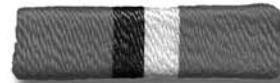


Philippine Scouts Heritage Society



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



Winter/Spring 2009

Past/Present/Future

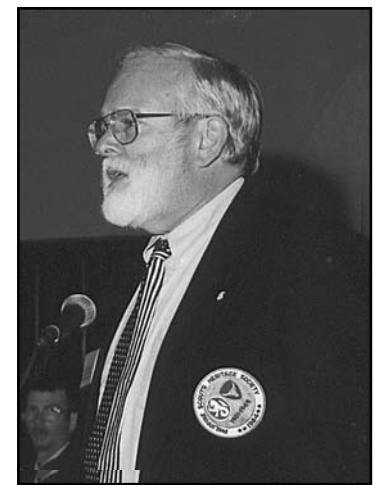
By President John Patterson

As the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society prepares for its annual reunion, I'd like to reflect on this organization and its 25 year history. The facts are easy enough. The Society was formally created in 1989 at the U.S. Army Museum, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The Museum is the official U.S. Government repository for Scout artifacts, memorabilia and other Scout items of historical importance. The collection includes the Medal of Honor awarded to Sgt. Jose Calugas for his gallantry on Bataan. The Medal was donated to the Museum

several years ago by Jose Calugas, Jr., and his family.

The Society's purpose is to preserve the history, heritage and legacy of the U.S. Army's Philippine Scouts. Reunions have been held every year since 1984. We have sought the involvement of children, grandchildren, relatives and those interested in these extraordinary warriors. Today, our National Board of Officers and Chapter Presidents are a blend of Scouts and those of the Next Generation. In this way we will assure that the Scouts are never forgotten.

See Past/Present/Future Page 4



*John A. Patterson, President
Photo: David Rosen*

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Silver Anniversary PSHS Reunion in Long Beach

*And then the Scouts will form to be reviewed
Each scattered unit now once more complete
Each weapon and each bright crisp flag renewed
And high above the cadence of their feet
Will come the loud clear virile welcoming shout
From many throats, before the feasts begin,
Their badge of Honor mid their comrades rout—
"Make way, make way, the Scouts are moving in!"*

*The final stanza of a poem written by 1st Lt. Henry Lee,
12th Military Police Company during the Battle of Bataan.*

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

See Silver Anniversary Page 4

Editor's Comments

An editorial opportunity is opening up beginning with the summer/fall 2009 edition or our newsletter! I can enthusiastically recommend the position as interesting and rewarding. The feedback from readers has been very positive and this in itself has been gratifying. It also has been rewarding to discover or develop and then publish new material that adds to our knowledge of the Philippine Scouts and their proud legacy.

Since taking over the editorship from Col. (ret.) Nicoll Galbraith, Jr. in 2001, I've benefited from the able assistance of a number of you who have contributed articles or photos. I've also been helped tremendously, first by David Rosen and later by my daughter Christa, both of whom have computer skills far beyond mine and have handled the layout of each newsletter. Over the last year, National President John Patterson has taken over responsibility for the printing and mailing of the newsletter. All of this has made my job much easier, and I have every confidence that members will continue to provide this support, which is so important to the smooth production of the newsletter.

The editor's duties are as follows:

1. Edit two newsletters per year. (Because of the present formatting, each should be a multiple of four pages: i.e. 16, 20 or 24 pages.)

2. Solicit and edit input from chapters and members.

3. Locate or write appropriate articles to include in each newsletter. (Suggestions and contributions from members have been helpful here.)

4. Publish reviews of books, DVDs and films on the Philippine Scouts and on WWII in the Philippines. (Although I sometimes write these reviews, they are often contributed by others.)

5. To the degree possible, sell some ads for each newsletter. (This responsibility can be assumed by someone else, freeing up the editor's time.)

I have established a number of features/sections that can be used by the new editor (if he/she so desires) in constructing each issue. They include:

1. A front page feature article;
2. Editorial columns from the President, First Vice President and Editor;

3. A report on either the upcoming or the just-concluded reunion.

4. Columns on Chapter News, Member Activities and In Memoriam obituaries;

5. The General's Corner (largely funded by donations) and featuring historical accounts of WWII;

I also try to include first-person accounts of WWII and use photos scattered through each issue.

While ideally the new editor should have some writing and/or editorial experience, a professional background is not necessary. The most important attribute is a desire to continue educating the public and succeeding generations of Scout families about the gallant history of the Philippine Scouts. Christa is willing to continue as layout editor, so those skills, while useful, are not required for the new editor.

First-person accounts are perhaps the most effective in passing on the Philippine Scout legacy, but are increasingly hard to obtain as the pool of surviving Scouts fades away. Sometimes gentle editing is required, as these accounts often are submitted by veterans without real writing experience. The objective is to touch up these essays, without rewriting to the point that the author's voice is lost or muted. I've also frequently turned to outside sources for articles, which often have been brought to my attention by you the readers.

Anyone wishing to discuss editing further with me can do so by telephone (614) 847-1016 or email (jaymhoulahan@gmail.com). I also will be available in the future to consult with the new editor if he or she so desires.

I'm sure that whichever one of you takes on this editorial opportunity, will find the job both interesting and heart warming. I certainly have enjoyed the nine-year journey.

Mike Houlahan, Editor

First Vice-President's Letter

The 25th PSHS National Reunion will be hosted by Lt. Alexander Nininger, Jr. Chapter in Los Angeles, California on May 8-9, 2009. The chapter was activated almost two years and most of the members were Philippine Scouts re-enactors.

The Philippine Scouts re-enactors have their own website and has been active in representing the Philippine Scouts in various veterans organizations in California.

Philip Garcia, Gil Mislant, Teddy Ortega and Victor Verano were instrumental in recruiting members for the Chapter. I met with them at 24th National Reunion in San Francisco and they volunteered to host the reunion for 2009. It's a great relief for the GGBAC and the Tacoma Chapters which have been hosting the reunion. So, let us give

them warm applause and support by attending the 25th National Annual Reunion.

As President of the PSHS Tacoma Chapter, I would like to extend my thanks and congratulations to the members for the success of our latest Scholarship Fundraising Dinner and Dance at the Elks Lodge #174 in Tacoma, Washington last October 24, 2008.

The candidates for the scholarship will be required to write an essay about the Philippine Scouts and have a good grade point average. This is one way to recruit the third generation's, sons, daughters and friends of the Scouts and keep the history, legacy and heritage of the Scouts. The scholarship is only for the members of the Tacoma Chapter.



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

Thank you for the officers, members and friends of the Nininger Chapter who will host the 25th National Annual Reunion.

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

Advertising Rates

Our newsletter advertising rates are as follows:

Full page: \$105
Half page: \$60
Quarter page: \$35
Business card: \$18

Our current circulation is slightly over 540 copies per issue. For advertising placement or additional information, please contact PSHS President John Patterson through our website or at:

Sen. John Patterson
President, PSHS
721 N. Quidnessett Rd.
North Kingstown, RI 02852

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:

Sen. John Patterson
President, PSHS
721 N. Quidnessett Rd.
North Kingstown, RI 02852

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Daly City, CA 94016-0179

Philippine Scouts Heritage Society Newsletter

J. Michael Houlahan, Editor & Publisher

6774 Lakeside Circle W., Worthington, OH 43085

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Past/Present/Future From Page 1

I mention all this because there are World War II veterans' groups which are now leaving the scene. In some cases, they simply wanted to stay together as long as possible and that's it. In other cases, organizations have realized, sometimes too late, that they want their history to be remembered. The Philippine Scouts Heritage Society is fortunate that from the very beginning we wanted to make sure that the Scouts were not forgotten but, as well, that their story would continually be told in dynamic outreach efforts for years to come. Society members have spoken at various venues, written articles and books, conducted reunions characterized by educational and historical panels, and developed an outstanding newsletter and website and more. We will continue to carry on these activities and look for other opportunities to inform.

There are three pillars that are critical to the Society. I've mentioned one, the U.S. Army museum at Ft. Sam Houston. The second is the organization itself. The Philippine Scouts Heritage Society has Bylaws as a guide, nonprofit 501(c)(3) IRS status and is incorporated in the State of Rhode Island. The third pillar is people. We must continue to tell the Scout story and involve the Next Generation and the next and the next.

I'm of the Next Generation. My uncle Sandy, Lt. Alexander Ramsey Nininger, Jr., was also awarded the Medal of Honor

posthumously for his heroism on Bataan. The third Medal of Honor for a Scout was awarded to Capt. Willibald Bianchi for his exploits on Bataan in 1942. On a personal note my sister and I attended the third annual ceremony at West Point last September to represent my Uncle Sandy's family. The Alexander Nininger Award for Valor in Action went to a young Captain who received the Distinguished Service Cross for his heroic deeds in Iraq.

The Society's Newsletter and Website

In the last issue of the Society's Newsletter, it was announced that Mike Houlahan would be stepping down as Editor. The Newsletter has become a major outreach vehicle for the Society thanks to Mike. He and his daughter, Christa, also developed a marvelous website - www.philippine-scouts.org - which has received much acclaim for its content and design. There are many individuals who have been drawn to the website to learn more about loved ones from the early, dark days of World War II in the Philippines. Thanks Mike and thank you Christa for helping put the Society on the map. Words are never sufficient, but as I said to Mike in the last newsletter, we will miss you.

Please pass on names of individuals who might fill this important position, i.e., as editor of the Society's newsletter. You can reach me in Rhode Island via phone (401-885-7776) or email (pattj@cox.net).

Silver Anniversary From Page 1

will take place in the Holiday Inn at the Long Beach, California. A reservation form may be found near the end of this newsletter.

An exciting program is planned. The keynote speaker will be Major General (Ret) Antonio M. Taguba, USA. He is the career U.S. Army officer who courageously wrote the official report exposing abuse of prisoners at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

In addition, at least one panel of retired generals is planned; Malcolm Decker (and perhaps one or two other

authors) will hold a book signing; the Nininger Chapter reenactors will perform; there will be several displays, including the paper show produced some years ago for us by the Fort Sam Houston Museum staff; and the Plata trailer "Forgotten Soldiers" will be shown.

