letters, p. 210-211; Romulo’s emphasis is in the original.

25 Atienza, p. 81, 126-130.

26 Atienza, p. 121-122; Morton, p. 367-389. The quote is from Romulo, p. 211. Food stocks on Bataan were expected to run out by 15 April 1942.

27 Morton, p. 421-467.

28 This information comes from the Lim Letters, p. 206, 208-209. The American Battle Monuments Commission lists his date of death as 31 December 1944; see the World War II grave listing at www.abmc.gov.

29 Lim Letters, p. 210.

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