As an added treat, a picnic lunch will be held at Fort MacArthur, a well-preserved coast artillery fortification, which guarded the Los Angeles harbor from 1914 to 1974. Many of the big guns still are there. The fort was part of a series of coast artillery positions

Reunion - May 8-9, 2009

All who fought during this difficult time early in World War II are heroes. So join us as we continue into the 21st century, remembering the past and honoring the Scouts on into the future.

The Living History Company of the Nininger Chapter will be hosting the next reunion in Long Beach, California on May 8 and 9, 2009. Information regarding the reunion can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. The Living History Company is a group of young reenactors who are impressive and inspiring in their Scout uniforms. They participate in commemorative events throughout the country. The group was awarded first place recently at a large and prestigious nationwide competition.

The reunion program is shaping up as a terrific event. For example, General Antonio Taguba, a descendent of Scouts and the subject of a New Yorker article concerning his investigation of the Abu Ghraib prison scandal has agreed to be our keynote speaker on Saturday night. There will also be interesting presentations and panels over the two day period. And, as always, we will have time to make new acquaintances and socialize among friends and comrades. I hope to see you in Long Beach.

Sen. John Patterson, National President Philippine Scouts Heritage Society

constructed to protect the U.S. from invasion. It also contains a museum established in 1985, and housed in the corridors and galleries of historic Battery Osgood-Farley. The museum traces Los Angeles harbor defenses, home-front activities in the greater Los Angeles area during the World Wars, Civil Defense, American Pacific Theater military campaigns, early American Air Defenses and the important role of Los Angeles as a military port for both the Army and the Navy.

**Reunion Keynote Speaker:
Major General Antonio M. Taguba—A Profile**

By J. Michael Houlahan

Major General Antonio Taguba first came to national attention as the author of an official report of prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib, the infamous prison near Bagdad, Iraq. His honest appraisal would result in Pentagon retaliation that ended his heretofore extremely successful 34 year military career.

Major General Taguba was only the second Filipino-American officer in the U.S. Army to be promoted to general. He came from a military tradition, as his father Tomas was a career soldier who fought during the early months of WWII as an enlisted man in the 45th Infantry (PS). With the fall of Bataan, he was forced into the Bataan Death March and was held as a POW until he escaped and joined the guerrillas. After the war the family moved to Hawaii and Tomas Taguba retired from the U.S. Army.

After taking ROTC in college, Antonio Taguba began active military service in 1972. He had been a Major General for several years when he was asked to head up the Abu Ghraib abuse investigation in January of 2004. He took this assignment seriously, as he had all others in the past, and his report, issued in March, was devastating. It quickly leaked and the backlash began almost immediately. He was called into Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's office. Crack investigative journalist Seymour M. Hersh reported this meeting as follows:

"Here . . . comes . . . that famous General Taguba—of the Taguba report!" Rumsfeld declared, in a mocking voice. The meeting was attended by

Paul Wolfowitz, Rumsfeld's deputy; Stephen Cambone, the Under-Secretary of Defense for Intelligence; General Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (J.C.S.); and General Peter Schoomaker, the Army chief of staff, along with Craddock and other officials. Taguba, describing the moment nearly three years later, said, sadly, 'I thought they wanted to know. I assumed they wanted to know. I was ignorant of the setting.'

"In the meeting, the officials professed ignorance about Abu Ghraib. 'Could you tell us what happened?' Wolfowitz asked. Someone else asked, 'Is it abuse or torture?' At that point, Taguba recalled, 'I described a naked detainee lying on the wet floor, handcuffed, with an interrogator showing things up his rectum, and said, 'That's not abuse. That's torture.' There was quiet."

"Rumsfeld was particularly concerned about how the classified report had become public. 'General,' he asked, 'who do you think leaked the report?' Taguba responded that perhaps a senior military leader who knew about the investigation had done so. 'It was just my speculation,' he recalled. 'Rumsfeld didn't say anything.'"

From that meeting onward, Taguba was ostracized by most other senior officers and shunted to the side on his next assignment. In January 2006 he was ordered to retire.

"They always shoot the messenger,' General Taguba said. 'To be accused of being overzealous and disloyal — that cuts deep into me. I was ostracized for doing what I was asked to do.'"



General Taguba's career was ended because he had performed his duty faithfully and courageously instead of leading a Pentagon whitewash of a devastatingly embarrassing chapter in the "War on Terrorism".

Seymour Hersh's full article on Major General Taguba and his report may be accessed on line in the 1/29/09 issue of *The New Yorker*. It is entitled "The General's Report". Editor

Growing the PSHS

If we are to reintroduce the Philippine Scout Heritage Society into the Philippines we should be doing so sooner rather than later to take advantage of the ever dwindling number of Philippine Scout veterans still living in Manila and elsewhere in the archipelago. With this in mind, Victor Verano and Felipe Fernandez, both of whom will be visiting the Philippines shortly, have volunteered to begin preliminary enquiries in an attempt to locate former Scouts or family members interested in keeping Philippine Scout memories alive. Also, my wife and I will be visiting her family in Manila for several weeks in May, so I should be able to do some additional following up.

Initial information developed holds promise. Michael Norman, whose book *Tears in the Darkness: The Story of the Bataan Death March* coauthored with his wife is reviewed elsewhere in this issue, has passed on three potentially important contacts.

A list of seven former Philippine chapters and their presidents was provided by Waldette Cueto, Director of the American History Collection in the Rizal Library at Ateneo de Manila University. These chapters were the National Chapter, in Quezon City (next to Manila); Cebu Chapter; Iloilo Chapter; Lanao Chapter (Iligan City); Leyte Chapter (Dulag); Negros Oriental Chapter (Dumaguete City); and Davao

Chapter. The first six were in existence at least as recently as 1996. Davao was last listed in 1991.

Anyone having information on any chapters still in existence or any former Philippine Scouts still living in the Philippines should contact either National President John Patterson or me. If you are willing to help with this project also please contact one of us. Our contact information is on the back of this newsletter.

Mike Houlahan
Newsletter Editor
jaymhoulahan@gmail.com

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>

Website News

A redesign of our website photo section has been expanded several times over, adding approximately 100 photos, many from past reunions. It now is possible to identify many of those pictured by placing the cursor on their photo. The site has received over 40,200 visits, since being established in July, 2002.

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

Chapter News

Capt. Jose Calugas, Sr. Chapter:

The Tacoma Chapter held a very successful **Scholarship Fundraising Dinner and Dance** October 24, 2008 at the Elks Lodge # 174 in Tacoma, Washington. Our guest speaker was **Mrs. Zenaida Crisostomo Slep** the eldest daughter of the late **Chief Warrant Officer Serafin Crisostomo** a Philippine Scout. Zenaida recently retired as Principal on Special Assignment at Truman Middle School in Tacoma and also life member and Secretary of the PSHS Tacoma Chapter.

Life member **LTC Frankie Manning** was presented the **Tenth Annual Community Service Award by the 50th General Hospital Association** a US Army Reserve Hospital based in Seattle, Washington. **LTC. Manning** is the Associate Director of Nursing at the VA Puget Health Care System. She has been affiliated with the Department of Veterans Affairs for over 40 years.

Chapter President Joe and Goody Calugas toured the People's Republic of China and visited the **General Stilwell Museum** in Chong Qing. General "Vin-

egar" Joe Stilwell commanded "The Flying Tigers" during World War II. Chong Qing served as China's wartime capital and headquarters of the **Chiang Kai-Shek's** Nationalist Government.

The Chapter now has a total of (76) members (71) life and (5) annual members. The new life members are **Gilda Felizardo**, daughter of late Philippine Scout **Capt. Carlos Felizardo, Sr., Eleanor de Villa**, daughter of Philippine Scout **Capt. Ricardo de Villa, CW2 Rick Y. Seastres**, son of **Staff Sgt. Manuel Seastres, 45th CBT Engr. (PS)**.

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>

July 25, 2008: Universal Sheraton Hotel, Universal City, LA

This USAFFE event, sponsored by the **Filipino Veterans Foundation**, was a notable success for the chapter. There was a strong turnout of community leaders and great interest in the chapter's exhibit. Participating chapter members included: **Gil Mislant, Bing De La Vega, Allan Briones, Chito Mandap, Louis Joseph Cogut, Ray Ortega, Frank Lopez and Chapter President Philip Garcia.**

Veteran Advisers: **Lt. Col. Edwin Ramsey (guest of Honor), Rommy Entac and Brig. Gen Antonio Ortega also were present**

<http://pinoyhistory.proboards22.com/index.cgi?board=veterans&action=display&thread=675>

Oct 18, 2008: Kababayan LA is Southern California's first and only Pinoy Daily TV Show. Host **Janelle**

So talks to personalities making news around the Filipino community, reports the latest local and Filipino news, as well as the hottest entertainment and music.

The Nininger Chapter was invited on the show for **Fil-Am Heritage** month with Philippine History presented by **Philippine Scouts Living History Company.** The video link is below and the narration is by **Chapter Secretary Frans Lopez Tinio:**

<http://www.la18.tv/video.aspx?vid=25c4ede1-ff2d-4c35-ac64-4c103af819d2>

Those appearing on the video as Philippine Scouts are **Philip Garcia, 57th Infantry (PS) Louis Joseph Cogut, 26th Cavalry (PS), Ted Villasor, Jr. (PS) infantryman and Ray Ortega (Philippine Army dungaree uniform).**

Gen. John J. Pershing Chapter (El Paso):

A former POW from the 59th Coast Artillery (Corregidor) and a member of Purple Heart Chapter of Sherman, Texas invited **Chapter President Menandro Parazo** to talk about the Philippine Scouts and the Philippine Army, as some of their members served with Scouts

and Philippine Army Officers during the war. The Quinlan, Texas VFW chapter also invited him to speak and he took part in POW Recognition Day ceremonies in Takawane, Texas. Two Plano, Texas high schools hosted a talk by **Captain Parazo** on Philippine History and Bataan. He also attended the annual Bataan Memorial Death March in New Mexico. At a dinner held for former POWs at the VA Hospital in Dallas, he spoke briefly about the Philippine Scouts and in San Antonio, he met the son of a POW who was with the Pack Artillery of the **23rd Field Artillery (PS)**. Menandro encouraged him to form a PS chapter.

On a sad note, **Teofila Santos Parazo**, Menandro's wife of 62 years, passed away on January 23, 2008.

Golden Gate-Bay Area Chapter:

No activities reported.

LTC Loyd E. Mills Chapter:

No activities reported.

Monterey County Chapter:

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's book **Code Name High Pockets: True Story of Claire Phillips, an American Spy and the Manila Underground during WWII in the Philippines** is in its third printing and is reviewed in this issue. Edna reports that she has been approached by someone wanting to create a documentary film As "Tribute to Claire Phillips." She also has taped an interview with **Lt. Col. Ed Ramsey** and **Capt. Robert Prince** of the 6th Ranger Battalion (who just passed away).

Malcolm Decker's latest book **From Bataan to Safety: The Rescue of 104**

American Soldiers in the Philippines, is selling well in 30 different outlets and is reviewed elsewhere in this newsletter. Malcolm will hold a book signing during the reunion.

Manila Memories written by **Rod Hall** and three classmates from his American School days also is reviewed elsewhere in this issue. During the Japanese occupation none of the four were incarcerated as they held passports to neutral countries.

Michael and Elizabeth Norman's new book **Tears in the Darkness: The**

Story of the Bataan Death March is to be released on Memorial Day. The following is a quote about the book sent in by: "The Normans spent ten years researching and writing this detailed account of America's worst military defeat. They crafted their story to read like novel, and they spent a long time gathering stories from the three sides in the conflict. In three trips to the Philippines, they spoke with more than a hundred Filipino veterans and civilian witnesses to the fighting and the Bataan Death March. In so doing they were the first American authors to tell the story from three points of view

See **Member Activities** Page 8

Member Activities From Page 7

-- Filipino, Japanese, American....” Further information can be found with other book reviews elsewhere in this newsletter.

A review of **Peter Parson’s** DVD *Ships from Hell* is described in more detail in the review section of this issue.

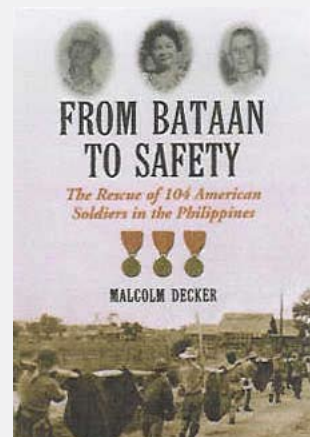
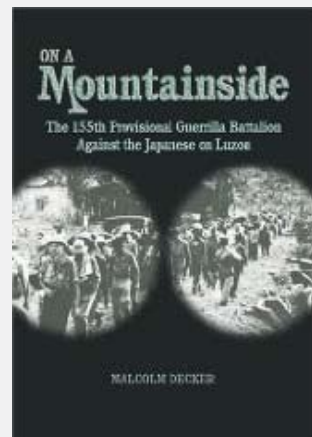
Producer **Donald A. Plata** continues filming his documentary about the Philippine Scouts, *Forgotten Soldiers*. The movie combines historical film clips, scenes staged by modern reenactors, and interviews with Bataan and Corregidor veterans from the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society, to tell the story of the Philippine Scouts and their actions during World War II. Don reports that he

hopes to complete filming by the end of March and then go into production on the movie, with an eye to completion in fall, 2009. *Forgotten Soldiers* is being produced with the intention of airing on PBS’ “American Experience” or “Independent Lens.” You can view a trailer for the film on YouTube, at www.youtube.com/watch?v=cJAOqCNQXdc.

Lt. Col. Ed Ramsey was presented with the Legacy Award at the event commemorating the 67th anniversary of the founding of USAFFE (U.S. Forces Far East), which **General Douglas MacArthur** commanded at the outbreak of WWII. The presentation was made by **Philippine Ambassador Willy Gaa** as part of the event participated in and

described by the Nininger Chapter in their report. Ed also was featured in the August issue of *Polo Players Edition* and the October issue of *Western Shooting Horse* magazine. A copy of “The Last Cavalry Charge” painting depicting then-**Lt. Ramsey** and his **26th Cavalry (PS)** troop attacking the Japanese in the last mounted combat charge of a U.S. cavalry unit is now displayed at the Oklahoma Military Academy. Finally, also in August, he was interviewed in at a Filipino-American Chamber of Commerce meeting in Portland, Oregon on his connection with **Claire Phillips** and the resistance movement in the Philippines during WWII.

Congratulations to the
Philippine Scouts Heritage Society
On its 25th Reunion



See my website: www.malcolmdecker.net

In Memoriam

Cpl. Joe Estero, a post-WWII Philippine Scout, passed away in Makati a suburb of Manila on 10 August, 2008. Joe served in the 45th Inf. (PS) and 44th Inf. (PS). He is survived by his daughter Maria Luisa E. Floreasca, 4376 Montojo Street, Barangay Tejeros, Makati City, Philippines.

During his 1946-9 tour with the Scouts, Joe served on Okinawa, and at Fort William McKinley. He obtained U.S. Citizenship in 1991, due to his PS service, however the citizenship did not extend to his wife or family. He did live in Hawaii for two years, but the pull of family ties brought him back to Manila.

Dr. Howard William Friedman, a San Francisco dentist who was assigned to the 45th Infantry (PS), survived the Bataan Death March and served as a doctor in prisoner-of-war camps in Japan, died in December, 2008. He was 92.

The United States was on the verge of war, when Dr. Friedman enlisted in the Army, serving as a medical officer with the dental corps assigned to the 45th Infantry (PS). His unit saw heavy fighting, during which he was wounded and awarded a Purple Heart.

After the surrender, Dr. Friedman served as a camp doctor at POW camps in Osaka, Yokkaichi and Toyama, Japan, until liberated in 1945.

When Dr. Friedman returned home, he was promoted to the rank of major and selected as the representative of the California men freed from Japanese prison camps. He toured the Western states and was honored in a parade down Market Street in San Francisco.

Following the war, he returned to San Francisco and opened a small dental practice. He is survived by his sister, two nephews and a niece.

Joaquin Taopa Tejada, 85-year-old Filipino WWII veteran and the highly visible equity bill fighter, died quietly in his sleep on December 1, 2008, at his home in Washington, D.C.

Known for his good humor, “Jolly Jack” was a frequent visitor on Capitol Hill, at the VA headquarters and at the White House lobbying for Filipino veterans’ rights. Jack was also well-known for being arrested in protests against the lack of progress on the Filipino veterans’ bill in 1997 and 1998.

In his teens, Jack joined the guerrilla movement when Japanese invaders occupied his Catanduanes hometown in the Philippines. However, he and his comrades were caught one night, tied up and marched for possible execution. Jack escaped in the darkness.

Before the end of WWII, he enlisted as a New Philippine Scout for U.S. Army guard duty in Okinawa and was discharged as a private in 1949. He then enlisted with the Philippine Army.

During the Vietnam War, Jack worked as a civilian “auto tech supervisor” with the US Army Special Forces.



Joaquin “Jack” Tejada: The Jolly Vet with Hillary Clinton

Jack is survived by his widow Epitacia Tejada, 77, two daughters: Patricia H. Tejada, a dentist in Saudi Arabia, and Violeta T. Alejandro, homemaker in Cubao, Philippines, his son Joaquin “Boy” Jr. of North Brunswick, NJ, and seven grandchildren.

Filipino Officers and Wives, circa 1946 Army Navy Club, Manila

This photo was taken in circa 1946 during a party at the Army Navy Club in Manila welcoming back the widow of Gen. Vicente Lim, executed near the end of the war by the Japanese for helping lead the resistance movement. Gen. Lim had been the first Filipino to graduate from West Point. An article on him was featured in our last newsletter.

The photo was contributed by Ed Olivares, USMA 1957. The following is a partial identification of those in the photo.

Far Left foreground, seated: Santiago Guevara Garcia (Paternal surname is first -Guevara) USMA 1923, retired as COL 1953; son Nicholas USMA x-1961 (resigned from USMA did not graduate); seated, 5th from left, next to Mrs. Lim, LTC Sevilla; seated center of photo (dressed in Terno-Philippine native costume), 6th from left 5th from right, Mrs. Vicente Lim, (Pilar H. Lim) widow of Vicente Lim, USMA 1914. Vicente was featured in your Newsletter article. Son Vicente H. Lim was USMA 1944; seated 4th from right, next to Mrs. Lim, Garcia (Don't know his 1st name or initial); seated 2d from right, Maria Remedios Aldeguer, Mrs. Jose E. Olivares, my mother; seated far right, front, Gomez. (Don't know his first name or initial); standing, far right, 1st, LTC Reyes; standing, far right, 2d by Reyes, **LTC Jose Emilio Olivares, USNA-1923, Founder of the Philippine Navy**, commissioned 2LT Philippine Scouts,



Coast Artillery Corps. A summary of his background is on PSHS Message Board. Standing, 5th from right, directly behind Mrs. Lim, Mrs Santiago Guevara; standing 4th from left, behind Sevilla, Mrs. Sevilla (standing next to Mrs. Sevilla and directly behind LTC Sevilla, their daughter-name unknown); standing directly behind Mrs Sevilla and daughter, COL Max Janairo USMA 1916; standing far left Mrs. Martelino; seated in front of her is probably COL Martelino.

The others in the photo are not known to me. Mrs. Guevara is 96 years old and her

memory is no longer what it was. She was unsure of the identities of the others.

The photo was probably taken in 1946, at the Army Navy Club in Manila, most likely in a private room. It was taken on the occasion of the return of Mrs. Lim from the USA to Manila. My father, LTC Olivares, would have been 48 years old, and my mother, 38 years old.

Ed Olivares
USMA 1957
Monroe, VA 24574

The Descendants Group an Auxiliary of the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor

By Caroline Burkhart

The daughter of 1st Lt. Thomas F. Burkhart, 45th Infantry (PS)

Lieutenant Burkhart received a Silver Star for combat heroics on Bataan. He survived the war, retired from the U.S. Army in 1957 and passed away in 1972.

National President John Patterson is also a member of The Descendants Group described below. Editor

We are the children and grandchildren, the nieces and nephews, and friends of the men who fought and died defending Bataan and Corregidor, the

airmen who were shot down and the seamen whose ships were sunk. We are the Descendants Group, an Auxiliary of the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor (ADBC) and our legacy is to perpetuate the story of the bravery and sacrifice of the men and women

who were thrown into the maelstrom of war in the early part of World War II. Our membership is open to anyone else who has an interest in this unique part of American history.

Within hours after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the Japanese bombed sites in the Philippines. What followed was a bloody five month defense of the Philippines in an effort to thwart and delay the advance of the Japanese army. The Fil-American troops were hindered by lack of food, medicine, guns, and ammunition. When the end came for Bataan in April, 1942 the already malnourished and diseased troops were rounded up and forced to march more than 65 miles to prison camps in searing heat. The Japanese guards allowed no stops for water, most men were fed no more than twice, and anyone who could not go on was

brutally beaten or bayoneted. For some this ordeal lasted as long as two weeks. Most of the Filipinos and Americans of Bataan and Corregidor were then starved and brutalized in two miserable camps in the Philippines before being transported in unmarked "hellships" to be used as slave labor in Japan. Many thousands of lives were lost on these voyages as well as in the mines, shipyards, and factories where they were forced to work under deplorable conditions.

The men who suffered these cruelties are now reaching eighty and ninety years of age and have decided to disband the organization to which they have belonged for more than sixty years. It is therefore incumbent upon their descendants to carry on the spirit of the ADBC and keep the story from disappearing from contemporary history. We will en-

joy their company now and when the last one is gone we will continue their story through our efforts. We will emphasize educational programs for inclusion in school curriculums, sponsorship of new programs for use on PBS and other outlets, museum programs, and funding for research. We will continue to publish "The Quan" the official publication of the ADBC and intend to carry on the tradition of the annual convention.

We invite everyone who is interested in the stewardship of this legacy to become a member of our group. Please send a check for \$25.00 made out to "Descendants Group" and your name, address, phone number, and email address to:

Ms. Judy Pruitt
25 Windsor Rd. Brookline,
MA 02445-2110, USA

WWII Fil-Am Nurses Memorial – Limay, Bataan

After reading *We Band of Angels* by Elizabeth Norman, Edna Bautista Binkowski decided to organize this memorial to the forgotten Filipino nurses who served on Bataan and Corregidor during the initial resistance to the Japanese invasion in World War II. In doing so she partnered with the family of the late Curtis B. Norris and the Soroptimist International of Bataan. (Norris was a U.S. Army infantry Sergeant who survived Bataan, the Death March and prison camp, passing away in 2003.) The nurses initially were stationed at Field Hospital #1 in Limay, then moved to Field Hospital #2 in Cabcaben and finally evacuated to Corregidor when Bataan was about to fall to the Japanese.

Below she explains why she became involved in Bataan World War II history and wrote the book on the Philippine Resistance Movement and Claire Phillips entitled *Code Name High Pockets*. (It and a new book, *Tears in the Darkness*, about the defense of Bataan and its aftermath written by Michael and Elizabeth Norman are reviewed elsewhere in this issue.)



"...since I was a young girl, I was fond of asking my folks what happened to them during the war. It saddens me to see war memorials in Bataan in disarray, so I joined FAME [Filipino American Memorial Endowment, Inc.] in 2000. Since then I have solicited donors for about 15 Death March markers....Before

that, I was instrumental in the building of General King Marker in Lamao in 1999 funded by the Battling Bastards of Bataan. When Michael and Elizabeth Norman visited me years ago, they gave me copies of [her] book *We Band of Angels*. I was so touched by the story

See *Fil-Am Nurses Memorial* Page 12

Fil-Am Nurses Memorial From Page 11

of the nurses that I raised money to build a memorial for the forgotten Filipino nurses in Limay, my home town, and I rehabilitated the Battle of the Tuol Pocket marker in Bagac, where Felipe Fernandez fought [26th Cavalry (PS)].

“My father, who was from Orani, was 14 at the time of the Death March, and was part of a Filipino group who snatched a sick American from the Death

March and hid him in the fishponds in Orani. My father’s sister was a guerrilla courier, and she arranged bancas [boats] for escaping guerrillas. My mother’s brother was a guerrilla in Limay, and was caught by the Japanese and tortured at the Limay garrison. I feel sad that the civilians who fought secretly (the resistance) are not known. It’s [they who] inspired me to write my book. It

took 5 years’ research and long miles, as I had to retrace the people that Claire Phillips mentioned in my book. Some of them are still alive. Not too many books emphasize the Filipinos war efforts. That’s the reason for writing.”

Editor

Pre-WWII Coast Artillery, Manila Bay



View from casemate of Fort Drum in Manila Bay.



Pre-WWII Coast Artillery unit practices firing from Corregidor



Battery Gillespie firing pre-WWII.

Photos courtesy of the Nininger Chapter

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 guerrilla. As the first President of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society, he was one of the Society's founders and a longtime staunch supporter.



Brigadier General Royal Reynolds, Jr.

The Generals Corner publishes historical accounts of World War II in the Philippines. This issue departs a bit from past practice in that it contains four reviews of books and a DVD dealing with the war. The first is written by **Col. Stanley L. Falk**, former chief historian of the U.S. Air Force and renowned author of numerous books on WWII, who reviews From Bataan to Safety: The Rescue of 104 American Soldiers in the Philippines by **Malcolm Decker**. This is Decker's second book on the wartime Philippines. Manila Memories: Four Boys Remember Their Lives Before, During, and After the Japanese Occupation is an interesting collection of memories contributed by **Rod Hall** and three friends, all students at the American School in Manila and all spared internship by the Japanese because they held neutral country passports. **John H. Bradley**, the reviewer and also then a student, spent the war interned with his parents at the Santo Tomas Internment Camp. Also reviewed are **Michael and Elizabeth Norman's** Tears in the Darkness: The Story of the Bataan Death March and **Edna Bautista Binkowski's** book Code Name High Pockets: The True Story of Claire Phillips, an American Mata Hari and the WWII Resistance Movement in the Philippines. **Capt. Menandro Parazo** has contributed excerpts from an article on **Macabebe Scouts**. Finally, an opinion piece by **Sen. John Patterson** stressing the importance of holding Japan accountable for the uncivilized treatment of American and Filipino POWs is complemented by a review of **Peter Parson's** DVD Ships from Hell, reporting on the dedication of the Hell Ship Memorial in Subic Bay and interviewing four American POWs who survived the horror of being transported on those ships.

Review: *From Bataan to Safety*

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From Bataan to Safety: The Rescue of 104 American Soldiers in the Philippines. *Malcolm Decker. McFarland & Company. 232 pages; black-and-white photographs; maps; appendix; index; \$35 paperback.*

Reviewed by Col. Stanley L. Falk, AUS Ret.

In the aftermath of the American surrender on Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines in April 1942 and the brutal Death March that followed, there were still several hundred Americans not under Japanese control in northern Luzon. Some had been bypassed by the initial Japanese advance or, during the withdrawal to Bataan, had been left behind to organize an American-led guerrilla move-

See *From Bataan to Safety* Page 14

Review: *Manila Memories, Four Boys Remember Their Lives Before, During, and After the Japanese Occupation*

Reviewed by John H. Bradley¹

Published by Old Guard Press, Exeter, U.K., 2008. Pp. 138; over 40 b&w photos; several drawings and maps. ISBN 978-1-84861-010-1. \$17 paperback.

Manila Memories is an unusual and valuable book that recounts the stories of four pre-teenage boys – Juergen Goldhagen, Roderick Hall, Hans Hoeflein, and
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Tears in the Darkness.....page18
Review: Code Name High Pockets.....page18
A History of the Macabebes.....page19
Hold Japan Accountable for POWS.....page20
Ships from Hell.....page22

From Bataan to Safety From Page 13

ment. Some had eschewed surrender and were able to slip out of Bataan undetected by the enemy. Still others had somehow managed to escape from the Death March itself. Many of these men found temporary sanctuary in a series of camps established by Bill and Martin Fassoth, two American sugarcane growers who had themselves avoided Japanese captivity. With Bill's Filipina wife, Catalina, the Fassoth brothers offered refuge to more than 100 soldiers from April 1942 to April 1943. Most of the men they sheltered, clothed, fed and nursed back to health would probably not otherwise have survived the war.

One who was able to avoid capture by the Japanese was Pvt. Doyle Decker of the 200th Coast Artillery (AA), a New Mexico National Guard regiment, the father of the author of this informative book. Malcolm Decker, who served as an artillery officer in the Vietnam War, drew on his father's diary, interviews and correspondence with Bataan veterans, and a wide variety of archival and published sources in order to write a unique history of the Fassoth camps and, indeed, of the experiences of many of the soldiers who enjoyed a precarious freedom from Japanese control.

Decker describes what these men were doing at their military stations in the Philippines on the eve of war, their participation in the retreat to Bataan and the subsequent defense of that embattled peninsula, and how they managed to escape the Japanese and reach the Fassoth camps or other places of refuge. He describes the camps and the treatment the men received there, as well as the experiences of other American soldiers

Manila Memories From Page 13

Hans Walser -- who lived in Manila with their parents during the Japanese occupation of the city from 1942 to 1945.

It is unusual because the then-young authors provide perspectives of World War II in Manila that are not found in most personal memoirs of the era. Each narrative, however, may be offset some-

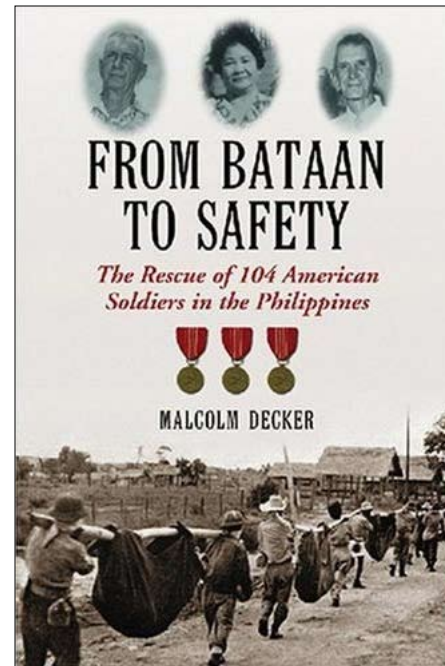
free in central and northern Luzon, and what happened after the Japanese succeeded in eliminating the camps. It is a fascinating story, made even more so by the direct personal testimony of many of those involved.

The Fassoth camps were located on the jungle-covered southern slopes of the Zambales Mountains, just north of Bataan. In addition to the hard work and managerial ability of the two brothers, the camps owed their existence to the support of friendly Filipinos who warned them of danger and supplied them with food and other resources smuggled from Manila and elsewhere. The number of refugee soldiers who stayed with the Fassoths varied from month to month. Some men remained more or less permanently in the camps; others passed through to live with Filipino families elsewhere, to form their own small camps, to join guerrilla groups, or in hopes of finding a boat to sail to the southern Philippines or Australia.

The camps were concealed by the thick jungle cover in which they were hidden. But increasing Japanese patrols were a constant menace, and the Fassoths were forced to move several times to avoid discovery. In their year of operation, they had to establish four different camps to prevent capture by the pursuing Japanese. Finally, in April 1943, to avoid being overrun and executed, the brothers surrendered to the enemy. During their months of operation, they had maintained the camps as rest and recuperation sites rather than as military bases for guerrilla operations. So while the Japanese normally executed anyone suspected of being a guerrilla, they al-

what by the fact that the author told his story over sixty years after the events took place, and that may have clouded his memory or affected his perspective of war-time events.

It is valuable because the individual authors recount the lives a neutral Swiss-American family and two German fami-



lowed the Fassoths and those who surrendered with them to stay alive during their subsequent captivity.

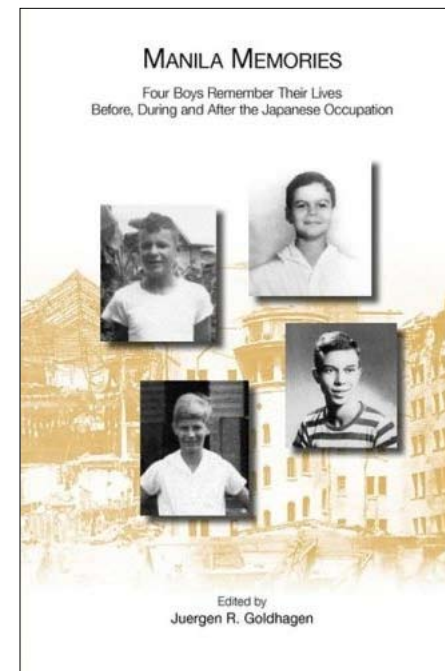
Ironically enough, when the brothers submitted postwar claims to the American government for reimbursement for personal funds they had spent and for supplies furnished to their refugee guests, they were denied any relief. The Comptroller General of the United States ruled that their camps were not military bases, that the funds and supplies were not requisitioned by the Army but were furnished voluntarily by the Fassoths, and that there "was no legal basis for payment of the claim." Bill, Martin and Catalina Fassoth were, however, awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Truman.

Col. Falk is a former chief historian of the U.S. Air Force and author of numerous books on WWII. Editor

lies whom the Japanese did not intern in Santo Tomas Internment Camp in Manila. And, one author tells the story of a Scot-Spanish family which had one member interned while the rest of the family remained free in Manila.

I found Manila Memories personally intriguing because I knew the authors

when they attended the American School² in Manila in 1948 and 1949. I paid a great deal of attention then to "Bob" Walser because he played varsity basketball and I played with some of the varsity players from time-to-time when I was on the junior varsity team. I knew Hans Hoeflein because Hans was active in many aspects of school life -- he was everywhere -- and I served on the Student Council with him. I knew of "Jake" Goldhagen. And I knew of Rod Hall, but knew his brother Ian better because he was in the grade ahead of me. But what I discovered in the book was that I really did not know much about them at all. I never knew that "Bob" was Hans and "Jake" was Juergen. Looking back, I obviously had naively assumed that everyone in the American School -- except for "Heley" (Helmut) Meyer,³ who spoke with a strong German accent, and some Spanish students -- were American. Moreover, I had not focused on the fact that some of the students at the American School had not been interned and assumed that they had either been in Santo Tomas if they had lived in the Philippines before the war, or they were the children of new Manila residents -- businessmen, diplomats, Army officers, or Navy officers. It never dawned on me



that the four authors had lived "outside the walls" during the war or that two -- Hans and Jake -- were German citizens, or that Bob was Swiss, or that Rod was the son of a Scot and a Spanish lady. Consequently, their stories piqued my interest and enriched my knowledge of the war.

At the time, I just considered the four of them to be Americans. I should have been more perceptive because one of my running buddies was Hans Weber and I knew that his family was German and had not been interned. Moreover, like the Bob Walser, one or more family friends -- Gladys Savory, an American restaurant owner, was one -- carried Swiss passports and remained free in Manila.

The authors each wrote about four subjects: "Life before the War," "Life During the War," "The Liberation," and "War and Peace." Their stories varied in length and detail. I found their stories from before the war and during liberation to be the most interesting.

Jake wrote the *Preface* and set up the stories.

A few of us in my graduating class of 1950 at the American School of Manila, generally Swiss, Germans, and Italians, were considered by the Japanese to be neutrals, or allies. While the Japanese in Manila considered us friendly allies, Hans Hoeflein and I would have been treated differently back in Germany.

He added: "I hope our stories, briefly told, will give future historians insights into life in Manila before the war, during the war, and after the war, from the viewpoint of four youths."

His stories dominate the book and in my view he is the principal author.

Jake's commentary about his early life in Germany peaked my interest. Early on he "learned to give" the Nazi salute to a parade of marching soldiers," he participated in air raid drills, and he lived and played with his relatives after his father sailed to the Philippines without taking his family along. Jake reported a chilling incident that could have changed his life: one day the Gestapo ordered

his mother to report to them and they told her "that they knew that she was married to a Jew who lived in the Philippines, and that they would never let her leave Germany because she had a son and the Reich needed all the males they could get." Fortunately, friends helped Mrs. Goldhagen and her son escape from Germany and they arrived in Manila in 1937. For all intents and purposes, six-year-old Jake Goldhagen's additional stories were anti-climactic.

Hans Hoeflein's stories seem minimalist. I would have like to learned more about his experiences.

Hans' story also began in Germany. He reported that his father left Germany with his family after he learned that the Gestapo planned on arresting him for allegedly murdering two Nazis. After some delays, six-year-old Hans and his parents escaped to Manila in 1937 where his father continued to work for his German company. The Nazis never forgot about his father because "In 1942 or 1943, the Nazis in Germany contacted the Japanese and asked them to return my father because he was considered a murderer by the Germans." The Japanese did not honor the request. Perhaps the German defeats in the Soviet Union mitigated their support of their once dominant ally.

Bob Walser's and Rod Hall's narratives began in Manila. Both were born in the Spanish Hospital in Manila where I was born a few years later. Both grew up in Manila as I did. Bob's father was a Swiss; his mother was an American from Iowa. Rod's father was a Scot who had married a beautiful woman from a Scot-Spanish family that had deep roots in the Philippines

The four boys lived reasonably normal lives during the war. Jake recounted one exception: "Occasionally, there would be a knock at our door and there would stand a Japanese officer and a soldier. We were always scared about what they could want, but they always turned out to be asking routine questions about who we were and what we were doing. We al-

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Manila Memories From Page 15

ways showed them our expired German passports, which satisfied them that we were allies." Their "allied" status would not have pleased the Allied internees in Santo Tomas. Hans Hoeflein reported that, "Until the American air raids began [in September 1944] we always had enough food to eat. We had lots of rice, vegetables, and carabao meat." His comments also would not have pleased the internees who by that time were slowly starving. Rod's life was even more comfortable. He had a private tutor, went to catechism class, lived in his grandmother's house where there was lots of food grown in her garden, went to the beach with relatives, and seemingly lived a normal, but restricted life in Manila. Rod's father was interned, but often gained passes that permitted him to stay with his family for extended periods. Bob Walser wrote that, "Life for me as a kid was pretty boring. Most of my friends were Americans and interned in Santo Tomas." He added that, "City life in Manila was a normal as it could be. Wherever I went I had to walk or go by caleza [horse cart]."

Two of the boys said that they saw or heard about nasty Japanese actions during the occupation, but they did not see anyone killed.

While the low point of the war was the arrival of the Japanese, the boys all reported the first high point of the war – the first American fighter and dive-bomber raids on Manila during September 1944. Some of their stories were eerily similar to the ones I heard about and often passed on in Santo Tomas. Jake's report about the explosion of an American B-24 bomber nearly exactly mirrored my remembrance of what had to have been the same event. We must have watched the same bomber explode from our different locations in Manila.

Life turned mean after September. The Japanese began evacuating the military POWs to Japan. Fewer than 300 of the 3,000 plus POWs shipped out on the *Arisan Maru* and *Oryoku Maru* survived. In Manila, the Japanese soon

began indiscriminately killing civilians and suspected guerrillas.

Rod reported the great tragedy of the book.

In the late afternoon, a Japanese soldier came out and started reading names from a list that had been compiled. He pointed and said 'As I read your name, you will move over there.' First they called Uncle Alfred and Carlos Perez Rubio, then Aunt Helen, my mother and grandmother. I was called next, and started to follow when the officer said 'No, no, you go over there,' pointing the other way. My group included brother Ian and all the servants...

[After] liberation it was discovered that our family members were among more than one hundred people executed at the Masonic Temple. They were identified from the charred bodies.

Rod reported no reason for the atrocity. Two reasons seem most probable: the Japanese believed that Rod's mother and his other relatives had supported American and Filipino guerrillas in some way, or jealous or self-serving Filipino collaborators had accused the victims of being guerrilla supporters or being anti-Japanese. Just before these killings, the Japanese had executed four internees from Santo Tomas for apparently supporting guerrillas, and about the same time, the Japanese executed several captured American and Filipino officers and soldiers who had fought as guerrillas.

With the arrival on the American troops in Manila, life changed for the four boys. They and their families found themselves at the mercy of their various situations. The attacking Americans could have killed them as they maneuvered to seize key positions in the city or the defending Japanese could have murdered them. Hoeflein explained: "We were lucky that they didn't force us to stay inside the houses when they burned them, as they did in many other sections of the city. They also set houses on fire and, as people ran out, they shot or bayoneted them."

Bob Walser provided a riveting report

of life inside the battleground that was Manila. On the morning of 10 February, he wrote that an American shell hit his house and more exploded all around it. When the shelling intensified, he said that his family decided to move to a shelter next door that had been built for a Japanese general. Bob described the first of many moves:

Listening for Japanese soldiers, running to the wall, stepping on boxes, peeking over the wall to see if Japanese soldiers had entered the yard we were going into, going over the wall, and running for cover in the next yard, became a routine we did many, many times in the next few days. If we had ever been spotted, we would have been killed.

He added that on the 10th, "in between American artillery barrages, we moved our suitcases that we had packed with our papers, food and what we thought were necessities from our house to the shelter..." He continued: "There was a lot of noise that night from the artillery shells, the machine guns and the rifles, as both American and Japanese soldiers fought house to house in our neighborhood."

Walser summed up his experiences in his neighborhood that abutted the American School:

Nearly all the families and their servants on Vito Cruz were murdered. The Swiss Community lost 25 people and it wasn't a big community to start with. But it was hard to tell how many people in our area survived since the ones that had escaped the fires, the Japanese shooting, the Japanese bayoneting and the American shelling were Filipinos and had scattered in all directions probably seeking relatives. However, we know that very few civilians in our area survived. There were just too many dead and partially-burnt dead people in our neighbors' houses and yards.

I found Bob's narrative about the battle in his neighborhood to be the most substantial contribution to the book, but because of its complexity I would have welcomed a sketch map of his home area. For my own use, I developed such

a map, but I am not confident that I drew it accurately.

Fortunately, Bob's family survived the war, as did Jake's and Hans' families. My father, as Rod's mother, did not. All the families, including mine, either stayed in Manila or returned shortly after they were evacuated. Apparently, the American Government did not penalize the two German families in any way, and consequently they joined the Allied community without any problems and the boys joined their pre-war friends at the American School. That seemed remarkable because some American and British internee families did not look kindly on the former allies of the Japanese who had not been interned. The boys did not say much about their post-war lives. That would have added to the story. However, Rod Hall, apparently now an American citizen, reported that he joined the US Army and served as a light-weapons infantryman in US-occupied South Korea around 1954. Seven years later, I deployed to Korea for similar duty as an infantry captain.

After I finished reading the book, I felt it needed closure. I wished that Jake had written a *Postscript* and provided a perspective of the authors' experiences. He might have added something like this.

With one nasty exception, we and our families were lucky compared to those civilians whom the Japanese interned in Santo Tomas.

For the most part we had more food and did not starve. In Santo Tomas, over one hundred internees died from starvation or related complications in 1944, and over thirty more died before liberation in February 1945. For the most part, they were all unnecessary deaths. In our group, only Rod's maternal grandfather died of natural causes during this time.

The Japanese did not humiliate us. They did not slap and beat us. They did not conduct periodic searches of our homes. They did not conduct roll calls to determine our whereabouts. However, just as in Santo Tomas, they forced us to bow to them whenever we saw or passed by them.

Our relative freedom permitted us to lead somewhat normal, if restricted lives, often in our own homes, but during the air raids, we faced greater danger than the internees because the Americans did not know where we lived. Fortunately, as in Santo Tomas and in the nearby military prison, Bilibid Prison, we suffered no casualties from the frequent bombings.

Just before the Americans returned to Manila, the Japanese began what could be considered a crusade against selected people in Manila. As he reported, Rod lost four family members and two family friends for unexplained reasons. About the same time, the Japanese in Santo Tomas arrested and executed four men for apparently helping guerrillas.

Life became the more dangerous for the internees and for us after the Americans returned. Because of the intense house-to-house combat, as related, Bob Walser lost most of his neighbors, most likely to Japanese actions. In Santo Tomas after the "Flying Column" of the 1st Cavalry Division liberated the camp, the Japanese fired artillery into the camp for several days and killed seventeen internees and wounded many others. The seventeen dead included several teenage girls in the Main Building and many patients, including internees, in the new Field Hospital that the Army had established in the Education Building. Fortunately, the cavalry arrived in time to prevent the Japanese from killing all the prisoners and leaving no traces as they had been ordered to do in late 1944. February 1945 proved to be the most dangerous time for us and for the internees.

Outside the camp, the Americans could have killed all of us as they battled for control of the city, and the Japanese could have killed us out of sheer spite. German passports would not have protected us. Swiss passports would not have protected us. Filipino citizenship would not have protected us. Only Providence -- and some fast footwork on the part of the Walsers -- saved most of us.

War touched everyone in Manila -- American, Australian, British, Dutch, German, Swiss, and Filipino. Hans Hoeflein wrote that "All in all, it was a very interesting experience." It was much more than that. War destroyed our homes, killed relatives, friends, and neighbors, scarred us in many unknown ways, and it changed our lives forever.

With such a *Postscript*, Bob Walser's closing comment would have had more punch: "...it is still hard, 63 years later, to like the Japanese."

¹John Bradley was interned with his parents in the University of Santo Tomas from January 1942 to 3 February 1945. After the war, he attended the American School from 1947 to 1949. Following graduation from the US Military Academy in 1958, John served a full career in the US Army and retired as a lieutenant colonel. During his career he taught military history at West Point and wrote *The Second World War, Asia and the Pacific* and developed maps for the accompanying *Atlas* that supports the text. He currently operates a small consulting company in Houston and teaches courses in American History and World War II history at the University of Houston-Downtown. He will teach his new course, *World War II: The War Against Japan*, at Rice University's Glascock School of Continuing Studies in early 2009. John continues to research and write about military history and has just completed writing *Remind Me to Tell You: Harry Fleeger and His Friends, Prisoners of the Japanese* which is based on Fleeger's war diaries.

²Hans Heinz Hoeflein graduated in 1949. Jake Goldhagen, Rod Hall, and Bob Walser were in the Class of 1950.

³Helmut Lawrence Meyer graduated in 1949. I met him in 1960 at Ft. Campbell, KY where he was serving as a lieutenant in the 1st Airborne Battle Group, 502nd Infantry. As I recall, Meyer served a full career and to the best of my knowledge retired as a colonel. He told me some years ago that he retired after he sustained a serious parachute jump injury and was no longer physically fit for field duty. He never lost his strong German accent.

Tears in the Darkness: The Story of the Bataan Death March

by Michael and Elizabeth Norman

This ambitious book by Michael and Elizabeth Norman, will be published June 9th by Farrar, Straus and Giroux. Books can be pre-ordered at a discount for \$19.80 hardcover on Amazon.com.

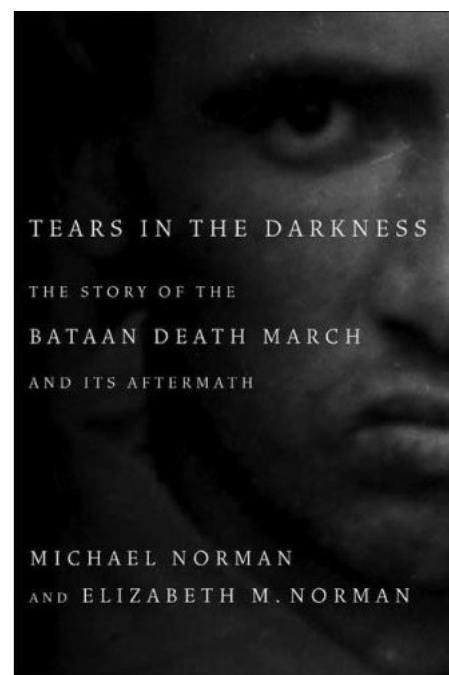
The Normans spent ten years researching and writing this detailed account of America's worst military defeat. They crafted their story to read like novel, and they spent a long time gathering stories from the three sides in the conflict. In three trips to the Philippines, they spoke with more than a hundred Filipino veterans and civilian witnesses to the fighting and the Bataan Death March. In so doing they were the first American authors to tell the story from three points of view -- Filipino, Japanese, American.

The book is a saga of war and survival. Here's how the publisher describes the book in their spring book catalog:

"A major new book about World War II, in the tradition of All Quiet on the Western Front and Hiroshima. For the first four months of 1942, U.S., Filipino,

and Japanese soldiers fought what was America's first major land battle of World War II, the battle for the tiny Philippine peninsula of Bataan. It ended with the surrender of 76,000 Filipinos and Americans, the single largest defeat in American military history. The defeat, though, was only the beginning, as Michael and Elizabeth M. Norman make dramatically clear in this powerfully original book.

"From then until the Japanese surrendered in August 1945, the prisoners of war suffered an ordeal of unparalleled cruelty and savagery: forty-one months of captivity, starvation rations, dehydration, hard labor, deadly disease, and torture—far from the machinations of General Douglas MacArthur. The Normans bring to the story remarkable feats of reportage and literary empathy...Juxtaposed against [the story of the Filipinos and Americans] is the story of a number of Japanese soldiers. The result is an altogether new and original World War II book: it exposes the myths of military heroism as shallow and inadequate; it makes clear, with great literary and human power, that war causes suffering for people on all sides.



"Michael Norman, a former reporter for The New York Times, teaches narrative journalism at New York University. Elizabeth M. Norman, the author of two books about war, teaches at New York University's Steinhardt School of Education."

Review: Code Name High Pockets: True Story of Claire Phillips, an American Spy and the Manila Underground during WWII in the Philippines

by Edna Bautista Binkowski

Reviewed by J. Michael Houlahan

Valour Press, 2006. Pp. 260; over 60 photos; 6 pp. bibliography/end notes; 2 maps and 2 drawings. Overseas paperback order: \$28 made out to Edna Binkowski; mailed to Valour Publishing: P.O. Box 6345, Limay, Bataan, Philippines 2103. ISBN 978-971-93607-0-4.

This is a well-researched book containing considerable information I've not previously encountered concerning the Manila-based resistance movement against the Japanese during WWII. Although centered on the colorful Claire

Phillips, an adventurous American woman, who became heavily involved in espionage and in the clandestine support of American POWs, the book also tells the story of Margaret Utinsky, an American nurse who also performed heroically in smuggling food, medicine and money to imprisoned GIs. The women were allies in this and sometimes rivals. Utinsky would be rewarded immediately after the end of the war, while Phillips claims were initially rejected and never compensated as fully as she expected.

Claire Dela Taste (her maiden name) ran away from her Portland, Oregon home and joined a circus at fifteen. Eventually leaving the circus, she

bounced from job to job in vaudeville until her early twenties, when her wander lust took her to the Philippines, where she supporting herself as a singer. Two months after arriving, she married a wealthy Filipino. Isolated and unhappy in the marriage, she adopted a child, then fled back to the U.S. after illegally selling her husbands mansion while he was overseas on business. She and her adopted daughter returned to Manila two years later, arriving about three months before the Japanese invasion. Again using her maiden name, she turned once more to singing to support herself and the child. Soon she met and (probably) married John Phillips, an American soldier in the 31st

Infantry, who would subsequently die in a Japanese POW camp.

Not long after the Japanese occupied Manila, Claire adopted the alias Dorothy Claire Fuentes (the last name of her Filipino former husband) and managed to obtain false papers documenting herself as an Italian. Initially she worked in a nightclub run by German Jewish woman catering to the Japanese. Then in October 1942 Claire launched her own establishment named the Tsubaki Club. The club became very popular with high ranking Japanese military and business men, and would become an espionage center feeding information to American-led guerrillas in the Manila area. Her code name "high pockets" developed from her habit of hiding notes and jewelry in her bra.

At about the same time, Margaret Utinsky became actively involved with Filipino Red Cross workers who were smuggling food, medicine and money to American POWs. She too managed to obtain false credentials as a spinster Lithuanian nurse. (She actually was married to an American civil engineer, who had joined MacArthur's troops on Bataan and did not survive the war.)

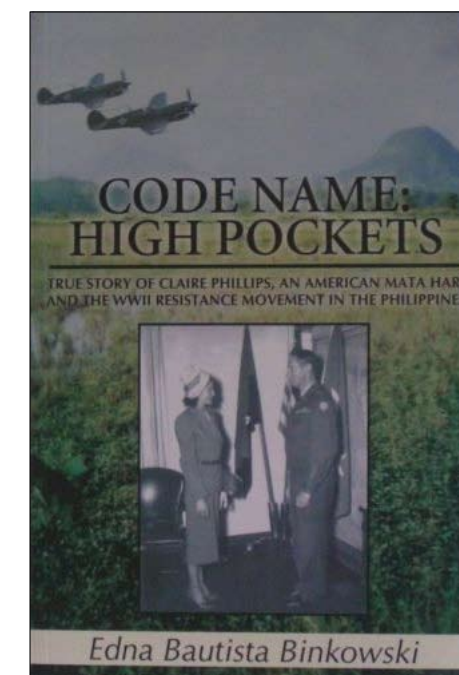
Both women were arrested and tortured by the Japanese military police, and then later released. Not so fortunate were many of the Filipinos with whom they had worked. The Manila network was infiltrated by an informer and most of the Filipino members, many of them wealthy socialites, were arrested, tortured and executed. The selfless heroics of these Filipinos saved the lives of many American servicemen.

The most interesting portions of the book describe the activities of the two American women, as well as the fate of the Manila-based resistance movement eventually almost totally destroyed by the Japanese. The book contains some fairly graphic description of the torture inflicted on suspected members of the resistance and their later execution.

Edna Binkowski's book is a fascinating read, which I strongly recommend to anyone wishing to find out more about wartime Manila and the heroic resistance to the Japanese occupation. However, I must pass on one small caveat. My review is based on the first two printings of the book, both of which contained an unacceptably high number of typos. I'm told that the third printing

has eliminated most of them. In any case, such errors are a minor irritation, well outweighed by the interesting story Edna tells.

Note: Edna Bautista Binkowski is a native of Bataan. This is her first book.



A History of the Macabebes

The following excerpts were provided by Capt. Menandro Parazo, Second National Vice President, from a book published in 1929 by the Philippine Department, U.S. Army with the unlikely title Philippine Department Athletic Meet—1929: Souvenir Program. The quoted material appears on page 217.

A history of the Macabebes: "The Philippine Scouts of the United States Army probably owe their name as well as their existence to the splendid work done by a troop of 100 'scouts' organized at Macabebe in 1899. This troop sometimes has been referred to as 'Batson's Scouts', 'Batson's Macabebes' or the 'Original Macabebes'.

"The troop was organized September 16, 1899, for the purpose of enabling the

American forces to meet the insurgents under General Aguinaldo on a more common footing. Unaccustomed to fighting in the jungle and unable to speak the languages of the country, the United States forces felt keenly the necessity for assistance from soldiers who were thoroughly familiar with both of these problems. How well these first 'scouts' rendered assistance in this direction was demonstrated conclusively in all campaigns that followed throughout the archipelago.

"Organization of the Macabebes as scouts was made possible through unusual circumstances. During the troubles between the Spanish government and the natives tribes before the Americans came to the Philippines, the Macabebes had refrained from joining the insurgent forces against the Spaniards because of the

powerful influence of General Blanco, the most prominent and influential Spaniard in Macabebe. This brought about feeling between the Macabebes and other tribes that kept the former from joining the other tribes against the Americans.

"Taking advantage of this condition, First Lieutenant M. A. Batson, Fourth Cavalry, secured permission to organize a troop of Macabebe scouts. Means of feeding, equipping and paying them were worked out, and they began to function as scouts.

"Service with the Americans immediately became so popular that within a short time the number of applicants for enlistment caused the original troop of Macabebes to be expanded to a squadron which was retained under the command

See Macabebes Page 20

Macabebes From Page 19

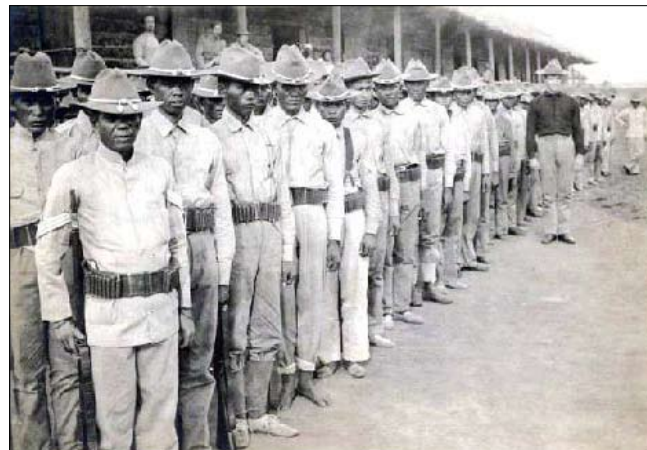
of Lieutenant Batson, who was given the temporary rank of Major.

“In this manner, the Philippine Scouts organization was started. From this start they were organized [from] nearly all of the prominent tribes in the Philippines and increased in numbers until there were fifty-two companies. The last two of these were organized among the Moros, those fierce warriors from the southern islands, wearing the uniform of the ruling government for the first time. These fifty-two companies now form the Philippine Scout organizations of the United States Army.

“In the days, following their organization, the ‘Original Macabebes’ participated in periods of hard campaigning. By their activities they enabled American troops to penetrate to all disturbed portions of Luzon and they materially aided in the capture of General Aguinaldo.

“The Macabebes still are to be found in large numbers among all branches of the service, some at McKinley, some at Mills and considerable number at Stotsenburg. Some of them are among the best soldiers in the Philippines and their loyalty has been an example for their comrades.”

Note: For an alternative theory on Philippine Scout antecedents, read the chapter on the history of the Scouts beginning on page 5 of The Philippine Scouts edited by PSHS Historian Col. John E. Olson, 57th Infantry (PS). Editor



Macabebe Scouts, formed in 1901, a few weeks before the Philippine Scouts were formed. Later most of them were integrated into the Philippine Scouts. (Photo provided by Philip Garcia.)

Hold Japan Accountable for POWS

By Sen. John A. Patterson

The following article, a longer version of which was first published in the “Providence Journal” on 8/13/2001, still resonates as the Japanese government continues its refusal to accept full responsibility or pay compensation for the brutal mistreatment of American and Filipino POWs during WWII. Our late comrade, Col. Mel Rosen, was one of these victims and spent many years crusading for formal Japanese acceptance of culpability. Since his passing, others continue the fight.

When the submarine Greenville slammed into the Japanese training vessel, Ehime Maru, in February 2001, it set off a chain of events both poignant and incendiary for Americans and Japanese alike. The American side jumped to apologize to the Japanese for this unfortunate accident—President Bush, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, the American ambassador in

Tokyo, Howard Baker, and, of course, the Greenville skipper himself. That this regrettable affair, involving the United States and Japan, would lead to an immediate apology from the U.S. government and a number of individual Americans demonstrates how seriously we take the death and injury of innocent victims and our acceptance of responsibility for what happened. To apologize was the right and civilized thing to do. To follow the apology with fair compensation for the loss of life and injury is only logical. Compensation will not bring back those who are lost for all time or those who have been maimed, but it, along with a thorough investigation, is a way in which a civilized society can express remorse and see that something similar never happens again.

Now, in contrast to this episode, turn back the clock nearly 70 years to the early 1940s, during a time of cruel irony that also involved Japan and the United States, in which the loss of life and grave injury were at issue. Only then

the roles were reversed! This earlier matter remains with us to this very day and could taint our relations with Japan far more than the recent sinking of the Ehime Maru.

The December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor by Japan formally ushered the United States into World War II. On the same day, the Japanese mounted attacks throughout the western Pacific—Indochina, Wake Island and the Philippines were especially hard hit. My uncle, Alexander “Sandy” Nininger, was killed on Bataan, in the Philippines, early in the fighting. As a result of his exploits, he posthumously was awarded a Congressional Medal of Honor. Sadly, in the years to follow, my mother used to say with considerable bitterness that perhaps it was just as well her brother didn’t survive so that he was spared what followed the surrender of American and Filipino forces in the spring of 1942.

Just what did happen after the fall of the U.S.-administered Philippines to the Japanese invaders? In what became

known as the Death March, some 65,000 Filipino and 15,000 American soldiers were forced to march in the blazing tropical sun over 60 miles to a prison camp. At one point, many were loaded into stifling freight cars so tightly that individuals fainted and died standing upright! The Death March was characterized by cruel conditions and Japanese savagery. Weakened by months of fighting, on half-rations, undernourished and racked by diseases, the Filipino and American forces fell prey to incredibly bestial behavior by their Japanese captors. POWs leaving the ranks for water, food or rest were beaten, bayoneted, beheaded or shot. Filipinos who offered food and water were treated likewise. The surviving troops were herded into the infamous Camp O’Donnell, with its two water faucets, and continued barbaric treatment. Thousands of Filipino and American soldiers died at O’Donnell in the space of only three months. The surviving Americans then faced one of the saddest ironies of all. Most were stuffed in unmarked Japanese vessels known as the “Hell Ships.” Because the Japanese did not abide by international treaties, the ships had no identification and

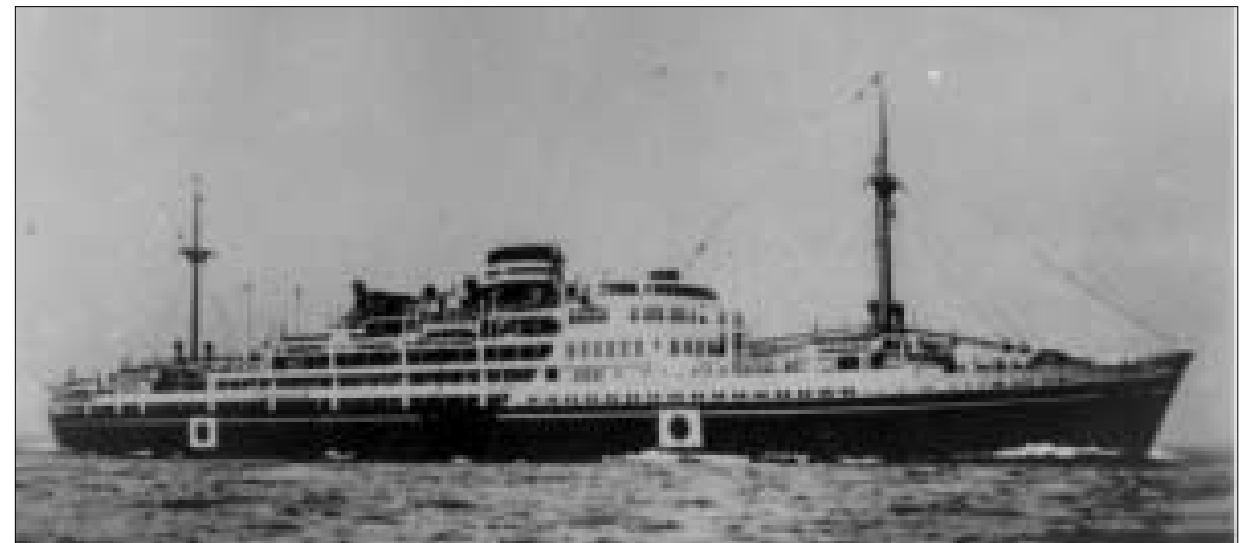
thousands more died when American submarines and warplanes unwittingly sank the unmarked vessels.

The ever dwindling numbers of survivors were unceremoniously dumped in Japan, Korea, Formosa and Manchuria where they worked as slave laborers in mines, plants, chemical factories and other Japanese war industries—again, against all international conventions. As before, there was little food, clothing or medical care provided and the cruelty continued. It was not uncommon for POWs under these conditions to lose over 100 pounds. There are photos of prisoners of war released in 1945 who weighed less than 90 pounds. In the end, why is it important to provide an account of Japanese treatment of our soldiers during World War II? If we as Americans can apologize and pay compensation (as indeed we should) for an accident—in this case the accidental sinking of a Japanese vessel by a U.S. submarine—then the Japanese can and should apologize and pay compensation to the allied survivors of their inhumanity during World War II. The importance of acknowledgement and compensation

is further strengthened by the fact that these widespread and systematic atrocities were the result of official Japanese government policy.

In contrast to the Japanese, the U.S. Government has apologized to and financially compensated Japanese-Americans who were unfairly, perhaps even illegally, interned in the United States during a good part of World War II. While we must never forget this shameful treatment of our fellow citizens, it in no way compares to what the Japanese did to American and Filipino POWs and internees.

Germany has accepted responsibility for the Holocaust and the enslavement of captive populations throughout Europe. The German government has apologized and, with the German companies that used slave laborers, has created a multibillion dollar compensation fund for survivors. It’s time for Japan to do the same!



The Brazil Maru was one of the Japanese Hell Ships that transported POWs in unspeakable conditions below deck. The POWs in the Brazil Maru had survived the sinkings of two other Hell Ships, the Oryoku Maru and Enoura Maru. When it arrived in Moji, Japan on January 29, 1945, only 490 of the original 1,619 POWs loaded into the Oryoku Maru in early December 1944 had survived. Photo: <http://harrisonheritage.com>

***Ships from Hell* narrated by Peter Parsons**

This 83 minute Spyron AV Manila DVD begins with the January 2006 dedication of the Japanese **Hell Ship Memorial** in Subic Bay constructed in memory of the many thousands of POWs and conscripted laborers from sixteen different countries who suffered and in many cases died while being transported by ship to Japanese slave labor camps in Thailand, Taiwan, Japan, Korea and China. The inclusion of Fr. James Reuter, SJ who also survived internment through the Japanese occupation and Kinue Tokudome who has worked so hard for Japanese American reconciliation and Japanese acceptance

of responsibility for wartime atrocities against POWs was particularly fitting. Most of the final portion of the DVD consisted of interviews with four American POWs who survived the Bataan Death March (actually one captured on Corregidor did not take part in the March), POW compounds, the Hell Ships and slave labor. These four—H. M. Amos, Richard Francies, Evertt Reamer and Chuck Towne—recounted often shocking tales of starvation, abuse, disease, summary execution and survival. Sadly, Towne would pass away within days after returning to the U.S. from the Subic Bay ceremony. Also a

list of the Hell Ships that caused so much suffering to so many is included in the recording.

Although some of the ceremony footage might have benefited from slightly tighter editing, the overall effect of the DVD is powerful. This is especially true of the testimony of the former POWs.

The \$24 DVD is available through Peter Parsons at 6960 Magnolia Ave. (Suite 200), Riverside, CA 92506. He also can be contacted by email at ppars@aol.com.



REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

No. in Party: _____ Names _____

(Please use separate sheet for the names of others in your Party if there is more than what could fit in the line above.)

Please select your desired Dinner entrée for the Banquet (circle one):

Prime Rib

Roasted Chicken

Salmon Filet

Registration Charge: \$ 40.00 per Person, please make payment payable to *Philippine Scouts Heritage Society* and mail payment and form to:

PSHS Nininger Chapter, 10415 Chaney Ave. Downey, CA 90241

1. Upon receipt of registration form and payment, reservation will be confirmed by mail or e-mail.
2. RSVP and Payment must be received by April 15th, 2009.
3. Prearranged seating for groups can be made by requests, groups of ten will be given priority.
4. Admission to Annual Reunion Dinner Banquet/Ball on Saturday Evening is included with Registration. Additional tickets for non-registered guest will be available for \$ 50.00 per person.

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www.hilongbeach.com

Shuttle Service from Long Beach Airport to Holiday Inn will be available use Courtesy phone at Airport or call Hotel using numbers above.

Room Rates for PSHS Group: Single or Double, \$ 99.00 per night plus Taxes, 30 rooms have been blocked off for our group. Please make your reservations directly with the Hotel prior to the Cut-off date.

Cut-Off Date: April 15, 2009 After this date rooms will be provided on space, rate and availability basis at this Hotel.

Tax deductible under IRS Section 501C3, please consult your tax adviser



Photo of 45th Infantry (PS) troops circa 1933. Courtesy of Bob Capistrano.

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